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MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation with Ukrainian
President Kravchuk

PARTICIPANTS: The President
President Leonid Kravchuk
Interpreter: George Sajewych
Notetaker: Rose Gottemoeller

DATE, TIME February 17, 1994, 2:40-2:57pm
AND PLACE: Oval Office

The President: Hello, how are you? (U)

President Kravchuk: I'm fine. A little chill but I will be all right. (U)

The President: Leonid, I watched your overwhelming victory with your Parliament on February 3. I am impressed at the way you achieved success with your Rada. The Trilateral Statement brings tremendous benefits to Ukraine as we begin to close the nuclear chapter and move to a better and broader relationship based on economic cooperation. I was especially glad that the Rada removed all the conditions it had placed on the Lisbon Protocol. That opens the door to Ukraine's accession to the Non-Proliferation Treaty. I know that you are asking your Rada to look at this issue again next Tuesday. I wanted to let you know how much I support you in this effort and how much I hope that you will be able to bring with you the instruments of accession to the NPT when you arrive in Washington on March 3. That would enable us to sign our bilateral Charter and really celebrate the opening of a new chapter in our relationship. I also wanted to tell you personally that our people are working very hard to make sure that our assistance for SS-24 deactivation begins to flow now. We are working hard on that. I understand that you will be receiving a shipment of fuel that you requested very soon. We are committed to ensuring that equipment you requested for SS-24 deactivation also begins to arrive in Kiev by February 22. I hope our fast action will be a good sign to your Rada that we are committed to working with Ukraine in a serious and effective way for the long run. (C)

I agree with the thrust of your letter that we have arrived at a new beginning in our economic relationship. The visit of your economic delegation in late January was a very positive turning point. Our people worked effectively with Minister Shpek and were encouraged by your and his emphasis on a new Ukrainian economic reform plan. Based on that visit, we have committed to

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\$350 million in bilateral economic assistance in 1994, which can be announced along with the details of the programs during your visit. We've also agreed to make a major, new push on trade and investment. In addition to creating a joint business promotion committee, I hope we can sign the Bilateral Investment and Tax treaties during your visit to reinforce this commitment. We worked hard to convince the IMF and World Bank to meet with you and negotiate a new relationship. I know those discussions are ongoing, but we will continue to work with them. It's critically important for Ukraine to develop a detailed economic reform program so that you can then negotiate a program of support with the IMF and World Bank. We will do everything we can to help. One final point I'd like to make. I agree with you that our officials should keep in very close touch with your officials. Since you are arriving on March 3, maybe we should work out some kind of arrangement for Minister Shpek and your other officials to visit Washington just ahead of your visit. This would allow our people to be able to put him in contact again with senior officials of the IMF and World Bank here in Washington. (C)

President Kravchuk: Thank you for your call, Mr. President, and thank you for your letter. I was very much impressed by it as the beginning of practical new steps toward Ukraine. I was also impressed by your recent meeting with the Ukrainian-American community. We appreciated it very much--not only me, but all our people. I am confident that your personal attitude toward Ukraine will correct the attitude of certain members of our parliament so that they will take the necessary steps on the Non-Proliferation Treaty. The main thing now is a parliamentary problem of whether there will be a quorum. One hundred eighty-two members of parliament have nominated themselves for the new one. Right now my administration and I and the administration of the parliament are doing everything to have them present from February 22 to 26. Right now it is the opinion of the majority to accede to the NPT. Right now I and my government, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Defense, are interested in approving this document. We will take drastic steps to achieve this. This is our course, and we will pursue it. (C)

I would like to tell you the experts meeting between the governments of Russia and Ukraine on practical steps for transport of nuclear warheads has met. We expect the first train to move to Russia with these warheads by the end of this month. There is no serious misunderstanding to block the signing of all the documents. A schedule has been worked out. We will be able to sign all the documents for moving warheads to Russia, and we now intend to do it. The main thing now is to organize transport, although elimination is also a very serious matter. Today, acting Prime Minister Zviatkovsky left for Moscow to sign the documents. We have started to work on implementing the Trilateral documents. This is the main result of our Moscow meeting on January 14. I thank you, Mr. President, for your proposals on economic cooperation. I am sure we will use the proposals and implement them. I know that the program of my visit to Washington has been worked out, and I am satisfied with

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it. I am sure it will be good for me and for Ukraine. I am looking forward to meeting you in Washington. (C)

The President: One last thing: Is there anything we can do on our end to help members of parliament attend the Rada session and ratify NPT next week? (C)

President Kravchuk: I think what you have done already has been very good. Everything now depends on our great insistence with the members of parliament. (C)

The President: Thank you very much. (U)

President Kravchuk: Right now I will work in an intensive way to complete these agreement, and I hope we will succeed in this work. (U)

The President: Thank you. (U)

President Kravchuk: Thank you. All the best. (U)

The President: Good-bye. (U)

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