

Item Subject: UKRAINE FM UDOVENKO'S MEETING WITH AMB. COLLINS

RELEASE IN FULL

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DECLASSIFIED

SUBJECT: UKRAINE FM UDOVENKO'S MEETING WITH AMB. COLLINS

1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY S/NIS COORDINATOR JAMES F. COLLINS. REASONS: 1.5 (B) AND (D).
2. ~~(C)~~ SUMMARY. AMB. COLLINS, JOINED BY ACTING EUR A/S KORNBLUM, MET WITH UKRAINIAN FM UDOVENKO ON FEBRUARY 22 FOR A WIDE-RANGING CONVERSATION. UDOVENKO EXPRESSED PLEASURE WITH PRESIDENT KUCHMA'S VISIT AND URGED GREATER EMPHASIS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICY DECISIONS. KORNBLUM SAID THAT IN 1996, NATO WOULD FOCUS ON CONSOLIDATION AND ADAPTION, AND THAT THERE WOULD NOT BE ANY MAJOR NEW DECISIONS ON NATO EXPANSION THIS YEAR. UDOVENKO ASSURED COLLINS THAT THE GOU IS INVESTIGATING MEDIA ALLEGATIONS THAT UKRAINIAN AIRCRAFT ARE BEING USED IN DRUG SMUGGLING. COLLINS OFFERED TO SUPPORT UKRAINE'S EFFORT TO STRENGTHEN TIES WITH THE EU. UDOVENKO ASKED THE U.S. NOT TO REGISTER THE FORMER SOVIET UN MISSION AS RUSSIAN PROPERTY AND TO APPROVE A UKRAINIAN REQUEST TO PURCHASE A CONSULATE BUILDING IN CHICAGO. COLLINS REPLIED THAT WE ALSO NEED UKRAINIAN MFA SUPPORT TO PURCHASE PROPERTY IN KIEV. BOTH SIDES AGREED TO WORK TOGETHER TO ESTABLISH A MUTUALLY CONVENIENT DATE FOR THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE BILATERAL REVIEW TASK FORCE. END SUMMARY.
3. ~~(C)~~ AMB. COLLINS MET ON FEBRUARY 22 WITH UKRAINIAN FOREIGN MINISTER UDOVENKO, AT UDOVENKO'S REQUEST, ON THE MARGINS OF PRESIDENT KUCHMA'S PRIVATE VISIT TO WASHINGTON. ACTING A/S KORNBLUM JOINED THE MEETING. UDOVENKO WAS ACCOMPANIED BY DCM KUCHINSKIY AND NOTETAKER.
4. ~~(C)~~ UDOVENKO OPENED BY SAYING THAT HE IS PLEASED WITH THE SUBSTANCE AND RECEPTION OF PRESIDENT KUCHMA'S VISIT AND THE EMPHASIS ON FUTURE COOPERATION. HE SAID THAT HIS MEETING WITH COLLINS WOULD BE A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO FOCUS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECTS AGREED AT THE SENIOR LEVEL. COLLINS AGREED, SAYING THAT FOLLOW-UP SHOULD BE IMPROVED.
5. ~~(C)~~ KORNBLUM OUTLINED THE PROGRAM FOR EUROPEAN SECURITY DISCUSSIONS IN 1996. HE SAID THAT THERE WILL NOT BE ANY MAJOR NEW DECISIONS ABOUT NATO EXPANSION IN 1996. INSTEAD, NATO WOULD ENGAGE IN DETAILED DISCUSSIONS WITH POTENTIAL CANDIDATES FOR NATO MEMBERSHIP. AT THE SAME TIME, NATO WILL NEED TO ADAPT TO MORE ACTIVE FRENCH PARTICIPATION. NATO WOULD ALSO LOOK TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN PFP ACTIVITIES. KORNBLUM TOLD UDOVENKO THAT WE WOULD WORK HARD TO ENSURE THAT UKRAINE WOULD BE COMFORTABLE WITH THE EVOLVING SECURITY FRAMEWORK AND THAT IT WOULD FIT INTO A

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EUROPEAN COOPERATIVE STRUCTURE. HE SAID THAT UKRAINE/NATO RELATIONS ARE ON THE RIGHT TRACK, AND WE WOULD WORK WITH UKRAINE TO ENSURE SATISFACTORY IMPLEMENTATION OF ITS INDIVIDUAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM.

6. ~~(C)~~ UDOVENKO SAID THAT UKRAINE'S POLICY ON NATO EXPANSION HAS NOT CHANGED, AND THAT A REQUEST BY UKRAINE TO JOIN NATO WOULD NOT BE IN THE INTEREST OF UKRAINE, RUSSIA OR THE U.S. HOWEVER, HE NOTED THAT KUCHMA HAS EXPRESSED INCREASED INTEREST IN RELATIONS WITH NATO. UDOVENKO REAFFIRMED THAT UKRAINE IS INTERESTED IN EXPANDING COOPERATION WITH NATO. HE ADDED THAT UKRAINE SEES ITS PARTICIPATION IN IFOR AS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN ITS INTEGRATION WITH THE WEST, ALTHOUGH IT WAS NOT AN EASY DECISION BECAUSE OF OPPOSITION IN THE RADA.

7. ~~(S)~~ WHEN AMB. COLLINS INQUIRED ABOUT THE RECENT DISMISSAL OF CHIEF OF GENERAL STAFF LOPATA, UDOVENKO IMPLIED THAT IT WAS DUE TO CONTINUING RESISTANCE BY ISOME GENERALS?1 TO A CIVILIAN MINISTER OF DEFENSE. HE NOTED THAT MINISTER OF DEFENSE SHMAROV AND NSC CHIEF HORBULYN ARE LEADING AN EFFORT TO RESTRUCTURE AND DOWNSIZE THE

ARMED FORCES. HE ALSO MENTIONED LOPATA'S UNHELPFUL STATEMENT, WHEN THE RADA CONSIDERED (AND FAILED TO ADOPT) THE OPEN SKIES TREATY, THAT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TREATY WOULD BE COSTLY FOR UKRAINE.

8. ~~(C)~~ UDOVENKO SAID THAT UKRAINE WAS SURPRISED BY THE LOS ANGELES TIMES ARTICLE LINKING UKRAINIAN AIRCRAFT TO COLOMBIAN DRUG TRAFFICKERS. HE SAID AN INITIAL INVESTIGATION BY UKRAINE'S SECURITY SERVICE DETERMINED THAT THE PLANES IN QUESTION ARE LEASED TO A COLOMBIAN COMPANY FOR USE IN COLOMBIA ONLY, AND THE LEASE EXPIRES MARCH 3. HE SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT IS OPPOSED TO UKRAINIAN AIRCRAFT BEING USED TO TRANSPORT DRUGS AND WOULD CONTINUE TO INVESTIGATE. AMB. COLLINS REPLIED THAT HE LEARNED OF THIS MATTER AT THE SAME TIME AS THE UKRAINIAN GOVERNMENT. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD MEET WITH INTERESTED USG AGENCIES TO DETERMINE THE FACTS AND HOW WE CAN BEST WORK WITH UKRAINE ON THIS CONCERN.

9. ~~(C)~~ AMB. COLLINS SAID THAT HE RECEIVED THE IMPRESSION DURING KUCHMA'S MEETINGS WITH THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT THAT UKRAINE IS FRUSTRATED WITH THE SLOW PACE OF ITS EFFORTS TO RATIFY ITS COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH THE EU. HE OFFERED TO RAISE THIS IN DISCUSSIONS WITH EU NATIONS, IF UDOVENKO BELIEVED A U.S. INTERVENTION WOULD BE USEFUL. UDOVENKO AGREED THAT IT WOULD.

10. ~~(C)~~ UDOVENKO SAID THAT THE FORMER SOVIET U.N. MISSION WAS JOINTLY OWNED BY UKRAINE, RUSSIA AND BELARUS,

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AND ASKED THAT THE U.S. NOT REGISTER IT AS RUSSIAN PROPERTY UNTIL UKRAINE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THE MATTER IN MORE DETAIL WITH RUSSIA. HE ALSO ASKED FOR COLLINS' ASSISTANCE IN EXPEDITING APPROVAL FOR UKRAINE TO PURCHASE ITS CONSULATE IN CHICAGO. COLLINS AGREED TO LOOK INTO THE FORMER ISSUE, BUT ON THE LATTER MATTER SAID THAT WE NEED THE MFA'S ASSISTANCE IN ACQUIRING PROPERTY FOR THE EMBASSY IN KIEV.

11. ~~(C)~~ UDOVENKO INQUIRED ABOUT THE STATUS OF UKRAINE'S USD 10 MILLION WARSAW INITIATIVE ALLOCATION. HE SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE USD 2.5 MILLION PORTION ADMINISTERED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT WAS NOT YET AVAILABLE. COLLINS REPLIED THAT PROBLEM WAS NOT DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE WARSAW INITIATIVE. RATHER, THE STATE-ADMINISTERED PORTION WAS BEING HELD UP BECAUSE UKRAINE REMAINS ON THE PROSCRIBED LIST OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC IN ARMS REGULATIONS (ITAR). HE ADDED THAT WE ARE LOOKING AT THE BEST PROCEDURE TO REMOVE UKRAINE FROM THE ITAR LIST.

12. ~~(C)~~ COLLINS AND UDOVENKO AGREED TO REMAIN IN TOUCH TO ESTABLISH EARLY IN MARCH A DATE AND AGENDA FOR THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE BILATERAL REVIEW TASK FORCE. TALBOTT

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