

The Cooperative Threat Reduction Assistance to Belarus

Cooperative Threat Reduction Program, Department of Defense January 16, 1997

Assistance to the Republic of Belarus is provided through eleven unique Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR) projects. Notifications to Congress total \$118.9 million and to date \$77.3 million has been obligated. The following provides a summary of each of the CTR projects being implemented in Belarus.

Emergency Response Equipment and Training

This up to \$5.0 million project assists Belarus in the expansion of emergency response capabilities in connection with the removal of nuclear weapons and nuclear weapons delivery systems for destruction, and their related temporary storage on the territory of Belarus pending final removal. The Department of Defense (DoD) provided equipment, training, and technical manuals to enhance Belarusian capability to respond to accidents involving nuclear weapons during transportation pending dismantlement activities.

Technical experts from the U.S. and Belarus conducted exchanges to determine the specifications and types/models of equipment required and to establish a training review program. Equipment to be provided includes: VHF portable radios; command and control computer network; radiological and chemical protective clothing; personal dosimetry equipment; x-ray and gamma ray detectors; air sampling monitors; Germanium spectrometers; and, mobile radiation counting laboratories. With one exception, all equipment has been delivered and training completed as of 4th Quarter FY 1996. This work will be completed during 3rd Quarter FY 1997. The remaining equipment and work include upgrades to the command and control computer network.

Export Control

Through this up to \$16.26 million project, the U.S. assists Belarus in establishing export control systems by providing material, training and services. The two principal objectives of this project are: (1) to provide Belarus with the capability to develop an effective and sustainable system to control exports of components of weapons of mass destruction and of the technology to produce weapons of mass destruction, and (2) to achieve adherence by Belarus to multilateral regimes which seek to control the transfer of weapons of mass destruction related technologies. The project is well into the procurement stage. A licensing administration local-area-network has been delivered and installed in the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations. The Customs enforcement wide-area-network has been delivered and installation is on-going. The main portion of the automation training center has also been delivered. The remaining equipment arrived in April 1996 and installation should begin immediately. Other equipment delivered to Belarus includes: pursuit vehicles, communication equipment, and interdiction equipment to improve Belarus customs enforcement at ports and border points. Delivery of the cargo x-ray machine, x-ray vans, baggage x-ray machines, and radiation detection equipment was completed in 1st Quarter FY 1997.

Continuous Communications Link (CCL)

This \$2.3 million project provides Belarus with the necessary communications equipment and training to facilitate meeting reporting obligations under the Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (START) and the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaties. Implementation of a Continuous Communications Link (CCL) capability is being accomplished in a manner consistent with Defense Information Systems Agency modernization of the Direct Communications Link (DCL) between the U.S. and Russia, modified as appropriate to meet the unique requirements of individual New Independent States such as Belarus.

The U.S. and Belarus technical experts maintained an aggressive implementation schedule, with initial operational capability established 31 August 1993. The U.S.-proposed modernized system equipment configuration, has been completed with final operational cutover achieved on 18 October 1995. Installation of a release containing software enhancements was completed in June 1996. Terminal technical assistance and preventive maintenance, installation of new terminal software, and new software training was provided in May 1996.

Pursuant to the country agreement, actions are being taken to provide an additional ground station to be used as a second, or back-up, system. Recent policy decisions reopened the possibility of providing a single-channel satellite ground station and allowing the Republic of Belarus to modify the station for multi-channel use. An initial planning meeting is projected for 1st Quarter FY 1997. Actual procurement of the satellite ground station cannot occur until acceptance of conditions placed on the use of revenues generated from a multi-channel earth station. Projected delivery, installation, alignment, training, and turnover completion is 1st Quarter FY 1998. All actions are currently delayed, pending cables being sent to the three (Kazakhstan, Ukraine, and Belarus) countries, requesting their acceptance in writing of the stated conditions.

Expanded Defense and Military Contacts

The objective of this \$3.5 million project is to promote better understanding and cooperation between the military establishments of the U.S. and Belarus. To date, \$0.75 million has been provided to support 58 events by different DoD organizations with their counterparts from Belarus. Types of events funded include:

- Belarus visit to the Utah National Guard;
- USAF Airspace Management Team visit to Belarus;
- Belarus visit to U.S. Army mobilization exercise; and,
- Bilateral Working Group meeting in Washington.

Environmental Restoration

This up to \$25 million dollar project provides equipment, training, and technical assistance to provide the Republic of Belarus the capability to conduct the environmental restoration of former Strategic Rocket Force (SRF) bases. The project consists of three elements: (1) the establishment of an analytical chemistry laboratory (\$6M); (2) procurement of remote sensors and geographic information system (RS/GIS) equipment, the establishment of GIS and photographic processing laboratories and the modification

of a Belarus AN-26 aircraft to accommodate the remote sensors (\$6M); and, (3) providing technical assistance and training (\$13M).

Phase 1 of the establishment of analytical chemistry laboratory was completed with the formal dedication at the Belarus Academy of Sciences, RSTC "ECOMIR", in April 1995. This activity was accomplished through a \$3.35M contract with the Environmental Chemical Corporation (ECC). A change order has been issued to ECC to perform Phase 11 which will provide additional analytical chemistry equipment, refurbish additional laboratories, and provide additional training. Requirements for Phase 11 are based on the results of the site assessments at Postavy that indicated the types and numbers of equipment that would be required to effectively support other site assessments.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory (CRREL) is the performer for the remote sensors and geographic information system (RS/GIS) element of this project. Accomplishments to date include: purchase and delivery of all required equipment, refurbishment of two laboratories, modifications to the AN-26 aircraft to accommodate the remote sensors, and initiation of the training of Belarus experts in the use of all the equipment and its application to environmental assessment. The dedication of the GIS laboratory occurred March 1996. Dedication of the photographic processing laboratory and the AN-26 occurred in July 1996. The training activities will continue through the duration of the agreement.

A \$7.7M contract was awarded to the Arthur D. Little, Inc. (ADL) on 29 April 1995 to provide the following: completion of two site assessments (Postavy and Ruzhany); provide field technical training in conducting site assessment and preparing site remediation plans (this includes the integration of the analytical chemistry and the RS/GIS elements of the project). The contract also requires training of mid-level and high-level Belarus officials in all aspects of the organization and management of environmental remediation projects and to co-sponsor an annual international environmental conference. The 1996 conference took place in Minsk, 23-27 September 1996 and was attended by approximately 130 people, half U.S. and half western European. The 1997 conference is scheduled for 9-13 June 1997.

The Postavy site assessment revealed that the major hazardous materials were volatile and semi-volatile organic materials and heavy metals. The remediation plan for Postavy recommends three technological approaches for effectively and efficiently treating the contaminants:

- (1) thermal desorption for high concentrations of organic contaminants;
- (2) biocell treatment of the lower concentrations of organic contaminants; and
- (3) stabilization for fixation of the heavy metals.

As a result of this recommendation, and changes within the government of Belarus, the Belarus government requested the focus of this element of the project be changed from providing extensive academic and mid/high-level training to demonstrate recommended technologies, including training of Belarus experts. The remediation technologies requires the purchase of specialized equipment. A contract (\$2.5 million) has been awarded to the Environmental Chemical Corporation of Burlingame, CA to provide the thermal desorption equipment and a contract (\$1.6 million) was awarded to the American Health Research Institute of Birmingham, AL to provide the biocell and stabilization equipment. The mechanical checkout of all three pieces of equipment was witnessed by Byelorussian officials in December 1996. The equipment is being shipped to Postavy to be installed and a three-month training activity will commence in April

1997. The equipment will be show cased during the 1997 international conference. All project activities will be completed by the end of the agreement, 22 July 1997.

The identification of Ruzhany as the second base to be assessed under the terms of the agreement occurred in October 1995. At that time access to Ruzhany was granted and an inspection revealed the same types of hazardous materials as found at Postavy to be the main contaminants. The extent and quantities of contaminants appeared to be less severe than that found at Postavy. but still severe enough to require remediation. A comprehensive site assessment of the Ruzhany base including AN-26 fly-over, led by Byelorussian experts will be conducted in the spring of 1997 and the remediation plan will be completed by the end of the agreement (22 July 1997). It is expected that all project activities will be completed by that time.

Industrial Partnerships

This \$20 million program comprises a three-pronged effort: convert a portion of the Belarus defense industry into commercial endeavors; construct housing to assist in the demobilization of SRF officers in Belarus; and, establish retraining centers for junior SRF officers who have been demobilized but are not eligible for housing.

In December 1993, equipment for a computer training center was delivered, installed, and made operational in Lida. In addition, equipment for an automotive repair training center was delivered to Minsk on 12 July 1994. Equipment for an English-as-a-Second-Language (ESL) laboratory was delivered on 27 October 1994. The last of several woodworking equipment deliveries arrived 7 July 1995. As the Government of Belarus transitions into the free market economy, graduates of these U.S.-supplied training centers will fill the resultant job openings.

There has also been a competitive procurement aimed at assisting three defense plants in Belarus to convert their military production capabilities into production of civilian goods.

On 19 April 1994, KRAS Corporation of Fairless Hills, Pennsylvania was awarded a \$6.76 million cost-sharing contract. KRAS assisted Integral in retooling, management, marketing and manufacturing of low end integrated circuits so it could compete in a field now dominated by Asian companies. The joint venture (JV) agreement for INTERKRAS was signed in August 1995. The JV converted 2,449 square meters of space formerly used for military production. INTERKRAS began full scale production and delivery of OIC 14 lead products (integrated circuits) in May 1995. The CTR contract expiration date was July 1995. Subsequently, INTERKRAS worked on design for Motorola but KRAS has elected to cease current operations in the joint venture due to differences with Integral and the political/economic climate in Belarus.

Also on 19 April 1994, Byelocorp Scientific Incorporated (BSI) of New York City won a \$1.04 million cost-sharing contract. The BSI-BelOMA joint venture, formed in November 1994, manufactured and sold laser pointer devices for briefing and audio-visual use. The manufacturing of laser pointers is almost non-existent in the U.S. because of the associated labor costs. BSI-BelOMA's major competitors were in east Asia and it was ultimately unable to match their prices. After a period of selling laser pointers through catalogs, this joint venture is not currently active.

An additional cost-sharing contract for \$6.43 million was announced on 13 September 1994 to Federal Systems Group (FSG) of Falls Church, Virginia. FSG assembled a team

of companies to create micro-industries within Minsk Computer Amalgamation (MCA). The two micro-enterprises are as follows: Federal Systems Group with James Electronics (Chicago, Illinois) and MCA; and FSG with ELVIS+ (Moscow) and MCA. ELVIS+ is the English transliteration of the Russian acronym for Electronic Computer and Information Systems. The FSG/ELVIS+/MCA enterprise was to produce omni-directional L-Band antennas and the Radio Hub I wireless communication device for use with computer network systems. The FSG/James Electronics/MCA enterprise produced solid state battery chargers until the government of Belarus claimed it owned all JV equipment. This has caused significant problems for FSG who expected that the equipment would be the property of the Joint Venture. The property ownership issue is still under discussion.

Belarus officials requested assistance with housing demobilized SRF officers (by Belarus law the government must provide housing upon their retirement). The U.S. is in the process of constructing approximately 171 units at Grodno through a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - managed project awarded to ABB SUSA on 9 May 1995. The Ministry of Defense (MOD) cleared the site construction of physical structures, underground pipes and cables, underground storage containers, catch basins, and drains during August 1995. The contract does not require that a joint venture be established; however, the contractor, ABB SUSA, has hired a Belarus firm as a subcontractor. The contract includes the base bid (108 units), plus Option 1 (27 units); Option 2 (36 units); and Option 3 (36 units). Because of a lack of cash on the part of the government of Belarus, the U.S. has agreed to supply the utilities for the housing project. As a result, Option 3 was not exercised. Construction is expected to be completed 10 March 1997.

The Defense Enterprise Fund (DEF)

On 21 June 1994, the U.S. Secretary of Defense designated the Defense Enterprise Fund (DEF) to assist in the conversion and privatization of excess military/industrial capacity through financial assistance for partnerships. The DEF is an independent, not-for-profit U.S. corporation, initially funded by Nunn-Lugar grants. Enterprises qualified for funding include: partnerships between privatized former defense enterprises or spin-offs; with priority placed on those previously engaged in activities related to weapons of mass destruction; and with U.S. or western companies. \$5.0 million in FY95 funds has been notified for projects in Belarus, however, the DEF has not yet approved an investment, grant, or purchase of an equity share in a venture involving a Belarus partner because of difficulties with Belarus privatization laws.

International Science and Technology Center (ISTC)

On 27 November 1992, the U.S., the Russian Federation, Japan, and the European Community signed an agreement to establish an International Science and Technology Center (ISTC). The ISTC serves as a clearinghouse for projects to engage weapons scientists and engineers in the FSU in peaceful civilian work.

The Center plays a facilitating role by developing, evaluating, and funding project proposals. The Board of Governors, which includes representatives of the participating governments, determines the overall policy of the Center and approves projects for funding. The Board has been meeting in Moscow quarterly since March 1994, with the most recent Board convening in December 1996.

Belarus is a member of the ISTC in Moscow. Representatives from the Government of Belarus have participated as observers since the fifth board meeting in March 1995. In

addition, the Governing Board approved the establishment of a branch office in Belarus. The U.S. has obligated up to \$5 million for ISTC approved projects in Belarus and one award was made at the December Board meeting for \$488K.

Strategic Offensive Arms Elimination (SOAE)

An Agreement between the Department of Defense (DoD) and the Ministry of Defense (MOD) of Belarus was signed on 23 June 1995 for up to \$16 million to facilitate the expeditious, safe, and environmentally sound elimination of means of delivery of weapons of mass destruction. The agreement was amended to increase funding to a total of \$28.9 million. Of this, \$8 million is designated to eliminate fixed structures for mobile intercontinental ballistic missiles. \$6.9 million has been designated to dispose of approximately 1 0,000 metric tons of liquid fuel and oxidizer. \$14 million has been designated for nuclear infrastructure elimination (NIE). The NIE portion of SOAE is designed to eliminate fixed structures associated with liquid propellant, nuclear storage, and nuclear support bases. Support for these actions are still under review to define requirements.

In support of fixed structure elimination, technical meetings held in Belarus in May and August 1995 defined specific requirements. The fixed structure elimination contract was awarded in March 1996 and work is scheduled to be completed by April 1998. There has been some difficulty in obtaining site access, which was to be granted upon contract award. This may result in a delay in the completion of the project and an increase in cost.

The Government of Belarus has agreed to the use of incineration to destroy 180 metric tons of heptyl and has authorized a test burn of other rocket propellants to complete environmental certification for incinerating these propellants. Additional technical discussions were held to discuss liquid propellant disposition between 29 January 1996 and 2 February 1996. An incinerator was delivered to Belarus in April 1996, but the Government of Belarus may decide to put it in an as yet undecided alternative location. After a decision is made, a procurement action will be initiated to conduct test burns and proceed with propellant disposition.

Phase 11 of the Retraining Center Project, previously part of the Industrial Partnership Project, was renotified under SOAE Belarus on 26 January 1996. Department of Defense officials met with Ministry of Belarus representatives 5-9 February 1996 to determine the requirements for Phase II of the project. Subsequently, this project was canceled by Congressional action and no further action is anticipated.

Material Control & Accounting And Physical Protection (MC&A and PP)

An Agreement between the Department of Defense and the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Belarus was signed 28 June 1995 for up to \$3 million in assistance. This project assists in the creation of a national system to facilitate control, accounting, and physical protection of nuclear material used for peaceful purposes in order to prevent its proliferation. U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) now has the lead for the U.S.

For the Sosny Institute and the Belarus Regulatory Agency, DOE took part of a multinational effort to upgrade Building 33. In the fall of 1995, upgrades included the fresh fuel storage vault and labor contracts. Since 1996, the project has expanded to include MC&A and PP upgrades of Building 40, operational security, training, and guard force check points. Last portion of the MC&A equipment upgrade was delivered to Belarus in

July 1996. Close-out activities and final expenditure of CTR funds are scheduled to occur by mid- FY 97.

Project Peace

On 12 August 1994, an agreement between the Department of Defense and the Belarus Ministry of Defense was signed to provide equipment for the disposal of the remnants of dismantled conventional military equipment. The assistance provided to Belarus by the Defense Special Weapons Agency is under the Project PEACE Agreement (FY 1994 National Defense Appropriations Act, P.L. 103-139). Total value of the project is \$5 million. The U.S. has provided previously agreed upon equipment to Borisov Tank Factory and the Baranovichi Aircraft Repair Facility to dispose of the remnants of conventional equipment (previously eliminated in accordance with the Conventional Forces Europe Treaty), and is currently developing contracts for additional requirements defined during recent bilateral discussions. This legislation is separate and distinct from the Cooperative Threat Reduction program, "Nunn- Lugar Act". The procurement actions for this project have been completed and the delivery of the equipment will be completed by March 1997.