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## **Clinton Presidential Records Mandatory Declassification Review**

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ EO 13526 3.5c  
CLASSIFICATION

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SUBJECT: Ukrainian Legislator Detained in Switzerland

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Remarks: 8

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2012-1027-M  
7/16/15 KBH

# CONFIDENTIAL

**Ukrainian Legislator Detained in Switzerland**

3.5c

EO 13526 1.4c Swiss police detained former Prime Minister Lazarenko for trying to enter the country on a Panamanian passport. The Swiss in September denied Lazarenko's visa request.

3.5c

EO 13526 1.4c

The Swiss Government's cooperation in the investigation represents part of a broad crackdown on organized crime. The trial of Sergey Mikhailov--the reputed head of one of Russia's largest organized crime groups, Solntsevo--opened this week in Geneva.

3.5c

EO 13526 1.4c

National Security and Defense Council Secretary Horbulin on Wednesday publicly reaffirmed Ukraine's commitment not to participate in Iran's Bushehr nuclear power plant project. An unspecified "top" Ukrainian Government official this week had said "Kiev may reengage in the project if Ukraine does not receive adequate compensation from the US," according to a press report.

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3.5c



# Kuchma Seeks Lazarenko Extradition

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

5 March 1999

## Desperately Seeking Lazarenko: Kuchma's Motivations

[Redacted]

1. Kuchma wants to bring Lazarenko back to Kiev to stand trial both as a visible demonstration of the government's seriousness in fighting corruption, and to attempt to silence the former Prime Minister during the upcoming presidential campaign. Kuchma probably perceives the risk in bringing back as low, since Lazarenko did not have much popular backing outside his home region of Dnipropetrovsk even when he was in office, and has even less support now.

- [Redacted] EO 13526 1.4c, EO 13526 1.4d Lazarenko's arrest in New York has been the biggest news story of the past two weeks in Ukraine, and that the reporting has been largely unsympathetic--thanks in part to the fact that the government has recently been able to close two Hromada-supported newspapers. [Redacted] 3.5c

[Redacted] EO 13526 1.4c, EO 13526 1.4d

- [Redacted] EO 13526 1.4c, EO 13526 1.4d

- When Lazarenko left office in July 1997, he predicted he would be the next President of Ukraine, declaring himself in open opposition to Kuchma. After Lazarenko's firing, Kuchma took the extraordinary step of ordering the government to close down firms formerly associated with the former PM. [Redacted] EO 13526 1.4c, EO 13526 1.4d

[Redacted]

This memo has been prepared by [Redacted] 3.5c in the Office of Russian and European Analysis's [Redacted] Comments and questions can be directed to [Redacted]

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3. There is some precedence in this matter in the case of former Speaker of the Azerbaijani parliament Rasul Quliyev, who in 1998 was granted Class IV asylum—a level below political asylum reserved for individuals who have skills/qualifications deserving of special consideration. Quliyev left Azerbaijan in 1996, surfacing months later in the US [redacted] EO 13526 1.4c, EO 13526 1.4d

[redacted] He was later accused by the government of a series of criminal charges-- including embezzlement--as he continued to keep his channels/connections to Baku open, and as it dawned on President Aliyev that Quliyev was still viewed as a contender to succeed/replace him.

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