

## President of Ukraine studies Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Office book about Rev. Sun Myung Moon's peace movements

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*First President of Ukraine Leonid Kravchuk holds a book published by the Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Office containing content on Unification Church leader Rev. Sun Myung Moon's peace movements. Photo: courtesy of the Unification Church.*

### **[Weekly Josun Interview] Interview with Ukraine's First President, Leonid Kravchuk**

*"I Was Fooled by the Nuclear States, and Russian Leaders Were Fooled by Imperialism ... We Have No Friends, Only Enemies and Subjects."*

Ukraine's First President Leonid Kravchuk (80) stated that he "felt personally tricked" by the nuclear weapons of Russia, America and England. Former President Kravchuk met with *Chosun Weekly* in his private office within the government complex in Kiev, Ukraine's capital, on December 10th. The meeting was arranged through the Unification Church, with which the former President has a longstanding relationship.

Kravchuk was elected the first President of Ukraine following the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. He made the decision to destroy the nuclear weapons of the former Soviet Union, which had been protecting Ukraine. His successor, President Leonid Kuchma, signed the agreement. In December of the year that Kravchuk ended his term in office, the Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances was signed in Budapest, Hungary. The Memorandum was an agreement between Russia, the United States and

England, which entailed that Ukraine must give up its nuclear power and that no threats would be made to the nation.

However, Russia violated the Budapest Memorandum when it invaded Ukrainian territory earlier last year. In March, 2014, Russia annexed the Crimean Peninsula, leading to the movement for the armed separation of the pro-Russian industrial area of Donets Basin in Eastern Ukraine.

Despite his age, former President Kravchuk remains vigorous and sharp. A sign for the “Ukraine-China Association” hangs at the entrance of his office. The sign was written in both Cyrillic and Chinese. Even today, he still appears on television programs. As an elder of the nation, he is highly respected and his advice is frequently sought out.

#### .....Summary

“Ukraine is facing the problem of having to fulfill the demands of the citizens of the Maidan Revolution,” said Kravchuk. The three most urgent matters are economic revolution, entrance into the European Union and the end of the war with Russia. “When the nation is in crisis, the citizens must rise up to protect the nation. If the citizens are able to have this mindset while protecting the nation, there is nothing to fear,” he continued. “I am now 80 years old. I cannot go to war at this age. I have a gun in my home. If an enemy invades my home, I can shoot them with my gun until they’ve shed all the blood in their veins.” **He also shared that he was “grateful that Korean people, of the same nation as the great peacemaker, the late Rev. Sun Myung Moon, showed an interest in Ukraine. Ukraine is going through a very crucial time right now. I hope that through this article, the readers of Korea can gain a proper understanding of our situation.”.....**