

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

0079

THE WHITE HOUSE

RELEASE IN FULL

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

DECLASSIFIED

SUBJECT: Telcon with President Leonid Kravchuk of Ukraine on January 26, 1993

PARTICIPANTS: The President
President Kravchuk of Ukraine
Interpreter: George Sajewych
Notetaker: Christine Potts

DATE, TIME AND PLACE: January 26, 1993, 11:47 a.m. - 12:06 p.m.
The Oval Office

The President: Hello, Mr. President. I am delighted to speak with you. (U)

President Kravchuk: Thank you. (U)

The President: I look forward to developing a close relationship and talking frequently with you. (U)

President Kravchuk: I fully share you thoughts. (U)

The President: I enjoyed our conversation after I was elected, but before I took office, and I am anxious to develop an effective partnership. As a first step, I suggest that Secretary of State Christopher and Foreign Minister Zlenko talk to arrange early and detailed discussions between our governments on the major issues -- economic, security, and political. ~~(S)~~

President Kravchuk: I fully share your idea and I want to establish relations to create the possibility of solving our mutual problems. ~~(C)~~

The President: First of all, I want to raise an issue that is critically important to both of us -- Ukraine's ratification and implementation of START I and the Non-Proliferation Treaty. The successful ratification of both these treaties will go a long way toward creating the basis for broader relations between our two countries. We are prepared to provide at least \$175 million under the Nunn-Lugar Act, primarily for dismantlement, to extend strong security assurances upon your ratification of the two treaties. What are the prospects of ratification by February? ~~(S)~~

President Kravchuk: I want to inform you, Mr. President, that the meeting of heads of state in Minsk has come to a conclusion. Ukraine proposed a declaration, which was signed by all the states, and Ukraine also made it possible to ratify a charter on the main principles of economic reform between the states. The interstate relationship with Russia was confirmed by the two

~~SECRET~~

Declassify on: OADR

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY:
Geoffrey W. Chapman, Senior Reviewer,
A/CIS/IDS 2/25/2019

~~SECRET~~

2

~~SECRET~~

presidents on January 15th. Now the process of pre-ratification in the Supreme Rada is underway on NPT and START I ratification. According to my information, it is going on quite normally. ~~(C)~~

Of course, your assurances will play an important role, and President Yeltsin also assured me of certain guarantees. ~~(C)~~

Today Russian-Ukrainian talks started in Kiev on dismantlement of nuclear devices. We made an agreement with Russia in Minsk that an agreement will be reached in the near future. The Russian delegation is fully in favor of this, and now the document is under consideration. These talks on dismantlement are part of our general agreement with Russia. ~~(S)~~

Our Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Defense will scrutinize the problem and will then give their analysis to the Supreme Rada. On the basis of these recommendations, I will make a report to the Supreme Rada so that the deputies will ratify the agreement. ~~(S)~~

You may also know that Ukraine supported START II and considers it a historic event. I am looking forward to bilateral cooperation and we are ready for better cooperation in the world. (U)

The commissions of the Supreme Rada are also working on debt problems (with Russia). I am sure these problems will be solved in the right way. I would not want this to hamper our economic and political relations with other states. ~~(C)~~

Of course, Mr. President, I should have started with my sincere congratulations and by wishing you every success. This is the objective information available today and it will be guaranteed by the government and by the Supreme Rada. (U)

The President: Thank you. I appreciate your support for ratification. I also want you to know that I support the economic reforms you have launched. This is a major step forward, and I congratulate you for it. The more you coordinate these reforms with the IMF, the more supportive we can be and the more international economic assistance you can get. ~~(C)~~

If you can ratify both START I and the NPT, if you can make this happen, I am going to do what I can to make the relationship better. I will do what I can so that together we can really do some good things. ~~(C)~~

President Kravchuk: I want to assure you that we fully understand the necessity of ratification and we will follow it to the end. We understand our responsibility before our people and before the whole world. ~~(C)~~

The President: Thank you very much. I look forward to working with you. Good-bye. (U)

President Kravchuk: Thank you. I wish you all the best in your politics and your affairs. Good-bye. (U)

~~SECRET~~~~SECRET~~