

Released in Part

From: Yovanovitch, Marie L
Sent: Sun, 4 Sep 2016 05:39:41 -0400
To: Kent, George P
Subject: Re: Lutsenko now likely not to go to DC with Blue Star, other Ukr issue comments

Or frownie face!

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Kent, George P
Sent: Sunday, September 4, 2016 11:14 AM
To: Yovanovitch, Marie L
Subject: Re: Lutsenko now likely not to go to DC with Blue Star, other Ukr issue comments

Any time we can find for you to take a breath, I'll be ready :)

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Yovanovitch, Marie L
Sent: Sunday, September 4, 2016 8:39 AM
To: Kent, George P
Subject: Re: Lutsenko now likely not to go to DC with Blue Star, other Ukr issue comments

Thanks George. At some point, appreciate discussing in more detail some of the folks referenced.

(b)(6)

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Kent, George P
Sent: Saturday, September 3, 2016 8:14 PM
To: Smith, Christopher W; [redacted] Yovanovitch, Marie L; Purcell, Alan S
Subject: Lutsenko now likely not to go to DC with Blue Star, other Ukr issue comments

Lutsenko's request to meet one on one after I'd SMSed him regarding stories that he was using a third party lobbyist to pull together a planned trip to DC turned into a chat over thai food at the DCR.

We talked thru options of trip planning for his notional Aug 25-27 visit. He confirmed he had been pitched by Blue Star, not sought them out. He said he honestly didn't know how Blue Star was to get paid - he didn't have funds - and that some BPP MP that we probably didn't know "and that's good" (b)(5); (b)(6) ??) had introduced them to him. Blue Star CEO Tramontano's pitch was that she could gain him access to high levels of the Clinton campaign (GPK note: she was Podesta's deputy as deputy COS the last year of Bill Clinton's tenure), and that was appealing- to meet the possible next Presidential Chief of Staff.

But I pointed out that wasn't too likely 6 weeks before the election, and that the embassies could arrange meetings at DOJ and State, and the Ukr embassy on the Hill. As

for the Hill, not many members would be around 6 weeks before an election when Congress would be in recess, and the attention of the chattering think tank class would be on UNGA. Not the best timing, apart from DOJ and State.

In connection to Blue Star, I noted their representation of Burisma/Zlochevsky, mentioned the various money flows from Ukraine to lobbyists that had been prominently in the news this past month, whether Manafort/Klueyev via Brussels to Podesta Group and Weber/Mercury, Yanu's Justice Minister Lavrynovych to Skaden/Arps-and Greg Craid--and Pinchuk to Clinton Foundation, and the media attention being paid at present to the Kyiv/Washington lobbyist gravy train....

...and he got the drift. Not ideal timing, little receptive audience, and wrong facilitator. He said he'd figure out a better time when there would be more traction/better audience.

Rest of conversation went over more regular Ukr ground. He did--you'll be pleased to learn [redacted], since I have to walk back my previous strong position - indicate that there were indeed some issues regarding [redacted] lack of legal education degrees. [redacted] still hoped [redacted] could be an effective bridge to NGOs via the advisory council, but that had not happened yet. [redacted] also did not see the young investigator [redacted] hoped would help clean out oblast prosecutors on tax/asset related grounds being as aggressive or successful as hoped. And the local level renewal also was on a slow track. But the IG unit would hopefully be the showcase new element of the PGO missing to show some institutional forward progress. Felt [redacted] was edging towards retirement, really wanted to head the new national investigative bureau and was trying to romance [redacted] to get NatFront MP support, but didn't think that would fly. Was trying to find an exit strategy for easing [redacted] out, and had 2-3 candidates in mind to replace [redacted] as overseer for the investigations division.

Said that his PG presentation on Illovaisk yesterday had ruffled feathers with P2's team, b/c in addition to the Russian invasion as the real cause, the PGO had declared mistakes were made by the General Staff, and that pointed a finger at Muzhenko, even if not harshly/directly. Lutsenko had been at [redacted] on [redacted] a week before the Russians arrived, and thus had a better feel than most for the personalities involved. [redacted] attended the parade [redacted] but did not return to the front to reassume direction until the night of [redacted] without any explanation for the interim (probably a drunken bender, he added). Who was agreeing with whom on what terms for withdrawal before the turkey shoot by the Russians was not entirely clear.

He said to send his regards to "Madam Ambassador" and that he looked forward to paying respects in person when it would be possible. I mentioned that you had lived in the same apartment 15 years ago as DCM. He said he had visited the apartment in the

late 1990s when the previous owner/occupant was still there - a diminutive but noted political scientist, he said.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.