I also want to note the fact that both the United States and Russia are ahead of the reduction schedule provided for in the START I treaty. To date, the United States has eliminated 750 strategic nuclear delivery vehicles, and about 800 strategic delivery vehicles in the former Soviet Union have been eliminated, including more than 700 in Russia. The cooperative threat reduction (Nunn-Lugar) program has played a major role in the elimination of these weapons in the former Soviet Union and the denuclearization of Ukraine.

I have asked Secretary Perry to meet next week with his Ukrainian and Russian counterparts, Ministers Shmarov and Grachev, and mark the successful implementation of the trilateral statement by visiting a destroyed ICBM silo and a former nuclear weapons storage facility in Ukraine. In doing so, they will celebrate another important step in making the world safer for us all.

On this day of important milestones, I also welcome the agreement that was reached today in Vienna by the 36 nations party to the conventional forces in Europe (CFE) treaty. This agreement resolves a difficult problem that had arisen concerning the level of Russian and Ukrainian military equipment allowed on the northern and southern flanks of the CFE region.

This agreement is the culmination of two years of negotiations led by the United States. I congratulate all parties, including our NATO allies: Russia, Ukraine and the states of the Caucasus and Central and Eastern Europe, for their hard work, cooperation and dedication to preserving the integrity and effectiveness of this crucial treaty.

The CFE treaty is a key element of a new, more stable Europe. The treaty has resulted in the destruction of over 50,000 tanks, armored combat vehicles, artillery pieces, combat aircraft and attack helicopters. It has also established a system of transparency measures, which will increase confidence through on-site inspections, notifications and information exchanges.
-- Provided for security assurances by the U.S., Russia and United Kingdom to Ukraine on Ukraine's accession to the Non-proliferation Treaty as a non-nuclear weapon state; and

-- Reaffirm the U.S. commitment to assist the safe and secure dismantlement of nuclear forces through the cooperative threat reduction (Nunn-Lugar) program.

The provisions of the trilateral statement and annex are being implemented. When they were signed, there were some 1900 strategic nuclear warheads in Ukraine, most of which were on SS-15 and SS-24 ICBMs targeted at the U.S. As of June 1, there are none. (In addition, in 1991-92, some 2500 tactical nuclear weapons were transferred from Ukraine to Russia.) There were far more nuclear warheads on the territory of Ukraine than in any country other than the United States or Russia.

Russia is dismantling the removed nuclear warheads and has provided Ukraine compensation for the strategic nuclear warheads in the form of fuel rods for civilian nuclear power plants in Ukraine. These fuel rods are being delivered according to a schedule agreed to by Russia and Ukraine.

On December 5, 1994, Ukraine acceded to the Non-proliferation Treaty as a non-nuclear weapon state. On that same date, the U.S., Russia and United Kingdom provided security assurances to Ukraine, and the START I treaty also entered into force.

The trilateral statement noted the U.S. commitment of a minimum of 175 million USD in cooperative threat reduction (Nunn-Lugar) aid to Ukraine to assist demobilization. As of the end of April 1996, the U.S. had notified CTR obligations for Ukraine totaling almost 400 million USD, primarily for the elimination of strategic nuclear arms and nuclear infrastructure.

End text of fact sheet.

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Tarnoff