

The Truth About Ambassador Marie “Masha” Yovanovitch’s Testimony

1. Ambassador Yovanovitch was aware of President Trump’s deep-seeded skepticism about Ukraine.

Q. Were you aware of the President’s deep-rooted skepticism about Ukraine’s business environment?

A. Yes.

Q. And what did you know about that?

A. That he—I mean, he shared that concern directly with President Poroshenko in their first meeting in the Oval Office. [p. 142]

2. Ambassador Yovanovitch said that the Trump Administration’s policy to Ukraine has been stronger than under the Obama Administration.

A. And I actually felt that in the 3 years that I was there, partly because of my efforts, but also the interagency team, and President Trump’s decision to provide lethal weapons to Ukraine, that our policy actually got stronger over the three last 3 years. [p. 140-41]

Q. Can you testify to the difference the changes in aid to Ukraine with the new administration starting in 2017? The different initiatives, you know, as far as providing lethal weapons and –

A. Yeah. Well, I think that most of the assistance programs that we had, you know, continued, and due to the generosity of the Congress actually were increased. And so that was a really positive thing, I think, for Ukraine and for us. In terms of lethal assistance, we all felt it was very significant that this administration made the decision to provide lethal weapons to Ukraine. [p. 144]

3. Ambassador Yovanovitch testified that it is legitimate for the United States to encourage Ukraine to investigate corruption in Ukraine and her trust in Volker.

Q: Ambassador Volker testified about the difficulties that Rudy Giuliani presented, you know, in U.S. Ukrainian relations, but he was very clear that at all times, he told us, U.S. officials acted with the highest degree of personal and profession integrity. Is that something that you would agree with, based on the facts that you have at your disposal?

A: I would say two things. In my dealings with—in my dealing with Kurt Volker, and we are friends as well as colleagues, over the last 30-something years, I have—I consider him to be a man of honor and somebody who’s a brilliant diplomat. And, you know, I think he is working in the interests of our country.

Q: Ambassador Volker mentioned the fact that to the extent there are corrupt Ukrainians and the United States is advocating for the Ukraine to investigate themselves, that certainly would be an appropriate initiative for U.S. officials to advocate for. Is that right?

A: If that’s what took place. [p. 293-94]

4. Ambassador Yovanovitch suggested that allegations that Ukraine meddled in U.S. elections, if true, would upset bipartisan support for Ukrainian assistance.

Q. Would it benefit Russia if Ukraine were -- if the allegations that Ukraine was involved in the 2016 election were true?

A. I think so.

Q. How so?

A. Because you know, I think most Americans believe that there shouldn't be meddling in our elections. And if Ukraine is the one that had been meddling in our elections, I think the support that all of you have provided to Ukraine over the last almost 30 years, I don't know that -- I think people would ask themselves questions about that. [p. 137]

5. Ambassador Yovanovitch described how there were those in State Department who thought Poroshenko was “comfortable” choice compared to Zelensky.

Q: So let me finish with this last question, then. So there was never a communication from you to anyone else in the State Department that you can recall where you said—where you indicated that it was not better for the United States that Poroshenko would stay in office? You never communicated that to anybody at the State Department?

A. I mean—

Q. That you can recall.

A. When?

Q. Well, prior to his election.

A. I mean, there were—there was a lot of discussion. Who are these people? What would be the best for Ukraine? Best for us? How do we move the relationship forward? And so forth. I think you know, from a conservative point of few, I think there were a number of people who thought we know Poroshenko, we are comfortable with him, et cetera. [p. 300-301]

6. Americans (i.e., Hunter Biden) adds prestige to Ukrainian Boards because of his name recognition.

A. I—so just to be clear, I mean, I don't actually know, but I think that they probably did it for the same reason most companies put, you know, people with name recognition, experts, et cetera, on their boards, to increase prestige, to let people know that they are good companies, well valued, and so forth. [p. 106].

7. House Foreign Affairs Committee staffer reached out to her personal email in August.

A: But I've been reminded that in August one of the staffers reached out to me on my personal email, and I alerted the State Department about that, the request to, you know, come and talk to the committee. [p. 209].

8. Yovanovitch was unable to confirm Chairman Schiff's conspiracy theory that the Trump Administration and/or Rudy Giuliani pressured the Ukrainian government not to cooperate with Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation.

The Chairman: Did anyone from the Trump administration or anyone acting on its behalf encourage the Ukrainian government or law enforcement official not to cooperate with the investigation of Special Counsel Mueller?

Ms. Yovanovitch: Not to my knowledge. I'm not aware of that.

The Chairman: And do you know whether Mr. Giuliani played any role in that?

Ms. Yovanovitch: I'm unaware. [p. 305]