

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with President Leonid Kravchuk of
Ukraine on December 3, 1991

PARTICIPANTS: The President
Leonid Kravchuk, President of Ukraine
Interpreter: George Sajewich
Notetaker: Ed Hewett

DATE, TIME December 3, 1991, 6:59 - 7:09am
AND PLACE: Oval Office

The President: Can you hear me Mr. President? (U)

President Kravchuk: I can hear you Mr. President. (U)

The President: I'm calling to congratulate you on your landslide
victory and the overwhelming results of the referendum. (U)

President Kravchuk: I am grateful to you Mr. President. 90.3%
of the voters approved independence of Ukraine. I recall our
discussions in the White House about the future of Ukraine, and
of the referendum. (Ø)

I must tell you that not even a single district in Ukraine came
in below 50% support for Ukrainian independence. And these
elections were held under the eye of international observers,
including observers from the U.S. (U)

The President: Congratulations on all of that. (U)

We issued a statement yesterday congratulating Ukraine on the
election results. We sent a copy to Oudovenko at the U.N. I
welcome any comments from you on the statement which expresses
the policy of the U.S. on Ukraine. (U)

In the next few days I will be sending Assistant Secretary of
State for Europe Thomas Niles as a special emissary to consult on
U.S.-Ukrainian relations. If you are not too busy, I hope you
will be able to receive him. (Ø)

After Niles returns, I would like for Jim Baker to travel to Kiev
and Moscow to continue the discussions which Niles began. (Ø)

President Kravchuk: That's great. I will be very glad to
receive Deputy Secretary of State Niles in order to talk about

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all of the problems of mutual interest between us. And later on we will be very glad to receive Mr. Baker for more detailed discussions to define our position on U.S.-Ukrainian relations, in particular on such issues as disarmament and human rights. We want to discuss all issues which need to be resolved so that we can be accepted in the international community. (Ø)

The President: Great. Those are precisely the issues I wanted to discuss. Obviously implementing independence will require resolution of some complex issues between Ukraine, Russia -- on economics, defense, and related issues. Obviously you want a peaceful resolution of those issues. (Ø)

I really just wanted to call to see if you could receive Assistant Secretary Niles and Secretary Baker, and to wish you the best, the very best, as you set out to implement your program. (U)

President Kravchuk: Thank you, Mr. President. I want to say that I talked with Boris Yeltsin. He said that, after results of the referendum, Russia will recognize Ukraine as an independent state. This Saturday I will meet with Mr. Yeltsin in Minsk along with Shushkevich to discuss all issues of our policy, and the priority considerations in relations with the Russian republic. (Ø)

The President: Very important. That's wonderful. (U)

President Kravchuk: Thank you once again for the talk, and for your wish to get to know Ukraine better. I am looking forward to the visit of the Assistant Secretary and Secretary of State. I will be very glad to meet with them. (U)

The President: Good luck. Thank you. Congratulations again on the wonderful display of democracy and your wonderful victory. (U)

President Kravchuk: Thank you again. I have to tell you that I am being inaugurated on Thursday. (U)

The President: Good luck. (U)

President Kravchuk: All the best. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

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