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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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2000-1198-F

JK 2/5/03

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Meeting with President Leonid Kravchuk of Ukraine (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
James A. Baker III, Secretary of State
Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs
Henson Moore, Deputy Chief of Staff
Robert Zoellick, Under Secretary of State for Economic and Agricultural Affairs
Thomas Niles, Assistant Secretary of State for European and Canadian Affairs
Robert Hutchings, Director, European and Eurasian Affairs, National Security Council (Notetaker)
Interpreter

Leonid Kravchuk, President of Ukraine
Anatoliy Zlenko, Foreign Minister
Interpreter

DATE, TIME AND PLACE: July 9, 1992, 4:05 - 4:23pm
Helsinki Fair Center, Finland

The President: It is good to see you again. (U)

President Kravchuk: I see you every day on television. The G-7 meeting was covered widely. (U)

The President: I think it went well. There is a spirit of unity. When did you arrive? (U)

President Kravchuk: Two days ago. We were in Brussels and I visited NATO headquarters. I had good discussions with the NACC. I also addressed the World Jewish Congress. (U)

The President: How did that go? (U)

President Kravchuk: The Congress is organized very well. The main topic was the fight against anti-semitism. (U)

The President: Yes, the head of the U.S. is Edgar Bronfman. We like him. (U)

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President Kravchuk: I had a long talk with him. He is of Ukrainian origin. He supported the idea of starting businesses in the Ukraine. (Ø)

The President: They've got plenty of money. You might get him to invest some of that Bronfman money. Well, how are things going? The science and technology center is a high priority for us. We want to get that going. (Ø)

President Kravchuk: Yes, our parliament has already ratified the trade agreement. Peace Corps training is starting. American businessmen were attracted to the Ukraine after my visit to the U.S. I think that had a good effect. (Ø)

The President: So many Americans wish you well. You have a good base of people who are interested in your success. I did want to ask when you can accede to NPT. This is a priority for us. I would encourage you to move as soon as possible. (Ø)

President Kravchuk: It is mainly a matter of timing. The documents are ready. The parliament is starting to consider it. We have already ratified CFE. We have a program now for the ratification of START. As soon as the parliamentary vacation is over in September I have no doubts that we will ratify. (Ø)

The President: I had a fairly optimistic assessment from President Yeltsin of his visit with you. Do you share that impression? (Ø)

President Kravchuk: Yes, it went very well. (Ø)

The President: I had a talk with you about that. We talked about the Crimea. (Ø)

(b) (1)

The President: What flag flies on those ships. I asked President Yeltsin that but I can't remember. (Ø)

(b) (1)

The President: Good. How about the Moldovan problem? We want to see it peacefully resolved without border changes. (Ø)

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The President: Is it a nuclear plant? (U)

(b) (1)

The President: The Moldovans called for a multi-national peacekeeping force of neighboring countries? (S)

(b) (1)

Secretary Baker: Do you want OSCE approval of that? (S)

(b) (1)

Secretary Baker: Would this peacekeeping force go into Transdneistr or just on the river? (S)

(b) (1)

The President: What are your thoughts about that? The Bosnian president came in to see me with a heartrending story of the suffering in Bosnia. (S)

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The President: How much do you think Milosevic is the problem? Will things get better if he were out of the picture? (S)

(b)(1)

The President: The army would have to be forcefully put back or in the face of force, go back. (S)

(b)(1)

The President: Are threats enough or are they crazy enough to fight? I ask because the Bosnian president said that if they see muscle they will go away. (S)

(b)(1)

The President: There is no simple solution. (S)

President Kravchuk: That is right. We tried to discuss it in Moscow. (S)

The President: Have the Turks been helpful? (S)

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The President: I'm afraid we are running out of time. I have to give a speech later on this afternoon but I promise mine will be short. (U)

President Kravchuk: I am very glad to have had this opportunity for a meeting. (U)

The President: I am so pleased. There was great satisfaction with your visit to Washington. We have a keen interest in your success. (U)

- End of Conversation -

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