

<b>From:</b>	"Yovanovitch, Marie L" (b)(6)
<b>To:</b>	Kent, George P (b)(6)
<b>Subject:</b>	Re: Lutsenko now likely not to go to DC with Blue Star, other Ukr issue comments
<b>Date:</b>	Sun, 4 Sep 2016 05:39:41 -0400

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.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

**From:** Kent, George P  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 3, 2016 8:14 PM  
**To:** (b)(6) Yovanovitch, Marie L; (b)(6)  
**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" (Truhbenko??) 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/args-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 Chris, since I have to walk back my previous strong position - indicate that there were indeed some issues regarding Valentyna's lack of legal education degrees. He still hoped she could be an effective bridge to NGOs via the advisory council, but that had not happened yet. He also did not see the young investigator he 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 Matios was edging towards retirement, really wanted to head the new national investigative bureau and was trying to romance Avakov to get NatFront MP support, but didn't think that would fly. Was trying to find an exit strategy for easing Stolarchuk out, and had 2-3 candidates in mind to replace him 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 Illovaisk on 18 August 2014, a week before the Russians arrived, and thus had a better feel than most for the personalities involved. Muzhenko attended the parade 24 Aug in Kyiv but did not return to the front to reassume direction until the night of 26 Aug, 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.

<b>Sender:</b>	"Yovanovitch, Marie L"	(b)(6)
<b>Recipient:</b>	Kent, George P	(b)(6)

<b>From:</b>	"Kent, George P" <(b)(6)>
<b>To:</b>	(b)(6)
<b>CC:</b>	
<b>Subject:</b>	Re: Burisma's contribution to upcoming MERP energy efficiency event - (b)(5) (b)(5)
<b>Date:</b>	Thu, 1 Sep 2016 00:49:51 -0400

Thanks. Let's discuss at huddle - with this (b)(5) input in hand, and (b)(6) question from yesterday still in play.

---

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Date:** September 1, 2016 at 7:14:51 AM GMT+3  
**To:** Kent, George P <(b)(6)>  
 (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: Burisma's contribution to upcoming MERP energy efficiency event - (b)(5)  
 (b)(5)

Sir,

(b)(5)

(b)(6)

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

**From:** Kent, George P  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 31, 2016 21:55  
**To:** (b)(6) (EA/DIR)

**Cc:** (b)(6) (EE/AA); (b)(6)  
(KYIV/OEG); (b)(6)

**Subject:** Burisma's contribution to upcoming MERP energy efficiency event - (b)(5)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(5)

(b)(6) (b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(6) – PA views?

**From:** (b)(6)

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 31, 2016 4:51 PM

**To:** Kent, George P

**Cc:** (b)(6) (EE/AA); (b)(6)

(KYIV/OEG)

**Subject:** Fwd: A few words on Burisma's contribution to upcoming MERP energy efficiency event

Hi George,

Just following up our earlier exchange re: engagement with Burisma. Our energy efficiency activity, known as "MERP", has an upcoming (Sep. 13) award contest for journalists that involves Burisma. Burisma would be providing up to \$7,500 of its own money for these awards. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

Pls see below for further details. Happy to discuss further.

Thanks,

(b)(5)

\*\*\*\*\*

(b)(6) Deputy Mission Director  
USAID/Ukraine, Moldova, & Belarus  
U.S. Embassy Kyiv

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N5\_epzT86xdOLg

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From: (b)(6)

Date: Wed, Aug 31, 2016 at 10:49 AM

Subject: A few words on Burisma's contribution to upcoming MERP energy efficiency event

To: (b)(6)

As requested.

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<b>Sender:</b>	"Kent, George P" <(b)(6)	
<b>Recipient:</b>	(b)(6)	

<b>From:</b>	(b)(6)
<b>To:</b>	(b)(6) Kent, George P (b)(6) (b)(6)
<b>CC:</b>	(b)(6)
<b>Subject:</b>	RE: Burisma's contribution to upcoming MERP energy efficiency event (b)(5) (b)(6)
<b>Date:</b>	Thu, 1 Sep 2016 00:46:06 -0400

(b)(5) (b)(6)

SBU  
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**Sent:** Thursday, September 01, 2016 7:15 AM  
**To:** Kent, George P; (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
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<b>Sender:</b>	(b)(6)
<b>Recipient:</b>	(b)(6)
	Kent, George P. (b)(6)
	(b)(6)

<b>From:</b>	(b)(6)	
<b>To:</b>		
	Kent, George P	(b)(6)
<b>CC:</b>	(b)(6)	
<b>Subject:</b>	Re: Burisma's contribution to upcoming MERP energy efficiency event - (b)(6) (b)(5)	
<b>Date:</b>	Thu, 1 Sep 2016 07:43:25 +0300	

Good morning,

(b)(5)

I'll get back to you this morning.

Thanks,

(b)(6)

On Thursday, September 1, 2016, (b)(6) wrote:  
Sir,

(b)(5)

(b)(6)

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Sent: Wednesday, August 31, 2016 21:55

To: (b)(6)

Cc: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Subject: Burisma's contribution to upcoming MERP energy efficiency event (b)(5)

(b)(5)

+ (b)(6)

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(b)(6)

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From: (b)(6)  
(b)(6) <[<http://redirect.state.sbu/?url=http://redirect.state.sbu/?url=http://redirect.state.sbu/?url=mailto:\(b\)\(6\)>](http://redirect.state.sbu/?url=http://redirect.state.sbu/?url=http://redirect.state.sbu/?url=mailto:(b)(6))>  
Date: Wed, Aug 31, 2016 at 10:49 AM  
Subject: A few words on Burisma's contribution to upcoming MERP energy efficiency event  
To: (b)(6)  
(b)(6) <[<http://redirect.state.sbu/?url=http://redirect.state.sbu/?url=http://redirect.state.sbu/?url=mailto:\(b\)\(6\)>](http://redirect.state.sbu/?url=http://redirect.state.sbu/?url=http://redirect.state.sbu/?url=mailto:(b)(6))>  
(b)(6) <[<http://redirect.state.sbu/?url=http://redirect.state.sbu/?url=http://redirect.state.sbu/?url=mailto:\(b\)\(6\)>](http://redirect.state.sbu/?url=http://redirect.state.sbu/?url=http://redirect.state.sbu/?url=mailto:(b)(6))>

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U.S. Embassy Kyiv

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[N5\\_epzT86xdOLg](http://redirect.state.sbu/?url=https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVceCp4NE)Flickr: <http://redirect.state.sbu/?url=https://www.flickr.com/photos/usaidukraine>

<b>Sender:</b>	(b)(6)
	Kent, George P (b)(6)
<b>Recipient:</b>	(b)(5)



**From:** (b)(6)  
**To:** Kent, George P (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: Burisma's contribution to upcoming MERP energy efficiency event  
**Date:** Wed, 31 Aug 2016 16:18:22 -0400

(b)(5)

(b)(6)  
(b)(6)

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

**From:** Kent, George P

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 31, 2016 21:55

**To:** (b)(6) (EA/DIP)

**Cc:** (b)(6) (EE/AA); (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(KYIV/OEG); (b)(6)

**Subject:** Burisma's contribution to upcoming MERP energy efficiency event

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PA views?

**From:**

(b)(6)

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 31, 2016 4:51 PM

**To:** Kent, George P

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(b)(6)

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**Subject:** Fwd: A few words on Burisma's contribution to upcoming MERP energy efficiency event

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Thanks,

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<b>Recipient:</b>	Kent, George P (b)(6)
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	(b)(6)
	(b)(6)
	(b)(6)

<b>From:</b>	"Kent, George P" (b)(6)
<b>To:</b>	(b)(6)
<b>Subject:</b>	RE: Burisma
<b>Date:</b>	Thu, 1 Sep 2016 00:52:21 -0400

Thanks. For you only - if I don't raise it in the huddle (lots of ambo questions bouncing in my mind), please do.

(b)(5)

---

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Date:** September 1, 2016 at 7:46:07 AM GMT+3  
**To:** Kent, George P (b)(6) (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6) (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: Burisma's contribution to upcoming MERP energy efficiency event (b)(5)  
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PA views?

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USAID/Ukraine, Moldova, & Belarus

U.S. Embassy Kyiv

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Journalists from thirteen oblasts of Ukraine were invited to participate in the contest in the following categories:

- "Best material in printed and on-line media"
- "Best TV material"
- "Best radio material"

The deadline for applications was May 15, 2016. A special commission reviewed submitted materials and identified eight winners in the different categories. The winners have been notified, and an official award ceremony is currently scheduled for September 13, 2016. Burisma's role is to provide the prizes for the winners (prizes have been already purchased - photo cameras, laptops, tablets). The ceremony will be taking place at the reception hall of Podil Radisson Blu Hotel (arrangements for the venue have been already made by MERP). The USAID EG office director will be the highest level of attendance.

(b)(5)

<b>Sender:</b>	"Kent, George P"	(b)(6)
<b>Recipient:</b>	(b)(6)	





**BRIEFING CHECKLIST (BCL)**  
**Ambassador Yovanovitch's Meeting with**  
**Karen Tramontano, Blue Star Strategies**

Thursday, December 8, 2016  
10:30-11:00  
Ambassador's Office

Interpretation: N/A  
Notetaker: (b)(6)  
EXT: 5365

**CONTEXT**

An Atlantic Council member and Washington veteran, Tramontano informally represents Mykola Zlochevskiy, the Burisma CEO who has long been the target of law enforcement proceedings in Ukraine.

**WHAT DO WE WANT?**

(b)(5)

**WHAT DO(ES) THEY/HE/SHE WANT?**

(b)(5)

**KEY OBJECTIVES**

1. **Zlochevskiy**: the former Minister of Ecology fled Ukraine in early 2014 and was charged with corruption and sanctioned by the European Union. In 2014, British officials unfroze \$23 million in his British bank accounts. Zlochevskiy owns Burisma, one of Ukraine's largest gas producers. His official U.S. representatives sent a letter in September (attached) asking that the Embassy reconsider its position on him.

(b)(5)

- 2 -

**WATCH OUT FOR**

**Burisma and USAID:** In September, USAID withdrew its Municipal Energy Reform Program's (MERP's) cooperation with Burisma on a joint program to award journalists for outstanding coverage of energy efficiency issues in Ukraine citing concerns about the appearance of a conflict of interest rewarding journalists with prizes paid by an energy company. Burisma provided approximately \$7,500 in prizes for last year's contest. Subsequently, USAID spoke to Blue Star Strategies representative Sally Painter by phone and indicated that we would be open to discussing other forms of cooperation between USAID and Burisma, and agreed to meet with Burisma Government and Public Affairs representative, Vadym Pozharskyi. In the November meeting, Pozharskyi briefed USAID on Burisma and the gas sector more broadly, but did not propose specific ideas for cooperation. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

**PARTICIPANTS**United States

Ambassador Yovanovitch

(b)(6)

Other Country/Organization

Karen Tramontano, Blue Star CEO

Attachment:

Biographic Information

Letter from Zlochevskiy's representatives

Approved: DCM: Kent

Drafted: (b)(6)

Cleared: (b)(6)

AID/Fritz ok

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

<b>From:</b>	"Yovanovitch, Marie L" <(b)(6)>
<b>To:</b>	Kent, George P <(b)(6)>
<b>Subject:</b>	Re: Lutsenko now likely not to go to DC with Blue Star, other Ukr issue comments
<b>Date:</b>	Sun, 4 Sep 2016 05:39:41 -0400

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.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

**From:** Kent, George P  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 3, 2016 8:14 PM  
**To:** (b)(6); Yovanovitch, Marie L; (b)(6)  
**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" (Truhbenko??) 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/args-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.

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Rest of conversation went over more regular Ukr ground. He did--you'll be pleased to learn Chris, since I have to walk back my previous strong position - indicate that there were indeed some issues regarding Valentyna's lack of legal education degrees. He still hoped she could be an effective bridge to NGOs via the advisory council, but that had not happened yet. He also did not see the young investigator he 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 Matios was edging towards retirement, really wanted to head the new national investigative bureau and was trying to romance Avakov to get NatFront MP support, but didn't think that would fly. Was trying to find an exit strategy for easing Stolarchuk out, and had 2-3 candidates in mind to replace him 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 Illovaisk on 18 August 2014, a week before the Russians arrived, and thus had a better feel than most for the personalities involved. Muzhenko attended the parade 24 Aug in Kyiv but did not return to the front to reassume direction until the night of 26 Aug, 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.

<b>Sender:</b>	"Yovanovitch, Marie L" <(b)(6)>
<b>Recipient:</b>	Kent, George P <(b)(6)>