

Archivist Note

This memorandum of telephone conversation incorrectly lists April 10, 1991 as the date of the call. This conversation actually took place on April 10, 1992.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with President Leonid Kravchuk of Ukraine

PARTICIPANTS: The President
President Leonid Kravchuk
Notetaker: Nicholas Burns
Interpreter: George Sajewych

DATE, TIME: April 10, 1991, 8:05 - 8:13am
AND PLACE: The Oval Office

The President: Mr. President, how are you? (U)

President Kravchuk: We are fine. I will inform you of how things are. First, on more optimistic matters. I had a conversation with Boris Yeltsin earlier today. We agreed to sign an agreement tomorrow on the relocation of nuclear warheads. After that formal agreement, concrete work will begin. (S)

The President: Very good. (U)

President Kravchuk: I will give details on this when we meet in Washington. (S)

The President: All right sir. That is good news. (U)

President Kravchuk: Now on the Black Sea fleet -- this has grown more complicated due to the fact that Vice President Ruskoi visited Ukraine without permission. The other thing is that Yeltsin's decree put the Black Sea fleet on Ukrainian soil under Russian jurisdiction. However, under the influence of the realities of life, Yeltsin suspended his decree. I also decided to suspend certain actions of mine and to launch negotiations. (S)

Yeltsin signed a decree naming a Russian delegation to discuss this and I signed a decree naming a Ukrainian delegation. The two delegations will begin work on Monday. (S)

The President: That's encouraging, right? Isn't that a positive development? (S)

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President Kravchuk: Yes, this is the beginning of concrete negotiations. I think they will proceed properly. Earlier today, I had a conversation with Yeltsin about Moldova. The foreign ministers of Ukraine, Russia, Moldova and Romania met in Moldova. I believe this was a great success. (S)

The President: Very good, very good. (U)

President Kravchuk: Moldova is proposing that the Ukrainian army should form a barrier between the hostile parties. After decisions are taken, I think Yeltsin, Snegur, the Romanians and I should have consultations to take some practical steps. (S)

These were the most topical issues. I will give you details on them on May 6. I will inform you of the assistance we require from you. I do want to express my gratitude about your announcement to Congress last week. (S)

The President: Leonid, thank you very much. That is good news on the discussions you and Boris Yeltsin had on the first problem, on the Black Sea fleet and on Moldova. That is the way to solve your problems. (S)

Please feel free to give me your ideas in confidence to Ed Hewett and his team going there in a few days. Please tell your Ministers that these three men have my total confidence. If you level with them, tell them what is in your heart, they will tell me and we will be able to guarantee the success of your visit here. (S)

President Kravchuk: Yes, we will do that. (U)

The President: Okay. Thank you for the courtesy of this call. Good luck as you wrestle with these problems. (U)

President Kravchuk: I want to send my best to you and wish you every success in your election campaign. (U)

The President: Thank you sir. Goodbye. (U)

-- End of Conversation --