

“Ukraine’s Quest For Mature Nation Statehood-Roundtable II: Taking Measure of a U.S./Ukraine Strategic Partnership”

September 20/21, 2001, Washington, D.C.

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CONFERENCE BACKGROUND

The genesis of the *‘Ukraine’s Quest for Mature Nation Statehood: A Roundtable’* series took place in April 2000, when a number of Ukrainian/American organizations convened to consider ways to support the ‘dialogue’ that was unfolding between the U.S. and Ukraine. These deliberations gave rise to a commitment: to convene a conference that would bring together prominent representatives from academia and the governments of Ukraine and the United States to assess Ukraine’s prospects for accelerated integration into the Euro Atlantic Community and stronger bilateral relations.

To help fulfill the commitment, four key sources were tapped. The Ukrainian Congressional Caucus and the Ukrainian Embassy were asked to garner political support in the U.S. and in Ukraine, respectively. Major American universities, think tanks, and NGOs were invited to lend their good names and to supply important contacts. Major American and Ukrainian-American financial and commercial institutions were invited to provide the necessary financial wherewithal.

In September 2000, these efforts culminated in a singular event held at the Library of Congress and at the Council on Foreign Relations in Washington, D.C. The two-day conference featured 84 speakers representing the most prestigious members of America’s and Ukraine’s representatives in the foreign policy field. Major segments of the conference were web-cast live worldwide; the entire conference was video taped by the U.S. Department of State for subsequent airing at various venues. A complete transcript of the proceedings was produced for purposes of publishing a monograph in both the English and Ukrainian languages.

By all accounts the conference was a complete success. The U.S. and Ukrainian governments, the policy formulation establishment in both countries, the academic community and NGOs all regarded the conference as having made a significant contribution to the furtherance of U.S./Ukraine relations.

Based on the success of their effort, the Ukrainian/American initiators of *‘Ukraine’s Quest for Mature Nation Statehood: A Roundtable’* reconvened in November 2000. The meeting led to a second commitment: to convene *‘Roundtable II: Taking Measure of a US-Ukraine Strategic Partnership’*. From early reports, the second gathering promises to equal, if not outshine the first.