

**DRAFT MINUTES of the NINTH MEETING  
of the STCU GOVERNING BOARD**

Kyiv, Ukraine  
December 15, 1999  
Kyiv, Ukraine

**OPENING SESSION**

**Dr. John Boright**, US Board Member and designated chair of the Governing Board meetings, opened the meeting at 9:00 A.M.. Those present included:

CANADA

**EMIL BARAN**, Board Member

Sara Camblin Breault, Canadian International Development Agency

EUROPEAN UNION

**JEAN GABOLDE**, Board Member

**MARTTI ISSOARO**, Ambassador of Finland, representing the EU Council Presidency, Board Member

Didier Gambier, Directorate General XII

UKRAINE

**VICTOR BAR'YAKHTAR**, Board Member

UNITED STATES

**JOHN BORIGHT**, Board Member

Jim Noble, US Department of State

Cynthia Mentz, US Department of State

**OBSERVERS**

GEORGIA

✓ Amiran Bezhuashvili, Attache of the Georgian Embassy

JAPAN

✓ Itoshi Honda, Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary

UZBEKISTAN

✓ Shamansur Shakhililov, Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary

**THE STCU SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS**

LEO OWSIACKI, Executive Director (Canada)

Borys Atamanenko, Senior Deputy Executive Director (Ukraine)

Arthur DuCharme, Deputy Executive Director (United States)

Frantisek Janouch, Deputy Executive Director (European Union)

Curtis BJ Bjelajac, Chief Financial Officer (United States)

Marianna Carbe', Chief Administrative Officer (European Union)

**INVITED HONOURABLE GUESTS**

Naxim Ibragimov, Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary, Azerbaijan

Derek Fraser, Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary, Canada

Andre Vanhaeverbeke, Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary, European Community

✓ Goran Jacobsson, Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary, Sweden

✓ Steven Pifer, Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary, USA

- Kang Keun-taik, Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary, Korea Republic
- Alexei Andrievsky, Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary, Moldova
- Helena Meli, Embassy of Sweden
- Volodymyr Marchuk, National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine, Ukraine
- Borys Tarasiuk, Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ukraine
- ✓ Olexander Chalyi, First Deputy Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ukraine
- Valentin Zaichuk, Minister, Ministry of Education, Ukraine
- Volodymir Seminozhenko, Head Commission of Science, Supreme Rada, Ukraine
- ✓ Anatoliy Shevtsov, National Institute for Strategic Studies, Administration of the President of Ukraine, Ukraine

#### ACCOMPANYING DELEGATES

- ✓ Don Osman, University of Manitoba, CANADA
- ✓ Edward Deksnis, Directorate General XII, EUROPEAN UNION
- ✓ Tor Larsson, Scientific Advisor, EUROPEAN UNION
- Rudolf W. Meijer, Directorate XII, EUROPEAN UNION
- ✓ Manfred Bauer, Legal Advisor, EUROPEAN UNION
- ✓ Vachtang Tatumashvili, Advisor of the Ambassador, GEORGIA
- ✓ Ritsuko Inoue, Third Secretary, Embassy of Japan, JAPAN
- ✓ Erna Grasz, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, UNITED STATES
- ✓ Steven Gitomer, Los Alamos National Laboratory, UNITED STATES

**Dr. Boright**, chair of the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the STCU Governing Board, delivered brief welcoming remarks to all Board Members and honorable guests attending the meeting, expressing his congratulations to all participants in their efforts supporting the Center. In particular, he welcomed the presence of Mr. Chalyi, First Deputy Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ukraine. He expressed his appreciation of the high quality work done by Ukrainian scientists and found it tremendously encouraging to see the quality of proposals presented to this Board Meeting for funding. Dr. Boright also congratulated the Center for the impressive results obtained in the Y2K project and Sustainability Group activities.

**Mr. Owskiacki**, the STCU Executive Director, started his remarks by expressing his great pleasure to welcome all delegates to Kyiv for the 9<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting. Besides the Board Members and the Secretariat, Mr. Owskiacki welcomed the Observers from Uzbekistan, Georgia and Japan, as well as the Honourable Guests invited to attend Board proceedings. 1999 as Mr. Owskiacki said was both an exciting and a very difficult year for the STCU, facing more than the usual number of hard issues, but still delivering an effective cost-efficient program. He thanked the STCU Executive and staff for the tremendous work done and also the Advisory Committee Members, the Ambassadors and Embassy staff of our financing Parties and those Ukrainian Officials, who provided strong support to the Center.

**Dr. Gabolde** in his opening remarks on behalf of the EC executive body expressed pleasure to work on the strategy and vision of the STCU activities and was pleased to announce that a few days previously the European Union decided on a common strategy for Ukraine. This is a major step in all common activities with Ukraine; new activities will be developed and the Center targets have been included into the European Union strategy for Ukraine.

**Mr. Baran** in his opening remarks on behalf of Canada highlighted his pleasure to welcome the members of the Ninth Board meeting and guests, and announced that the Canadian Parliament had recently approved the budget for general technical assistance for different countries and that Ukraine will see an increase in the amount of funds devoted to scientific programs (depending on reform progress). He also thanked the STCU Executive and staff for the work delivered this year and

recognized the efforts being made by the Ukrainian Government trying to address the very serious issues concerning the STCU.

The Chairman thanked all speakers and gave the floor to the Japanese Ambassador and then to the Uzbekistan and Georgian representative at the Board.

**Ambassador Honda:** On behalf of the Government of Japan confirmed the interest and position of support for the objectives and goals of the STCU.

**Mr. Shamansur Shakhililov** addressed his words to all attendees expressing his great pleasure to participate at the Board Meeting. He underlined that Uzbekistan is doing its first steps in cooperation with the Board and the STCU. He also said that there were some questions Uzbekistan would like to discuss and decide together with the Board, and was looking forward to further cooperation with the STCU.

Attaché **Bejuashvili** of the Embassy of Georgia in Ukraine expressed his pleasure to be present at the Governing Board Meeting and hoped to have a better and deeper relationship in future with the STCU. Thanked the Board for supporting Ukrainian and Georgian science.

**The Chairman** invited one of the honorable guests, Mr. Pifer, Ambassador of the United States, to address the Board attendees and then invited Mr. Chalyi to address the Board. (Mr. Chalyi's speech was followed by an open discussion here presented)

**Mr. Pifer** made a few short comments, starting by congratulating the Center on its work. Particularly in filling the very important gap on Y2K issues. He also said that the US Government had done some thinking about how to resolve some of the issues about the Center's operation in Ukraine and had been trying to find some solutions. Ambassador Pifer was pleased by the progress seen in the last few weeks; and noted it particularly the presence of Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Chalyi who, very energetically recently decided to take these issues on and tried to find some solutions.

**Mr. Chalyi**, on behalf of the Ukrainian Government confirmed once more their obligations under the International Agreement according to which the Center was created. Ukraine understands the Center's problem. He confirmed the official recognition of the Center as an International organization, accredited at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as a Diplomatic Mission. Mr. Chalyi also mentioned that the Center started a process of discussion with the National Agency for Development and Reconstruction, with a so called pilot-project to try to establish some return mechanism for VAT tax for projects. He also said that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with his signature sent a letter to the Ukrainian Government with some proposals to provide previous commitments. He is trying to establish a Ukrainian higher official body who would be directly responsible for issues faced by the Center, such as the Minister of Education and Science. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will continue to support the STCU also in recognition for Ukraine of the importance for further implementation of nonproliferation policy.

• **Mr. Chalyi speech was followed by an open discussion as follows:**

**Dr Boright** found particularly helpful Mr. Chalyi words about the basic Agreement and the main goals of the STCU activities.

**Dr Gabolde** extended his gratitude for the renewed engagement from the Ukrainian Government to ensure the proper implementation of the treaty, covering issues like the lease of the building. Mr. Gabolde asked Mr. Chalyi to be more explicit on solutions.

**Mr. Chalyi** responded by underlining that from the very beginning it was a big mistake that the Center separately concluded a Lease contract, because it was the responsibility of the Ukrainian Government, according to the treaty to provide the Center with premises. He noted that this Lease Contract and some provisions of this contract contradict the existing Ukrainian Law. He also informed the STCU Executive Director that any further communication with the landlord should be addressed in the future to the Vice Premier and the Government would propose a mechanism of negotiation with the Landlords. He said the Government would do its best to ensure the STCU activities stay in the same building now occupied. He also stated that in case an agreement would not be reached with the Landlords, the Government of Ukraine was ready to fulfill its obligations and would propose suitable alternatives. The first priority, he said, was to do everything possible to leave the Center at the present premises. Mr. Chalyi also mentioned that in a few days the National Guard would be responsible for the Center security. He reiterated that all formal questions related to the Lease of the STCU premises would no longer be a direct STCU issue. It was also stated that with new diplomatic status, no one could legally evict us or force payment.

**Mr. Baran** asked Mr. Chalyi to give some more details about the possible role of the Ministry of Science and Education related to the STCU activities.

**Mr. Chalyi** answered that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was happy to support the Center, as an International Organization, but today the Ministry of Education and the Committee of Science and Technology had no responsibility for the Center problems, and the thought was to create a Governmental Channel with some direct responsibility, to allow the Executive Director of the STCU the possibility to address to the same Governmental body all STCU related issues. Minister Zaichuk agreed that it should be the Ministry of Education to assist the Center. So the proposition is to convey all issues to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Science and Education. Mr. Chalyi stressed once more the importance of the work done together with Ambassadors, together with the Executive Director of Center. He also said that Mr. Marchuk, Secretary of Security and Defense Council is constantly informed. Mr. Chalyi also informed that the protocol and agreement for ratification of the STCU for the President's Administration.

**The Chairman** thanked Mr. Chalyi for his participation and encouraging words and asked attendees if there were any comments.

**Mr. Owsiacki** thanked Mr. Chalyi for what he has done for the STCU in a short time frame. He expressed his gratitude and hope to maintain an open road between the Center and MFA, trying together to implement all proposed solutions.

**Mr. Shevtsov** congratulated the Board members for the STCU 5-year anniversary. He informed that a letter was previously sent from Mr. Horbulin to the Cabinet of Ministers, and the Prime Minister gave a commission to the proper agency to settle all existing difficulties concerning the STCU. He also stated that the Integration of Ukrainian science and research into the international community is among strategic directions for Ukrainian Authorities. He wished success in all STCU activities and hoped to see a development of cooperation among Ukraine and researchers and their foreign partners.

**The Chairman** welcomed the new Chief Financial Officer of the STCU, Curtis BJ Bjelajac.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE TOPICS

Dr. Boright moved to approve the minutes of the Eight STCU Board of Governors Meeting. The minutes were approved as presented.

**The STCU Executive Director** presented an overview of the activities of the Center which were provided in detail in an accompanying handout.

Mr. Owsiacki mentioned that the second half of the year continued to reflect busy activities of the Center. The STCU continued unfortunately with several significant crises and had several additional problems that had to be dealt with and that consumed much of the Secretariat's time and energy. He indicated that 24 projects remained were left from the first two calls. Since then, 1120 new proposals were registered from the Third Call.

#### Activities Related To Staff

Two staff were selected for special training: one at the Monterey Institute for International Studies and another participated to the International Women in Science and Engineering Leadership Program in Iowa.

#### ED Trips and meetings

Several briefings were provided at the STCU premises to the Moldavian Ambassador, to the British Ambassador, among others, ED met the Polish Ambassador to discuss the possibilities of Poland having an interest in becoming a financing party to the Center. The Center met various delegations from the European Commission, from Canada.

#### Financial issues

Mr. Owsiacki said that the Department of Defense Audit was completed in June. The report was issued in September and no significant issues were reported.

He said that funds actually spent by the STCU came in \$265,000 below budget, despite the additional unexpected expenses occurred.

The first formal request for budget funds from Ukraine for rent utilities and security for 2000 was made in June for 840,000 Hryvna. No official response received to date. Since that time, the hryvna has devalued 25% more. The budget process does not allow the Center to base their request on real predicted values for the hryvna in 2000, but on values predetermined by the Government. It is another problem with paying rent through the budget process.

#### Banking update

The STCU continued to struggle and work on recovering funds from the bankrupt previous STCU bank although it is not formally bankrupt. Details will be presented by Mr. Bjelajac.

#### The Rent/Security Update

Mr. Owsiacki pointed out that the STCU spent \$140,000 on behalf of Ukraine, \$50,000 of which was for 1998 and the rest for 1999. STCU continued to negotiate with the landlords on the new lease. The present lease expires at the end of May, 2000.

#### Major Activities. The 1998 Annual Report

STCU printed 2500 copies of the 1998 Annual Report which completed on time and delivered to all of our interested clients. The cost was reduced by 62% from the previous year, from \$24,000 to \$9,000. All responses that we received were quite favorable. The Third Call for proposals closed on May 31 as planned. It was only open for 5 weeks but we received 1120 proposals.

#### Y2K Project

Mr. Frantisek Janouch will provide details later. This project was started following the Board decision at the end of May to assist Ukraine in their efforts to prepare their 5 NPPs for possible Y2K problems. The STCU staff coordinated the preparation of 8 projects and facilitated the delivery of these projects. Up to now the total amount spent is over \$2 million.

#### STCU Website Update

A major revision was completed on November 23. This was in part a result of Mr. Gabold's request at the last Board Meeting. It took us longer than we hoped, but the Center is quite pleased with the results.

#### Issues. Tax Inspection Claims.

Mr. Owsiaci informed about problems related to the Local Tax Inspection that issued an Act demanding 1mln UAH *in profit tax, fines on profit tax, VAT tax, fines on VAT tax* and interest on taxes, informing also the Center that the Tax Inspection could legally freeze STCU accounts. It was decided to remove money from STCU accounts. This occurred right when STCU had to do first payments for Y2K. In the end Mr. Azarov, the Head of the State Tax Inspection, delivered a letter to the STCU on October 26, where he formally cancelled the Act and the problem is resolved. Another problem the Center dealt with since the last Board, were New Presidential Decrees affecting Customs. The Cabinet of Ministers introduced 3 different new taxes affecting Customs Clearance Procedures. It took a month to resolve this issue and it is also now closed.

#### Telephone Service Provider Replacement

This was for the STCU another major issue. The previous providers servicing the STCU had no contract in previous years, and decided that they suddenly wanted the Center to pay an extra \$2.500 a month for access to our Internet cable. The answer was no. They started to cut the Internet cable physically every night at different locations and cut off all STCU phones. STCU has been negotiating for some time with a new provider, Golden Telecom. A new system is now in place, upgrading the STCU phone system with digital lines, saving a significant costs of at least 30% a year in telecommunication costs.

#### Other Government Relations

ED informed that the Azerbaijan Ministry of Foreign Affairs requested to consider Azerbaijan joining the Center. ED waiting for some Board direction on how to proceed. ED met the new Japanese Ambassador. NAUDEI the STCU evaluated the advantages and disadvantages to the Center in registering with the Agency. Preliminary work has shown that disadvantages vastly outweigh any advantages.

#### Update on The Resolution of Rent Issue

Issue discussed with Mr. Chalyi.

#### The Sustainability Group Activities

8 new partners approved since the last Board with STCU. The Sustainability Group organized the IPR Protection on Related Business Opportunity Seminar.

#### Proposal Status

The US had 211 proposals to review, 153 were new ones we provided and the remaining were historical ones. The EU had 180 to review, of which 153 were new ones and the remainder were historical and Canada had 140 to review. Since that time the STCU has sent 40 more for technical review for the 10th Board.

Mr. Gabolde, questioned, regarding the last item, about the first 2 calls, wondering what the value is of a project proposed 2 years ago. In other programs the EU refuses to examine projects older than one year.

Mr Owsiaci agreed, but indicated problems are with western review process.

Mr Owsiaci summarized the review process at the Center, takes 1 month, but western review takes very long.

Frantisek Janouch added that the change of the team is defined before the proposal is re-examined. And that the STCU approves changes of team and equipment.

Arthur du Charme noted that many scientists do update their knowledges and capacities.

Dr Boright suggested that the institutional level is not the only level where a first screening can be done and added that of course, well focused proposals are an advantage for every body.

**Dr Gabolde**, suggested the Institutes should make at the start an auto-evaluation of the proposal for their scientists.

**Mr Owsiacki** commented that the last call was held at the right time, but western review experts need to review about 300 per Board.

**Dr Gabolde** reiterated that a project even updated, is not as good as a new one. He also admitted that there is also a lack of capability to answer properly in a reasonable time frame. **Dr. Gabolde** proposed a Coordinating Meeting that should finalize criteria for the next call.

### Report from the Secretariat

#### Y2K Program report. Frantisek Janouch ( see attached report)

**Mr. Janouch** made a short presentation of the latest progress in the Y2K project. He also added that the government of Holland contributed \$ 20,000 dollars. An important Work Shop was held in Kyiv, where scanning tools were studied by various scientists from Ukraine.

He underlined that the STCU finances work at 5 power plants and remediation funds are given to 4 power plants; to Chernobyl directly in collaboration with the Department of Energy.

The main focus is now on contingency planning. External risks are identified and analyzed.

#### Comments to the report:

**Mr Janouch** thanked **Dr Taranenko** for her contribution, being the one that did most of the work. **Dr Boright** expressed his compliments for the enormously work done.

#### Staff training initiatives Arthur du Charme (see attached report)

**Mr. Du Charme** presented the staff training initiatives and said that the Monterey Institute received **Tamara Leshenko** this year and the International Seminar Women in Science was attended by **Natalya Mikhailovskaja**. He also added that besides foreign training the STCU is developing opportunities for training in Ukraine.

The Finance Group, beginning in January will start a ACCA (CPA), and this will improve the quality of accounting.

Last summer STCU hired 3 Intern students.

In a fruitful cooperation with the ISTC in Moscow 3 people went to visit the center in Russia to exchange experiences.

#### Next topic 1999 Annual Report plans.

**Arthur du Charme** introduced the following item in agenda and said that he will coordinate the next Annual Report 1999.

#### 1999 Annual Report Plan ( A. Du Charme see attached plan)

The major difference is the focus in that the STCU will show who and how we work and key parts of our organization. He appreciated the good suggestion from **Mr Gambier**, to present in a CD Rom the Annex, and he added that the STCU will try to produce the report before the next board.

**Dr Boright** said that he would encourage to make evident the main contact points in front and not in the back of the report.

#### Model Project Agreement . Frantisek Janouch (see attached document).

The Board approved the version presented, as valid full version, it was decided to start to use it from December 15, 1999.

**Mr. Janouch:** said that this Model Project Agreement contributed very much to understand the language and the relations in the West for our Project Officers and for Project Managers. They understand that this is a legal document and that they cannot just sign it. This is educating a legal culture here in Ukraine and it considerably contributed to the education of the STCU staff.

**Dr Gabolde.** Commented that at the first meeting this text was already reviewed and made his congratulation for the final result.

**Dr Boright** asked which was the process for exceptions and amendments.

**Frantisek Janouch** answered that the normal practice is that when the Agreements is signed and we receive written applications for changes, the deputies authorize amendments.

**Mr. Baran** asked about the language.

**Frantisek Janouch** said English/ Ukrainian, and tables are in both languages too. Both versions are signed.

#### Rent/Lease update Marianna Carbe' (see attached report)

It was decided not to proceed with this report, since the issue has been discussed exhaustively in other sections of the agenda.

#### Sustainability Activities report attached. Arthur du Charme

**Mr. Du Charme:** described some key aspects of the Sustainability Group. This Group was formed in January and it continues to expand its activities in support of the business related work of the Center which is growing quite quickly. This business activity includes not only the Partner Program but a lot of training that has been developed for Ukrainian Project Managers and to teach them how to work towards commercialization and marketing of their technologies. The STCU also has a results management activity under way, that works with more than a hundred projects finishing this year. The Center is trying to identify various aspects of these projects that might be supported by potential partners and is also developing Partner Program promotional activities.

Mr. du Charme continued his report to describe Travel Grants, Patent support, and Pilot foreign patent support.

( see attached report).

**Mr. Owsiacski** underlined the importance of teaching how to commercialize innovations.

**Mr Baran** congratulated the STCU for the extremely important work done in this area and stated it is essential and in right direction.

**Mr. Atamanenko** emphasized that only STCU provides this type of program in Ukraine.

**Dr Boright** agreed with Mr. Atamanenko and asked if Parties are funding a range of projects, like fundamental reasearch, and if so does this program support this area too?

**Arthur du Charme** answered that the STCU supported through the Travel Grant program trips to Conferences related to fundamental researches, but with potential Partnering applications.

**The Chairman** asked now Dr. Baryakhtar to now make his welcome remarks.

**Dr Bar'yakhtar** addressed his remarks to all attendees and said that the previous days were full of meetings with Ukrainian officials trying to solve the Ukrainian STCU problems. The common opinion was that somebody should be appointed of a high formal position of the Government, who really understands the problems of science in Ukraine, to deal with the STCU. He said he met Mr. Seminozhenko, who is Vice Prime Minister, whose experience was connected with science and he immediately accepted, yesterday to discuss the proposition to have an additional member to the Board from Ukrainian side, and Dr Bar'yakhtar proposed Prof. Grynov. Mr, Seminozhenko agreed.

#### Lunch break.

#### Banking update (see attached table and report)

**Mr. Bjelajac** **Mr. Bjelajac:** briefly gave a synopsis of developments since the last Board Meeting in May. He indicated that all Board Members probably received a letter from the bankrupt bank proposing restructuring. (See attached report summarizing the entire issue)



**Mr. Chairman:** commented that it seemed that what could be done was done, but the offer of equity in the bank has even further disadvantages and may lead to liability depending on the bank's actual position.

**Mr. Bjelajac:** Added that the STCU is a non-profit entity. In this case it would become an owner.

**Mr. Owsiacki:** commented that he felt the amount lost should be written off now although the STCU will fight further. He explained that the Letter received from the Bank was an attempt to let us to accept equity in their bank.

All Agreed.

**Mr. Bjelajac** said that the NBU suggested to take the Bank to court.

**Dr Boright** said it seems that Equity is not acceptable.

**Dr Gabolde** reiterated, that the STCU is a non profit organization and should not pursue the bank's proposal.

**Mr. Owsiacki** talked about the new STCU bank recommended by the NBU, with major foreign ownership and which the Bankers Trust in London recommended too; First Ukrainian International Bank..

#### 1999 Budget update (see attached table Underspend budget 99)

Presented, with no any particular comments, and indicated that the STCU under spent funds of the Administrative budget, despite the many unexpected additional costs during the year.

#### 2000 Budget Presentation ( see attached table)

**Mr Bjelajac** went through the 2000 Budget lines, expressing STCU's continued attempts to save money, despite the new high cost for the next audit. Auditors should not be located in the former Soviet Union.

**Dr Boright** commented that this has line become a constant line for the ISTC in Moscow.

**Mr Gambier** suggested to send materials and projects electronically to reduce mailing costs.

It was pointed out that a significant decrease will be presented by lower telecommunication costs of 25/30 % .

Public affairs line. Sponsored conference in April Jubilee of the STCU Public relation conference increased this line

It was agreed to make a change to the Travel grant line, by suggestion of Mr Gambier.

Office Equipment line: this year the STCU should purchase a new big copier machine. Computer software much less then the previous year. "

Approved with minor changes proposed, the contingency fund is left at the amount proposed.

#### BOARD PRESENTATIONS.

Mr Owsiacki presented 1-6 Board Record of Decisions. He said that input was received from Mr. Noble and Mr. Larsson, and their changes are here incorporated, (Swedish grants 30,000 and special Canadian Cooperation Grant for \$100,000).

Approved as presented.

**Dr. Boright**, presented the item Confirmation of new CFO and informed that Mr. Janouch received a 6 months prolongation of his contract.

**Approved.**

**Ninth Board Record of Decisions approved as presented.**

(see document incorporated in the Board binder)

### **PROJECT APPROVAL AND FUNDING**

Mr Owsicki read out the approved new projects. Dr. Boright moved to have the project funding approved. **The Board approved the motion by signing the table of funded projects.**

The record of decisions was noted as a good way to regularize decisions.

The Press Statement was circulated, and following minor changes, was approved by the Board for appropriate distribution.

### **Final remarks**

**Mr. Emil Baran** stated his appreciation for the Executive Director's strong management style and new significant improvements such as job descriptions, changes to salary, bringing transparency to the organization, making new processes such as recording of Board decisions clearly, etc. and encouraged him to follow this direction in future.

**Dr. Bar'yakhtar** underlined the good work done.

**Dr. Gabolde**, on behalf of the EC executive body, confirmed the interest of the EC in participation in the Board activities and in continuing its activity through the STCU and reiterated his congratulation for the Y2K project.

**Mr. Isoaro** very briefly said that administrative difficulties may continue, but activities are continuing and complimented once more the Executive Director for the work done.

**The STCU Executive Director** highlighted the tremendous work and support of the Center's staff. He thanked the STCU Secretariat for the preparations for the Board.

**Dr. Boright** expressed his satisfaction in the continuing progress since the beginning of the STCU. He said that the Center is in a good position and has received real recognition of its work. He underlined that the focus should now be on maximizing the delivery of benefits to Ukraine, Georgia and Uzbekistan. He closed the meeting by thanking all the participants in the 9th Meeting of the Governing Board.

### **Next Meeting:**

**Dr. Boright** opened discussion on the date of the next Board of Governors Meeting. It was agreed by the Board members that the 10<sup>th</sup> Board of Governors Meeting would be held on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2000 with location in the STCU premises in Kyiv.