
Clinton Presidential Records Mandatory Declassification Review

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Serhiy Hryhorovych OSYKA
(Phonetic: ohSEEkah)

UKRAINE

Minister of External Economic Relations
(since August 1994)

Addressed as: Mr. Minister

Former First Deputy Minister of External Economic Relations Serhiy Osyka probably received his most recent promotion because of his proreform credentials, political connections, and professional experience. Osyka belongs to [redacted]

1.4c, 1.4d

[redacted] an impressive team of economic experts that President Leonid Kuchma has assembled to work toward comprehensive economic reform. Osyka has said

1.4c, 1.4d

[redacted] to local press reporters that he is fully committed to opening up Ukraine's economy. In particular, he has been an outspoken advocate of his country's accession to GATT, arguing that Ukraine's laws should correspond to GATT demands for intellectual property right guarantees and strict anti-dumping regulations. Osyka first worked for the President in 1992, when he served as then Prime Minister Kuchma's adviser on trade issues. A specialist in economic law, Osyka has helped draft numerous laws and resolutions—many related to economic reform—and has served as his country's special representative to GATT since 1993 [redacted]

3.5c

An ethnic Ukrainian, Osyka was born on 27 March 1955 in Kiev. He graduated from Kiev State University with a degree in international relations in 1977. Osyka later earned a law degree from the same institution. He subsequently worked as an assistant professor. Osyka served as a consultant to the Supreme Rada (parliament) during 1991-92. He was also a member of the Coordination Committee for Issues of Economic Reform under the Council of Ministers. From late 1993 until his current appointment, he was a Deputy Minister and then First Deputy Minister of External Economic Relations. He also served on a commission dealing with Ukraine's cooperation with the European Union. In March 1994, Osyka ran unsuccessfully for a seat in the Supreme Rada.

3.5c

Osyka and his wife, who is a Ukrainian language teacher, have a son. Osyka has visited the United States. We do not know Osyka's English-language capability. [redacted]

3.5c

LDA M 94-16660
1 November 1994

Occupational Hazard?

In September, attackers stabbed and seriously wounded a man whom they mistook for Osyka, according to Western and local press reports. Dmytro Tabachnyk, President Kuchma's chief of staff, publicly speculated that the attack was carried out by organized crime elements, who were angered by what Tabachnyk described as Osyka's tough initiatives against dumping and other illegal export activities.

3.5c

3.5c

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2016-0123-M (1.28)
2/27/2017 KBH

3.5c

Ihor Oleksandrovych MITYUKOV
(Phonetic: *mihtooKOFF*)

UKRAINE

Deputy Prime Minister
(since September 1994)

Addressed as: Mr. Minister

Economist Ihor Mityukov, who has oversight of Ukraine's financial and banking sector, is strongly proreform, and his appointment is part of President Leonid Kuchma's effort to shape a more reform-oriented economic decisionmaking team,

1.4c, 1.4d, 3.5c

An ethnic Ukrainian, Mityukov was born in Kiev in 1952. He graduated from Kiev State University. Mityukov later earned an advanced degree in economics. He has worked as an engineer and a researcher at an economics institute. Mityukov then served on the board of Ukrayina, a joint-stock bank. In early 1994, he became deputy chairman of the National Bank of Ukraine. 3.5c

Mityukov is married and has a daughter.
1.4c, 1.4d Mityukov speaks
fluent English. 3.5c

LDA M 94-16861
7 November 1994

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PER E. O. 13526

2016-0123-M (1.23)
2/27/2017 KBH

3.5c

Yuriy Mykolayovych SHCHERBAK
(Phonetic: shcherBAHK)

Ambassador-Nominee to the United States

Addressed as: Mr. Ambassador

Yuriy Shcherbak—a physician, writer, and environmental activist—brings limited diplomatic experience to his job in Washington. His only other diplomatic posting was as Ambassador to Israel from October 1992 until his most recent appointment. Shcherbak has told Ukrainian reporters, however, that he amassed “enormous experience” during that brief, yet high-profile, tour. Ukrainian press reports credit him with fostering warm relations between Kiev and Tel Aviv in spite of potentially divisive issues, such as the controversial trial of John Demjanjuk, a Ukrainian-American and alleged Nazi war criminal. [1.4c, 1.4d] press reports also suggest that Shcherbak, who does not appear to have strong political ties to President Leonid Kuchma, may have received his current assignment because of his favorable reputation both inside Ukraine and abroad as an environmental activist. [3.5c]

Spokesman for the Environment

Shcherbak's reputation as a prominent writer and spokesman for environmental causes precedes him to the West. His listing in the *Encyclopedia of Ukraine*—a Canadian publication—highlights his literary works, including several articles on the Chornobyl' nuclear plant disaster. In 1992 a US magazine ran a lengthy profile of Shcherbak, detailing his growing disillusionment with the Soviet system and his emergence as a prominent environmentalist in the wake of the Chornobyl' incident. According to press reports, he visited the site just a week after the accident and wrote a documentary novel describing the event's impact on the environment and decrying what he cited as an “official coverup.” A physician for more than 30 years, Shcherbak told an interviewer that he was especially attuned to the grave health problems resulting from the accident. [3.5c]

[3.5c]

UKRAINE

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2/27/2017 KBH



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Shcherbak subsequently held political and governmental posts related to environmental issues. From 1989 until late 1991 he chaired the nuclear energy subcommittee under the USSR Supreme Soviet's Ecology Committee. In 1989 he became head of the environmental movement, Green World; he later led its successor, the Green Party, and in September 1991 the party nominated Shcherbak as its presidential candidate. He served as Minister of Environment during 1991-92 under then Prime Minister Vitol'd Fokin and was a member of Ukraine's National Security Council during the same period. [3.5c]

In addition to his activism on environmental issues, Shcherbak has played a major role in Ukrainian efforts to assert a national identity, according to [1.4c, 1.4d] press reporting [redacted]

[redacted] 1.4c, 1.4d

[redacted] In early 1992 Shcherbak openly characterized the relationship between the Commonwealth states as similar to “a friendly agreement among prison escapees who are still fettered together by a chain.” He also has outspokenly promoted the use of the Ukrainian language; Shcherbak has noted with pride that his first novel was published in Ukrainian—not Russian. [3.5c]

(continued)
LDA M 94-17119

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3.5c

Career and Personal Background

Shcherbak was born on 12 October 1934 in Kiev. His family was repeatedly harassed by Soviet security organizations in the 1930s and 1940s; in 1948 his brother was arrested and imprisoned for alleged ties to nationalist groups, according to Western press reporting. Shcherbak graduated from the Kiev Medical Institute in 1958. He worked in Kiev's Scientific Research Institute of Epidemiology, Microbiology, and Parasitology until the late 1980s, when he turned exclusively to writing and politics.

3.5c

Shcherbak is married; his wife, Mariya, is Polish.

[redacted] 6.2 d

Shcherbak has two children and at least one grandchild. In addition to Ukrainian and Russian, Shcherbak speaks English and Polish.

3.5c

17 November 1994

3.5c

Yuriy Mykolayovych SHCHERBAK
(Phonetic: shareBAHK)

UKRAINE

Ambassador to the United States
(since November 1994)

Addressed as: Mr. Ambassador

Yuriy Shcherbak—a physician, writer, and environmental activist—has proved to be an able representative of his country despite his limited diplomatic experience, according to reporting from [1.4c, 1.4d] the Ukrainian press. He played a major role in planning President Leonid Kuchma's November 1994 visit to the United States, which was widely viewed as a success. Shcherbak's only other diplomatic posting was as Ambassador to Israel from October 1992 until his assignment to Washington. Press reports credited him with fostering warm relations between Kiev and Tel Aviv in spite of potentially divisive issues, such as the controversial trial of John Demjanjuk, a Ukrainian-American and alleged Nazi war criminal. Shcherbak does not have strong political ties to Kuchma; he told a reporter in late 1994 that he is not a member of the President's inner circle. Press reports suggest that Shcherbak received his current job because of his favorable reputation both inside Ukraine and abroad as an environmental activist.

[3.5c]

Spokesman for the Environment

Shcherbak's reputation as a prominent writer and spokesman for environmental causes is already well established in the West. His listing in *The Encyclopedia of Ukraine*—a Canadian publication—highlights his literary works, including several articles on the Chernobyl nuclear plant disaster. In 1992 a US magazine ran a lengthy profile of Shcherbak, detailing his growing disillusionment with the Soviet system and his emergence as a prominent environmentalist in the wake of Chernobyl. According to press reports, he visited the site just a week after the accident and wrote a documentary novel describing the event's impact on the environment and decrying what he viewed as an "official coverup." [3.5c]

[3.5c]



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2016-0123-M (1.4b)
2/27/2017 KBH

[1.4c, 1.4d, 3.5c]

Shcherbak has held political and governmental posts related to environmental issues. From 1989 until late 1991 he chaired the nuclear energy subcommittee under the USSR Supreme Soviet's Ecology Committee. In 1989 he became head of the environmental movement, Green World; he later led its successor, the Green Party, and in September 1991 the party nominated Shcherbak as its presidential candidate. He served as Minister of Environment during 1991-92 under then Prime Minister Vitol'd

(continued)
LP 95-104451
1 May 1995

3.5c

Fokin and was a member of Ukraine's National Security Council during the same period. [3.5c]

In addition to his activism on environmental issues, Shcherbak has worked to assert a national identity for Ukraine, according to [1.4c, 1.4d] press reporting. [1.4c, 1.4d]

[Redacted]

[Redacted] In early 1992, Shcherbak openly characterized the relationship between the Commonwealth states as similar to "a friendly agreement among prison escapees who are still fettered together by a chain." He also has promoted the use of the Ukrainian language; Shcherbak has noted with pride that his first novel was published in Ukrainian—not Russian. [3.5c]

Career and Personal Background

Shcherbak, an ethnic Ukrainian, was born on 12 October 1934 in Kiev. He told an interviewer in March 1995 that he is third generation Kievan. His

family was repeatedly harassed by Soviet security organizations in the 1930s and 1940s; in 1948 his brother was arrested and imprisoned for alleged ties to nationalist groups, according to Western and Ukrainian press reporting. Shcherbak graduated from the Kiev Medical Institute in 1958. He worked in Kiev's Scientific Research Institute of Epidemiology, Microbiology, and Parasitology until the late 1980s, when he turned exclusively to writing and politics. [3.5c]

Shcherbak is married; his wife, Mariya, is Polish. [6.2d]

[Redacted] Mariya is a biologist by training. The Shcherbaks have a grown son and a grown daughter and two grandchildren. Their daughter, Bohdana, accompanied them to the United States and is a student at Georgetown University, according to press reporting in March 1995. In addition to Ukrainian and Russian, Shcherbak speaks Polish and English. [1.4c, 1.4d, 3.5c]

[Redacted]

3.5c

Serhiy Hryhorovych OSYKA
(Phonetic: ohSEEkah)

UKRAINE

Minister of External Economic Relations and Trade (since July 1995)

Addressed as: Mr. Minister

Serhiy Osyka still plays a major role in Ukraine's economic decision making in the aftermath of the Cabinet's reshuffle in July. While Osyka lost his Deputy Prime Minister post—he held it for only six months—he retained his leadership of the Ministry of External Economic Relations, which following the reshuffle is now called the Ministry of External Economic Relations and Trade. He is [redacted] [redacted] 1.4c, 1.4d a key player on a wide range of issues, including Ukraine's energy policy and defense conversion matters. In addition, Osyka is Kiev's point man on relations with GATT/WTO, according to [redacted] 1.4b, 1.4c press reporting. He is also a member of the National Security Council.

[redacted] 3.5c

Osyka has been portrayed as a committed economic reformer by the Ukrainian press. In June, an article grouped Osyka with proreform officials Viktor Pynzenyk and Ihor Mityukov and noted that their promarket policies were coming under fire from leftists in the Rada (parliament). [redacted]

[redacted] 1.4c, 1.4d, 3.5c

[redacted] 1.4c, 1.4d

[redacted] in September 1994, attackers stabbed and seriously wounded a man whom they mistook for Osyka, according to Ukrainian and Western press accounts. [redacted] 3.5c

Osyka was born on 27 March 1955 in Kiev. He graduated from Kiev State University with a degree in international relations in 1977. He earned a law degree from that same institution in 1980 and later worked as an assistant professor there and at Ukraine's Institute of Foreign Relations. Osyka then served as a consultant to the Rada during 1991-92. He was an adviser on foreign economic relations to then Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma from 1992 until 1993. Osyka then worked as a deputy minister and first deputy minister in the Ministry of External Economic Relations until his appointment as Minister in August 1994. He also served on a commission for Ukraine's cooperation with the European Union and as Ukraine's representative to GATT. In March 1994, he ran unsuccessfully for a seat in the Rada. [redacted] 3.5c

Osyka and his wife, who is a Ukrainian language teacher, have a son. Osyka speaks fluent English, [redacted] 1.4c, 1.4d, 3.5c

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[redacted] 3.5c

LP 95-110570
20 September 1995



S/S 9602268
United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

February 16, 1996

UNCLASSIFIED (with CONFIDENTIAL attachments)

MEMORANDUM FOR ANDREW D. SENS
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

Subject: Biographic Reports for the President's and Vice
President's Meetings with Ukrainian President Leonid
Kuchma, February 21, 1996

Enclosed are biographic reports for the President's and
Vice President's use during their meetings with Ukraine
President Leonid Kuchma, February 21, 1996.

William J. Burns
Executive Secretary

EO 13526 1.4c

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