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Authority: E.O. 13526

Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS

Date: MAY 21 2019

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#1

TO: Walt, Jan, Ash and Frank

FROM: Liz

SUBJECT: Russia/Ukraine Summit Communications Meeting

DATE: April 21, 1995

Present at the White House meeting today were Nancy Soderberg, Tom Donilon, Chip Blacker, Margie Sullivan, Jim Steinberg, Andy Sens, Bob Boorstin, Lee Sadderfield, and Julia Moffett; Mark Gearan was tied in by phone.

(1) Russia

All agreed that Engels is the best site for communicating the security message. Nancy strongly believes that message is key for day 2 in Russia.

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Nancy raised the concern that Grachev would turn up at Engels, and the downside of POTUS appearing in close quarters with the Russian military at this time. Chip was tasked to come up with alternatives that highlight the economic reform message (joint venture or stock market floor); I argued strongly, as did Margie, that this would not meet the need to highlight why engagement with Russia really matters to the American people. Chip argued vehemently that if we overemphasize the denuking message, we'll undermine the people we're trying to support in Russia. The White House types asked what more we could do with veterans; I explained Kicklighter's role, and we'll work to link them up better. We discussed possible POTUS speech at WWII memorial museum; I suggested that telling the lend-lease story would be a good way of underscoring historic cooperation in fight against fascism. Tom Donilon was enthusiastic about this; the group liked the tie-in with PM Major, who will be standing there as well. We're pulling together some more info for Tom and Nancy.

Bottom line: No decision was made on what to do; the group agreed to meet again tomorrow in the White House situation room at 1 p.m. to review the options once more.

(2) Ukraine

If POTUS doesn't go to Engels, the group agreed that we need to find another way to highlight the security theme. Nancy thinks that the public won't differentiate between Russia and Ukraine, and that it would be nearly as good to do denuking in Ukraine. So I provided the notional itinerary we'd done for Pervomaysk, and described what we'd see there. She asked me to bring pictures to the meeting tomorrow to show the group. I've asked BG Reppert

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to pull together as much as he can on that option between now and then. Besides Pervo, POTUS is likely to speak to the Rada and go to Johnson Wax. Tom Donilon argued that they need to come up with something more majestic -- crowds waving flags along the streets of Kiev -- to end the trip.

On both Russia and Ukraine, there was lengthy and unfocused discussion about the media rollout for the trip; a lot more work clearly needs to be done on that dimension.

Office of the Secretary of Defense 5 U.S.C. § 552
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS +
Date: 21 May 2019 Authority: EO 13526
Declassify: _____ Deny in Full: _____
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Reason: 3.3(b)(1)(6)
MDR: 16 -M- 2479

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