

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE  
ON INTELLIGENCE

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**GROUND TRUTH**  
Ambassador William Taylor

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MYTH #1: President Trump does not support foreign assistance to Ukraine to counter Russian aggression.

**FACT #1: It was President Trump, NOT President Obama, who agreed to provide U.S. lethal assistance to Ukraine.**

Regarding Trump Administration policy towards Ukraine, Ambassador Taylor notes, “*It was a substantial improvement, in that this administration provided Javelin antitank weapons.* These are defensive weapons, and they deter, and I believe successfully deter, Russians from trying to grab more territory, to push forward any further tank attack number one. So there was a military capability. There was also a very strong political message that said that the Americans are willing to provide more than blankets. I mean, that was the previous. And these weapons are serious weapons. They will kill Russian tanks. So these were serious weapons. *It was a demonstration that we support Ukraine.*” (emphasis added) (pp. 155-156)

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MYTH #2: Corruption is not something the United States should worry about regarding foreign assistance to Ukraine.

**FACT #2: Ambassador Taylor testified that combatting corruption is a “constant theme” in U.S.-Ukrainian policy.**

Specifically, Taylor unequivocally states corruption is “...a big issue. And it’s particularly a big issue today with this new administration.” (p. 86).

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MYTH #3: The President using Ambassador Volker, Ambassador Sondland, Secretary of Energy Rick Perry, or even Mayor Rudy Giuliani as intermediaries with Ukraine was inappropriate.

**FACT #3: It is not uncommon for the President of the United States to use private individuals to assist the President in foreign policy.**

In fact, liberal icon President Franklin Delano Roosevelt used private individuals to assist him in foreign policy, particularly given his known apprehension of the State Department. By

Ambassador Taylor's own admission, "*It's not unusual to ask people outside the government to play a role.* ... There have been examples, we've heard about them recently of other civilians doing work for the State Department." (emphasis added) (p. 61).

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MYTH #4: Ambassador Taylor had extensive firsthand knowledge of the President's intentions as they relate to potential Ukrainian investigations into Burisma and/or the 2016 election.

**FACT #4: Ambassador Taylor had no firsthand knowledge of the President's intentions towards Ukraine as they relate to Burisma and/or investigating Ukrainian interference in the 2016 U.S. presidential election.**

In fact, any information obtained by Ambassador Taylor was from secondhand and thirdhand sources as well as media speculation. Specifically, Ambassador Taylor states, "As I understand it from one of the – maybe the article in The New York Times about Mr. Giuliani's interest in Burisma..." and he had "...no other information from what the President was thinking." (p. 299).

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MYTH #5: President Trump's desire to see the Europeans do more to assist Ukraine is unfounded and not supported by foreign service officers.

**FACT #5: Ambassador Taylor confirmed that President Trump's demand for the Europeans to do more to support Ukraine aligns with U.S. law and policy.**

According to Ambassador Taylor, "We want the Europeans to do more for Ukraine, and we want them – the Ukrainians – to do more to fight corruption." (p. 183).