

UKR NUC ARMS RUS - KRAVCHUK SAYS NUCLEAR WEAPONS 'THREAT TO OURSELVES'

KIEV, FEBRUARY 3 (AP) -- UKRAINIAN PRESIDENT LEONID KRAVCHUK WARNED THURSDAY THAT UKRAINE'S NUCLEAR ARMS ARE "A THREAT TO OURSELVES" AND URGED PARLIAMENT TO SCRAP THEM UNDER A TREATY WITH RUSSIA AND THE UNITED STATES.

AS LAWMAKERS BEGAN DEBATING THE TRILATERAL AGREEMENT SIGNED AT LAST MONTH'S MOSCOW SUMMIT MEETING, KRAVCHUK GAVE HIS STRONGEST ANTI-NUCLEAR SPEECH YET.

"IF YOU KNOW THE STATE OF OUR NUCLEAR ARSENAL, YOU SIMPLY CAN'T INSIST ON KEEPING IT," HE TOLD THE RADA, OR PARLIAMENT.

"THE NUCLEAR BUTTON, THE ENTIRE COMMAND INFRASTRUCTURE ARE IN MOSCOW. NO ONE WILL EVER LET US TAKE CONTROL. THAT WOULD ONLY PROVOKE A DANGEROUS ACCIDENT," HE SAID.

THE TRILATERAL AGREEMENT SIGNED BY KRAVCHUK, U.S. PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON AND RUSSIAN PRESIDENT BORIS YELTSIN CALLS FOR UKRAINE TO GIVE UP ALL OF ITS APPROXIMATELY 1,800 NUCLEAR WARHEADS.

NATIONALIST LAWMAKERS BELIEVE UKRAINE SHOULD KEEP SOME NUCLEAR WEAPONS AS A DETERRENT AGAINST RUSSIA.

THE DEBATE COULD LAST DAYS, AND NO VOTE HAS BEEN SCHEDULED.

"OUR NUCLEAR WEAPONS CAN'T SERVE AS A DETERRENT," KRAVCHUK SAID.

"THEY ARE A THREAT TO OURSELVES BECAUSE OF THE DANGEROUS CONDITION OF THE NUCLEAR WARHEADS, CAUSED BY RUSSIA'S REFUSAL TO SUPPLY NECESSARY SPARE PARTS."

THE RADA HAS BEEN BACKPEDALING FOR MORE THAN A YEAR ON THE START 1 ACCORD AND RELATED AGREEMENTS SIGNED BY UKRAINE, WHICH WOULD REQUIRE THE COUNTRY TO GIVE UP ALL 176 STRATEGIC NUCLEAR MISSILES IT INHERITED FROM THE FORMER SOVIET UNION.

MOST OF THE MISSILES ARE IN NEED OF SERVICING, AND THEIR SAFETY CANNOT BE GUARANTEED AFTER 1995, KRAVCHUK SAID.

"IF WE DON'T TURN THE MISSILES OVER TO RUSSIA, WE WILL INEVITABLY FACE THE THREAT OF ANOTHER NUCLEAR DISASTER," HE SAID.

AFTER KRAVCHUK'S SPEECH, VALENTIN LEMESH, CHAIRMAN OF THE PARLIAMENT'S DEFENSE COMMITTEE, PROPOSED THAT UKRAINE JOIN THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY AS A NON-NUCLEAR STATE AND WITHDRAW ALL ITS RESERVATIONS TO THE LISBON PROTOCOL, AN AGREEMENT CALLING FOR UKRAINE TO SEND ITS MISSILES TO RUSSIA FOR DISMANTLING.

BUT DMITRO PAVLYCHKO, CHAIRMAN OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE AND A LEADER OF THE NATIONALIST WING IN PARLIAMENT, SAID THE TRILATERAL AGREEMENT VIOLATED THE CONDITIONS THAT PARLIAMENT SET WHEN IT RATIFIED START 1 IN NOVEMBER.

"THE RESOLUTION DIDN'T ENVISAGE JOINING THE NPT AS A NUCLEAR-FREE STATE. IT FORESAW DISMANTLING OF ONLY 36 PERCENT OF UKRAINE'S LAUNCHERS AND 42 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ITS WARHEADS," PAVLYCHKO SAID.

HE ALSO SAID THE TRILATERAL STATEMENT DID NOT ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF COMPENSATION TO UKRAINE FOR TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS IT GAVE TO RUSSIA IN 1992.

KIEV, FEBRUARY 3 (REUTER) -- PRESIDENT LEONID KRAVCHUK TOLD PARLIAMENT ON THURSDAY THAT UKRAINE HAD TO RID ITSELF OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS BY JOINING THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY OR FACE INTERNATIONAL ISOLATION AND RUIN.

"I CANNOT UNDERSTAND AND PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD CANNOT UNDERSTAND WHY UKRAINE DOES NOT JOIN NPT, WHY WE ARE MAINTAINING SUCH A POSITION," HE SAID. "OUR FUTURE AS AN INDEPENDENT SOVEREIGN STATE DEPENDS NOT ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS BUT ON ECONOMIC PROSPERITY."

LAST MONTH KRAVCHUK SIGNED AN AGREEMENT IN MOSCOW WITH U.S. PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON AND RUSSIAN LEADER BORIS YELTSIN UNDER WHICH UKRAINE IS TO GIVE UP 1,600 WARHEADS IN EXCHANGE FOR COMPENSATION OF ABOUT \$1 BILLION AND SECURITY GUARANTEES.

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THAT DEAL WAS MEANT TO MEET CONDITIONS WHICH THE UKRAINIAN PARLIAMENT ATTACHED TO RATIFICATION OF THE START-1 INTERNATIONAL DISARMAMENT PACT. BUT TWO WEEKS AGO KRAVCHUK PUT A PROPOSAL TO PARLIAMENT ASKING DEPUTIES TO GO FARTHER BY APPROVING MEMBERSHIP OF THE 1968 NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY.

PARLIAMENT HAD BEEN DUE ON THURSDAY TO DEBATE THE MOSCOW ACCORD RATHER THAN THE PROPOSAL TO JOIN NPT. ITS CHAIRMAN IVAN PLYUSHCH SAID THIS WEEK DEPUTIES WOULD APPROVE THE DEAL BUT DEPUTIES APPEARED SPLIT ON IT.

NATIONALIST MEMBERS HAVE MODERATED THEIR OPPOSITION TO THE U.S.-RUSSIA-UKRAINE AGREEMENT, BUT IT REMAINED UNCLEAR WHETHER THE FRACTIOUS CHAMBER WOULD ACCEPT IT.

KRAVCHUK SAID ON THURSDAY AT THE START OF THE DEBATE ON THE MOSCOW ACCORD THAT, BEFORE THE DOCUMENT HAD BEEN SIGNED, UKRAINE "WAS AMONG THOSE COUNTRIES WITH A NEGATIVE IMAGE IN THE WORLD. WE WERE HINDERING DISARMAMENT IN THE WORLD AND THE START-2 PACT WAS UNDER THREAT."

AFTER HE SPOKE, DEPUTIES LAUNCHED A VERBAL ATTACK ON KRAVCHUK, BUT PARLIAMENTARY CHAIRMAN PLYUSHCH ADJOURNED DEBATE UNTIL LATER IN THE DAY.

MUNICH, FEBRUARY 3 (NCA/B) -- HERE ARE EXCERPTS FROM KRAVCHUK'S SPEECH AS TRANSMITTED LIVE BY KIEV RADIO:

ESTEEMED IVAN STEPANOVYCH, ESTEEMED PEOPLE'S DEPUTIES:

THE ISSUES THAT HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION ARE EXCEPTIONALLY IMPORTANT. UKRAINE'S FUTURE AS AN INDEPENDENT STATE TRULY DEPENDS LARGELY ON THE DECISION YOU WILL ADOPT TODAY.

THE UKRAINIAN SUPREME COUNCIL ON 18 NOVEMBER 1993 ADOPTED A RESOLUTION ON RATIFYING THE START TREATY AND THE LISBON PROTOCOL, WITH CERTAIN RESERVATIONS. AMONG OTHER THINGS, IT ALSO CONTAINED INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE UKRAINIAN PRESIDENT AND GOVERNMENT TO HOLD APPROPRIATE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN INTERESTED STATES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WITH THE AIM OF DUE PROTECTION OF BOTH UKRAINE'S SECURITY AND ITS MATERIAL INTERESTS, WHICH WOULD OPEN POSSIBILITIES FOR THE START I TREATY TO ENTER INTO FORCE AND WOULD INITIATE THE PROCESS OF GENUINE INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT.

YOU ARE AWARE OF THE WORLD'S REACTION TO THE ADOPTED RESOLUTION. UKRAINE STOOD BEFORE THE THREAT OF FULL ISOLATION AFTER THE PARLIAMENT'S DECISION. THE NEGATIVE IMAGE WE EARNED FOR OUR STATE BECAUSE OF THIS BEGAN TO INTENSIFY TO A LEVEL WHICH OPENED THE POSSIBILITY OF IMPOSING MORE THAN JUST ECONOMIC FORMS OF PRESSURE. (PASSAGE OMITTED)

THE NUCLEAR WEAPONS UKRAINE INHERITED FROM THE FORMER USSR NOT ONLY CANNOT BE USED TO SUPPORT UKRAINE'S SECURITY BUT ALSO ARE A THREAT TO IT. WE DO NOT HAVE THE APPROPRIATE SCIENTIFIC NOR THE MANUFACTURING INFRASTRUCTURE -- FOR WHICH TENS OF BILLIONS OF DOLLARS ARE NEEDED -- TO INDEPENDENTLY MANUFACTURE NEW NUCLEAR WEAPONS, NOR DO WE HAVE A PLACE WHERE SUCH WEAPONS COULD BE TESTED. I HOPE THAT THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE AND PEOPLE'S DEPUTIES OF UKRAINE HAD THE POSSIBILITY TO SEE AND HEAR THE OPINIONS OF LEADING UKRAINIAN SCIENTISTS ON THIS ISSUE, WHICH WAS SHOWN ON UKRAINIAN TELEVISION. IF WE CANNOT BE A TRUE NUCLEAR STATE AND GAIN SOMETHING POSITIVE FROM THIS, THEN WHY NOT ACCEDE TO THE NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION TREATY, ALONG WITH THE OTHER 180 WORLD STATES? (PASSAGE OMITTED)

(MORE)

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UKRAINE IS NOW BEING ACCUSED OF SOMETHING VERY SERIOUS. IF WE DO NOT ACT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POSITION WE ANNOUNCED EARLIER, WE ARE HALTING FURTHER WORLD DISARMAMENT. START II COMES UNDER THREAT, AND IT IS THIS FOR WHICH UKRAINE IS BEING ACCUSED. ALTHOUGH THE STATE OF OUR ECONOMY AND THE POSSIBILITY OF REFORMING IT DEPENDS IN THE FIRST INSTANCE ON US -- AND THIS IS TRUE -- WITHOUT SUPPORT FROM INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, LEADING WESTERN STATES, AND NOT ONLY WITH MONEY BUT ALSO WITH EXPERIENCE, PRIVATE INVESTMENTS, AND THE GRANTING OF ACCESS TO THEIR MARKETS, WE WILL NOT MANAGE. CERTAINLY WE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO MANAGE WITHOUT THE RUSSIAN MARKET.

CAN WE REALLY EXPECT THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORMAL -- I STRESS, NORMAL -- RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA WITHOUT DECIDING THIS PAINFUL PROBLEM? IF SOMEONE THINKS WE CAN, THEN HE IS DEEPLY MISTAKEN. (PASSAGE OMITTED)  
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