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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with President Leonid Kravchuk of
Ukraine

PARTICIPANTS: The President
President Leonid Kravchuk
Interpreter: George Sajewych
Notetaker: Christine Potts

DATE, TIME November 29, 1993; 10:57-11:20 am
AND PLACE: The Oval Office

The President: Hello. Good evening, Leonid. (U)

President Kravchuk: Mr. President. I'd like to greet you. I am happy to talk with you and to inform you of the latest events in Kiev. If you don't mind, first I would like to give you some information and then we can discuss it. (U)

The President: Go ahead. (U)

President Kravchuk: First, concerning the ratification of START I, I would like to tell you now that I am not happy with the decision of Parliament, but I think it is possible to take positive steps forward. I do not want to dramatize the situation caused by Parliament, but as President I wanted all three documents ratified: START I, the Lisbon Protocol and the Non-Proliferation Treaty. We (in the Executive Branch) are preparing propositions and I hope it is not a final decision. We will try to rebuff it to parliament for a third review. The main thing is that the President is understood, the Executive power is understood, and the character of documents is understood to sort out this difficult problem. For me, it is important to find a path and sort out this very complex problem. (U)

I am sure that it will find mutual understanding and support from the United States and from Russia. As you know, we have been negotiating with the Russians. In the nearest future, I am hopeful that we will find a way to progress. (U)

I hope you understand our situation. Concerning the Executive power, it does not change our position. We want ratification of the whole package. Our package is not a precondition, but a basis of understanding. I mean that today your Ambassador, Mr. Miller, started negotiations again on national security

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guarantees to Kiev. Mr. Goodby will also be here. I hope this makes it possible to render technical and economic assistance to Kiev. We are expecting fruitful continuation of discussions initiated by your special expert, Nicholas Burns. (S)

I was informed that the U.S. will contribute to quicker compensation for nuclear warheads, including guarantees in the event Russia will not be able to do it. We exchanged letters with President Yeltsin and we are at a stage of preparing certain points for negotiation. (S)

I am keeping to the statement of early deactivation of SS-24s. We have deactivated the 115th regiment of division 46. Another is prepared for deactivation and we are ready to follow the same path with your special support. I would like the American people to be freed of the concern that these missiles are targeted at the U.S. I will follow this up to the very end. (S)

I also feel the understanding and support of the United States, and of you Mr. President, as far as economic assistance. I would like a package to be prepared. I met with one of your experts and I found him to be very wise. I naturally share his opinion. I feel your assistance is very important, first in attracting foreign assistance, and also to help with the fuel and power problem, pharmaceutical assistance and protection of the environment. We also seek your help in the establishment of a stabilization fund for the introduction of a monetary unit and an incentive regime for tariffs on a constant basis. (S)

Today the government considered privatization for the next year and the strength of the financial system, as well as support for new laws and other problems concerning economic reforms. I am happy we have more profound support in local places and I think this support will promote quicker development. That is, in brief, what I wanted to discuss with you, Mr. President. (U)

The President: Thank you very much. First, I want to say again how important the relationship is between our two states. (U)

Secretary Christopher reviewed for me the results of his trip to Kiev and I was pleased that you made it possible for Secretary Christopher and Foreign Minister Zlenko to sign the agreement on the safe and secure dismantlement of nuclear weapons. (S)

With regard to the economic dialogue, I agree with you that it is a critical part of our future relationship. (U)

I am very glad that you will resubmit measures concerning START ratification to Parliament again because, as you know, that causes us some difficulties. I gather that the Rada action gives you the legal right to deactivate some SS-24s. (S)

President Kravchuk: Yes. (U)

The President: I hope it will be possible now to speak about this publicly. As you know, I will have to report to Senators

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Nunn and Lugar on the deactivation of SS-24s because their support is crucial and necessary. (U)

When you spoke about deactivation, what did you mean? Have you already removed warheads? (S)

President Kravchuk: Yes, I meant we are removing warheads and storing them at "S" facilities. Yes, these are special installations for storing nuclear warheads and they are properly guarded. (S)

The President: I think this is very good news and we should have our experts talk as soon as possible. Thank you. (U)

President Kravchuk: You are welcome. We will be glad to accept your experts when it is convenient to your schedule. (U)

The President: On Russia, we are working hard to work out arrangements, especially on the sharing of proceeds. On security assurances, we are determined to find a workable formula. Secretary Christopher and Foreign Minister Zlenko can discuss this in the future. With regard to economic assistance, we would welcome a high-level delegation soon, as promised, to discuss these matters. (S)

President Kravchuk: Thank you. That is very nice. We shall send such a delegation soon. (U)

The President: Again, I want to express my appreciation for your hard work. I see it has been sometimes difficult with parliament and I sometimes have problems with Congress, too. (U)

President Kravchuk: You see, Mr. President, our Parliament is more difficult to tackle than the Russian one. There is one positive thing -- our Parliament has made a decision about the elections. (U)

The President: I feel very good about this discussion. We should proceed along the lines we have discussed. (U)

President Kravchuk: I would like to ask for one more thing, Mr. President. We negotiated one thing in Geneva. I would like your assistance because you can help us greatly. I was very glad about the essence of our conversation. It was nice to talk with you. Good health and good wishes, especially at Christmas time. (U)

The President: Thank you very much and good-bye. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

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