

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation

May 22, 1992

To the Deputy Head of the State Advisor for Conversion, V.L. Katayev

Dear Vitaly Leonidovich,

The RF MFA has carefully reviewed the draft Agreement between the Russian Federation and Ukraine about Cooperation in the Development, Serial Production and Operation of Missiles, Missile Launchers and Space Vehicles.

It appears that this draft calls for a very cautious consideration. Without a doubt, we need to preserve the scientific and industrial cooperation between Russia and Ukraine in the sphere of missile and space technology. However, it should be limited to programs that are truly in Russia's interest, and ones that Russia is prepared to fully or partially fund.

It seems that the proposed agreement, and especially the list of concrete projects attached, does not fully correspond to Russia's interests. Specifically, it provides for continued production of ICBMs with MIRV (including the heavy class) and the creation of new missiles of this type. A number of the programs listed, as far as we know, were previously shut down and their renewal is hardly expedient.

The Pavlograd machine-building plant would be preserved in the program for industrial cooperation on ICBM "Universal," even though in Russia already [missing lines].

It should also be taken into account that if Russia's Ministry of Defense placed an order for the continued production of ICBMs on Ukrainian territory, as proposed in the draft Agreement, it would require constant surveillance of the Pavlodar machine-building plant to be set up within the framework of the START Treaty. Russia would probably have to bear the cost for this (since the missiles would be manufactured at the request of the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation).

It appears to be inexpedient to maintain the old order of testing missiles at Russia's testing sites. The former system of testing often led to unfinished missile systems being put into service. Currently, interested parties are reviewing the possibility of allocating testing sites in a separate block.

Within the framework of formulating a plan for purchases of arms and military equipment for 1992 and subsequent years, it would be expedient to carefully consider the issue of truly necessary dimensions and directions of scientific-industrial cooperation with Ukraine.

The Russian Space Agency, for its part, could outline specific parameters of cooperation with Ukraine in the field of peaceful space.

G. Berdennikov

[Signed]

[Source: Vitaly Kataev Collection Box 13, folder 26, Hoover Institution Archive.]

Translated by Anna Melyakova for the National Security Archive.]