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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with President Kravchuk of Ukraine on
December 24th, 1992

PARTICIPANTS: The President
President Kravchuk
Interpreter: Marta Zielyuk
Notetaker: Christine Potts

DATE, TIME: December 24th, 1992 at 10:58 to 11:10
AND PLACE: Camp David

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

President Kravchuk: Good day, I am glad to hear from you. (U)

The President: Merry Christmas. I am glad to hear from you. (U)

President Kravchuk: Mr. President, I want to congratulate you and wish you a Merry Christmas. We wish you peace and prosperity. (U)

The President: Thank you. I am only sorry I won't be in the job next year to work with you as in the past. (Ø)

President Kravchuk: Thank you and never mind. I would be glad to be the host of you and Barbara to my country. (Ø)

The President: That's nice. What business do we have to conduct here? (Ø)

President Kravchuk: I would like to confirm the letter I received from you on December 4th and express gratitude for your promise to help us get rid of our nuclear weapons. (Ø)

The President: I'm sure the new administration will also agree. (Ø)

President Kravchuk: Both myself and the government and key ministries -- including Defense, Foreign Affairs, and the National Security Council -- all want to confirm that we will stick to the course as I agreed with you in May of this year. (Ø)

I also want to say that the Supreme Rada and various committees have conducted two sittings to analyze the documents. There is not any delay on our part. We are just studying the question, as necessary, to be sure all documents are adopted. (Ø)

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The President: Is there any way for you to make a public statement of your commitment to START and the NPT, and also to call for positive Rada action on the earliest possible date? That would be good, and it would calm any concern here and in Europe on this nuclear issue. Are you confident that the Rada will go along with the government? (Ø)

President Kravchuk: Yes, I am sure that the Supreme Rada will adopt the documents because they have more elements of a deeper understanding. We are still studying the financial issue. We are talking with Russia on the question of compensation. The Rada is now feeling better about adopting the treaties. (Ø)

The President: Obviously, if there is anything I can do before leaving office, please let me know. It is a very important issue to the world and your leadership is vital. (Ø)

President Kravchuk: The key problem is reaching an agreement with Russia, but we are working on it. (Ø)

The President: Maybe we can help there, but good luck. I surely appreciate the call. (Ø)

President Kravchuk: Thank you. As we are approaching the end of the year, I am satisfied with the processes started in May and I hope the next administration will also support this process. (Ø)

The President: As we come to year's end, I'd like to make a simple press statement -- no details -- to show that we are in close contact if you agree. (Ø)

President Kravchuk: I support your idea, especially the part dealing with the essence of our course, that we are prepared to go on adopting START and the NPT to convince parliament to adopt these two treaties as soon as possible. (Ø)

The President: Do you want to say that; do you want me to say that; or do you just want a general press statement? (Ø)

President Kravchuk: I think it is good that you tell it in your own country and I will tell my press as well. (Ø)

The President: That's fine. Have a wonderful New Year and give my best to your family. (Ø)

President Kravchuk: The same to you, Mr. President. Please give my best to Barbara and all the good people of America. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

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