

Item Subject: ACTING SECRETARY MEETING WITH UKRAINE DEPUTY

RELEASE IN FULL

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SUBJECT: ACTING SECRETARY MEETING WITH UKRAINE DEPUTY  
PRIME MINISTER SHMAROV

DECLASSIFIED

1. CONFIDENTIAL -- ENTIRE TEXT.

SUMMARY  
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2. ON MAY 12 UKRAINE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SHMAROV PAID A COURTESY CALL ON ACTING SECRETARY TALBOTT FOLLOWING TWO DAYS OF BILATERAL TALKS. SHMAROV REVIEWED THE PROGRESS MADE OVER THE COURSE OF THE MEETINGS AND EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH PLANS TO CONCLUDE AND SIGN A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON ADHERENCE TO THE MTCR ON MAY 13. SHMAROV CONVEYED UKRAINIAN CONCERN ABOUT THE SLOW PACE OF NUNN-LUGAR DISBURSEMENTS. THE ACTG SECRETARY SAID HE WOULD TRY TO STEP UP THE PROCESS. SHMAROV SAID THAT PRESIDENT KRAVCHUK INTENDED TO APPEAL TO THE NEW UKRAINIAN PARLIAMENT ON MAY 13 TO POSTPONE THE SCHEDULED JUNE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION, BUT HE WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT KRAVCHUK'S CHANCES. REGARDING CRIMEA, SHMAROV APPEARED CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC THAT A COMPROMISE ARRANGEMENT COULD

BE REACHED WITH THE CRIMEAN GOVERNMENT OVER CONTINUING DIFFERENCES WITH THE UKRAINIAN CENTRAL GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY.

OVERVIEW OF MTCR TALKS  
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3. SHMAROV AND HIS DELEGATION PAID A BRIEF COURTESY CALL ON ACTING SECRETARY TALBOTT IMMEDIATELY UPON CONCLUDING THE SECOND DAY OF TALKS, HOSTED BY U/S DAVIS. SHMAROV WAS ACCOMPANIED BY DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER TARASYUK, DEFENSE CONVERSION DEPUTY MINISTER KOZYKOV, SPACE AGENCY CHIEF GORBULIN, AND EMBASSY CHARGE KUCHINSKIY. JOINING ACTING SECRETARY TALBOTT FOR THE MEETING WERE NSC STAFF MEMBERS BURNS AND GOTTEMOELLER, S/NIS DEPUTY PIFER AND EUR/ISCA SALAZAR.

4. THE ACTING SECRETARY WELCOMED THE DELEGATION TO WASHINGTON, CONVEYING THE SECRETARY'S GREETINGS AND CONGRATULATING SHMAROV ON THE PROGRESS MADE DURING THE TWO DAYS OF TALKS. HE OBSERVED THAT PLANS TO SIGN A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH VICE PRESIDENT GORE ON UKRAINE'S ADHERENCE TO MTCR GUIDELINES ON THE FOLLOWING DAY WOULD SERVE TO UNDERSCORE THE SUBSTANTIVE AND SYMBOLIC IMPORTANCE OF THE DELEGATION'S WORK.

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY: Geoffrey W. Chapman, Senior Reviewer, A/GIS/IPS  
3/26/2019

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5. SHMAROV THANKED THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR HIS WELCOMING REMARKS AND EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH THE PROGRESS ACHIEVED DURING THE TWO DAYS OF TALKS. HE REPORTED THAT SIDES WERE NOW PREPARED TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE SIGNING OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING. SHMAROV NOTED THAT BOTH SIDES HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXAMINE CLOSELY QUESTIONS RAISED DURING THE COURSE OF DISCUSSIONS, INCLUDING THOSE CARRYING NEGATIVE AND POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE. SHMAROV DECLARED THAT THE AGREEMENT TO BE REACHED THAT DAY WOULD BE VERY MUCH A MUTUAL AGREEMENT. SHMAROV UNDERScoreD ALSO THE IMPORTANCE OF THE TIMING OF THE AGREEMENT. UKRAINE IS ENTERING A TRANSITIONAL PERIOD, HE SAID, WITH A NEW PARLIAMENT AND POSSIBLY A NEW PRESIDENT. IT WAS THEREFORE IMPORTANT, HE SAID, FOR UKRAINE TO BE FIRMLY COMMITTED TO KEY NON-PROLIFERATION GOALS, AMONG THEM THIS MTCR AGREEMENT.

SLOW PACE OF NUNN-LUGAR ASSISTANCE  
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6. SHMAROV THEN TURNED TO A MATTER OF "CENTRAL" IMPORTANCE TO HIS VISIT. HE EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE SLOW PACE AT WHICH NUCLEAR DISMANTLEMENT ASSISTANCE UNDER THE NUNN-LUGAR

PROGRAM IS BEING MADE AVAILABLE TO UKRAINE. SHMAROV SAID THAT OF THE USD 350 MILLION PROMISED PRACTICALLY NOTHING HAS BEEN DELIVERED. HE ARGUED THAT MORE ACTION AND LESS TALK IS NEEDED. GOTTEMOELLER NOTED THAT PROBLEMS AT THE TECHNICAL LEVEL DEVELOPED BECAUSE OF LACK OF MORE SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON THE PROJECTS, EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS, AND OTHER SUCH DETAILS. SHE ADDED THAT THE USG WAS WORKING TO IMPROVE ITS OWN PERFORMANCE, INCLUDING SPEEDING UP ITS CONTRACTING PROCEDURES.

7. REASSURING SHMAROV, THE ACTING SECRETARY SAID STATE WOULD DO WHAT IT COULD TO ACCELERATE NUNN-LUGAR DISBURSEMENTS. HE EXPLAINED THAT SHMAROV'S VISIT TO THE U.S. AT THIS TIME WOULD HELP SINCE IT WOULD GIVE A HELPFUL IMPULSE. HE NOTED THAT SENATORS NUNN AND LUGAR WERE ALSO ANXIOUS TO SEE THIS ASSISTANCE FULLY IMPLEMENTED.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS AND PROBLEMS WITH CRIMEA  
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8. TURNING TO ANOTHER SUBJECT, THE ACTING SECRETARY ASKED FOR SHMAROV'S VIEWS ON THE UPCOMING PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS AND ON THE SITUATION IN CRIMEA. SHMAROV SAID THAT PRESIDENT KRAVCHUK INTENDED TO TAKE HIS CASE TO POSTPONE THE ELECTIONS TO THE RADA THE FOLLOWING DAY (MAY 13). HE NOTED THAT THERE IS SOME SUPPORT IN THE RADA FOR POSTPONEMENT BUT THAT THERE IS LIKELY TO BE CONSIDERABLE

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DEBATE OVER THE QUESTION. SHMAROV THOUGHT NONE OF THE THREE LEADING PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES, KRAVCHUK, KUCHMA AND PLYUSHCH, WOULD RECEIVE AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY AS REQUIRED BY THE CONSTITUTION. HE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT PROCEEDING WITH THE ELECTION COULD LEAD TO A DESTABILIZING SITUATION.

9. ON CRIMEA, SHMAROV SAID THAT UKRAINE WAS TRYING TO FIND A MUTUALLY AGREEABLE COMPROMISE UNDER THE LAW. HE NOTED THAT TALKS IN KIEV WITH THE NEW CRIMEAN GOVERNMENT WERE VERY PRODUCTIVE BUT THAT ACTING PRIME MINISTER ZVYAHILSKIY'S MEETINGS WITH CRIMEAN PRESIDENT MESHKOV WERE VERY COLD. SHMAROV OBSERVED THAT MOSCOW OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZES THE CRIMEAN PROBLEM AS A INTERNAL UKRAINIAN MATTER. NEVERTHELESS, HE POINTED OUT, SOME CIRCLES IN RUSSIA THAT ARE ACTING CONTRARY TO THE OFFICIAL POLICY HAVE CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE IN THE REGIO.

10. THE ACTING SECRETARY UNDERScoreD USG ADMIRATION FOR THE WAY IN WHICH UKRAINE HAD HANDLED THE ISSUE THUS FAR, NOTING THAT UKRAINE HAD ADOPTED AN APPROACH COMBINING SUBTLETY, SOPHISTICATION, RESTRAINT AND PRINCIPLE. HE

ADDED THAT "PRINCIPLE IS NOT LOST ON THE USG SINCE IT IS CLEARLY REFLECTED IN OUR OWN POLICY. THE ACTING SECRETARY EXPLAINED THAT THE U.S. HAD CONGRATULATED RUSSIA AS WELL FOR REAFFIRMING THE PRINCIPLE THAT CRIMEA IS AN INTERNAL ISSUE THAT DOES NOT ALLOW FOR INTERFERENCE BY OUTSIDE STATES. HE ASSURED SHMAROV THAT THE USG WAS CAREFULLY WATCHING RUSSIA'S ROLE.

11. THE ACTING SECRETARY EXPLAINED FURTHER THAT THE USG PAYS PARTICULARLY CLOSE ATTENTION TO A CLUSTER OF RUSSIAN FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES: RUSSIAN-BALTIC RELATIONS, RUSSIAN-UKRAINIAN RELATIONS, AND RUSSIAN PEACEKEEPING IN THE TRANSCAUCASUS. FOR EXAMPLE, HE CONTINUED, REGARDING THE BALTICS, THE USG IS DOING EVERYTHING IT CAN TO ASSURE REMOVAL OF RUSSIAN TROOPS FROM THE BALTICS BY THE END OF AUGUST. THE ACTING SECRETARY NOTED THAT PRESIDENT CLINTON HAD BEEN PERSONALLY INVOLVED IN THE EFFORT TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE OF THE RUSSIAN RADAR IN LATVIA. HE CITED A NUMBER OF EXAMPLES OF RECENT ACTIVITY RELATED TO ESTONIA AS WELL.

12. THE ACTING SECRETARY CONCLUDED HIS REMARKS BY EMPHASIZING THAT USG INTERESTS ARE HARMONIOUS WITH UKRAINE'S NATIONAL INTERESTS AND THANKED SHMAROV AND TARASYUK FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS. HE SAID THAT THE TRILATERAL MECHANISM HAD WORKED VERY WELL AND THAT THE USG STOOD READY TO HELP IN A SIMILAR FASHION IF CALLED UPON TO DO SO. SHMAROV THANKED THE ACTING SECRETARY FOR THE MEETING AND ASKED THAT HIS REGARDS BE RELAYED TO PRESIDENT CLINTON. CHRISTOPHER