19. Global Partnership: Non-Proliferation [306]

Commitment

"We remain committed to our pledges in Kananaskis to raise up to $20 billion through 2012 for the Global Partnership, initially in Russia, to support projects to address priority areas identified in Kananaskis and to continue to turn these pledges into concrete actions."^{1339}

*St. Petersburg Statement on Non-Proliferation*^{1340}

Background

Introduced at the 2002 Kananaskis Summit, the Global Partnership against the Proliferation of WMD is aimed at assisting Russia and former member states of the USSR in decommissioning excess nuclear, biological and chemical weapon stocks. This initiative was spearheaded by the United States under the auspices of threat reduction measures intended to minimize the potential of rogue states and terrorist organizations to acquire access to large, often poorly guarded, stocks of weapons of mass destruction, or the materials needed to develop such weapons.

Given that these weapons stocks are improperly or insufficiently secured primarily due to prohibitive disarmament costs, G8 member states pledged to collectively raise USD20 billion over ten years to fund Global Partnership program initiatives. At the Gleneagles summit and again at St. Petersburg the G8 member states renewed their commitment to their 2002 pledge. The pledges made at Kananaskis to the Global Partnership are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member State</th>
<th>Original Currency</th>
<th>2002 US Dollars*</th>
<th>2006 US Dollars†</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>CAD1 billion</td>
<td>$637 million</td>
<td>$882 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>€1 billion</td>
<td>$941 million</td>
<td>$1.24 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>€1.5 billion</td>
<td>$1.4 billion</td>
<td>$1.86 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>€1 billion</td>
<td>$941 million</td>
<td>$1.2 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>USD200 million</td>
<td>$200 million</td>
<td>$200 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>USD2 billion</td>
<td>$2 billion</td>
<td>$2 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>€750 million</td>
<td>$706 million</td>
<td>$932 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>USD10 billion</td>
<td>$10 billion</td>
<td>$10 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Union</td>
<td>€1 billion</td>
<td>$941 million</td>
<td>$1.2 billion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: G8 Senior Officials Group Annual Report presented at the Annual Summit of the G8 Heads of State and Government, Evian, June 2003.*^{1341}

*Using the IMF’s average market exchange rate for 2002

† Using the IMF’s average market exchange rate for Q1 through Q3 2006

Team Leader: Cliff Vanderlinden

---


Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interim Compliance Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lack of Compliance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Canada: +1

Canada registers full compliance with its 2002 commitment made in Kananaskis to engage in nuclear non-proliferation activities.

Canada has prioritized the safe disposal of nuclear materials as part of its non-proliferation strategy, following through with consistent allocation of funds. On 17 July 2006, Canada announced a planned contribution of CAD 100 million toward the construction of chemical weapons destruction facilities in Russia. The announcement included a pledge of CAD 24 million to defuel and dismantle three nuclear submarines in northwestern Russia, bringing the total number of submarines dismantled with Canada's cooperation to nine. It also included CAD 4.3 million for 15 new research projects at research institutes in Russia and other countries of the former Soviet Union aimed at providing “peaceful, sustainable employment opportunities for former weapons scientists.”

On 23 November 2006 Foreign Affairs Minister Peter Mackay tabled in Parliament the annual report of the Global Partnership Program. The report outlined the contributions made by Canada to the Global Partnership Program thus far and also set an agenda for future Canadian priorities with respect to the Global Partnership. The report states that Canada will continue its commitment to the construction of the Shchuch’ye Chemical Weapons Construction Facility, which is set to be completed by 2008, and may spearhead the development of a similar facility in Kizner beginning in 2007.

Among the other commitments outlined in the report was the continued investment in the decommissioning of 12 nuclear submarines in the Russian Arctic Fleet, a project which is expected to be completed by 2010. The Canadian government has earmarked CAD 100 million to the project and, in early November 2006, the Zvezdochka shipyard in Severodvinsk in Russia began disposal of a B-244 Viktor III class multipurpose nuclear submarine with Canadian funding. On 29 March 2007, it was reported that the decommissioning of the seventh nuclear submarine had begun at Zvezdochka.

---

1348 Russian nuclear sub being decommissioned for Canadian cash, ITAR-TASS, (Moscow),
On 7 May 2007 the Canadian government announced that it would contribute CAD5 million towards the upgrade of security systems at airports and other border crossings in Ukraine to prevent nuclear terrorism.\(^{1349}\)

**Analyst: Cliff Vanderlinden**

**France: 0**

Although France reiterated its commitment to fulfilling its 2002 pledge made in Kananaskis to support non-proliferation initiatives, it has not made any significant new financial commitments to the Global Partnership Program since the St. Petersburg Summit.

On 30 December 2006 Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a federal law ratifying the Russian-French intergovernmental agreement on cooperation in the disposal of chemical weapons in Russia, which was signed in Moscow on 14 February 2006.\(^{1350}\) The agreement outlines the "practical use of a free financial and technical aid by France in order to implement the Russian prioritized programmes of destroying the Russian chemical weapons stock, creation and maintenance of facilities for the disposal of these weapons, and to solve accompanying ecological problems."\(^{1351}\) During the implementation of the agreement France will take part in the launching of an ecological monitoring project at the chemical weapons disposal plant in Shchuch’ye, a project to which France will make an initial commitment of EUR6 million.\(^{1352}\) France has also committed itself to the refitting of the nuclear waste incinerator in the Zvezdochka shipyard located in Russia, a project which it will fund up to EUR7 million going into 2008.\(^{1353}\)

**Analyst: Hana Dhanji**

**Germany: +1**

Germany registers full compliance with its St. Petersburg commitment to continue supporting the Global Partnership Program.

On the 2 August 2006, the first stage of a EUR125 million storage facility for nuclear submarine reactors in Saida Bay in the Murmansk region was completed. The project was financed by Germany.\(^{1354}\) This paved the decision to continue the project until 2008; the complex is a shore-based long-term storage facility for the storage of 120 reactor bocks, including all necessary infrastructure and is expected to be fully operational by December 2008.\(^{1355}\)

Furthermore, German officials worked together with the United States and Russia in a secret operation to transfer almost 600 pounds of abandoned, Soviet-made nuclear material from a former East German research lab to a secure site in Russia on 22 December 2006.\(^{1356}\) This operation was carried out under the Global Threat Reduction Initiative, a Bush administration program launched in 2004 to combine and speed-up efforts to lock down nuclear materials and weapons around the world.\(^{1357}\)

On 18 January 2007 the Strengthening the Global Partnership Project and the Europe Program – both of which are initiatives of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies – co-hosted a luncheon

---


1354 The First Part of a Facility for Storage of Reactor Compartments of Nuclear Submarines Put into Operation in Murmansk Region, Defense and Security, Strengthening the Global Partnership Project, (Moscow), 2 August 2006. Date of Access: 16 November 2006 [www.sgpproject.org/Personal%20Use%20Only/murmansko8.02.06.htm](http://www.sgpproject.org/Personal%20Use%20Only/murmansko8.02.06.htm).


1356 Lock away nukes, Orlando Sentinel, Strengthening the Global Partnership Project, (Orlando), 22 December 2006. Date of Access: 3 January 2006. [sgpproject.org/Personal%20Use%20Only/122206gtrieditorial.htm](http://sgpproject.org/Personal%20Use%20Only/122206gtrieditorial.htm).

1357 Lock away nukes, Orlando Sentinel, Strengthening the Global Partnership Project, (Orlando), 22 December 2006. Date of Access: 3 January 2006. [sgpproject.org/Personal%20Use%20Only/122206gtrieditorial.htm](http://sgpproject.org/Personal%20Use%20Only/122206gtrieditorial.htm).
roundtable discussion with Mr. Hellmut Hoffman, Germany’s Director for Nuclear Arms Control and Nonproliferation in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Director Hoffman remarked on Germany’s nonproliferation priorities during its 2007 G8 and EU presidencies. The German 2007 national budget includes an allocation of EUR57 million towards supporting Russia in the framework of the Global Partnership.

**Analyst:** Sandro Gianella and Igor Churkin

**Italy: 0**

The government of Italy has continued to support its Global Partnership commitments reiterated at the 2006 G8 Summit in St. Petersburg, although there were no new financial commitments registered by the Italian government since the summit. However, the decommissioning of the Kirov-class nuclear-powered battle cruiser Admiral Ushakov – a project funded by Italy – is expected to begin in 2007.

On 9 October 2006, talks between an Italian delegation and the Zvyozdochka project in Severodvinski were held. The talks concerned the unloading of spent nuclear fuel from the decommissioned cruiser. In November 2004 Italy had expressed its readiness to allot EUR60 million for the dismantlement of the Admiral Ushakov. On 25 January 2005 Italian sources reported that SOGIN (Società Gestione Impianti Nucleari or the Society for the Management of Nuclear Systems) had come to a preliminary agreement with the Russian Atomic Energy Agency to commit EUR66 million to fund dismantlement of three Victor-class submarines and the Admiral Ushakov. The Italian parliament was expected to take about two years to approve the project and commit the pledged funds.

According to a Zvyozdochka project spokesman, the unloading of spent nuclear fuel from the Admiral Ushakov is expected to begin in 2007.

**Analyst:** Joseph Tabago

**Japan: +1**

The government of Japan has registered full compliance in meeting the Global Partnership commitments reiterated at the 2006 G8 Summit in St. Petersburg.

On 12 September 2006, Deputy Foreign Minister Shintaro Ito announced at a press conference in Vladivostok that Japan had allocated JPY20 billion in a joint project with Russia to dismantle five Victor-class nuclear submarines by 2010. The project will be conducted under the Star of Hope program, which was adopted during Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi’s visit to Russia on 11 January 2003. The first Victor class submarine will be decommissioned in Zvezda Shipyard in the upcoming months and will take approximately 10 months to complete.

On 30 August 2006, the chief of Russia's Federal Atomic Agency (Rosatom) Sergei Kiriyenko and Japan’s Katsutoshi Kaneda discussed cooperation in the area of nuclear-powered submarine recycling. As part of an agreement, Japan agreed to finance the construction of a floating complex worth USD35 million to process liquid radioactive waste.

---

Japan has also continued to demonstrate its strong support for international agreements concerning nuclear non-proliferation. On 20 September 2006, Shintaro Ito reiterated Japan's commitment to the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, noting that "Japan is taking every diplomatic opportunity to facilitate the entry into force of the Treaty." In addition to conducting bilateral consultations with emerging nuclear states such as India, Pakistan and Israel, Japan has also provided developing countries with training in monitoring seismological activity. This is in an attempt to improve international detection and verification capacity around nuclear testing.

**Analyst: Joseph Tabago**

**Russia: +1**

Russia complied with the commitment to persevere in the implementation of the pledge made in Kananaskis.

Russia has dismantled 148 out of 197 decommissioned Soviet-era nuclear submarines, a Russian Federal Nuclear Power Agency official said 26 December 2006. In the end of February Russia’s Nerpa shipyard scrapped one more submarine.

By the end of 2006, Russia scrapped 75% of the nuclear submarines discarded from the Navy or 148 of the 197 submarines. At present, Russia scraps approximately 18 nuclear submarines a year. By now, 120 nuclear submarines were discarded from the Northern Fleet and 77 nuclear submarines were discarded from the Pacific Fleet, 97 submarines were scrapped in the North and 51 submarines were scrapped in the Far East. Along with this, there are 23 nuclear submarines at the stage of scrapping (10 in the North and 13 submarines in the Far East) and 23 submarines are awaiting scrapping (12 in the North and 11 in the Far East).

The scrapping of all nuclear submarines is expected to be completed in 2010. The scrapping of one submarine costs approximately $7 million on average.

The program of scrapping Russian nuclear submarines is partially financed with other countries' assistance. Costs of scrapping 39 submarines (which constitutes 26 per cent of all scrapped submarines) were born by foreign countries. For instance, Canada is prepared to start financing the scrapping of Russian nuclear submarines in the Far East.

The first of four unique pontoons, designed to ensure safe transportation of decommissioned nuclear submarines, has been built at the Snezhnogorsk shipyard Nerpa (Murmansk Region). At the Murmansk seminar on the problems of decommissioning of nuclear service vessels on 7 February 2007 it was declared that the joint Russian-German nuclear decommissioning project is in progress at Saida Bay on Russia’s Kola Peninsula, with the objective of creation of a shore-based long-term storage facility for the storage of 120 reactor blocks, including all necessary infrastructure. The project is aimed at improving and maintaining the safety of the environment and arranging for the

---


material and technical development of the Russian sites involved in nuclear submarine
decommissioning for the smooth and dynamic course of the decommissioning process.\textsuperscript{1376}

In case of chemical weapons, at the end of last year, 15 percent of all the stockpiled chemical
weapons in Russia had already been destroyed, Viktor Khodostov, the deputy chief of the RF Federal
Industry Agency, reported in an exclusive ITAR-TASS interview, after attending the December session
of the Conference of States Party to the Chemical Weapons Convention in The Hague\textsuperscript{1377}.

By now (14 March 2007) Russia destroyed more than 17.5 percent of all the stockpiled chemical
weapons, i.e. 7 007 tons of the weapons\textsuperscript{1378}. The Chemical Weapons Convention set terms for Russian
second stage of destruction of chemical weapons of first category as 29 April 2007. By that time
Russia is expected to destroy 20 percent of all the stockpiled chemical weapons, i.e. 8,553.4 tons of the
weapons\textsuperscript{1379}.

The last 28 kilograms of lewisite were destroyed at a facility in Kambarka, Udmurtia, on 20 April 2007,
which wound up the second phase of the national program to eliminate chemical weapons. Also, on
20 April 2007, the Maradykovo facility, Kirov region, completed the detoxication process of the last
aircraft bomb. Russia therefore delivered on its promise to destroy 8,000 tonnes of toxic agents by
April 29, 2007\textsuperscript{1380}.

The Russian budget allocated $718 million, or 18.3 billion rubles, for the work on the chemical
weapons destruction program in 2006. Budget allocations in 2007 will be close to $980 million, or
more than 26 billion rubles\textsuperscript{1381}.

Analysts: Elena Bylina and Ekaterina Mamontova

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has registered a high level of compliance with regards to its commitments made
at the G8 Summit in St. Petersburg. In 2006 the UK made substantial progress on dismantling Russian
nuclear submarines, redirecting former nuclear weapons scientists, increasing the security of nuclear
materials, and establishing of a co-operative programme for the transportation and storage of spent
nuclear fuel from the Aktau reactor.\textsuperscript{1382} According to the Fourth Annual Global Partnership report, the
British government remains fully committed to continuing threat reduction work under the Global
Partnership banner and Ministers agreed to improve the framework within which the UK delivers its
threat reduction work in establishing new governance arrangements for the programme, which will
provide a more flexible and effective structure for the work over the next few years. The new
arrangements, since April 2007, created a single budget, subsuming the funds previously held by DTI
and MOD.\textsuperscript{1383} The programme has a ring-fenced budget of GBP 32.5 million for the period 2005-06 and
2007-08.\textsuperscript{1384}

The United Kingdom is also working with the Nuclear Safety Programme (NSP) with the aim of
promoting the adoption of internationally recognized nuclear safety and regulatory standards within
the civil nuclear industry in the Former Soviet Union and Central and Eastern Europe in order to
minimize the potential for nuclear mismanagement.\textsuperscript{1385} The Department of Trade and Industry,

\textsuperscript{1376} Strengthening the Global Partnership, Nuclear service ships problem hard to tackle, Murmansk seminar agrees, 7 February

\textsuperscript{1377} Strengthening the Global Partnership. Weekly News Roundup. February 8-February 27, 2007, Strengthening the Global

\textsuperscript{1378} Interview with Viktor Kholstov, the deputy chief of the RF Federal Industry Agency, Chemical Disarmament, (Moscow), 15

\textsuperscript{1379} By the moment Russia has destroyed 17.5 percent of all the stockpiled chemical weapons 14 March 2007. Date of Access: 17

\textsuperscript{1380} Russia destroys last 28 kg of lewisite in Kambarka, Udmurtia. ITAR-TASS, (Moscow), 20 April 2007. Date of Access: 24 April

\textsuperscript{1381} Strengthening the Global Partnership. Weekly News Roundup. February 8-February 27, 2007, Strengthening the Global
http://www.sgpproject.org/SGP%20News/SGP%20News%20Roundup%20February%208-February%2027,%202007.PDF

\textsuperscript{1382} Global Partnership Nuclear Non-Proliferation – Government Policy, Department of Trade and Industry, (London), Date of

\textsuperscript{1383} The Global Partnership Fourth Annual Report 2006, Department of Trade and Industry, (London), January 2007. Date of

\textsuperscript{1384} The Global Partnership Fourth Annual Report 2006, Department of Trade and Industry, (London), January 2007. Date of

together with British Nuclear Group as project managers, are working closely with beneficiary organizations to develop project proposals that address their nuclear safety priorities.\(^{1386}\)

On 18 July 2006 the Ministry of Defense announced that it will continue to play a significant role in the international effort to destroy chemical weapons in Russia by helping to build a second destruction facility in Kizner, which, like the facility in Shchuch'ye, will be a key Russian facility for the destruction of lethal nerve agents.\(^{1387}\) The Minister of State for the Armed Forces stated, that "together, working with Russia and other international donors, we are making a real difference, helping to make the world safer by eliminating these terrible weapons."\(^{1388}\) In total, the Ministry of Defence has placed contracts worth some GBP44 million to date at Shchuch’ye.\(^{1389}\) According to the Ministry of Defense, up to USD100 million of the United Kingdom's EUR750 million Global Partnership pledge will be made available to Russia for the destruction of its chemical weapons stockpile.\(^{1390}\)

The Department of Trade and Industry announced on 29 September 2006 that, with the help of GBP21 million in British funds, a new facility to safely store nuclear fuel was built at the Amafoli site in Murmansk.\(^{1391}\) This is the largest completed project to date under the United Kingdom's Global Partnership commitments. The facility provides safe storage for 3,500 spent fuel rods in 50 storage cases.\(^{1392}\)

In addition, Great Britain implemented a portfolio of projects which should secure over 1000 sustainable jobs for former weapons scientists and completed a major engineering study to direct international collaborative effort to ensure the timely removal from Andreeva Bay of some 30 tonnes of spent nuclear fuel.\(^{1393}\) Furthermore, under the auspices of the Arctic Military Environmental Cooperation (AMEC) programme, Royal Navy salvage experts assisted Norway in the safe transport of the last nuclear submarine from the Arctic submarine base at Gremikha; it is set to be dismantled in 2007, using UK and Norwegian funds.\(^{1394}\) On 6 April 2007, it was announced that the first of four pontoons designed to ensure safe transportation of decommissioned nuclear submarines had been built at the Snezhnogorsk shipyard Nerpa in the Murmansk region.\(^{1395}\) The pontoons are being constructed using UK funds and are expected to be completed by June 2007.\(^{1396}\)

The United Kingdom also had its Global Partnership programme evaluated by Chatham House, which found that the UK programme has been well-planned and organized, appropriately funded, efficient and above all effective.\(^{1397}\) The report further states that the UK sets an example for other donors and potential donors to follow by demonstrating that with careful management, pledges to the Global Partnership can and should be converted into real and productive expenditure.\(^{1398}\)


United States: 0

The United States has registered a sufficient level of compliance with the Strategic Global Partnership initiative.

New legislation had been introduced to remove restrictions on the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction Program. The congressionally-imposed conditions on Nunn-Lugar have inhibited the amount of work that can be done to eliminate and safeguard weapons of mass destruction in the former Soviet Union. Each year, a six-month, thirteen step certification and waiver process must be completed before appropriated funds can be obligated to eliminate weapons of mass destruction. Temporary waiver of the restrictions has created a lot of paperwork that distracts from the program’s mission of destroying nuclear, biological and chemical weapons.1399

On 31 January 2007 the US House of Representatives passed a fiscal 2007 spending bill that increases funding for two nuclear nonproliferation programs by more than USD60 million. A number of defense nuclear nonproliferation programs receive the same funding they did in fiscal 2006 under the long-term continuing resolution, but two received sizable boosts. The International Nuclear Material Protection and Cooperation program received a USD50 million injection, rising from USD422.7 million to USD472.7 million under the House resolution. Much of funding is to be directed toward monitoring systems at transit points on the Russian border and ports to prevent nuclear smuggling.1400 The Global Threat Reduction Initiative also received additional support. Funded at USD97 million in the 2006 fiscal year budget, it received USD115.5 million in the House spending plan. The program seeks to repatriate U.S. and Russian spent reactor fuel being used in other nations, and to convert research reactors from using highly enriched uranium to more proliferation-resistant low-enriched fuel.1401

On 1 November 2006, US Cooperative Threat Reduction officials met with their Russian counterparts in Moscow to discuss a new strategy to resume work on the unfinished chemical weapon destruction plant at Shchuch’ye, one of seven planned chemical weapons destruction facilities in Russia aimed at eliminating Russia’s chemical weapon stockpiles. The facility was originally scheduled for completion by 2005, but the timeframe was pushed back to 2008. The US made the most significant pledge towards the facility of all G8 member states and hopes to retain oversight over the project and release funds only as work is completed to satisfaction. Both the US and Russia aim to reduce their respective chemical weapons stockpiles by 20 percent by April 2007, 45 percent by the end of 2009, and the entire stock of chemical weapons eradicated by April 2012.1402

However, the Shchuch’ye project has stalled. The White House has eliminated funding allocated to the Shchuch’ye plant in the 2008 and 2009 fiscal budgets.1403 Furthermore, US270 million in CTR funds from 2005, 2006 and 2007 remains unspent due to disputes over whether the money should continue to be managed by the Denver-based Parsons firm, or whether control should be transferred to Russian federal agencies.1404 A key reason for this move away is the continuing difficulties in working cooperatively with the Russian government and its official entities.1405

The Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR) budget proposed for fiscal year 2008 is approximately USD$348 million, which is approximately USD$100 million less than traditional funding allocations towards CTR since Kananaskis.1406 Three important trends appear to be emerging within the CTR program: a declining overall budget overall, a significant shift of funding away from chemical and nuclear weapons to biological threat reduction, and the declining centrality of WMD security and


**European Union: 0**

The European Union has registered a respectable level of compliance with its EUR1 billion pledge to the Global Partnership. The EU pledge is concentrated in several key areas, including EUR125 million for ISTC/STCU former weapons scientist assistance and EUR550 million for nuclear safety assistance, which includes EUR50 million for nuclear submarine dismantlement and EUR23 million for fissile material safeguards.\footnote{Donor Factsheet: EU, Strengthening the Global Partnership Project, (Washington D.C.), 2004. Date of Access: 12 January 2007. www.sgpproject.org/Donor%20Factsheets/EU.html.} The pledge is managed by the European Council’s Joint Action program and the European Commission’s TACIS program, which provides grant-financed technical assistance to Eastern Europe and Central Asia.\footnote{The EU’s relations with Eastern Europe & Central Asia, External Relations, (Brussels), DATE Date of Access: 12 January 2007. ec.europa.eu/comm/external_relations/ceeca/tacis/.}

TACIS is currently funding the USD30 million dismantlement of the Lepse, a retired service vessel for the nuclear-powered ice-breaker fleet operated by Murmansk Shipping Company. The Lepse contains 640 spent nuclear fuel assemblies which are assumed to be in poor condition. Protected by concrete to reduce radiation, the radioactivity within the hull of the Lepse has been estimated as high as 28,000 TBq (750,000 Ci).\footnote{Delay in building nuclear fuel storage blamed on foreign firms, ISAR-TASS, (Moscow), 31 January 2007. Date of Access: 7 May 2007. http://www.sgpproject.org/Personal%20Use%20Only/070131gdelay.htm.}

On 31 January 2007 talks in Kiev between the head of the Federal Service for Environmental, Technological and Nuclear Supervision, Konstantin Pulikovsky, and the head of Ukraine’s State Committee for Nuclear Regulation, Yelena Mikolaichuk revealed significant difficulties surrounding the EU-financed construction of a storage facility for spent nuclear fuel in the Chernobyl exclusion zone.\footnote{Delay in building nuclear fuel storage blamed on foreign firms, ISAR-TASS, (Moscow), 31 January 2007. Date of Access: 7 May 2007. http://www.sgpproject.org/Personal%20Use%20Only/070131gdelay.htm.} The facility should have gone into operation in 2003, then its opening was postponed to 2005, and it has not yet gone into operation. Both Mr. Pulikovsky and Ms. Mikolaichuk expressed disappointment and frustration over the management of the project and recommended that similar ventures not be undertaken in either Ukraine or Russia. Mr. Pulikovsky stated that the project was “another example showing that not everything foreign companies offer should be taken at face value ... both Russia and Ukraine have technologies and highly qualified specialists to implement such projects on their own.”\footnote{Delay in building nuclear fuel storage blamed on foreign firms, ISAR-TASS, (Moscow), 31 January 2007. Date of Access: 7 May 2007. http://www.sgpproject.org/Personal%20Use%20Only/070131gdelay.htm.}

\textit{Analyst: Cliff Vanderlinden}