

Ukraine Missile Chronology

Last update: February 2009

This annotated chronology is based on the data sources that follow each entry. Public sources often provide conflicting information on classified military programs. In some cases we are unable to resolve these discrepancies, in others we have deliberately refrained from doing so to highlight the potential influence of false or misleading information as it appeared over time. In many cases, we are unable to independently verify claims. Hence in reviewing this chronology, readers should take into account the credibility of the sources employed here.

Inclusion in this chronology does not necessarily indicate that a particular development is of direct or indirect proliferation significance. Some entries provide international or domestic context for technological development and national policymaking. Moreover, some entries may refer to developments with positive consequences for nonproliferation.

2008-1997

January-February 2008

RUSSIA RATIFIES AGREEMENT ON SS-18 LIFE EXTENSION

On 30 January, five days after the approval by Russia's State Duma, the Federation Council ratified the 21 February 2006 agreement between the Russian government and the Ukrainian cabinet of ministers on extending the service lives of Russia's 15P118M/RS-20 [NATO designation SS-18 'Satan'] missile systems, Interfax reported. On 12 February, the agreement was signed into law by Russia's president Vladimir Putin.

—"Russian senators ratify deal with Ukraine to extend Satan missiles' service life," Interfax--Agenstvo Voennykh Novostey, 30 January 2008, OSC Document CEP20080130950425. "Putin signs into law ratification of Russian-Ukrainian treaty extending use of 15P118M missile system," Interfax, 12 February 2008, OSC Document CEP20080212950129. Text of law 2-F3, "O ratifikatsii soglasheniya mezhdru pravitelstvom Rossiiskoi Federatsii i kabinetom ministrov Ukrainy o prodlenii sroka ekspluatatsii raketnogo kompleksa 11P118M," website of the President of Russia, 11 February 2008, <http://document.kremlin.ru>.

February 2008

UKRAINE TO DESIGN ROCKET ENGINE FOR INDIA

Ukraine's Pivdenne Design Bureau has concluded a 5-10 million U.S. dollar agreement with an Indian company to develop a first stage rocket engine, head of Ukraine's National Space Agency Yuriy Alekseyev was quoted by ITAR-TASS as saying. Alekseyev stated the new rocket will used for tactical missile applications and noted that the agreement's details will be ironed out by the end of the year. It should be noted that Ukraine is a member of the Missile Technology Control Regime. As such, its missile technology cooperation with India is restricted by the MTCR's range and payload guidelines.

—"Ukraine to design rocket engine for India," ITAR-TASS, 1 February 2008, OSC Document CEP20080202950073.

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June 2008

RUSSIA THREATENS TO SEVER DEFENSE INDUSTRY TIES WITH UKRAINE IF LATTER JOINS NATO

In case of Ukraine's accession to NATO, Moscow will seek to end cooperation with Kyiv in "sensitive technologies," an Interfax story quoted Russia's prime minister Vladimir Putin as saying. Costs notwithstanding, production facilities, especially missile-related ones, "will be moved to Russia," the prime minister reportedly stated. —"All sensitive technology facilities will be moved to Russia, if Ukraine joins NATO—Putin," Interfax, 28 June 2008.

July 2008

RUSSIA TO END PURCHASE OF UKRAINE-MADE CRUISE MISSILE ENGINES

Russian industry officials have announced that Moscow would begin indigenous production of cruise missile engines that it had previously purchased from Ukraine, *Jane's Missiles & Rockets* reported on 28 July 2008. Thus, Russia plans to eventually halt procurement of the turbojet R-95 engine, manufactured at Ukraine's Motor Sich company. Over 90 percent of component parts for this engine, however, are reportedly sourced from Russia. —David Isby, "Russia plans phase-out of Ukraine-build cruise missile engines," *Jane's Missiles and Rockets*, 28 July 2008.

December 2008

LACK OF PROGRESS ON FUEL UTILIZATION CONCERNS UKRAINIAN DEFENSE OFFICIAL

Anatoliy Sosnovskiy, an official in Ukraine's Ministry of Defense, tasked with recycling RS-22 [NATO designation SS-24 'Scalpel'] missile components and fuel expressed concern regarding the 18,000 tones of "highly toxic missile fuel components that must be recycled at bases and warehouses of the Ukrainian army." —"Ukraine still stores 18,000 tonnes of toxic missile fuel-official," Unian, 26 December 2008, OSC Document CEP20081226950270.

December 2008

UKRAINE AND BELARUS TO EXPORT ANTI-TANK MISSILE SYSTEM

Kiev and Minsk are looking to jointly export an anti-tank missile system, Skif, produced by the Belarusian company Peleng and the Ukrainian company Luch. *Jane's Missiles and Rockets* reported that the Skif was already "in serial production." However, the identity of the customer is unclear. —Miroslav Gyurosi, "Belarus and Ukraine display Skif missile system," *Jane's Missiles and Rockets*, 2 December 2008.

December 2008

DEVELOPMENT OF UKRAINE'S TACTICAL BALLISTIC MISSILE CONTINUES, DESPITE FUNDING CHALLENGES

In December 2008, acting chief of the rocket troops and artillery of the Ground Troops of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, Andriy Kolennikov, reportedly stated that Ukraine would begin testing some elements of its tactical ballistic missile project after 2010. The design of the missile was "practically a finished model," Kolennikov said, and would likely be inducted into service upon completion of testing. [For a background, see 12/2007 entry, below.] In a February 2008 visit to Pivdenne Design Bureau, Ukraine's defense minister Yuriy Ekhanurov promised an increase in state funding for the beleaguered enterprise. An April 2008 report in the Ukrainian press indicated that the Defense Ministry had allocated 25 million hryvnas (117 million rubles) for the Grom (Borysfen) project.

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The pre-production missiles would reportedly become available in 2011; two billion more hryvnas were necessary for serial production of the missile, intended for induction into Ukraine's armed forces by 2015. Press sources suggest that the complex would be comparable to the Russian Iskander [NATO designation SS-26 'Stone'] missile with a range of 250-300 km, and Ukraine intends to market it for export. One report, however, questioned whether Ukraine has the "political will" to sell the tactical ballistic missile to countries classified by the U.S. as "rogue states." Thus, the report concluded, Ukraine's only customer might be Pakistan and the few states, whose air defense markets remain to be conquered by Russia. A 26 December 2008 report quoted Ukrainian parliamentarian Anatolyi Hrytsenko as saying that the proposed draft of Ukraine's 2009 defense budget lacked funding for the new missile system.

—"Ukraina napravlyayet rakety na vostok," *Delo*, 19 August 2008; in Integrum Techno, www.integrum.ru. David Isby, "Ukrainian tactical missile to begin state tests," 1 December 2008, *Jane's Missiles and Rockets*. "Yuzhmash obespechat zakazami," *Sobytiye*, 20 February 2008; in Integrum Techno, www.integrum.ru. "Ukraina vooruzhayetsya raketami," *Delovaya Stolitsa*, 14 April 2008; in Integrum Techno, www.integrum.ru. "Ukraina vooruzhayetsya," *Vzglyad*, 17 April 2008; in Integrum Techno, www.integrum.ru. "Rada committee criticizes draft of 2009 defense budget," Interfax-AVN, 26 December 2008, OSC Document CEP20081226950134.

April 2007

U.S. OFFICIALS TO VISIT UKRAINE FOR MISSILE DEFENSE TALKS

A Pentagon delegation plans to visit Ukraine in hopes of extending an anti-missile shield into Poland and the Czech Republic. Ukrainian officials are divided on the issue with some feeling that this plan will damage relations between Ukraine and Poland. Furthermore, Moscow has voiced its opinion against the system feeling that the shield is directed at them. However, Washington has assured officials that the defense shield is not directed against Russia but is intended to counter attacks from countries like Iran and North Korea. In April, Washington included Ukraine on a list of 15 countries cooperating with the United States on its national missile defense system.

—"Ukraine engaged in US Missile Defense Efforts" RIA Novosti, 12 April 2007; Lexis Nexis Academic Universe, <http://global.lexisnexis.com>. "Pentagon Officials to Visit Ukraine for Missile Defense Talks" Agence France Presse, 6 March 2007; Lexis Nexis Academic Universe, <http://global.lexisnexis.com>.

December 2007

UKRAINE WORKING ON NEW MISSILE SYSTEM DESIGNS

Press reports starting in 2005 have indicated that Pivdenny (Yuzhnyy) design bureau was forcefully advancing several "precision weapons" designs for both domestic use and potentially export abroad – a modification of the "operational-tactical missile complex," *Grom*, and an anti-ship cruise missile, *Korshun*. Ukraine's defense minister clarified in March 2006 that high level political discussion of the missile development programs did not mean that Ukraine was considering acquisition of nuclear weapons.

The *Grom (Hrom)* is a short range (80-290 km) missile system design, which has been promoted as a replacement to the ageing *Tochka-U* tactical missile complex currently in service with the Ukrainian armed forces. The Ukrainian military envisaged development of the *Grom*, or a system that built on the *Grom* and an older missile project, *Borysfen*, as playing the role of Ukraine's "deterrent forces." On 7 March 2006, the Ukrainian National Security

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Council reportedly discussed the missile issue and recommended to President Viktor Yuschenko that Ukraine move forward with funding the *Grom* project. Yuzhnoe promised to field a prototype in 3-4 years, while development of the complex as a whole was expected to take 10 years. On 21 September 2006, Yuschenko reportedly confirmed that a decision has been made to fund the missile research and development, however, the choice of design remained unclear. Towards the end of 2007, the missile was reportedly prioritized in Ukraine's research and development. Press reports indicated that the project would provide jobs for over 12,000 people at 60 enterprises, and involve construction of a testing ground at Zheleznyy Port in Crimea.

The *Korshun* anti-ship cruise missile, which Ukraine intended to market for export abroad in air, ground and sea launch variants, was reportedly developed on the basis of the Russian Kh-55/AS-15 *Kent* cruise missile. The design reportedly had stealthy features, combine inertial and satellite guidance systems, and was able to hit targets from 50 to 280 km. The *Korshun* was first unveiled at the Lima 2005 Exhibition, however, it is unclear as of 2007 whether there were any foreign buyers.

In the development of both the modified *Grom* and *Korshun* missile systems, the Ukrainian authorities were careful that neither broke Ukraine's commitment to the Missile Technology Control Regime. They were aware that both systems could potentially be seen as a problem in Moscow and Washington.

—Nikolai Sokov, "Ukrainian defense minister says his country will not acquire nuclear weapons; announces new missile program," *WMD Insights*, April 2006. www.wmdinsights.org; Svetlana Stepanenko, "Nikakikh Tuyrem TsRU na Territorii Ukrainy ne bylo i byt ne mozhnet" [There Can Be No CIA Prisons in the Territory of Ukraine], *Vremya Novostey*, 16 March 2006; in Integrum Techno. "Grom and Korshun: Ukrainian version of deterrent," *Kiev Defense-Express*, 10 October 2005, OSC Document CEP20051028029002. "Ukraine to Develop New Missile System," *Defense-Express*, 25 April 2006, OSC Document CEP20060428950026. Tor Bukkvoll, "Effective deterrent – Ukraine begins work on new missile system," *Jane's Intelligence Review*, 14 December 2006. David Isby, "Ukraine's new ballistic missile takes precedence," *Jane's Missiles and Rockets*, 4 December 2007. "Ukraine Unveils Its 'Korshun' Missile," *Air and Cosmos*, 8 April 2005, OSC Document EUP20050412000084. "Ukraine Introduces New Missile," *Kanwa Intelligence Review*, 30 January 2006, OSC Document CPP20060215515002.

January 2006

UKRAINE DISMANTLES LAST SOVIET-ERA BOMBER

On 27 January 2006, Ukraine announced that it had dismantled its last Soviet-era bomber. U.S. Ambassador John Herbst and Ukrainian authorities watched the dismantlement of the Tu-22 Backfire bomber at the Poltava Air Force Base.

—"Ukraine Dismantles Final Strategic Bomber," *Global Security Newswire*, 27 January 2006.

June 2006

UKRAINE EXPORTED KH-55 CRUISE MISSILES TO IRAN AND CHINA, DENIES MTCR VIOLATION

Upon conclusion of an internal investigation in the spring of 2005, Ukraine confirmed that illicit exports of 12 Kh-55/AS-15 *Kent* cruise missiles to Iran and China took place in 2000 and 2001. At the time the exports occurred, Ukraine was in the process of transferring half of the stock of the Kh-55 it inherited in 1991 from the Soviet Union back to the Russian Federation, and destroying the other half with assistance from the U.S. Defense Threat

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Reduction Agency. It is unclear whether Ukraine's then-President Leonid Kuchma sanctioned the sale of the missiles, carried out by four individuals, employed by a subsidiary of the state arms exporter Ukrspetsexport. If the actions were endorsed by government officials, this would place Ukraine into noncompliance with its obligations to the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR). [1] In June 2006, Ukraine strongly denied a charge brought by Russia's Defense Minister Sergey Ivanov that the missile transfers violated the MTCR. Ukrainian officials stated that the acts had been carried out by an "international criminal group," and that the investigation had brought 2 of the perpetrators, involved in the sale to China, to justice. Two men involved in the transfer of missiles to Iran reportedly died in car accidents. It is unknown whether the investigation explored the probability of high level participation of Kuchma government officials in the sale.

—Paul Kerr, "Ukraine Admits Missile Transfers," *Arms Control Today*, May 2005, www.armscontrol.org; Nikolai Sokov, "Ukraine Reject Russian Accusations of Missile Technology Control Regime Violation," *WMD Insights*, September 2006, www.wmdinsights.org.

October 2006

UKRAINE AND ISRAEL DISCUSS MISSILE DEFENSE

According to the Israeli press, on 4 October 2006, Ukrainian President Yushchenko met with Deputy Prime Minister Shimon Peres and offered cooperation in the area of ballistic missile defense and satellite control systems. "We will be very glad to cooperate with Israeli scientists and developers in the area of missiles and satellites. Development of advanced technological weaponry could be the basis for further strategic cooperation between the two countries," Yushchenko is quoted as telling Peres. The Ukrainian presidential administration later played down the media reports and said Yushchenko was merely informing Peres of Ukraine's achievements and did not make any specific proposals for cooperation.

—Ukrainian President Offers Israel Cooperation on Missile Defense," 4 October 2006, *Israel Today*, www.israeltoday.co.il. "Ukraine Denies Plans to Cooperate with Israel in Missile Production," *BBC Monitoring*, 11 October 2006; *Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe*, <http://lexis-nexis.com>.

12 February 2001

JOINT ICBM PRODUCTION NOT ON UKRAINE-RUSSIA SUMMIT AGENDA

On 12 February 2001 Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma signed a joint statement in Dnipropetrovsk (the location of the Pivdenne Design Bureau and Pivdenmash, which formerly designed and produced ICBMs) on expanding the two countries' aerospace cooperation. The joint statement addressed, among other issues, cooperation on producing space launch vehicles and transport aircraft. According to Pivdenmash General Director Yuriy Alekseyev, the issue of resuming ICBM production in Ukraine was not on the agenda due to Ukraine's non-nuclear status and to technical difficulties. At the same time, Alekseyev stated that Pivdenmash specialists have been helping Russia maintain its R-36M-series [NATO designation SS-18 'Satan'] and RT-23UTTKh [NATO designation SS-24 'Scalpel'] ICBMs. Alekseyev's remarks echoed earlier statements made by the US Ambassador to Ukraine, Carlos Pascual. Commenting on the upcoming meeting between Putin and Kuchma, Pascual stated that it would be impossible for Ukraine to cooperate with Russia on ICBM production without contravening the provisions of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. Pascual also met with the Ukrainian National Security and Defense Council Secretary, Evhen Marchuk, who denied the possibility of cooperation with Russia in this field.

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—Interfax, 12 February 2001; in "Russia, Ukraine to expand cooperation in aerospace field," FBIS Document CEP20010212000161. Mikhail Melnik, ITAR-TASS, 12 February 2001; in "Russia: Putin tour of Yuzhmash said to have no bearing on US missile defense system," FBIS Document CEP20010210000025. "Posol SShA na Ukraine schitayet nevozmozhnym sotrudnichestvo Kieva i Moskvyy v proizvodstve mezhkontinentalnykh ballisticheskikh raket," Interfax, 3 February 2001.

12 February 2001

PUTIN AND KUCHMA DISCUSS SPACE COOPERATION

On 12 February 2001 in Dnipropetrovsk, the location of the Pivdenne Design Bureau and Pivdenmash, which formerly designed and produced ICBMs, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma signed a joint statement on expanding the two countries' aerospace cooperation. The two countries committed themselves to cooperation in promoting joint space services, including the use of Dnepr, Tsiklon, and Zenit space launch vehicles, and to support the Sea Launch project. Although there has been some speculation over the possibility of restarting ICBM production at Ukrainian facilities, Ukrainian officials denied this issue was on the meeting's agenda. Pivdenmash General Director Yuriy Alekseyev, stated that while restarting ICBM production was theoretically possible, it would require a considerable amount of time and significant investments, and would contravene existing international agreements. At the same time, Alekseyev stated that Pivdenmash specialists have been helping Russia maintain its R-36M-series [NATO designation SS-18 'Satan'] and RT-23UTTKh [NATO designation SS-24 'Scalpel'] ICBMs, and that during Russian Duma discussions on START II ratification, Pivdenmash received a request concerning the possibility of restarting ICBM production there. For more information, see the 2/12/2001 entry in the Ukraine: Other Nuclear Weapons-Related Developments file.

—Interfax, 12 February 2001; in "Russia, Ukraine to expand cooperation in aerospace field," FBIS Document CEP20010212000161. Mikhail Melnik, ITAR-TASS, 12 February 2001; in "Russia: Putin tour of Yuzhmash said to have no bearing on US missile defense system," FBIS Document CEP20010210000025. "Vozobnovleniye proizvodstva boyevykh raket v Dnepropetrovske vozmozhno, no potrebuyet ochen bolshikh sredstv," UNIAN, No. 006 (146), 5-11 February 2001.

25 May 2001

PIVDENNE DESIGN BUREAU BEGINS NEW SLV DEVELOPMENT

The National Space Agency of Ukraine press service announced that as part of the National Space Program for 2002-2006 the Pivdenne Design Bureau in Dnipropetrovsk began the development of a new family of SLVs. The family is to include two SLV types: Mayak-12, capable of launching cargoes of up to 1.7t into orbits up to 500km; and Mayak-23, capable of launching cargoes of up to 3t into geostationary transfer orbits. The SLVs will use rocket engines developed at Ukrainian and Russian design bureaus and manufactured at Pivdenmash. The first launch is planned for 2005-2006.

—"Na Ukraine sozdayetsya novoye semeystvo raketonositeley," Interfax, 25 May 2001.

13 October 2001

SLV JOINT VENTURE HAS GOOD PROSPECTS, BUT FACES OBSTACLES

Ukrainska pravda reported on 13 October 2001 that the Russian-Ukrainian joint-venture Kosmotras has good commercial prospects. Kosmotras converts R-36M [NATO designation SS-18 'Satan'] ICBMs into Dnepr space

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launch vehicles (SLV), which are capable of delivering up to 3t into low orbit. A future variant is expected to be able to deliver 400-600kg objects into geostationary orbit. The first successful Dnepr launch delivered five satellites into orbit on 9/26/2000. Kosmotras commercial success has grown with the announcement of a number of new contracts for Dnepr launches. The number of contracts, however, may exceed Kosmotras' capabilities to meet launch orders. A contract was signed with Malaysia on 10 October 2001 to launch a satellite by 2002. Another project signed with Malaysia, called TropiSat, is expected to involve the launch of 14 communication satellites and two monitoring satellites for a system operating along the equator. Kosmotras also announced that they entered a contract with Germany that stipulates the launch of at least five intelligence-gathering satellites by 2006. Ukrainska pravda reported that Kosmotras may face the problem that not all remaining R-36M ICBMs may be suitable for SLV conversion. START II requirements for dismantlement of all R-36M ICBMs by 2007 might also prevent the successful implementation of these contracts. It is important to note, however, that START II has not been ratified by the United States and is unlikely to ever enter into force.

—"Budushcheye raket 'Satana'," Ukrainska pravda online edition, www.pravda.com.ua, 13 October 2001.

15-16 March 2000

ELEVEN SU-24 BOMBERS DELIVERED TO CRIMEA, SECOND GROUP MAY FOLLOW

At a meeting in Kyiv held on 15 and 16 March between Oleksandr Byelov, the deputy secretary of the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine, and Admiral Vladimir Kuroyedov, the commander-in-chief of the Russian Navy, the Ukrainian-Russian commission in charge of the Russian Black Sea Fleet (BSF) presence in Ukraine agreed to several proposals which may clear the way for the delivery to Crimea of 11 Su-24 fighter-bombers [NATO name 'Fencer-D'], the second such group to be sent to Ukraine. Since 19 January 2000, 11 Su-24 bombers, meant to replace older Su-17s [NATO name 'Fitter'], have been delivered to the Gvardeyskoye airbase near Sevastopol. Although the Su-24 is capable of carrying tactical nuclear weapons (TNWs), lieutenant-general Valeriy Yurin, commander of the BSF air force, stated that all equipment pertaining to TNWs had been removed from the aircraft and that the alterations were inspected by Ukrainian experts before the aircraft left Russia. A fourth session of the commission will meet in Moscow in the final quarter of 2000.

—Serhiy Zhurets, "Friendship one on one. Moscow and Kiev continue the negotiation battles around the Russian Fleet," Den, 16 March 2000, pp.1,3; in "Ukraine: Black Sea Fleet issue viewed," FBIS Document CEP20000320000254. Raisa Stetsyura, ITAR-TASS, 16 March 2000; in "Ukraine allows transfer of Russian bombers to Crimea," FBIS Document CEP200003316000220. Olha Tanasiychuk, "A Meeting on the Roadstead," Kievskiy vedomosti, 22 March 2000; in "Ukraine, Russia Praise Fleet Talks," FBIS Document CEP20000323000133. ITAR-TASS, 19 January 2000; in "New Sukhoi Jets Fly to Russian Naval Base in Crimea," FBIS Document FTS20000119001822.[5] ITAR-TASS, 18 January 2000; in "Nuclear Equipment Removed from Russian Aircraft," FBIS Document FTS20000118001777.

26 July 2000

DNEPR TO LAUNCH SATELLITES FOR OSSS

Kosmotras, a Russo-Ukrainian space launch company, will use its Dnepr space launch vehicles for cluster-launches of small satellites on behalf of the US company One Stop Satellite Solutions (OSSS), which is involved in

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manufacturing small satellites for universities. For more information, see the 7/26/2000 entry in the Ukraine: Missile/Silo Dismantlement section.

11 September 2000

PIVDENNE/PIVDENMASH TO DELIVER 80 ROCKETS TO SEA LAUNCH

On 11 September 2000 the Sea Launch consortium signed a contract for Pivdenne/Pivdenmash to deliver 80 Zenit-3SL rockets to its Long Beach, California site. For more information, see the 9/11/2000 entry in the Ukraine: Missile/Silo Dismantlement section.

26 September 2000

FIRST COMMERCIAL LAUNCH OF CONVERTED SS-18 ICBM SUCCESSFUL

On 26 September 2000 the space launch vehicle Dnepr, a converted RS-20 [NATO designation SS-18 'Satan'] intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), was successfully launched from the Baykonur Cosmodrome. The RS-20 conversion into the Dnepr was accomplished with the cooperation of Ukraine's Pivdenne Design Bureau and Pivdenmash Production Association. For more information, see the 9/26/2000 entry in the Russia: ICBM Dismantlement section.

20 January 1999

UKRAINE PLANS TO BUILD SATELLITE LAUNCH VEHICLES

Former RS-20 [SS-18 'Satan'] ICBM manufacturer Pivdenmash Production Association plans to form a consortium called Yuzhkosmos to build satellites and rockets. For more information, see the 1/20/99 entry in the Ukraine: Missile/Silo Dismantlement section.

20 September 1999

UKRAINE CONVERTS ICBMs INTO LAUNCH VEHICLES

In an effort to become competitive in the international space launch market and gain much-needed revenues, the Ukrainian National Space Agency is expanding its launcher programs, Space News reported on 20 September 1999. For more information, see the 9/20/1999 entry in the Ukraine: Missile/Silo Dismantlement section.

10 October 1999

SEA LAUNCH PROGRAM INAUGURATED

On 10 October 1999, a Ukrainian Zenit rocket launched a Hughes communications satellite into orbit. Ukraine thereby, in cooperation with the United States, Russia, and Norway, initiated the "Sea Launch" program aimed at lifting payloads into space from an ocean-based platform. For more information, see the 10/10/1999 entry in the Ukraine: Missile/Silo Dismantlement section.

1 October 1999

UKRAINE OPPOSES PRESENCE OF RUSSIAN NUCLEAR-CAPABLE BOMBERS IN CRIMEA

Ukrainian government officials are concerned that allowing Su-24M [NATO name 'Fencer-D'] fighter-bombers, capable of carrying tactical nuclear weapons, in the Russian Black Sea Fleet may jeopardize its non-nuclear status. Russia wants to replace Su-17s [NATO name 'Fitter'] at the Russian Gvardeyskoye Air Base near Simferopol with 22 Su-24Ms. Russia had planned to begin the transfer of Su-24Ms from the Anapa naval base in Krasnodar Krai to the

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Crimean peninsula on 1 October 1999, at a rate of one plane per day. Ukrainian military officials demand the right to inspect the bombers for the presence of equipment that would allow the use of nuclear weapons. Ukrainian generals are reportedly convinced that the Black Sea Fleet had tactical nuclear weapons in its arsenal until 1991, and that the fleet continues to drill in the use of such weapons. Ukrainian government officials call for an international agreement that would address fleet and air unit verification issues. Such an agreement exists for Russian conventional weapons present in the Crimea. Russian officials have argued that Russia should be allowed to deploy the bombers without delay, saying that the bombers have been stripped of the equipment used to carry and launch nuclear weapons. Aleksandr Pikayev, a military analyst at the Moscow Carnegie Center, pointed out that inspections of military units stationed abroad runs counter to international practice and therefore should not be required of Russia. The bomber dispute is not the first incident involving inspections of Russia's Black Sea Fleet equipment. In May 1999, Russia compelled Ukraine to rescind Government Decree No. 863, which subjected Russian servicemen's baggage, weapons, and hardware to inspections, a common international practice. —Simon Saradzhyan, "Ukraine Stalls Su-24M Aircraft for Black Sea Fleet," *Defense News*, 18 October 1999, p. 32. Viktor Yadukha, *Segodnya*, 30 September 1999, p. 2; in *WPS Defense and Security*, 4 October 1999; in "Leonid Kuchma Gives Wings to the Black Sea Fleet," *Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe*, web.lexis-nexis.com. Serhiy Chornous, "'Sukhoys' with Nuclear Overtones," *Ukrayina Moloda*, 14 October 1999, p. 3; in "Bomber Transfer Seen Threat to Non-Nuclear Status," *FBIS Document CEP19991019000015*. UNIAN, 8 October 1999; in "Udoenko Opposes Russian Bombers in Crimea," *FBIS Document FTS19991008001385*.

May 1998

UKRAINE ADMITTED TO MISSILE TECHNOLOGY CONTROL REGIME

Ukraine formally became a member of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) at a meeting of the MTCR's contact group in Paris. Commitment to the MTCR presumes Ukraine's denial to export missiles with a range exceeding 300 kilometers and payload exceeding 500 kilograms.

—Missile Technology Control Regime, www.mtcr.info.

June 1997

OFFICIAL REITERATES UKRAINE'S RIGHT TO BUILD SHORT-RANGE NUCLEAR MISSILES

Volodymyr Horbulyn (Gorbulyin), Secretary of the Ukrainian National Security Council, reiterated a statement made in May 1997 in which he declared that Ukraine retains the right to build short-range nuclear missiles (with a range of 300-500 kilometers) if the country's national security is threatened. Despite the Treaty of Friendship signed with Russia in May 1997, Horbulyn asserted that Ukraine has "retained the freedom to maneuver" if required by national security interests. US officials have pressured Ukraine to drop its missile program due to fears that Ukraine might sell missiles to states like Iraq, Iran, and Libya. Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udoenko has denied that Ukraine would sell this technology to "countries whose moral standing is in question." Following US criticism over Ukraine's missile program, Udoenko called for Japanese investment and cooperation in space exploration and the aerospace industry.

—Interfax, 18 June 1997; in "Government Has Right to Build Missiles 'if Threatened'," *FBIS-TAC-97-169*. "Ukraine Calls for Japan Cash for Space Industry," *Reuters*, 20 May 1997.

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July 1997

UKRAINE TO COMMERCIALIZE SS-18 ICBMs

According to Col. Oleksandr Serdyuk, head of Ukraine's Center for Administrative Control of the Strategic Military Forces, a delegation will be sent to Russia in the near future to register a joint enterprise to modernize and commercialize SS-18 ICBMs. Serdyuk said that a total of 150 missiles will be modernized, and that the first missile redesigned for commercial use will appear in 1998. Ukraine, which will have a 50 percent share in the joint enterprise, "will be resolving the technical issues: development of the operational units for launching payloads and the assembly of the booster stage." In a separate statement made at a press conference in Kiev, Volodymyr Horbulyn (Gorbulin), Secretary of the National Security Council and head of the National Space Agency's International Department, noted that "Ukraine's participation in the conversion of SS-18 strategic missiles may help towards building up political confidence between Russia and the USA." Horbulyn believes that converting these missiles for peaceful purposes will be "beneficial" to Ukraine.

—Interfax, 11 July 1997, "Ukraine's Participation in Peaceful Uses of SS-18 Missiles May Help Towards Building Up Political Confidence Between USA and Russia." UNIAN, 10 July 1997; in "Joint Enterprise to Commercialize SS-18 Missiles," FBIS-SOV-97-191.

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