



**Subject:** former PG Yarema's trip to DC - what is his agenda, and what is his angle (and peanut gallery commentary)

Ambassadors – thank you for your joint 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary missive. Well targeted and eloquent as always. Masha is officially launched – just finished presenting credentials to P2, and now back in with soon to be ex Chief of Staff Lozhkin, who tendered his resignation today, with one of his proteges, Kharkiv governor Rainen, tapped as his replacement.

Kyiv POL has been fielding inquiries from former PG Yarema's team about an upcoming trip in two weeks, as well as from the Ukraine desk at state (below). Your two organizations (and at least one of you in person) is listed.

I would be interested to hear your impressions about Yarema after you see him, presuming he stays on both the Atlantic Council and USIP's schedule. Following is my gratuitous commentary, for what it may be worth:

I have never met Yarema, I should state (before continuing with my two bits). I do wonder whose interests he is promoting. I have no wonder at all that it is not Ukraine's. The most notable decision by the PGO during his tenure (and he had his whole team come in and leave with him) was not any case pushed to the courts/conviction during his year, despite all the manifest crimes of the Maidan and Yanukovich era, but was a gross miscarriage of justice that undermined months of US assistance. After the FBI and MI-5 spent months and arguably millions working to try to put together the first possible asset recovery case (against former Minister of Ecology Zlochevsky), involving \$23 million frozen in UK accounts, under suspicion of bribes paid for licenses issue for gas/oil permits...Team Yarema closed the case against Zlochevsky in December 2014 just before western Christmas day, by turning it into a case against the ministry rather than ex minister, returning it to the MOI/police for further investigation, and issuing an immediate letter to Zlochevsky's defense lawyer team that there was no active case against their client; defense lawyers flipped that to the British judge, who unfroze the assets that were whisked out of UK jurisdiction before the UK authorities or we could learn/react.

When I met with Yarema's right hand man, the jovially corpulent first Deputy PG Danylenko six weeks later during the first week of Feb 2015, I asked him bluntly how much was the bribe and who took it. Danylenko cheerfully replied: "that's exactly what President Poroshenko asked us last month. I told him \$7 million and it was last May, before our team came into office (in June 2014)." He then said that he'd been a friend of Zlochevsky for 20 years, had his number saved in his phone, could tell me that Zlochevsky was in Dubai at present, and asked if I wished to talk to him to confirm details. I declined, and politely reminded him that the PG letter closing the case was issued in late December, more than 6 months after team Yarema came into office, which means it was Yarema, Danylenko and Co who were responsible for the outrage. He just smiled smugly. They were gone within a month, replaced by Team Shokin, which proved even more venal in overtly preventing USG efforts to reform the justice system...all in response to the direct request of Poroshenko to US leaders. Yarema has had zero public profile in the 18 months since he faded into the woodwork. I presume he's enjoying whatever the inducements were paid to take no action against anyone for a year. The first post-EuroMaidan PG who did nothing for 5 months, Mahnytsky (affiliated loosely with Svoboda at the time), reportedly was gifted control of the Hyatt from Team Donetsk. That might explain why elements of the ancient regime were never put under travel ban or subject to sanctions. I've never heard anyone offer such similar specificity of what the payoff to Yarema and Co to do nothing was, but I have no doubt such arrangements were

