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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation with Ukrainian
President Leonid Kravchuk

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

DATE, TIME: June 12, 1993, 10:33-10:47am
AND PLACE: Small Dining Room

The President: Mr. President, I am very pleased that we have a chance to talk today since it's been quite a while since our last call in late January. (U)

President Kravchuk: Yes, time does fly, and I am glad to be able to speak to the President of the United States. (U)

The President: I know this is a busy time for you and also a difficult time with the coal mine strikes and the debates in the Rada over Ukraine's future. (U)

I wanted simply to reaffirm to you and the Ukrainian people my strong support for Ukrainian independence and for democratic political and market economic reform. (U)

I'm very pleased Secretary Aspin's recent trip was so productive. We want strong security ties and I know that Secretary Aspin talked to you about an extensive program of defense cooperation, which we will be working to develop with your armed forces. (U)

I also appreciate your continued resolve to achieve ratification of START I and the NPT. (U)

On economic issues, we want to build strong economic ties. We are prepared to extend food credits and grants. I will have our Secretary of Agriculture, Mike Espy, contact your officials next week on our plans. (U)

We could also support greater G-7 economic help to Ukraine conditioned on a market reform program introduced by your government. (U)

I would also like to do what we can to help promote better Ukrainian-Russian relations. I know you will meet Yeltsin this week. I strongly support his reform program in Russia. (U)

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As Ambassador Strobe Talbott told you last month, the U.S. is prepared to be helpful to both Ukraine and Russia in finding ways to resolve your differences if you agree that we should try to be of help. (U)

I hope very much that you and President Yeltsin will continue your efforts to promote good and peaceful relations between your countries. (U)

Let me say I really wanted to encourage you in this trying time. I hope we can be real partners and I wish you well at this time. (U)

President Kravchuk: Thank you very much, Mr. President. I also want to tell you that the situation in our country is very complex. The miners in the Donetsk and the Krivoi Rog Autonomous Regions are seeking a return to socialism, a return to the Union, and a return to the Communist Party. And what's involved is a build-up of political pressure in light of economic difficulties. (C)

The fear is political explosion and the dividing up of Ukraine -- autonomy for Donetsk, and Krivoi Rog, and Galicia, and finally the dismemberment of the country not unlike the situation in Yugoslavia. I also have very good information that these efforts are being orchestrated outside of Ukraine. (C)

We have great danger today. It is important that we have the economic support of the United States. I am determined to move forward with reform. We have a complex, conservative parliament. The local councils are also conservative: they were elected at the time of the Soviet Union. In general, forces wanting the recreation of the Union are in control. (C)

Today, I passed to parliament 22 documents on reform. I repeat that the parliament is dragging this out. I will undertake currency reform, and I ask for the support of the International Monetary Fund. Without it, currency reform will have no chance. (U)

I believe President Yeltsin and I will resolve the Black Sea Fleet. We have both introduced interesting proposals, and I believe this will be resolved. We are also discussing energy sources, as the price for petroleum recently increased 100 percent. (U)

These are matters of survival to us. Ukraine is afraid of political explosion. All Bolshevik and Communist forces, the left and right, are united to take advantage of the economic situation. (U)

I ask the world community and the United States, the greatest country in the world, to help us in these endeavors. You must understand that we may not be able to deal with parliament in a democratic way. I deeply desire to invoke a democratic and free-

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market society, but great forces are aggressively working against us: the media of Russia and various pro-Communist forces. (S)

This is what I wanted to pass on to you. I also wanted to thank you for your words, for you have expressed not only moral, but also practical support. (U)

The President: Thank you, I look forward to working with you.
(U)

President Kravchuk: Good-bye, Mr. President. (U)

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