
УКРАЇНА VS РОСІЙСЬКА ФЕДЕРАЦІЯ

РФ

Президент РФ

Телефонные разговоры с Президентом Казахстана Нурсултаном Назарбаевым и Президентом Белоруссии Александром Лукашенко

3 марта 2014 года, 23:10

Состоялись телефонные разговоры Владимира Путина с Президентом Республики Казахстан Нурсултаном Назарбаевым и Президентом Республики Беларусь Александром Лукашенко.

Обсуждено кризисное развитие ситуации на Украине, создающее реальную опасность жизни и законным интересам русскоязычного населения, прежде всего в Крыму и восточных регионах этой страны. Происходящее обострение общественно-политической обстановки вызывает беспокойство государств – членов Высшего Евразийского экономического совета (ВЕЭС), в том числе с точки зрения экономических и гуманитарных последствий. Главы государств условились поддерживать плотные контакты.

Уряд РФ

По инициативе американской стороны состоялся телефонный разговор Председателя Правительства России Дмитрия Медведева и Вице-президента США Джозефа Байдена

3 марта 2014 19:30

Было продолжено обсуждение ситуации на Украине. Глава российского Правительства заявил о необходимости защиты интересов всех украинских граждан, включая жителей Крыма, а также граждан России, находящихся на территории Украины.

Темы проведения саммита «большой восьмёрки» и экономических санкций в ходе разговора не поднимались.

Сообщение Антона Силуанова на совещании с вице-премьерами

3 марта 2014 14:30

Интеграция и развитие Крыма

Об оказании финансовой помощи Крыму

Дмитрий Медведев провёл совещание с вице-премьерами 3 марта 2014 года.

Д.Медведев: Кроме того, есть ещё один вопрос: я поручал Министру финансов проработать тему об оказании финансовой помощи Автономной Республике Крым в связи с их обращением.

Антон Германович (обращаясь к А.Силуанову), что сделано, какова ситуация на сегодняшний день?

А.Силуанов: Уважаемый Дмитрий Анатольевич, уважаемые коллеги! В Министерстве финансов России состоялась встреча с министром финансов Автономной Республики Крым. Обсуждали вопросы бюджета Автономной Республики Крым, он непростой – дефицит бюджета составляет около 10 млрд гривен, это порядка 35 млрд рублей. Мы прорабатываем вопросы финансового сотрудничества, финансового содействия, с тем

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чтобы обеспечить стабильность финансовой системы, с тем чтобы обеспечить бесперебойную выплату заработных плат, пенсий, пособий, социальных выплат, стабильную работу бюджетных учреждений Автономной Республики Крым. Консультации сегодня ещё продолжаются, до конца дня мы подготовим конкретные предложения по оказанию финансовой помощи.

Д.Медведев: Хорошо. Продолжайте работу. По конкретным параметрам, условиям и всем остальным существенным факторам, которые связаны с этой темой, докладывайте мне лично, будем принимать необходимые решения.

МЗС РФ

З заявами Постійного представника РФ при ООН на засіданні РБ ООН від 3 березня 2014 р. можна ознайомитися у розділі РБ ООН.

СООБЩЕНИЕ ДЛЯ СМИ

О телефонном разговоре статс-секретаря – заместителя Министра иностранных дел России Г.Б.Карасина со статс-секретарем Федерального департамента иностранных дел Швейцарии И.Росье

437-03-03-2014

3 марта состоялся телефонный разговор статс-секретаря – заместителя Министра иностранных дел России Г.Б.Карасина со статс-секретарем Федерального департамента иностранных дел Швейцарии И.Росье.

Обсуждались актуальные вопросы, связанные с развитием ситуации на Украине.

СООБЩЕНИЕ ДЛЯ СМИ

О встрече Министра иностранных дел России С.В.Лаврова с Генеральным секретарем ООН Пан Ги Муном

436-03-03-2014

3 марта в Женеве состоялась встреча Министра иностранных дел Российской Федерации С.В.Лаврова с Генеральным секретарем ООН Пан Ги Муном.

В ходе беседы основное внимание было уделено обстановке на Украине. Министр отметил необходимость возвращения ситуации в этой стране в правовое поле и выполнения соглашения между правительством и оппозицией от 21 февраля с.г., включая проведение конституционной реформы, призванной обеспечить законные интересы всех регионов страны, и утверждение ее результатов на всеукраинском референдуме.

Была обсуждена также проблематика сирийского урегулирования. Стороны были едины в том, что путь к преодолению острого кризиса в Сирии лежит в плоскости всеобъемлющего политического урегулирования через обеспечение устойчивого процесса межсирийских переговоров на основе Женевского коммюнике от 30 июня 2012 года. При этом решения по фундаментальным вопросам будущего страны должны принимать сами сирийцы на основе взаимного согласия.

Комментарий Департамента информации и печати МИД России в связи с вопросом СМИ о заявлении Совета НАТО по ситуации на Украине

432-03-03-2014

Категорически не согласны с заявлением Совета НАТО от 2 марта с.г., в котором Российская Федерация осуждается за «военную эскалацию в Крыму в нарушение принципов международного права». Считаем, что подобного рода позиция не

способствует стабилизации ситуации на Украине и лишь поощряет те силы, которые хотели бы использовать нынешние события для достижения своих безответственных политических целей. Очевидно, что существующие угрозы суверенитету и территориальной целостности Украины вызваны исключительно внутривнутриполитическим кризисом в стране. Его урегулирование требует принципиально иного поведения наших партнеров.

Находящиеся на территории Крыма формирования Черноморского флота не вмешиваются в украинские внутривнутриполитические события. Все передвижения подразделений вызваны исключительно задачей обеспечения безопасности объектов флота и недопущения возможных нападений экстремистов и радикалов на наших соотечественников.

Передергивание фактов и нагнетание напряженности не способствуют нормализации ситуации на Украине и доверию в наших отношениях со странами НАТО.

СООБЩЕНИЕ ДЛЯ СМИ

О встрече заместителя Министра иностранных дел России В.А.Небензи с Послом Украины в России В.Ю.Ельченко

429-03-03-2014

3 марта состоялась встреча заместителя Министра иностранных дел Российской Федерации В.А.Небензи с Чрезвычайным и Полномочным Послом Украины в Российской Федерации В.Ю.Ельченко.

Были обсуждены вопросы взаимодействия в рамках СНГ в контексте председательства Украины в Содружестве в 2014 году.

Комментарий официального представителя МИД России А.К.Лукашевича о работе в «Группе восьми»

427-03-03-2014

В связи с известным заявлением ряда участников «Группы восьми» отмечаем, что решение приостановить работу в рамках программы российского председательства в данной международной структуре ничем не мотивировано.

Оно не только политически ущербно, но и противоречит принципам конструктивного взаимодействия в этом формате, ориентированного на использование совокупного потенциала «Группы восьми» в интересах развития, глобальной стабильности, а также борьбы с трансграничными вызовами и угрозами. Приостановка работы в рамках программы российского председательства наносит ущерб не только самим странам "Группы восьми", но и всему международному сообществу, поскольку в российские приоритеты входят действительно злободневные для всего мира вопросы. Тем большее сожаление вызывает отказ партнеров участвовать в открывшейся сегодня в Москве и встреченной с большим интересом Международной конференции по противодействию радикализации общественных настроений, питающей терроризм.

Что касается развития событий на Украине и вокруг нее, то с российской стороны неоднократно давались необходимые разъяснения по различным каналам и на всех уровнях. Рекомендуем коллегам по «Группе восьми» их внимательно изучить.

Выражаем надежду, что вместо превалирующих сейчас в некоторых столицах политизированных подходов на первый план все-таки выйдет готовность руководствоваться общими интересами и продолжать совместную конструктивную работу в «Группе восьми». Российская сторона к этому готова.

Заявление Министерства иностранных дел Российской Федерации в связи с высказываниями Госсекретаря США о ситуации на Украине

426-03-03-2014

Считаем неприемлемыми угрозы в адрес России, прозвучавшие в серии публичных заявлений Государственного секретаря Дж.Керри в связи с последними событиями на Украине и в Крыму. Не утруждаясь в попытках разобраться в сложных процессах, происходящих в украинском обществе, и объективно оценить обстановку, которая продолжает деградировать после силового захвата власти в Киеве радикал-экстремистами, Госсекретарь оперирует штампами «холодной войны», предлагая «наказать» не тех, кто устроил госпереворот, а Российскую Федерацию.

При этом умалчивается, что именно США и их союзники закрывали глаза на бесчинства боевиков майдана, их издевательства над политическими противниками и простыми гражданами, воинствующую русофобию и антисемитизм, осквернение памяти героев Великой Отечественной войны. Проигнорировали в Вашингтоне и то, что новоявленный киевский режим растоптал соглашение от 21 февраля, под которым подписались мининдел Германии, Франции и Польши, и сформировал «правительство победителей», фактически объявив войну русскому языку и всему, что ассоциируется с Россией. В союзниках Запада оказываются сейчас откровенные неонацисты, громящие православные храмы и синагоги.

Российская позиция была и остается последовательной и открытой. Если для отдельных западных политиков Украина – лишь территория геополитической игры, то для нас она братская страна, с которой мы связаны общей многовековой историей.

Россия заинтересована в стабильной и сильной Украине, в которой обеспечиваются законные права и интересы украинцев, наших соотечественников и всех граждан. В сложившейся не по нашей вине экстраординарной обстановке, когда жизнь и безопасность жителей Крыма и юго-восточных регионов подвергаются реальной угрозе из-за безответственных и провокационных действий бандеровцев и прочих ультранационалистических элементов, предпринимаемые нами меры адекватны и абсолютно законны. Мы выступаем за скорейшее возвращение ситуации на Украине в нормальное русло на основе соглашения от 21 февраля, включая формирование легитимного правительства национального единства с учетом интересов всех политических сил и регионов страны.

СООБЩЕНИЕ ДЛЯ СМИ

О консультациях статс-секретаря–заместителя Министра иностранных дел России Г.Б.Карасина с заместителем Министра иностранных дел КНР Чэн Гопином

425-03-03-2014

3 марта в Москве состоялись консультации статс-секретаря–заместителя Министра иностранных дел Российской Федерации Г.Б.Карасина с заместителем Министра иностранных дел КНР Чэн Гопином.

В центре внимания были вопросы развития отношений России и Китая со странами-членами СНГ. Особо рассматривались события на Украине.

Китайская сторона выразила понимание представленного Россией анализа причин глубокого внутривосточного кризиса на Украине, той роли, которую в этом сыграли действия внешних сил по поддержке «евромайдана», а также последствий фактического срыва им выполнения договоренностей по Соглашению об урегулировании кризиса на Украине от 21 февраля с.г.

Г.Б.Карасиным и Чэн Гопином подчеркнута необходимость продолжения поиска путей разрешения ситуации на Украине с широким участием политических сил страны и на основе учета интересов всех ее регионов.

Было условлено продолжить обмен информацией о дальнейшем развитии событий на Украине.

СООБЩЕНИЕ ДЛЯ СМИ

О телефонном разговоре министров иностранных дел России и Китая

417-03-03-2014

3 марта состоялся телефонный разговор Министра иностранных дел Российской Федерации С.В.Лаврова с Министром иностранных дел Китайской Народной Республики Ван И.

Главы внешнеполитических ведомств обменялись мнениями по ситуации на Украине. Было отмечено широкое совпадение точек зрения России и Китая в связи со сложившейся ситуацией в этой стране и вокруг нее.

Министры договорились продолжать тесные контакты по данной теме.

Выступление Министра иностранных дел России С.В.Лаврова в ходе сегмента высокого уровня 25-й сессии Совета ООН по правам человека, Женева, 3 марта 2014 года

422-03-03-2014

Уважаемый господин Председатель,

В прошлом году Россия была вновь избрана в Совет ООН по правам человека. Благодарим за поддержку всех тех, кто отдал за нас свои голоса. Рассматриваем это в качестве признания конструктивного вклада нашей страны в многостороннее сотрудничество.

Вопросы защиты прав человека выдвигаются в разряд приоритетов международной повестки дня в условиях, когда в мировом развитии не ослабевают факторы нестабильности, расширяется пространство рисков и конфликтов в различных регионах. В значительной степени эти процессы связаны с продолжающимся формированием нового полицентричного мироустройства. Россия последовательно исходит из того, что в период глубоких перемен необходимо сделать все возможное в интересах обеспечения на практике прав и свобод личности, уважения человеческого достоинства.

Права человека – слишком серьезный вопрос, чтобы делать его «разменной монетой» в геополитических «играх», использовать для навязывания своей воли другим и уж тем более – для осуществления операций по смене режимов. Весь имеющийся опыт свидетельствует, что вмешательство под предлогом защиты гражданского населения, на деле ведущее к смене режима, дает прямо противоположный результат, умножает страдания мирных граждан, лишая их основополагающего права человека – права на жизнь.

Любые внутренние кризисы должны преодолеваться через диалог всех политических сил, этнических и конфессиональных групп, в конституционном русле и при уважении международных обязательств, в том числе – и не в последнюю очередь – обязательств по международному гуманитарному праву, защите прав человека и прав национальных меньшинств. При этом принципиально важно решительно отмежеваться от экстремистов, пытающихся взять ситуацию под свой контроль незаконными методами, не гнушаясь насилия и открытого террора.

Изложенные подходы к урегулированию конфликтов применимы и к Сирии, и к Украине, и к любой другой стране.

Хорошо известно, кто и как создал кризис на Украине. Оспорив абсолютно легитимные действия законной власти, некоторые наши партнеры взяли курс на поддержку антиправительственных выступлений, поощряли их участников, которые перешли к агрессивным силовым действиям. Совершались захваты и поджоги административных зданий, нападения на полицию, разграбления складов с оружием, издевательства над

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официальными лицами в регионах, грубое вмешательство в дела церкви. Центр Киева и многие города на западе Украины оказались захваченными вооруженными национал-радикалами под экстремистскими, антироссийскими и антисемитскими лозунгами.

21 февраля – почти через три месяца беспорядков и беспредела – было достигнуто соглашение между Президентом Украины и оппозицией, под которым подписались также министры иностранных дел Германии, Польши и Франции. Власти отказались от введения чрезвычайного положения, убрали с улиц правоохранительные органы. Оппозиция же не выполнила ничего. Незаконное оружие сдано не было, общественные здания и улицы Киева полностью не освобождены, радикалы продолжают контролировать города. Вместо обещанного создания правительства национального единства было объявлено о формировании «правительство победителей».

Верховная Рада Украины приняла решения, ограничивающие права языковых меньшинств, отправила в отставку судей Конституционного суда и настаивает на возбуждении против них уголовных дел. Раздаются требования ограничить, а то и сделать наказуемым использование русского языка, запретить неудобные политические партии, провести люстрацию. То есть «победители» намерены пользоваться плодами своей «победы» для наступления на права и основные свободы человека.

Все это вызвало возмущение в восточных и южных областях Украины, Автономной Республике Крым, где проживают миллионы русских, не желающих повторения у себя подобного сценария. В ситуации постоянных угроз насильственных действий со стороны ультранационалистов, подвергающих опасности жизнь и законные интересы россиян и всего русскоязычного населения, были созданы народные отряды самообороны, которым уже пришлось пресекать попытки силового захвата административных зданий в Крыму и ввоза на полуостров оружия и боеприпасов. Поступает информация о подготовке новых провокаций, в том числе против Черноморского флота России на территории Украины.

В таких условиях законно избранные власти этой Автономной Республики обратились к Президенту России с просьбой оказать содействие в восстановлении спокойствия в Крыму.

В полном соответствии с российским законодательством, в связи с экстраординарной ситуацией на Украине, угрозой жизни российских граждан, наших соотечественников, личного состава Черноморского флота Российской Федерации на Украине Президент России внес в Совет Федерации обращение об использовании Вооруженных сил России на территории Украины до нормализации общественно-политической обстановки в этой стране.

Совет Федерации поддержал такое обращение, которое, мы надеемся, отрезвит радикалов. Повторю, речь идет о защите наших граждан и соотечественников, о защите самого главного права человека – права на жизнь.

Те, кто пытаются трактовать ситуацию чуть ли не как агрессию, грозят всевозможными санкциями и бойкотами – это те же самые наши партнеры, которые последовательно и настойчиво поощряли близкие им политические силы к ультиматумам и отказу от диалога, к игнорированию озабоченностей юга и востока Украины и в итоге – к поляризации украинского общества. Призываем проявить ответственный подход, отложить в сторону геополитические расчеты и поставить превыше всего интересы украинского народа. Необходимо обеспечить выполнение обязательств, закрепленных в Соглашении от 21 февраля, включая начало процесса конституционной реформы с участием и полным учетом мнения всех регионов Украины для последующего одобрения на общенациональном референдуме.

Реальный прогресс в деятельности международного сообщества в области прав человека может быть достигнут только на основе равноправного сотрудничества, взаимоуважительного диалога, укрепления доверия между государствами. Именно на них как гарантах законности на своей территории лежит главная ответственность за обеспечение прав человека.

Для того, чтобы быть эффективными, солидарные усилия по поощрению и защите прав человека должны осуществляться при неукоснительном соблюдении общепризнанных норм и принципов международного права, прежде всего – Устава ООН, Всеобщей декларации прав человека, других основополагающих документов, принятых в рамках ООН, ОБСЕ и Совета Европы.

При этом ни одна страна или группа стран не обладают исключительными полномочиями по созданию в одностороннем порядке неких новых «норм поведения», не опирающихся на универсальную базу. Навязывание другим собственных интерпретаций правочеловеческих стандартов способно лишь обострить межкультурные и межрелигиозные противоречия, рискует спровоцировать конфликт цивилизаций и подрвать усилия по созданию устойчивой системы глобального развития.

В последнее время в ряде государств резко и порой весьма агрессивно активизировались сторонники ультралиберальных подходов, проповедующие вседозволенность и гедонизм, требующие пересмотра моральных и нравственных ценностей, которые являются общими для всех мировых религий. Подобные действия разрушительны для общества, крайне пагубны для воспитания подрастающего поколения. Дети должны быть ограждены от информации, наносящей вред их психике и унижающей их достоинство. Хотел бы напомнить в этой связи, что положения Международного пакта о гражданских и политических правах предусматривают возможность законодательного ограничения прав и свобод в интересах охраны здоровья и нравственности населения, общественной безопасности и порядка.

Последовательно выступая за учет культурных и исторических особенностей различных народов, отмечаем важность резолюции Совета по правам человека, в которой подтверждается, что более глубокое понимание и уважение традиционных ценностей способствует поощрению и защите прав человека и основных свобод.

В дальнейшей работе Совета считаем важным обеспечить внимание ко всем категориям прав – гражданским, политическим, экономическим, социальным и культурным, а также праву на развитие.

Считаем необходимым укреплять и развивать нормативно-правовую базу в сфере прав человека. С этой целью внесем на рассмотрение текущей сессии Совета проект резолюции «Целостность судебной системы» и рассчитываем на его поддержку.

Стремительное развитие информационно-коммуникационных технологий требует пристального внимания к последствиям почти неограниченных возможностей доступа к информации и обмена ею. Недавно вскрывшиеся факты ставят серьезные вопросы, в частности, о соразмерности задач обеспечения безопасности масштабам вмешательства в частную жизнь людей и степени контроля государства за СМИ.

Тему прав человека в рамках Интернета необходимо рассматривать не только в контексте свободы слова, но и с точки зрения соблюдения других прав, включая неприкосновенность частной жизни и право на интеллектуальную собственность. Рассчитываем, что с принятием резолюции Генеральной Ассамблеи ООН 68/167 «Право на неприкосновенность личной жизни в цифровой век» начнется практическая работа по согласованию четких правил поведения в этой сфере.

В нынешнем году международное сообщество будет отмечать 75-летие начала Второй мировой войны, а в будущем – 70-летие Победы над нацизмом и учреждения Нюрнбергского трибунала. Эти даты служат напоминанием о том, к каким страшным последствиям могут привести вера в собственную исключительность, пренебрежение основополагающими нормами морали и права.

Необходимо твердо и сообща противодействовать попыткам оправдать и героизировать нацистов и их пособников, осквернять памятники освободителям Европы от «коричневой чумы». Широкое неприятие в мире человеконенавистнической идеологии проявилось в поддержке подавляющим большинством членов ООН резолюции Генассамблеи 68/150 «Борьба с героизацией нацизма и другими видами практики, которые способствуют

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эскалации современных форм расизма, расовой дискриминации, ксенофобии и связанной с ними нетерпимости».

Неделю назад в Сочи международное сообщество противопоставило этим позорным явлениям свою приверженность высоким принципам Олимпийской хартии и Всеобщей декларации прав человека. Спортсмены 88 стран подарили миру праздник, который показал открытость друг другу, атмосферу дружбы, доверия, толерантности, способствовал укреплению гуманитарных связей.

В концепции прав человека заложен мощный объединительный потенциал. Достоинство, свобода, справедливость, равноправие, терпимость к другим призваны укреплять взаимопонимание и сотрудничество между государствами и народами в интересах обеспечения устойчивого развития и процветания всего человечества.

УКРАЇНА

В.о. Президента України – Голова Верховної Ради України ВР України

Голова Верховної Ради України Олександр Турчинов у понеділок 3 березня 2014 року провів зустріч з Міністром закордонних справ Великої Британії Вільямом Хейгом.

Під час зустрічі Сторони обговорили ситуацію, що склалася в Україні, приділивши особливу увагу подіям, які відбуваються зараз на півострові Крим.

За словами О.Турчинова, перебування військових сил Російської Федерації на території Криму є неприпустимим.

"Ми були змушені мобілізувати всі наявні ресурси для того, щоб протистояти незаконним діям на нашій території", – сказав він.

У свою чергу, В.Хейг привітав зміни, які сьогодні відбуваються в Україні, наголосивши, що весь світ підтримує нашу країну в її русі до європейських стандартів та демократії.

"А те, що відбувається в Криму, – додав Міністр закордонних справ, – є порушенням суверенітету та територіальної цілісності України".

"Ми вживатимемо рішучих кроків для того, щоб це припинити. Світ не залишить Україну", – наголосив В.Хейг.

(Прес-секретар Голови Верховної Ради України)

В.о. Президента України, Голова Верховної Ради Олександр Турчинов у понеділок 3 березня 2014 року провів брифінг, на якому заявив, що він пишається українськими військовими, які сьогодні несуть службу у Криму.

О.Турчинов зазначив, що незважаючи на позицію всієї світової громадськості, всіх цивілізованих країн світу, в Криму продовжує нарощуватися військова присутність Збройних Сил Російської Федерації, які перейшли до блокування військових частин української армії, внутрішніх військ.

О.Турчинов повідомив, що сьогодні він мав розмову з командирами українських військових частин, зазначивши, що в українських солдат у нинішніх складних умовах зберігається "високий бойовий дух, віра у власну країну і впевненість, що перемога буде за правдою, за Україною". "Вони мужньо виконують свій обов'язок, залишаючись вірними країні й українському народові", – наголосив керівник Парламенту.

Голова Верховної Ради звернувся до українських військових зі словами подяки за те, що вони у надзвичайно складних умовах протидіють провокаціям, протистоять блокаді та пропаганді, яка розгорнута в Криму проти української влади.

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"Наші військові, як Збройних Сил, так і внутрішніх військ, наші офіцери, сержанти, солдати мужньо виконують свій обов'язок, залишаючись вірними країні й українському народу, якому вони давали присягу. Ми підтримуємо їх, ми всі разом з ними", – наголосив керівник парламенту.

Дуже небезпечна ситуація, зазначив Голова Верховної Ради, склалася навколо Військово-морського флоту: російські військові заблокували у севастопольських бухтах наші військові кораблі, "і зараз постійно погрожують, що у випадку, якщо наші моряки не здадуть кораблі, не складуть зброю, вони будуть по-піратськи захоплювати українські кораблі".

За словами О.Турчинова, сьогодні він спілкувався з командиром корвету "Тернопіль", який зазначив, що "коли Майдан без зброї зміг оборонятись проти озброєних злочинців, невже ми не будемо брати з них приклад і здамо свій корабель?"

Командири і матроси, наголосив керівник Парламенту, готові захищати свої кораблі. "Тому що вони захищають Україну, тому що агресія, яка сьогодні насувається на нашу державу, має бути зупинена, і я з величезною повагою ставлюсь до їхньої мужності", – заявив О.Турчинов.

"Ми очікуємо від провідних країн світу не тільки моральної підтримки, ми очікуємо реальної допомоги, і, я впевнений, вона буде", – сказав О.Турчинов. – Я звертаюсь до керівництва Російської Федерації: припиніть агресію, припиніть провокації, припиніть піратство це є злочином, і за ці злочини ви будете відповідати".

(Прес-служба Апарату Верховної Ради України)

Голова Верховної Ради України, в.о. Президента України Олександр Турчинов на брифінгу у понеділок 3 березня 2014 року звернувся до жителів південних і східних регіонів із закликом "відкрити душі і серця" та об'єднатися задля процвітання України.

О.Турчинов закликав мешканців цих регіонів не піддаватися на сепаратистські заклики.

"Ви – українці. Серед провокаторів, які вас підбурюють, багато провокаторів з іншої держави, багато людей, які за свою брехню отримують достатньо високу зарплату, – зазначив він. – Ви – громадяни України, ми – одна країна, і ми повинні разом зробити її могутньою, великою, демократичною, європейською".

"Ми повинні разом жити у нашому спільному домі, і зробити все, щоб наші діти пишалися, що вони українці", – додав керівник парламенту.

(Прес-служба Апарату Верховної Ради України)

Голова Комітету з питань європейської інтеграції ВРУ Григорій Немирня 3 березня 2014 року провів зустріч із Головою Комітету у закордонних справах Національних Зборів Франції Елізабет Гігу.

Сторони обговорили питання двостороннього співробітництва та обмінялися думками щодо ескалації конфлікту в Криму з боку Росії.

"Акт агресії з боку Росії створив загрози не тільки суверенітету та територіальній цілісності нашої держави, а й загрожує руйнуванням усієї системи регіональної та міжнародної безпеки", – наголосив Григорій Немирня.

У свою чергу, Елізабет Гігу висловила підтримку суверенітету України та закликала і надалі демонструвати стриманість перед обличчям агресії.

Комітет з питань національної безпеки і оборони ВРУ у понеділок 3 березня 2014

року обговорив ситуацію в Криму.

На засіданні члени Комітету заслухали інформацію щодо заходів, які здійснюються органами сектору безпеки і оборони в Криму та в країні загалом.

За результатами доповідей представників відповідних структур та державних органів Комітетом сформовано низку пропозицій для невідкладного розгляду та розв'язання Верховною Радою, Кабінетом Міністрів та Радою національної безпеки і оборони.

КМ України

Щодо ситуації на державному кордоні в АР Крим

Прес-служба Державної прикордонної служби

03.03.2014,09:17

Особовий склад Державної прикордонної служби України в Криму у вкрай складній оперативній обстановці продовжує зберігати військову честь та залишатись вірним Присязі на вірність українському народу.

Впродовж доби загальна обстановка характеризувалася тотальними нападами на підрозділи Державної прикордонної служби України. При цьому особливо гостро захоплення розпочалися після заяви Голови ВР Криму Володимира Константинова про непоступливість прикордонників та активний спротив рішенням новопризначеної влади Криму.

Системні напади здійснювалися групами до 100 спеціально екіпірованих військовослужбовців Росії. Продовжувалося блокування адміністративної будівлі Азово-Чорноморського регіонального управління та штабу Сімферопольського загону. Близько 22.30 група спецназівців здійснила напад на відділ прикордонної служби «Керч», який є первинним підрозділом охорони державного кордону на керченському напрямку. Вони вибили вікна, двері, знищили засоби зв'язку та автоматизовані робочі місця в кабінетах підрозділу. Напад відбувся і на Керченський загін морської охорони та знову на Севастопольський загін морської охорони. Після блокування російськими військовими будівлі в Севастополі перестала функціонувати система відеоспостереження. Під час захоплення обох морських загонів в підрозділах залишалася незначна кількість військовослужбовців. Решта особового складу залишила місце дислокації на кораблях та катерах, які були передислоковані.

В окремих випадках спецназівці встановлюють заглушки для ведення переговорів, через що прогнозується відсутність мобільного зв'язку.

В цих складних умовах прикордонники стримують нападників та не допускають їх до кімнат зберігання зброї. Крім того, продовжується несення служби в пункті пропуску «Крим» в оточенні близько 100 російських військових. При цьому, під час оформлення прикордонники не пропускають в Україну осіб, яким заборонено в'їзд на територію нашої держави та тих, які не мають необхідних документів.

Водночас на паромній переправі «Крим-Кавказ» відбувається накопичення бронетехніки. Також продовжуються активні переміщення кораблів російських ВМС в акваторії Чорного моря на вхід та вихід з порту Севастополь. При цьому, як Чорноморського флоту, так і Балтійського та Північного флоту Росії, що є порушенням вимог Угоди між Україною і Російською Федерацією з питань перебування Чорноморського флоту на території України.

Арсеній Яценюк зустрівся з Міністром закордонних справ Великої Британії

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03.03.2014,12:30 ДЕПАРТАМЕНТ ІНФОРМАЦІЇ ТА КОМУНІКАЦІЙ З ГРОМАДСЬКІСТЮ СЕКРЕТАРІАТУ КМУ

У понеділок, 3 березня, Прем'єр-міністр України Арсеній Яценюк провів зустріч із Міністром закордонних справ Великої Британії Вільямом Хейгом.

Вільям Хейг наголосив, що делегація Об'єднаного Королівства прибула до України, аби обговорити шляхи допомоги, зокрема, «як технічно допомогти Україні в економічному відновленні країни».

Міністр підкреслив, що Об'єднане Королівство надзвичайно стурбоване порушеннями щодонезалежності, суверенності й територіальної цілісності України. Він нагадав, що Велика Британія підняла це питання на Раді безпеки ООН і планує наступні кроки: «Також ЄС сьогодні означає свою позицію, заходи та пропозиції. Ми також призупинили нашу роботу в рамках Великої вісімки».

Засловами Вільяма Хейга, представники Великої Британії також мають на меті запевнити, що «дипломатичні канали відкриті». «Я закликав міністра Лаврова поговорити безпосередньо з міністрами та Урядом України», – повідомив Міністр.

Арсеній Яценюк наголосив, що завданням українського Уряду зараз є вирішення політичної та економічної кризи. Він підкреслив, що ключова проблема для України сьогодні – «це питання безпеки, а саме Криму та фактичної інтервенції іноземних сил на територію України».

«Уряд та виконувач обов'язків Президента контролюють ситуацію. Ми робимо все можливе, щоб подолати проблеми», – підкреслив Прем'єр-міністр.

А.Яценюк: За те, що сьогодні відбувається в Криму, треба буде нести відповідальність в українських і міжнародних судах

03.03.2014 | 12:56 ДЕПАРТАМЕНТ ІНФОРМАЦІЇ ТА КОМУНІКАЦІЙ З ГРОМАДСЬКІСТЮ СЕКРЕТАРІАТУ КМУ

«Жодних підстав для застосування сили проти мирних громадян і для введення російського військового контингенту, не було, немає і не буде. За ці дії треба буде заплатити ціну», – заявив Прем'єр-міністр України Арсеній Яценюк у понеділок, 3 березня, на прес-конференції за підсумками зустрічі з Міністром закордонних справ Великої Британії Вільямом Хейгом.

Прем'єр-міністр підкреслив, що об'єднана позиція Заходу щодо ситуації в Україні демонструється не просто приїздами наших західних партнерів, а й «чіткою детермінацією того, що Україна є єдина держава, що те, що відбувається в Криму, є порушенням всіх міжнародних правил і стандартів».

Як наголосив Арсеній Яценюк, після того, коли фактично весь західний світ заявив про скасування зібрання Великої вісімки (в Сочі. – ред.), сьогодні вранці активи російських компаній впали на 12%: «Сьогодні «Газпром» коштує на 12% дешевше, ніж він коштував ще вчора».

«Ми усвідомлюємо, що Російська Федерація має свої інтереси, але ми звертаємось до Росії: ви не маєте права, переслідуючи свої інтереси, порушувати наші», – підкреслив він.

«Більш того, жодних підстав для застосування сили проти українців і проти мирних громадян в Україні, для введення російського військового контингенту не було, немає і не буде. І за ці дії також треба буде заплатити ціну», – наголосив Арсеній Яценюк.

Прем'єр-міністр підкреслив, що Крим «ніхто нікому не віддасть»: «Те, що сьогодні відбувається в Криму, коли самопроголошена незаконна влада намагається націоналізувати українську державну власність і намагається роззброїти українські Збройні Сили – за все треба буде нести відповідальність в українських і міжнародних судах».

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Арсеній Яценюк також повідомив, що під час зустрічі з Міністром закордонних справ Великої Британії обговорювалося питання допомоги Об'єднаного Королівства у пошуку вкрадених колишньою владою активів: «Великобританія буде допомагати нам фахівцями для того, щоб органи прокуратури, правоохоронна система, органи безпеки невідкладно знайшли всі активи, які колишня влада вкрала в народу України».

МЗС України

З заявами Постійного представника України при ООН на засіданні РБ ООН від 3 березня 2014 р. можна ознайомитися у розділі РБ ООН.

В.о. Міністра закордонних справ України Андрій Дешиця прийняв Верховного комісара ОБСЄ у справах національних меншин Астрід Торс
03 березня 2014, 16:35

3 березня ц.р. в.о. Міністра закордонних справ України Андрій Дешиця прийняв Верховного комісара ОБСЄ у справах національних меншин Астрід Торс, яка перебуває з візитом в Україні для вивчення поточної ситуації в нашій країні, в тому числі в АР Крим. Під час зустрічі сторони обговорили питання використання можливостей та інструментів Верховного комісара ОБСЄ у справах національних меншин у врегулюванні поточної ситуації в Україні, викликаній введенням російських військових підрозділів на територію АР Крим. Було відзначено важливу роль ВКНМ у забезпеченні прав національних меншин в державах-учасниках ОБСЄ і попередженні конфліктів.

В.о. Міністра також запросив ВКНМ надати експертну допомогу у процесі розробки нових законодавчих актів у сфері забезпечення прав національних меншин мовної політики.

5-6 березня ц.р. Астрід Торс планує відвідати АР Крим.

В.о. Міністра закордонних справ України Андрій Дешиця надіслав листи керівникам провідних організацій закордонних українців
03 березня 2014, 17:05

В.о. Міністра закордонних справ України Андрій Дешиця 3 березня 2014 року надіслав листи керівникам провідних організацій закордонних українців – президенту Світового конгресу українців Євгену Чолію, голові Європейського конгресу українців Ярославі Хортяні, президенту Українсько-американського конгресового комітету Тамарі Галло-Олексій та президенту Конгресу українців Канади Павлу Гроду.

У своєму зверненні глава зовнішньополітичного відомства України висловив вдячність світовому українству за вагомий підтримку в боротьбі за свободу, демократію та державний суверенітет Української держави.

Керівник української дипломатії звернувся до лідерів організацій закордонних українців з проханням використати усі наявні політичні та інформаційні можливості світового українства з метою мобілізації зусиль керівництва держав, міжнародних організацій та громадськості в країнах проживання на підтримку територіальної цілісності та недоторканості кордонів України.

В.о. Міністра закордонних справ України Андрій Дешиця прийняв Надзвичайного і Повноважного Посла Китайської Народної Республіки в Україні Чжан Сіюня
03 березня 2014, 19:37

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3 березня 2014 року в.о. Міністра закордонних справ України Андрій Дешиця прийняв Надзвичайного і Повноважного Посла Китайської Народної Республіки в Україні Чжан Сіюня.

Чжан Сіюнь запевнив у тому, що КНР поважає суверенітет та територіальну цілісність України і виступає за врегулювання нинішньої кризової ситуації в АРК виключно мирними засобами шляхом діалогу та консультацій усіх зацікавлених сторін. Він також висловив впевненість у тому, що “український народ сам зможе вирішити всі питання, з якими зіткнулася держава”, про що нещодавно було заявлено МЗС КНР.

Глава зовнішньополітичного відомства України поінформував про заходи, що вживаються МЗС України з метою набуття чинності Договором про дружбу і співробітництво між Україною і КНР.

Китайський дипломат звернувся з проханням гарантувати належну безпеку громадян КНР, які зараз перебувають на території Автономної Республіки Крим.

В.о. Міністра закордонних справ України А.Дешиця запевнив у тому, що зусилля української сторони, зокрема у контексті нормалізації ситуації в АРК, насамперед спрямовані на створення безпечних умов проживання й перебування на території нашої держави як громадян України, так і усіх громадян іноземних держав.

В.о. Міністра закордонних справ України А.Дешиця зустрівся з делегацією Національних Зборів Франції на чолі з Головою Комісії у закордонних справах Елізабет Гігу

03 березня 2014, 20:31

3 березня 2014 р. відбулася зустріч в.о. Міністра закордонних справ України А.Дешиці з делегацією Національних Зборів Франції на чолі з Головою Комісії у закордонних справах нижньої палати французького парламенту Е.Гігу.

Сторони обговорили розвиток внутрішньополітичної ситуації в Україні, особливу увагу було приділено ситуації на Кримському півострові.

Андрій Дешиця закликав французьких парламентарів вжити всіх можливих заходів для захисту суверенітету України, її територіальної цілісності та забезпечення непорушності кордонів.

Французька сторона запевнила у своїй підтримці України, її нової влади, а також готовності сприяти врегулюванню ситуації, що склалася внаслідок військової ескалації з боку Російської Федерації.

Прес-конференція Посла України у Франції Олександра Купчишина щодо військової агресії РФ відносно України

(Посольство України у Франції)

03 березня 2014, 21:50

3 березня 2014 року Посол України у Франції Олександр Купчишин дав широку прес-конференцію для представників французьких та українських ЗМІ, основною темою якої стала військова агресія РФ по відношенню до України.

Інформаційний захід зібрав представників провідних друкованих медіа, інтернет-видань, радіо- та телеканалів, зокрема, Agence France Press, TF1, Le Figaro, Perspectives Ukrainiennes, Le Monde, Itele, France24, RFI, Укрінформ, Liberation, BFM TV та ін.

У своєму вступному слові Посол України виклав хронологію основних подій в Україні та дав юридичну оцінку протиправним діям РФ як порушника гарантій безпеки та територіальної цілісності нашої держави. Крім того, довів до журналістів правдиву інформацію щодо дійсних економічних та політичних мотивів російської військової

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експансії, а також наголосив на відданості нового українського керівництва політиці миру та поваги і захисту прав усіх громадян України.

При цьому Посол звернувся до ЄС та Франції зокрема, вживати дієвих заходів з метою протистояння цій агресії РФ та підтримати якнайшвидше підписання Угоди про асоціацію.

Текст виступу: [Discours_de_lAmbassadeur_dUkraine.doc](#)

Посол України Євген Перелигін зустрівся з Дипломатичним радником Президента Італійської Республіки Антоніо Занарді-Ланді

(Посольство України в Італії)

03 березня 2014, 19:56

Посол України в Італії Євген Перелигін зустрівся з Дипломатичним радником Президента Італії Антоніо Занарді-Ланді, який напередодні брав участь у засіданнях італійських урядовців, присвячених ситуації в Україні.

Посол України поінформував італійського дипломата про агресію Росії та введення військових підрозділів на територію суверенної України. У цьому контексті було повідомлено про відповідне рішення РНБО та кроки, що вживає українська влада з метою деескалації конфлікту.

Є.Перелигін звернувся до радника італійського Президента з проханням сприяти формуванню активної позиції італійської держави щодо гарантування територіальної цілісності та недоторканності України.

У відповідь А.Занарді-Ланді зазначив, що Італія уважно відслідковує внутрішньополітичну ситуацію в Україні та підтвердив налаштованість керівництва Італії гарантувати суверенітет та територіальну цілісність України.

Про таку позицію Італії свідчать її заяви у рамках міжнародних структур, в яких ця країна є провідним членом, додав італійський дипломат.

Посол Вадим Пристайко дав два інтерв'ю провідному інформаційному ресурсу Канади CBC News

(Посольство України в Канаді)

03 березня 2014, 19:40

Посол України в Канаді Вадим Пристайко взяв участь в прямому ефірі провідного інформаційного ресурсу Канади CBC News у ранковій програмі загальнонаціональних новин «News Now».

Головною темою бесіди стала внутрішньополітична ситуація в Україні і зростання напруження у Криму.

Відповідаючи на запитання журналіста, Посол зазначив, що Україна докладатиме максимальних зусиль аби не допустити кровопролиття та зберегти територіальну цілісність України. Додавши, що дії російської сторони носять відкритий агресивний та провокативний характер. Відтак Росія повинна негайно відкликати свої військові сили з суверенної території України та припинити ескалацію ситуації.

Також Посол закликав канадську сторону максимально долучитись до дій міжнародної спільноти з метою мирного врегулювання ситуації на півострові, а також у деяких східних областях України, зокрема шляхом надсилання групи експертів, які мають вивчити ситуацію із станом справ із додержанням високих стандартів в сфері захисту прав національних та мовних меншин.

Друге інтерв'ю Посла для телеканалу CBC News відбулось в вечірньому ефірі аналітичної програми «**Power in Politics**».

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В.Пристайко зазначив, що ситуація на півострові та навколо українських кордонів змінюється дуже стрімко. Попри повномасштабну окупацію російськими силами Криму, надзвичайно тривожні сигнали надходять із півночі країни. Зокрема, повідомив про неперевірену інформацію про будівництво таборів для прийому біженців на прилеглих до України територіях РФ. Крім цього наголошував, що інформація про утиски прав національних меншин в Криму, яку подають російські медіа не відповідає дійсності.

У зв'язку з цим, ще раз закликав міжнародну спільноту направити в Україну спостерігачів та незалежних експертів, які б змогли на власні очі побачити реальну ситуацію та зробити власні висновки.

Постійний представник України при Відділенні ООН та інших міжнародних організаціях у Женеві, Посол Ю.А.Клименко виступив на пленарному засіданні Конференції з роззброєння

(ПП України у Женеві)

03 березня 2014, 21:50

STATEMENT by H.E. Yurii KLYMENKO Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the UN Office and other International Organizations in Geneva Head of the delegation of Ukraine to the Conference on Disarmament (Geneva, 03.03.2014)

03 березня 2014, 20:06

Mr. President,

Distinguished colleagues,

Ladies and gentlemen,

My delegation has requested the floor because of the extraordinary situation in my country.

Ukraine has become an object of the overt military invasion of the Russian Federation in a breach of the UN Charter and the applicable international law. This represents a serious threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of my country, jeopardizing peace and stability in Europe.

On March 1, 2014 the Council of the Federation of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation unanimously supported the appeal of the President of the Russian Federation on sending a "limited contingent of military troops" of the armed forces of the Russian Federation into the territory of Ukraine.

However, I must stress that Russian troops have started illegal penetration into the territory of Ukraine in Crimea even earlier – on the 21st of February.

Regrettably to mention that this case is the most flagrant one among other breaches of Russia's international commitments such as the provocative territorial dispute over the ownership of the Tuzla Island in October 2003 and standing economic coercion designed to subordinate to its own interest the exercise by Ukraine of the rights inherent in its sovereignty.

The latest decision of the Russian Federation was taken in violation of the UN Charter, the Declaration of Principles of International Law of 1970, the Helsinki Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe of 1975, the Agreement on Friendship and Cooperation between Ukraine and the Russian Federation of 1997 and a number of other international treaties.

A corresponding briefing note concerning the guaranties of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of the territory and frontiers of Ukraine, as well as a fact-sheet of Russia's outrageous breaches of the existing bilateral agreements between Ukraine and the Russian Federation were duly circulated yesterday among permanent missions and international organizations based in Geneva.

Mr. President,

Just 20 years ago Ukraine made an unprecedented step and voluntarily renounced its nuclear arsenal, the third largest one in the world, by joining the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of

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Nuclear Weapons (NPT) as a non-nuclear-weapon state.

In connection of its accession to this Treaty Ukraine was provided for with the explicit guarantees of independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within the existing borders in accordance with the principles of the Helsinki Final Act.

These guarantees were secured through the Memorandum on security assurances of 1994 (known as Budapest memorandum) signed by Ukraine and the Guarantor States – the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, followed by the declarations of the French Republic and the People's Republic of China.

In accordance with the Memorandum's procedures, stipulated for the situation that raises a question concerning the fulfillment of the Guarantor States' obligations, Ukraine has initiated international consultations in Kyiv, involving the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the respective states.

The groundless refusal of the Russian Federation to participate in these consultations reveals a blatant disregard of its obligations under the international law as secured in the Budapest Memorandum.

We strongly believe that the act of military invasion of the Russian Federation against a non-nuclear state, incidentally on the Budapest Memorandum's 20th anniversary, jeopardizes the credibility of security assurances and discourages states of giving up their nuclear arsenals and joining the NPT in non-nuclear status.

Moreover, the actions of the Russian Federation seriously undermine reinvigorated efforts of international community aimed at strengthening of the non-proliferation regime and engender its dramatic erosion.

Mr. President,

I would like to reiterate our call upon the Russian Federation to exhibit restraint and to respect territorial integrity, political independence and sovereignty of Ukraine.

We demand an immediate withdrawal of all troops, combat and military equipment from the sovereign territory of Ukraine, including that of the Black Sea Fleet of the Russian Federation, to the places of their location and strict adherence of the Russian Federation to the Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership Between Ukraine and the Russian Federation of 1997, the Agreement on Status and Terms of Stationing of the Black Sea Fleet of the Russian Federation on the Territory of Ukraine of 1997, as well as other applicable international norms.

At the same time, Ukraine continues to undertake all necessary and legitimate measures to ensure public order on its sovereign territory.

Mr. President,

We urge all CD Member States, particularly the UN Security Council members, to support Ukraine in this very challenging time and to do whatever possible to guarantee the inviolability of the borders of Ukraine and thus to secure peace and stability on our continent.

Let's not lose this chance. We still have it.

I thank you.

Постійний представник України при Відділенні ООН та інших міжнародних організаціях у Женеві, Посол Ю.А.Клименко виступив під час сегменту високого рівня 25-ї сесії РПЛ

(ПП України у Женеві)

03 березня 2014, 22:00

Remarks in exercise of the right of reply by Yurii KLYMENKO, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Ukraine, delivered on March 3, 2014 at the High-Level Segment of the 25th session of the Human Rights Council

03 березня 2014, 21:46

Mr. President,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Since Ukraine was mentioned today with regard to the grave situation in my country, in particular, in the statement of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation Mr. Lavrov, I would like to provide some clarifications.

But, first of all, I would like to wholeheartedly thank the relevant countries and their high dignitaries who expressed today solidarity with Ukraine in these very challenging times for her.

The Russian Federation brutally violated the basic principles of the UN Charter by an explicit act of aggression against Ukraine, representing a serious threat to sovereignty and territorial integrity of my country. More than 6 thousand Russian troops have already illegally entered the territory of Ukraine in Crimea region under blatantly ungrounded and far-fetched pretext of protecting the Russian-speaking community.

We have witnessed today attempts to substitute obvious facts by upside down biased politically motivated interpretations of the political situation in Ukraine and framed allegations of violations of rights of the Russian minority.

There are neither prerequisites for nor instances of ethnic tensions or discrimination in Ukraine. This statement is solidly proved by all relevant reports of the UN human rights mechanisms including the UPR and treaty bodies.

All poorly concocted accusations in violation of rights of the Russian minority, especially concerning the “prohibition” of the use of Russian language, serve the only goal of justifying an act of aggression against Ukraine.

On allegation of right-wing extremist character of protests. Flagrant encroachment of the former highest authorities on the human rights and fundamental freedoms of people have demonstrated an unmatched coherence and unity of all ethnicities and nationalities from all regions of Ukraine in their struggle against oppression. Million protests had explicitly political dimension.

We unequivocally reject any allegations of anti-Semitism. No ethnically motivated human rights violation during three month long rallies has been recorded nor radical political agenda supported. Just recently the head of the European Jewish Union has joined the new government of Ukraine, sharing and supporting its unmatched reformist program.

Mr. President,

Political crisis in Ukraine is definitely over. Consistent implementation of the Agreement on the settlement of political crisis is an utmost priority for the new coalition government.

Let me draw your attention that the former President Yanukovich has left the country and has not signed into force the law reinstating the 2004 Constitution of Ukraine, which brings the country back to the more balanced parliamentary-presidential type of republic. This piece of legislation is a key element of the Agreement on the Settlement of Crisis, signed on February 21, and has already entered into force.

The Agreement continues to be a roadmap for de-escalation of the political tension in Ukraine and its implementation is a top priority for the parliament and new government who nowadays undertake all necessary steps aimed at implementation of the Agreement on the Settlement of Crisis. Human rights reside in the core of these steps.

Let me also recall that the current opposition (Party of Regions and the Communist Party) have explicitly and voluntarily decided not to take part in the new Government of Ukraine. However, they supported the appointment of the new government, which was voted with more than constitutional majority of members of parliament (331).

Besides that I would like to draw your attention that some members of the new government do represent Crimea (Minister for social policy), Kharkiv (Minister for Internal affairs) and Lugansk (Minister for Agricultural Policy).

Mr. President,

The single destabilizing factor in Ukraine today is the presence of 6000 illegal Russian servicemen in Crimea and their blatant provocations against legitimate state institutions.

Key administrative buildings in Crimea are now blocked and occupied not by Ukrainians, who do not support the current government, but by Russian Armed Forces in Crimea.

I would like to draw your attention to the invitation extended by Ukraine to the OSCE's and Council of Europe's special missions to check proper observance of the rights of the citizens of Ukraine of all nationalities and religious denominations in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and other regions of Ukraine.

My country demands from the Russian Federation to stop the military intervention and to abide by its commitments under the UN Charter, to exhibit restraint and avoid steps which could instigate extremism or provoke ethnic tensions in Ukraine.

Thank you.

КРАЇНИ-ЧЛЕНИ ГРУПИ "G-7"

G-7 Leaders Statement

3 March 2014

We, the leaders of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States and the President of the European Commission and President of the European Council, join together today to condemn the Russian Federation's clear violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, in contravention of Russia's obligations under the UN Charter and its 1997 basing agreement with Ukraine. We call on Russia to address any ongoing security or human rights concerns that it has with Ukraine through direct negotiations, and/or via international observation or mediation under the auspices of the UN or the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. We stand ready to assist with these efforts.

We also call on all parties concerned to behave with the greatest extent of self-restraint and responsibility, and to decrease the tensions.

We note that Russia's actions in Ukraine also contravene the principles and values on which the G-7 and the G-8 operate. As such, we have decided for the time being to suspend our participation in activities associated with the preparation of the scheduled G-8 Summit in Sochi in June, until the environment comes back where the G-8 is able to have meaningful discussion.

We are united in supporting Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and its right to choose its own future. We commit ourselves to support Ukraine in its efforts to restore unity, stability, and political and economic health to the country. To that end, we will support Ukraine's work with the International Monetary Fund to negotiate a new program and to implement needed reforms. IMF support will be critical in unlocking additional assistance from the World Bank, other international financial institutions, the EU, and bilateral sources.

Statement by G7 finance ministers on economic support for Ukraine

3 March 2014

A statement issued by G7 finance ministers, on economic support for Ukraine.

We are closely monitoring the situation in Ukraine. The transition to a new government in Ukraine offers a unique opportunity to put in place urgently needed market-oriented reforms that will restore financial stability, unleash economic potential, and allow Ukraine's people to better achieve their economic aspirations.

We are united in our commitment to provide strong financial backing to Ukraine. In particular, we agree that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) remains the institution best prepared to help Ukraine address its immediate economic challenges through policy advice and financing, conditioned on needed reforms.

We are pleased that the IMF is sending this week a team to Ukraine to begin technical and policy discussions with the Ukrainian authorities and welcome the Managing Director's statement. IMF

support will be critical in unlocking additional assistance from the World Bank, other international financial institutions, the EU, and bilateral sources.

We are also committed to mobilize rapid technical assistance to support Ukraine in addressing its macroeconomic, regulatory, and anti-corruption challenges. We welcome the participation of other concerned members of the international community.

США

Readout of the Vice President's Call with Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Vice President

March 3, 2014

Vice President Biden called Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev this morning, following the Prime Minister's discussion with Ukrainian Prime Minister Yatsenyuk over the weekend. The Vice President urged Russia to pull back its forces, support the immediate deployment of international monitors to Ukraine, and begin a meaningful political dialogue with the Ukrainian government.

З виступом Вікторії Нуланд, помічника держсекретаря з європейських та євразійських справ на під час спеціальної наради щодо України на засіданні Спеціальної Постійної Ради ОБСЄ Відень, 3 березня 2014 р. можна ознайомитися у розділі ОБСЄ

Excerpt on Ukraine from Remarks by President Obama and Prime Minister Netanyahu Before Bilateral Meeting

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

March 3, 2014

Oval Office

Q The initial punishments that the U.S. is threatening against Russia for their advances into Ukraine don't seem to be having much of an effect. What leverage do you believe you have over President Putin at this point? And is the U.S. concerned primarily about getting Russian forces out of Crimea, or are you also concerned about Russian forces moving into parts of eastern Ukraine?

PRESIDENT OBAMA: All of the above. I spent the weekend talking to leaders across Europe, and I think the world is largely united in recognizing that the steps Russia has taken are a violation of Ukraine's sovereignty, Ukraine's territorial integrity; that they're a violation of international law; they're a violation of previous agreements that Russia has made with respect to how it treats and respects its neighbors. And, as a consequence, we got strong statements from NATO, from the G7, condemning the actions that Russia has taken. And we are going to continue these diplomatic efforts during the course of this week.

My interest is seeing the Ukrainian people be able to determine their own destiny. Russia has strong historic ties to the Ukraine. There are a lot of Russian nationals inside of Ukraine as well as native Russians, as there are a lot of Ukrainians inside of Russia. There are strong commercial ties between those two countries. And so all of those interests I think can be recognized. But what cannot be done is for Russia, with impunity, to put its soldiers on the ground and violate basic principles that are recognized around the world.

And I think the strong condemnation that its received from countries around the world indicates the degree to which Russia is on the wrong side of history on this.

We are strongly supportive of the interim Ukrainian government. John Kerry is going to be traveling to Kyiv to indicate our support for the Ukrainian people, to offer very specific and concrete packages of economic aid – because one of the things we’re concerned about is stabilizing the economy even in the midst of this crisis. And what we are also indicating to the Russians is that if, in fact, they continue on the current trajectory that they’re on, that we are examining a whole series of steps – economic, diplomatic – that will isolate Russia and will have a negative impact on Russia’s economy and its status in the world.

We’ve already suspended preparations for the G8 summit. I think you can expect that there would be further follow-up on that. We are taking a look a whole range of issues that John Kerry mentioned yesterday.

And the question for Mr. Putin, who I spoke to directly, and the question for the Russian government generally is if, in fact, their concern is that the rights of all Ukrainians are respected, if, in fact, their primary concern, as they’ve stated, is that Russian speakers and Russian nationals are not in any way harmed or abused or discriminated against, then we should be able to set up international monitors and an international effort that mediates between various parties, that is able to broker a deal that is satisfactory to the Ukrainian people – not to the United States, not to Russia, but to the Ukrainian people – and we should be able to deescalate the situation.

And so we’ve been very specific with the Russians about how that might be done under the auspices of either the United States or the OSCE, or some other international organization. And John Kerry will pursue that further when he arrives.

And so there are really two paths that Russia can take at this point. Obviously, the facts on the ground in Crimea are deeply troubling and Russia has a large army that borders Ukraine. But what is also true is that over time this will be a costly proposition for Russia. And now is the time for them to consider whether they can serve their interests in a way that resorts to diplomacy as opposed to force.

One last point I would make on this: I’ve heard a lot of talk from Congress about what should be done, what they want to do. One thing they can do right away is to work with the administration to help provide a package of assistance to the Ukrainians, to the people and that government. And when they get back in, assuming the weather clears, I would hope that that would be the first order of business. Because at this stage there should be unanimity among Democrats and Republicans that when it comes to preserving the principle that no country has the right to send in troops to another country unprovoked, we should be able to come up with a unified position that stands outside of partisan politics. And my expectation is, is that I’ll be able to get Congress to work with us in order to achieve that goal.

Readout of the Vice President’s Calls on Ukraine

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Vice President

March 3, 2014

In a telephone call this afternoon, Vice President Biden spoke with Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk to discuss ongoing diplomatic efforts to support Ukraine’s stability, sovereignty and territorial integrity. The two leaders also reviewed plans to support Ukraine’s economic reforms. In addition, the Vice President spoke by telephone with Estonian President Toomas Ilves to consult on the situation in Ukraine, including the international effort to deescalate the situation and assure the stability of Ukraine and the region.

З заявами Постійного представника США при ООН на засіданні РБ ООН від 3 березня 2014 р. можна ознайомитися у розділі РБ ООН.

Ukraine in the State Department Daily Press Briefing

March 3, 2014

OPERATOR: And we do have a question from the line of Anne Gearan with The Washington Post. Please go ahead.

MS. PSAKI: Hi, Anne.

QUESTION: Hi. So can you just give us the best case for what the Secretary hopes to accomplish in Kyiv? I mean, he won't be seeing, it seems to me, the people who matter most here, who would be the Crimean officials or Russian officials there, right? He will only be seeing the interim government leaders? Is that right?

MS. PSAKI: That's right. Well, he will be seeing, of course, members of the transitional government, members of the Rada, members of civil society, including interfaith religious leaders. So we're still finalizing the schedule. I know it's tomorrow, but as you all know, this trip just came together over the course of the last 72 hours. But broadly speaking, Anne, he's going to be discussing, of course, Ukraine's economic and political needs, seeing what additional support we can provide, and really sending a strong message that we support the people of Ukraine, the voices of the people of Ukraine. And obviously, they're going through their own transition here, so he'll discuss all of those issues and really be looking forward.

Just a couple of other updates for all of you. I think some of you have seen it, but Assistant Secretary Nuland is in Vienna today meeting with senior officials of the OSCE and representing the United States at a special meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council on Ukraine. While she's there, she's also meeting with member states to work towards an OSCE monitoring mission for Crimea and eastern Ukraine. This mission would provide accurate facts and information about what is happening in these regions and would reduce tensions. She's also made some public comments; I would also point you to where she repeats our support for the OSCE launching a full-scale monitoring mission, which is obviously what they're discussing.

We're also – we also support and we're working towards a high-level meeting of the signatories to the 1994 Budapest Memorandum. That, of course, would include Ukraine, Russia, the United States, and the United Kingdom. And so that is something we're working towards, so I don't have anything on the schedule to announce yet over the course of the next coming days.

QUESTION: Do you expect him to have public remarks on the subject of Ukraine before he goes?

MS. PSAKI: He just did a spray with the Moldovans, so I obviously wasn't there because I'm here with all of you. But I believe he may have touched on Ukraine there.

QUESTION: Okay, thanks.

MS. PSAKI: Sure. I think we're ready for the next question.

OPERATOR: And our next question comes from the line Arshad Mohammed with Reuters. Please go ahead.

MS. PSAKI: Hi, Arshad.

QUESTION: Hi, Jen. Interfax quoted a Ukrainian defense ministry official as saying that the Russian fleet gave Ukrainian forces in Crimea until 0300 GMT to surrender or face attack. One, do you have any reason to believe that the Russian Defense Ministry coupled with the Russian fleet has indeed given the Ukrainian forces in Crimea a deadline by which to surrender or be attacked?

And secondly, regardless of whether you know for sure whether there's been such an ultimatum, how – what do you think of such an ultimatum being given or threatened?

MS. PSAKI: Sure. Well, I don't have any independent information on that. I've seen the same reports as you, and thank you, of course, to you and others who sent those over. But of course these reports today of threats of force against Ukrainian military installations would, if true, in our view constitute a dangerous escalation of the situation for which we would hold Russia directly responsible. You've seen over the course of the last 72 hours that the international community has been very unified in steps we've taken, and whether that's the statement – the strong statement made by the G7, statements coming out of NATO, obviously there's the

meeting of the OSCE today – and that coordination and cooperation will continue. And as Russia takes steps, the international community will look closely at taking steps as well. So I don't have anything independently for you on those reports. If that changes, we will, of course, provide an update. But that is certainly where we stand at this point.

QUESTION: Thanks.

MS. PSAKI: Thank you. Next question.

OPERATOR: And we do have a question from the line of Jo Biddle with AFP. Please go ahead.

MS. PSAKI: Hi, Jo.

QUESTION: Hi there. Can you hear me, because I had to –

MS. PSAKI: I can hear you.

QUESTION: Okay. Can I just go back to clarify on the question of whether the Secretary will be meeting with Foreign Minister Lavrov? He did actually announce he would be – last week that he would meet on Wednesday with the Russian foreign minister. From your reply to Anne, are you now saying that may not happen as the Secretary had already previewed?

And my second question is on the issue of settlements and whether there is going to be a push for the U.S. Administration – perhaps via the talks at the White House today – for Israel and Prime Minister Netanyahu to agree to a freeze on settlement building as any step forward for the framework to happen. I don't know if you saw the reports that came out of Israel this morning that there's been more settlement building than ever. I don't just have it in front me. So I wondered if you could answer those two questions. Thanks.

MS. PSAKI: Sure. On the first question, I just don't want to get ahead of where we are in terms of finalizing items in the schedule. So it's not a stepping back from anything; it's more we're obviously balancing a number of priorities and we're working through scheduling logistics, so I expect we'll have more of an update in the next 24 hours on that. But I did not mean to be an alarmist in any way, shape, or form.

QUESTION: Oh, okay. It's just that we already have in copy that they're meeting, so, I mean, I suppose the issue is, for most people, do we still say that they're going to meet or do we say that it hasn't been finalized?

MS. PSAKI: I would – it's accurate to say it hasn't been finalized at this point.

QUESTION: It's a common error, and I'm not going to hold that against anyone. So Jen, how many Russian troops do you estimate are in Crimea right now? And how many of those are from outside of the Black Sea Fleet? So how many do you think they've brought in?

MS. PSAKI: Justin – and I could have said this at the top – I'm just not going to give and not in a position to give an update on what is happening on the ground in terms of the military movements. Obviously, we're incredibly concerned about that. We are unified with the international community in our view that these steps have been illegal. We've taken steps in response, of course, to that. But I'm not going to be able to provide you with a ground game, military update.

QUESTION: Okay. Well, because – the reason I ask is because everybody here just says, "We're closely watching, we're closely watching." So if you're closely watching, you probably know those numbers, my guess is. But if you don't want to provide them, that's fine.

MS. PSAKI: Maybe I can help you better with a different question.

QUESTION: Okay. Great. So there was a story today in The New York Times that provided some readout from a phone call between Obama and Chancellor Merkel. And for whatever reason, the White House pointed us to the State Department to comment on some of that. I'm not sure if you can, but one of the things she said apparently is that he, Putin, is not in touch with reality and that he is, quote, "in another world." Is that something you're prepared to comment on? Did – was that expressed by Merkel to –

MS. PSAKI: Even if we were – had participated in that call, we wouldn't speak to the comments of another foreign leader. So I would point you to the Germans on the validity of comments and what comments were made.

I mean, I will say that obviously, we're working closely with all of the members of the G7, including Germany, on what the appropriate next steps may be. And that's something that obviously the President's been closely in touch with his counterparts on, Secretary Kerry's been closely in touch with his counterparts on. There are several layers of that that we're discussing, including political steps, including economic steps. So that's the primary focus of our engagement, but I would point you to the Germans on any readout or confirmation of Chancellor Merkel's comments.

QUESTION: Okay. And last question: The Paralympics are upcoming in Sochi in March. I've seen reports that British officials and perhaps U.S. officials are (inaudible) these games. What's the official stance here? Are any athletes not going to go or any government officials? What can you say about the Paralympics?

MS. PSAKI: I've seen that announcement coming out of the White House. It's a good question, so let me check on the more detailed specifics in terms of what it means if we're not participating or not – or taking steps. So I'll do that, Justin, and I can get that around to you and others who are interested.

I will say, broadly speaking, the Russians invested upwards of 50 – is it 50, I think, million dollars in the Olympics. Their – the view of the world of Russia matters to them. They've taken steps to rebuild their reputation, to engage with the West, and that's one of the reasons we believe that political steps and sending a political message in coordination with the international community will be effective in cooperation and in partnership with economic steps. But let me check on the specifics for you.

QUESTION: Thanks, Jen. Justin out.

MS. PSAKI: Thanks, Justin.

We're ready for the next question.

OPERATOR: And we do have a question from the line of Elise Labott from CNN. Please go ahead.

QUESTION: Thanks for doing this. I have a question on the Mideast, and then I have a question on the possible sanctions against Ukraine, which you probably got into on the top, but I was upstairs with the Secretary.

MS. PSAKI: No, no, no. It's okay. Go ahead.

QUESTION: On Ukraine – I mean, we understand that there are, like, a lot of preparations being done, like, a kind of teed-up for the President in terms of executive orders and possibly targeting of specific individuals. But I mean, what's the trigger for these sanctions to take place? I mean, does he have to do – if he doesn't –

MS. PSAKI: Are you talking about sanctions against the Russians?

QUESTION: Yeah, yeah, sorry. What is the trigger here? Does he – if he doesn't withdraw within the specific amount of time, if he goes any further into eastern Ukraine? I mean, what is going to be the ultimate determinant of whether you're going to make a decision on sanctions?

MS. PSAKI: Sure. It's a good question. Well, first let me say that obviously, as the Secretary said over the weekend, there is an alternative path and Russia does not need to proceed on this path. They can engage directly with Ukraine, withdraw troops back to bases, refrain from interference elsewhere. And that's a path they can take. But if they continue on the path they're taking, including the steps they've taken in Crimea, the steps the military has taken, all of the issues that we've expressed concerns about, we will continue to take steps on our own.

So at this point, we're not just considering sanctions given the actions Russia is taking. It is likely that we will put those in place, and we are preparing that right now. So we have a broad range of options available, as you know. We're looking at the best way to hold people accountable. Obviously, we'll make those decisions and those decisions will be made at a high level, but we are preparing options and we – and it is – we are likely moving down that path if things proceed.

QUESTION: But I just want to talk about – I understand that you're preparing options and you'll proceed if they continue to go down this path. So if they don't pull back, are you going to

put sanctions on? If they move farther? I just want to kind of nail down what does – do they have to do or not do in order for these sanctions to kick in?

MS. PSAKI: Well, just to be clear, if I didn't make it clear enough, we are far more forward on this than we were even yesterday. So we're continuing to make decisions day by day on questions like what sanctions we may or may not put in place for the Russians. There's not a scientific answer that I can give you, and obviously, I'm not going to spell out discussions that are happening internally. It's not as if there is a secret checklist. The question is: What are the most appropriate steps, what is the best way to hold people accountable and send the economic messages we need to send, send the political messages we need to send?

So the factors we are taking into account is certainly whether Russia proceeds in their military intervention here or whether they draw back troops, whether they engage with Ukraine or they don't. Obviously, there are a range of factors we're looking at, but I think we can all see the steps they're taking on the ground which have raised concerns, and that's why we're proceeding down this path.

QUESTION: So you would say it's highly likely that in the absence of any change in the situation, that you would impose these sanctions?

OPERATOR: And our next question comes from the line of Lalit Jha with PTI. Please go ahead.

MS. PSAKI: Hi, Lalit.

QUESTION: Hi, thank you for doing this. Will the developments in Ukraine have any impact on your operations in Afghanistan? I mean, your posts, your decision to pull out all the troops after 2014? Would you still insist on that?

MS. PSAKI: No. So just to reiterate, one, we're not talking – no one's preference is a military action in Ukraine. That's why we're pulling every lever we can on the economic end and on the political end. And obviously, the Secretary's trip there is also to – tomorrow is to convey our support for the efforts of the interim government moving forward. But Afghanistan, our position remains the same. We need to have a BSA in order to have a remaining presence. You know the President's announcement last week about our openness to one of Karzai's successor's signing the BSA. But again, it remains in the interest of the people of Afghanistan. Given the broad and deep support we've seen for the BSA from the Afghan people, we believe the Afghan people have also already expressed their support for these steps and also support for the progress that's been made in keeping that going. But I would not draw a connection between the two international events.

OPERATOR: We have a question from the line of Margaret Warner with PBS NewsHour. Please go ahead.

MS. PSAKI: Hi, Margaret.

QUESTION: Hi, Jen. Thanks for doing this.

MS. PSAKI: Sure.

QUESTION: Two questions: You might have covered this at the top because I missed the first, like, three minutes, but Moscow is talking about a return to the February 21 agreement which would have included Yatsenyuk in – I mean, Yanukovich still in this government until the new elections. Now, I'm aware that the Russians didn't even sign that deal, but there was that deal. And then the Rada took the steps it did. So one, do you think there is any sort of off-ramp, as you all were talking about yesterday, in that?

And two, do you think in general the new Ukrainian government or the interim Ukrainian government could be doing more to reach out to the political leadership in the Russian-speaking eastern portions?

MS. PSAKI: Sure. Well a couple of things, and if I don't answer every one, I'm sure you'll tell me.

One, on Yanukovich, we've been pretty clear that we believe he lost his – the legitimacy as the leader of Ukraine when he abdicated his responsibilities by fleeing during a political crisis, and also before, signing the legislation necessary to implement the February 21st agreement. And

events since then, which you're familiar with and have been reporting on, have obviously surpassed the circumstances at the time. As you noted, there was a near-unanimous vote of the Rada, including virtually all members of Yanukovich's own party to elect a new speaker and to move forward on the path.

So look, our focus here is on encouraging both the new government and the interim government to take steps forward, which they are doing. That includes being inclusive, which they are doing; it includes moving forward to elections in May; it includes taking the economic reforms – putting in place the economic reforms necessary, and the IMF will soon be on the ground to engage with that and assess the situation.

But there is an off-ramp for Russia. We – and we very much encourage them to take that off-ramp. They can engage directly with Ukraine, they can withdraw troops back to bases, they can refrain from interference elsewhere in Ukraine and support international mediation. There are many ways to protect the interests of Russian – of the Russian people, and that's a discussion that of course is being had at the OSCE. We support international mediation, and that's a discussion they're having there as well.

QUESTION: But, I mean, are you saying that he fled before the Rada did anything, and that therefore it was his fleeing that precipitated what the Rada did? And more to the point, I'm just asking, whether in the interest of keeping Ukraine a whole country, whether there could be more being done by that interim government other than sending these oligarchs back to the east to make those regions feel included and that their points of view are being taken into account.

MS. PSAKI: Sure. Well, I think, one, again, it's now been February 21st, so we're over – we're about 10 days ago. And obviously, there have been a range of events that have happened since then. When Yanukovich fled, he did leave a void of leadership. The Rada and others did take steps to move forward and determine how to best govern Ukraine in the interim as they try to keep a unified and stable Ukraine together. But that doesn't mean there's not an off-ramp. Of course, there's an off-ramp, which is what I mentioned. And there have been steps taken since then, as you know, by the Russians that have been not just of great concern but have unified the international community in opposition to them. So those are all events that have happened since February 21st.

In terms of more that can be done, obviously engagement and inclusiveness over the long term is certainly something that we're not only encouraging, we are working, of course, with the new government on taking steps to implement. But remember there is a lot happening on the ground. Right now, their priority, of course, is keeping the country unified and taking economic reform steps that are necessary, and we're working with all of them on that as well.

QUESTION: But you don't fault them for not doing more on that front?

MS. PSAKI: Well, there's a long path forward, Margaret. And I think they have taken remarkable steps and been – in light of the circumstances. And again, it's important about where we go from here as well, and we'll be working with them, as will many members of the international community.

QUESTION: Thanks.

MS. PSAKI: And just a last point here. Obviously, I mentioned the OSCE because protection of minority rights and inclusiveness and that entire question is a reasonable topic for discussion in fora such as the OSCE, and there's many ways that those protections can be complied with and abided by. So we're just asking to take the best path forward, not just – I'm not even referring to the new government. I'm referring to the steps taken by the Russians.

MODERATOR: And our next question comes from the line of Matthew Lee from the Associated Press. Please go ahead.

QUESTION: Sorry Jen, I didn't intend to ask a –

MS. PSAKI: No, it's okay.

QUESTION: Being talked into a second round here. But your answer to Margaret Warner on – so is it the Administration's position that the February 21 deal is no longer valid? It's no longer –

MS. PSAKI: Well, I mean, Matt, I think – look, since then Yanukovich left the country, he didn't put in place new legislation that was necessary for it. Obviously, since then, the acts of aggression from the Russians have proceeded rapidly. So there are a lot of events that have happened since then. I'm just referring to the reality of what's happening on the ground.

QUESTION: I understand that. But do those steps – is the Administration saying that those steps nullify the February 21 deal? I mean, I just – if you could just say in plain, straightforward plain English the United States does not or does believe that the February 21st deal constitutes a basis for a potential resolution, that would be helpful – I mean, not just to us, but I think to the Russians as well – to know where you're coming down on this.

MS. PSAKI: Well, look, I mean, Matt, I think the point here is that the events have transpired since then that have – and I think the Secretary even said this last week – that have meant we've had to deal with the circumstances as they exist on the ground. So any agreement can be a basis, but obviously, we're dealing with aggression from the Russians, we're dealing with steps that have been taken that were not in place on February 21st.

QUESTION: Well, I understand that. So are you saying that the steps that have happened – what has happened post-February 21st means that that February 21st agreement is no longer an option?

MS. PSAKI: I'm not saying it's not an option. Obviously, any agreement can be a basis for moving forward. But the point is that the circumstances have changed dramatically since then, so we can't just pick up that agreement –

QUESTION: Right, okay. So – but with modifications, then, it could be – you're saying as a basis it could be – it is doable or it's workable?

MS. PSAKI: Well, sure. Pieces – but well, look, I have – I've got to talk to our team about this again. I just don't want to speak out of turn. I mean, that was an agreement that was agreed to when Yanukovich was still in the country. He is no longer in the country, right? He has abdicated his power. There is a new government in place. So I think circumstances have actually surpassed what was in that agreement, but I will have to talk to them more specifically about whether there is a basis that can be used moving forward.

QUESTION: Okay.

OPERATOR: We do have a question from the line of Rosie Gray with BuzzFeed. Please go ahead.

MS. PSAKI: Hi, Rosie.

QUESTION: Hi. Thanks for doing the call. I just was wondering if you could speak a little bit to, like, the role of the EU here. They called an emergency meeting for Thursday – which doesn't sound very emergency to me – but they called an emergency meeting for Thursday for the heads of state and government of the EU member states. And they've been so far, I would say, pretty cautious in their public statements about, like, how they would provide consequences for Russia for this. I'm just wondering if you can speak a little bit to what you guys are hoping the EU will do here and whether there's any updates you can provide as to what they are planning.

MS. PSAKI: Well, obviously the EU will announce what the EU may or may not do, but, I mean, I would point you to the coordinated, strong statements coming from everyone from the G7 to NATO, to comments made over the weekend by individual leaders, whether that's the French or Foreign Secretary Hague condemning the actions that have taken place in Ukraine and calling for international efforts and coordinated efforts, whether that's economic assistance to Ukraine that's needed or steps to hold the Russians accountable.

So I think that speaks to how committed European countries are. We work in lockstep with them. EU High Representative Ashton has been on the ground numerous times in Ukraine over the past couple of months, and we work closely with them as we look to take steps, whether that's sanctions, whether that's economic assistance, whether that's efforts to support the IMF, or whether that's efforts to hold others accountable. So they've been an important and vital partner, and we expect that to continue.

And remember, regardless of when meetings are called, there are meetings virtually every day, if not multiple meetings, about the situation on the ground in Ukraine. If you look at just this past weekend, you saw (inaudible) all the calls that President Obama made on Saturday. Secretary Kerry held a meeting – or held a conference call, I should say, with a number of his counterparts from Europe. And there are meetings that will be ongoing. So I would point you to the day-by-day, and not look for just one that's been announced or identified for a couple of days from now, because in all likelihood, all of those officials will be speaking in advance of Thursday anyway.

QUESTION: Thank you.

MS. PSAKI: Thanks, Rosie.

OPERATOR: And we do have a question from the line of Mark Mardell with the BBC. Please go ahead.

QUESTION: Yeah, thank you very much for doing this. First of all, is there any time scale on the sanctions that you're preparing? What sort of time scale are you looking at? Is – sanctions tend to take and economic pressure tends to take time. Military action happens very quickly. Is there any sign the Russians are taking notice?

And also, and I'm sure you might have seen this, but there's a report from Britain that the UK Government has ruled out trade sanctions. Are you worried that some EU nations aren't worried about their economic relationship with Russia and may not go as far as you would like?

MS. PSAKI: Sure. Well, obviously, the situation, as you know, Mark, is incredibly fluid, and we remain in very close contact with our counterparts around the world on various steps we're considering, what they're considering, and to make sure that we're coordinated throughout this process.

I would say that the steps that we are taking are having an impact, even just the impact of the political steps we're taking, including the announcement by the G7 about not participating in preparations for the G8 in Sochi, including messages that have been sent about how opposed the international community is to the actions of the Russians. If you look at just factually the sharp decline of the value of the Russian ruble, if you look at the Russian stock market today, those are just two examples.

Obviously, in terms of specific steps on sanctions – sorry, that's a tongue twister – steps on sanctions, I don't have any timeframe for you, but I would just say that we're looking at a broad range of options. Whether that's individuals, whether that's institutions, whether that's officials, those are all under consideration. But there's a dual impact of the economic sanctions as well as the political steps we're taking, and we're already seeing that have an impact on the ground.

QUESTION: Any sense of disappointment or worry that the EU may not come on board?

MS. PSAKI: Look, I think, again, we're in – working in lockstep with our European counterparts. We've been working with them in lockstep for months on this, long before the events of the last week. We will keep them informed of what we're considering; they keep us informed of what they're considering. We're obviously working closely on efforts such as economic assistance to complement the IMF. And in this case, I'm not indicating an announcement coming today. I'm indicating that this is a step that we're very prepared to move forward on. But of course, we'll be briefing our counterparts and allies on that as well.

QUESTION: Thank you.

MS. PSAKI: Thank you. I think we have time for a few more here.

OPERATOR: We do have a question from the line of Tejinder Singh with Times Now TV. Please go ahead.

MS. PSAKI: Hi, Tejinder.

QUESTION: Hi. I have just two questions, one on Ukraine. What – my colleagues staying in Brussels are saying the Russians are moving ahead with actions. They have put – as an earlier question from Reuters, they have given deadlines. They are on the ground, the boots on the ground, while the West and the U.S. is just words and words and words. And so do you think that we are ready to do something more than just words?

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MS. PSAKI: Well, I would refute the notion of that question. I mean, as I said earlier, certainly reports, which I think you're referring to, of threats of force against Ukrainian military installations would, if true, constitute a dangerous escalation of the situation for which we would hold Russia directly responsible. No one wants to see a military intervention be the step here. That's why we're using all of our economic, diplomatic, and political levers to put the necessary pressure on. And we're already seeing an impact on the ground, whether that is the crashing of the ruble, the impact on the stock market, or even just reputationally after Russia invested so much in building their reputation through the course of the Olympics. You see the international community unified in coming out against them. So we're seeing all those efforts take place. We're evaluating this day by day. I just talked a little bit about additional steps that we are considering, but I would refute the notion that we are talk, talk, talk. We are very much walk, walk, walk, and we will continue to evaluate this day by day.

OPERATOR: We do have a question (inaudible) line of Ashish Sen from The Washington Times. Please go ahead.

MS. PSAKI: Okay. Hi, there.

QUESTION: And on – this is on Ukraine. Are you seeing any evidence of Russian mobilization or intentions to go beyond the Crimean peninsula into the eastern parts?

MS. PSAKI: Well, again, obviously, we're watching and monitoring this closely, as I mentioned earlier. I'm not going to give a play by play of what we're seeing on the ground. Clearly, any escalation of the situation – rhetoric, but certainly, more importantly, movements – would be of great concern. We'd hold Russia directly responsible, and we are watching that very closely on the ground. But I'm not going to give a play by play on military steps and what we're seeing, obviously (inaudible) for our own sources as well.

QUESTION: Thank you.

MS. PSAKI: Thank you.

OPERATOR: And our last question today comes from the line of Margaret Warner from the PBS NewsHour.

MS. PSAKI: Hey, Margaret.

QUESTION: All right, and hi, Jen. I know I already had one, but I just –

MS. PSAKI: No, no, that's fine.

QUESTION: Just quickly, what are – are there any U.S. or NATO obligations to Ukraine or treaty obligations under the Partnership for Peace?

MS. PSAKI: Well, under – I'd have to check on that specifically for you, Margaret. I mean, there are obviously a range of treaties and memorandums. I mean, even with the Budapest Memorandum, the signatories, as you know, reaffirmed their commitment to respect independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Ukraine. That also means an obligation to refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity. But I'd have to check with our team on the specifics of the range of treaty obligations we have, and we can get that around to you, of course.

QUESTION: That would be great. Thanks.

MS. PSAKI: Great. Well, thanks, everyone. I'll be here all day, so let me know, and we'll get around some follow-ups to those of you who have those as well.

ВЕЛИКОБРИТАНІЯ

З заявами Постійного представника Великобританії при ООН на засіданні РБ ООН від 3 березня 2014 р. можна ознайомитися у розділі РБ ООН.

PM phone calls with Chancellor Merkel and President Hollande: 3 March 2014
3 March 2014

David Cameron discussed the situation in Ukraine with Chancellor Merkel and President Hollande.

Following the calls, a Downing Street spokesperson said:

The Prime Minister spoke separately to both Chancellor Merkel and President Hollande this evening to discuss the situation in Ukraine.

In both calls, the leaders agreed that the international community should speak with one voice and send a clear message to Russia that its actions in Ukraine were completely unacceptable. They agreed they must continue to work very closely together in response to events in Ukraine including in preparation for the special European Council which has been called on Thursday. It would be important to be clear about the costs and consequences for the Russian government of continuing to violate Ukraine's sovereignty; and of supporting the people and government of Ukraine in support of their efforts to build an inclusive government and tackle economic challenges.

They agreed there could be an important role for the United Nations, and potentially other international organisations, in facilitating the dialogue between the Russian and Ukrainian authorities which is central to the shared objective of de-escalating tensions in the region.

Human Rights Council Intervention

3 March 2014

Foreign Office Minister Hugo Swire spoke about Syria, North Korea, Ukraine, Sri Lanka and Preventing Sexual violence in Conflict at the UN HRC.

Foreign Office Minister Hugo Swire said:

Madam Vice President, Madam Deputy High Commissioner, Excellencies, it is an honour to be here today to address the Human Rights Council in this distinguished company.

The United Kingdom is committed to strengthening the work of this vital forum; to supporting countries in improving their human rights records; and to holding to account those who commit serious and systematic violations of their citizen's rights.

<...>

Elsewhere, the UK is extremely concerned by events in Ukraine. Just last night the British Foreign Secretary visited Kyiv and called on Russia to respect the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine. He also spoke to the UN Secretary General to encourage international efforts to de-escalate tensions in the region. The UK supports Ukraine's new government and calls on all parties to ensure that the rights of all Ukraine's citizens, including from minority groups, are respected.

<...>

Press briefing: afternoon 3 March 2014

3 March 2014

The Prime Minister's Spokesperson (PMS) answered questions on Crimea and prosecution authorities.

Crimea

The PMS told the assembled press that the National Security Council was still ongoing and that the Prime Minister had spoken to the UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon shortly before the start of the Council. They had agreed it was urgent that the Russian government enter into discussion with the Ukrainian government on how to reduce tensions in the region and to de-escalate the situation.

Asked what the EU agreement on possible sanctions for Russia could be, the PMS referred journalists to the Foreign Secretary's statement, citing that the violation of Ukrainian

independence and sovereignty would lead to significant costs, but alongside that the EU would be seeking ways to de-escalate through dialogue between the Ukrainian government and the Russian authorities. He referred the press to the EU directives and framework already in place that guide how sanctions can be applied.

Asked if there would be an emergency EU summit on the Crimea, the PMS said that the Foreign Affairs Council was still in discussion but that a summit was an option. While no decision had been made, the international community was in close discussion.

In reaction to Russia's ultimatum that Ukrainian forces must surrender by 3 am (GMT) that night, the PMS again encouraged de-escalation and reiterated that there would be costs for not respecting Ukraine's sovereignty and independence.

<...>

FCO Minister comments on Ukraine at EU Foreign Ministers meeting

3 March 2014

Minister for Europe spoke about Ukraine and Russian intervention when arriving at the EU Foreign Affairs Council today.

On arrival at the Foreign Affairs Council in Brussels today, Minister for Europe, the Rt. Hon. David Lidington MP, echoed the Foreign Secretary, William Hague's, comments earlier today and said:

What I'm hoping is that with our partners we can agree today, first of all, a declaration of resolute rejection of the action that we have seen from Russia. All of us, including Russia, have signed treaties and memorandums that commit us to respecting the sovereignty, the borders and territorial integrity of Ukraine.

And Russia's intervention is a flagrant violation of those international commitments.

I hope we will all unite behind in calling upon Russia to withdraw her forces to her base areas, to desist from the current intervention, and certainly to refrain from any further acts of aggression.

I hope too that we will be able to send a very clear message that the way forward is for there to be direct contact between the governments of Russia and Ukraine.

If there are genuine concerns about the treatment of minorities or the status of the Russian language, there is the way that those concerns can be addressed, and I fear the refusal so far of the Russian government to engage in that sort of direct contact with the Ukrainian government is deeply concerning.

I am sure we will want to make it clear today that if the Russian government were to persist with its current course of action then that will come at a cost to Russia. It cannot simply be business as usual in the light of what we have seen in the last couple of days.

I don't want at this stage before the meeting to rule anything in or rule anything out, but I'm sure we'll be having a serious discussion amongst colleagues at how to take this further forward in light of what the Russian government chooses to do.

And I'm sure to we'll want to discuss how to send a very clear message of support through technical and economic assistance to the government of Ukraine.

ИТАЛИЯ

Ukraine: Mogherini at Foreign Affairs Council – Extraordinary Summit in Brussels. “Political solution only through dialogue”

Bruxelles, 2014-03-03

Italy and its European partners strongly condemn the violation of Ukrainian sovereignty and territorial integrity and call on Russia to immediately withdraw its armed forces. They view the political-diplomatic channel as the only way to resolve the crisis. These were the positions to

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emerge from the extraordinary meeting of the Council of European Union Foreign Ministers which took place today in Brussels. On Thursday 6 March an extraordinary Council of EU Heads of State and Government is planned, during which, as Foreign Minister Federica Mogherini reported, “possible targeted measures” will be evaluated.

The common goal, underscored Mogherini, is to “prevent the situation in Crimea and eastern Ukraine from precipitating further”. Indeed, the EU Foreign Affairs Council conclusions state that “in the absence of de-escalating steps by Russia, the EU shall decide about consequences for bilateral relations between the EU and Russia”.

“Today’s discussion was a long one” added the Foreign Minister. “Italy, along with Canada, France, Germany, Japan, the United Kingdom, the USA and the Presidents of the EU Council and of the Commission, has decided to suspend its participation in the G8 preparatory meetings”.

КАНАДА

Statement by the Prime Minister of Canada on the situation in Ukraine

Ottawa, Ontario – 3 March 2014

Prime Minister Stephen Harper today delivered the following remarks on the troubling situation in Ukraine:

"The situation in Ukraine remains extremely serious for global peace and security.

"Canada and its G-7 partners have spoken with one voice in condemning President Putin’s military intervention in Ukraine.

"We call once again on President Putin to immediately withdraw his military.

"President Putin’s actions have put his country on a course of diplomatic and economic isolation that could well see Russia exit the G-8 entirely.

"Canada has suspended our engagement in preparations for the G-8 Summit planned in Sochi.

"We have also recalled our Ambassador to Russia, cancelled any Government representation at the Paralympic Games, and I’ve instructed officials to review all planned bilateral interaction with Russia.

"I would also note the resolution put before Parliament today and encourage its immediate passage by all political parties.

"We will continue to work closely with our G-7 partners and our allies.

"I’ve also spoken today with the Prime Minister of Ukraine, and I’ve said the following to the people of Ukraine on behalf of Canadians: Canada pledges ongoing friendship and steadfast support for your efforts to defend your sovereignty, and to restore economic and political stability."

Prime Minister Stephen Harper calls Ukraine Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk

Ottawa, Ontario – 3 March 2014

Prime Minister Stephen Harper today spoke with Arseniy Yatsenyuk, the Prime Minister of Ukraine.

Prime Minister Harper welcomed Prime Minister Yatsenyuk and his new government in Ukraine.

The two leaders discussed developments in Crimea and other regions in the south and east of Ukraine. Prime Minister Harper condemned in the strongest terms President Putin’s military intervention in Ukraine. He expressed to Prime Minister Yatsenyuk that Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity must be respected and that the Ukrainian people must be free to determine their own future. Prime Minister Harper also highlighted that Canada is working closely with partners and allies and drew attention to the strong statement issued by G-7 leaders

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on March 2 on this matter. He reiterated Canada's continuing offers of assistance to Ukraine during this important period of transition, including related to the upcoming elections.

Prime Minister Harper assured Prime Minister Yatsenyuk that Canada stands in solidarity with the people of Ukraine.

The two leaders agreed to stay in close touch.

Address by Minister of State Yelich to the High Level Segment of the 25th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council

Geneva, Switzerland – March 3, 2014

Canada seeks a world where all individuals can live in dignity and free from violence, where their rights are respected, where they have equality of opportunity and where democracy and the rule of law flourish. We seek a world where people are free to follow their conscience and to worship according to their beliefs, where women and girls are safe and play an active role in their communities, and where citizens do not live in fear of their own governments.

<...>

Finally, in recent days we have seen a military intervention by Russia on the territory of an independent and sovereign country, Ukraine. Canada condemns these actions in the strongest terms.

This military intervention is a clear violation of international law. It also threatens the human rights of Ukraine's citizens.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper has called on President [Vladimir] Putin to immediately withdraw his forces to their bases and to refrain from further provocative and dangerous actions.

Canada also supports the immediate deployment to Ukraine of international monitors from the United Nations and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

<...>

ПІМЕЧКИНА

Concern for Ukraine

Mar 03, 2014

In the view of the Chancellor, Russia's intervention in Crimea is a breach of international law. She made her views plain in a telephone conversation with the Russian President. The heads of state and government of the G7 have also agreed to suspend preparations for the G8 summit, which is due to be held in Sochi.

Over the last few days Chancellor Angela Merkel has not only spoken by phone several times with the Russian President Vladimir Putin, but has also been in touch with other partners around the globe.

Breach of international law

The Chancellor agrees with US President Barack Obama that the Russian intervention constitutes a breach of international law.

In 1994 Russian undertook to respect the independence and sovereignty of Ukraine and its current borders in the Budapest Memorandum. In 1997 the Black Sea Fleet Accord regulated the terms under which the Russian Black Sea Fleet would continue to be stationed in Crimea.

In a telephone call on Sunday evening Angela Merkel and Barack Obama agreed to continue their close consultations on this issue. In view of the injustices that are taking place, it is particularly important that the international community stand united. The aim is to identify a political solution to the conflict.

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Angela Merkel and Barack Obama agreed to put in place without delay a fact finding mission and a contact group, possibly headed by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). President Putin accepted these proposals in his telephone conversation with the Chancellor.

G7 leaders' statement

Russian actions contravene the principles of the G7 and the G8. On this point the heads of state and government of the G7 states (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan the United Kingdom and the United States of America) are in agreement. In a statement issued on Sunday they called on all parties concerned to behave with self-restraint and responsibility, and to decrease the tensions. The G7 is willing to support mediation efforts.

The G7 leaders agreed to suspend all preparations for the G8's summit in Sochi scheduled for June, with immediate effect. Preparations will only be resumed once "the environment comes back where the G8 is able to have meaningful discussion".

Support for Ukraine

The G7 has underscored its support for Ukrainian sovereignty and territorial integrity. It has undertaken to help Ukraine in its efforts to restore unity, stability and political and economic health to the country.

With President Barack Obama the Chancellor also agreed to ascertain how support can be extended to Ukraine to help it master its financial problems and stabilise the humanitarian situation.

Meeting of EU foreign ministers: a special meeting of the EU foreign ministers has been scheduled for 3 March in Brussels. They will be discussing the European Union's response to developments in Crimea.

ФРАНЦІЯ

Ukraine – G7 – Déclaration conjointe des chefs d'État ou de gouvernement (Paris, 03 mars 2014)

Nous, chefs d'État ou de gouvernement de l'Allemagne, du Canada, des États-Unis, de la France, de l'Italie, du Japon et du Royaume-Uni, président du Conseil européen et président de la Commission européenne, unissons nos voix aujourd'hui pour condamner les atteintes manifestes à la souveraineté et à l'intégrité territoriale de l'Ukraine commises par la Fédération de Russie, en violation de ses obligations en vertu de la Charte des Nations unies et de son accord de 1997 avec l'Ukraine concernant l'implantation de bases militaires. Nous demandons à la Russie de régler tous ses différends avec l'Ukraine en matière de sécurité et de droits de l'Homme par des négociations directes et/ou une mission d'observation ou une médiation internationales sous l'égide de l'ONU ou de l'Organisation pour la sécurité et la coopération en Europe. Nous sommes prêts à appuyer ces efforts. Nous appelons également toutes les parties concernées à agir avec la plus grande retenue et à faire preuve de responsabilité afin de réduire les tensions. Nous notons que les actions de la Russie en Ukraine vont également à l'encontre des principes et des valeurs qui fondent l'action du G7 et du G8. Par conséquent, nous avons décidé de suspendre provisoirement notre participation aux activités liées à la préparation du sommet du G8 prévu à Sochi en juin, jusqu'à ce que le climat redevienne propice à des discussions constructives au G8. Nous sommes unis dans notre soutien à la souveraineté et l'intégrité territoriale de l'Ukraine, et à son droit de décider de son propre avenir. Nous nous engageons à soutenir l'Ukraine dans ses efforts visant à rétablir l'unité, la stabilité, ainsi que la santé politique et économique du pays. À cette fin, nous appuierons les travaux menés par l'Ukraine avec le Fonds monétaire international pour négocier un nouveau programme et mettre en oeuvre les réformes nécessaires. Le soutien du FMI sera essentiel à l'obtention d'une aide supplémentaire de la part de la Banque mondiale, d'autres institutions financières internationales, de l'Union européenne et de sources bilatérales./.

(Source : site Internet de la présidence de la République)

Ukraine – Pologne – Communiqué de la présidence de la République (Paris, 03 mars 2014)

François Hollande s'est entretenu aujourd'hui avec le président de la République de Pologne, Bronislaw Komorowski. Le chef de l'État a souligné l'importance d'une position unie des Européens et la nécessité pour la Russie d'accepter une solution de sortie de crise, conforme au droit international. Il a rappelé les principes qui devraient guider cette solution : le respect de l'intégrité territoriale et la souveraineté de l'Ukraine ; la reconnaissance de la diversité ethnique, linguistique et culturelle de la population ukrainienne ; la préservation de la paix et de la sécurité sur l'ensemble du territoire ; et l'organisation de l'élection présidentielle de manière transparente et incontestable. Les deux présidents sont convenus de rester en contact étroit, conjointement avec les autres pays européens, afin de favoriser cette solution./. (Source : site Internet de la présidence de la République)

З заявами Постійного представника Франції при ООН на засіданні РБ ООН від 3 березня 2014 р. можна ознайомитися розділі РБ ООН.

**03/03/2014 – Paris – Point de presse
Ukraine**

Q – Bonjour, la presse russe mentionne que la France livrera bientôt un navire Mistral à la Russie, conformément au contrat signé par le président Sarkozy. Est-ce que cette information correspond à la réalité, vu que la Russie s'apprête à réaliser une intervention militaire en Ukraine et mène déjà des opérations contre la flotte ukrainienne en Crimée ?

R – Comme l'a indiqué ce matin M. Laurent Fabius en réponse à une question sur une éventuelle suspension de contrats entre la France et la Russie, «nous n'en sommes pas là. Pour le moment, nous essayons de stopper le mouvement russe en Ukraine et d'établir le dialogue».

Ukraine – Point de presse de M. Laurent Fabius, ministre des affaires étrangères, à l'issue du Conseil extraordinaire des affaires étrangères (Bruxelles, 03 mars 2014)

Ce qui frappe d'abord c'est le diagnostic de beaucoup de mes collègues des affaires étrangères, qui craignent que ce soit la crise la plus grave depuis plus de vingt ans. Donc c'est un sentiment de très grande gravité qui se dégage. Nous avons décidé d'être fermes. Il a été décidé que les membres européens qui participent au G8 – la France, l'Allemagne, l'Italie, le Royaume-Uni, – suspendent immédiatement la préparation du G8 de Sotchi. Deuxièmement, s'il n'y avait pas des mesures extrêmement rapides et concrètes de désescalade de la part des Russes, toute une série de contacts serait coupés, avec des décisions précises : l'interruption des discussions sur les visas et des discussions sur l'accord économique. Comme il va y avoir un conseil européen, sans doute jeudi, s'il n'y a pas désescalade ces décisions seront appliquées. C'est l'aspect fermé. Dans le même temps, on souhaite qu'il ait un dialogue qui soit engagé. Ce qui signifie que les Russes s'y prêtent. Du côté ukrainien notre délibération demande qu'il y ait la prise en compte des minorités. L'état d'esprit général, avec unanimité ce qui est très important, c'est la fermeté et, dans la mesure où cela est encore possible, la volonté de dialogue. Mais c'est un sentiment d'une très grande gravité et d'une grande inquiétude

Q – Il semblerait qu'il y avait un accord entre Mme Merkel et M. Poutine pour un dialogue dans le cadre de l'OSCE, est-il toujours d'actualité ?

R – Cela n'a pas été confirmé du côté russe.

Q – Quelles mesures concrètes de désescalade ?

R – La première mesure concrète de désescalade, c'est le retrait des troupes russes et l'acceptation d'une discussion. Maintenant, ce n'est pas la tonalité que l'on entend. Pendant nos délibérations nous avons des informations qui sont très inquiétantes. Fermeté et volonté de désescalade, pour le moment où cela est encore possible.

Q – Le sommet européen de jeudi a été confirmé ?

R – C'est un bruit qui prend de plus en plus de consistance et c'est une décision qui sera prise par M. Herman Van Rompuy avec, nous le souhaitons, la participation des ministres des affaires étrangères.

Q – Cela veut dire que l'on donne deux jours comme ultimatum aux Russes pour retirer leurs troupes ?

R – Il y a des mesures qui sont déjà prises et d'autres sont envisagées et il y a une volonté de désescalade très rapide. S'il y a un sommet européen, il pourra effectivement être ce butoir dans le temps.

Ukraine – Entretien de M. Laurent Fabius, ministre des affaires étrangères, avec «BFM TV», à l'issue du Conseil extraordinaire des affaires étrangères (Bruxelles, 03 mars 2014)

Q – Sur les décisions prises.

R – Tous les ministres des affaires étrangères qui ont été réunis ont considéré que c'était la crise la plus grave depuis vingt ans. C'est le sentiment d'une très grande inquiétude. Premier point, nous avons choisi la fermeté, les membres européens qui participent au G8 – la France, l'Allemagne, l'Italie, le Royaume-Uni – suspendent immédiatement la préparation du G8 de Sotchi. Deuxième point, en ce qui concerne nos relations avec la Russie. Si, dans les heures qui viennent, il n'y a pas de désescalade, nous déciderons alors de mesures concrètes comme l'interruption des discussions sur les visas et des discussions sur un accord économique. Concrètement cela veut dire que les ponts seront coupés sur beaucoup de sujets. Nous avons décidé, et je ne l'avais jamais vu auparavant, de rester en permanence saisis de la question pour voir s'il y avait de nouvelles mesures à prendre. Parallèlement, nous souhaitons qu'il ait, dans les meilleurs délais, un sommet européen avec les chefs d'État et de gouvernement et si possible les ministres des affaires étrangères. Cela c'est la partie fermeté. En même temps, nous ne voulons pas rompre avec la possibilité de désescalade, parce que c'est ce que l'on souhaite. Il y a des propositions qui sont faites en direction du gouvernement ukrainien pour qu'il soit inclusif et pour qu'il respecte les minorités. La tonalité générale, suite aux nouvelles que l'on reçoit, c'est que les Russes sont probablement décidés à aller encore plus loin. Il faut que l'Europe soit très ferme et ce sont les décisions d'aujourd'hui.

Q – Le sommet européen prendra-t-il plus de sanctions si dans les heures qui viennent les Russes n'entendent pas le message que vous leur envoyez ?

R – C'est clairement indiqué dans les décisions que l'on a prises. S'il n'y a pas désescalade avant jeudi – jour du Conseil européen extraordinaire – il y aura de nouvelles mesures ciblées qui peuvent porter aussi sur les personnes, c'est-à-dire les dirigeants et leurs avoirs.

Q – Cela veut dire sur Vladimir Poutine et ses proches ?

R – Cela n'est pas encore précisé mais nous avons pris une autre décision. Lors de la dernière réunion des ministres des affaires étrangères européens, des décisions ont porté sur l'ex-président Yanoukovitch et sa bande. Nous avons décidé le principe de sanctions contre eux. Aujourd'hui il a été décidé de mettre en oeuvre ces sanctions contre ces personnages. Des décisions du même ordre pourraient être prises. Nous souhaitons tous qu'il y ait une solution politique (inaudible) donc il faut manifester cette fermeté et nous avons pris notre décision à l'unanimité mais dans le même temps il faut rechercher la désescalade.

Q – Ce que vous appelez désescalade c'est le retrait de toutes troupes, pas siglées russes ?

R – Oui, au même moment que notre réunion il y avait des bruits concernant un ultimatum des Russes envers les troupes ukrainiennes. Cela n'est pas très facile à vérifier et nous avons demandé des éclaircissements au gouvernement ukrainien. Nous manifestons notre grande fermeté et aussi notre souhait de désescalade et l'obtention d'une solution politique.

Q – Avez-vous plus d'informations sur le groupe de contact. Est-ce que la France y participera ?

R – Le groupe de contact est d'une des idées que nous avons. Mais si nous voulons le dialogue il faut que des gens qui le veulent. Dans ce groupe il pourrait y avoir des représentants des Nations unies, c'est normal, des représentants de l'Europe, du groupe de Weimar et les États-Unis et évidemment il faut que contact soit pris avec les Russes et les Ukrainiens. Cela n'est pas encore fait mais on le souhaite. Si on veut le dialogue il faut qu'il y ait les instruments du dialogue.

Q – Faut-il retourner à Kiev ou aller voir Vladimir Poutine à Moscou ?

R – Ce n'est pas impossible. Mercredi, nous verrons M. Lavrov à Paris qui vient participer à une conférence sur le Liban présidée par le président François Hollande. M. Kerry sera aussi à Paris ce jour-là.

Ukraine – Entretien de M. Laurent Fabius, ministre des affaires étrangères, avec «RTL» – extraits (Paris, 03 mars 2014)

Q – Confirmez-vous l'acceptation par Vladimir Poutine de la création d'un groupe de contact, c'est ainsi que l'a appelé le gouvernement allemand, pour tenter de régler la crise ukrainienne ?

R – Mon information, c'est celle que m'a donnée mon collègue et ami M. Steinmeier, le ministre allemand, hier soir. Après la conversation entre Mme Merkel et M. Poutine, Frank-Walter Steinmeier m'a appelé et m'a dit : «la proposition a été faite et on doit en savoir davantage demain matin». Ce lundi matin, il n'y a pas eu à ma connaissance, d'après ce que m'a dit Frank-Walter, d'acceptation expresse, et, si c'est le cas, ce serait une avancée. Que voulons-nous faire dans toute cette situation très difficile ? D'une part, stopper l'intervention russe et, d'autre part, établir un dialogue – ce sont les deux aspects qu'en permanence nous essayons de faire avancer – et on l'a fait tout le week-end.

Q – De votre point de vue, Laurent Fabius, l'intervention militaire russe a déjà commencée, on note la présence de militaires sans militaire...

R – Malheureusement, la Crimée est de fait sous contrôle russe.

Q – Ce qui est déjà une violation de la souveraineté ukrainienne.

R – Bien sûr. J'ai eu beaucoup de contacts hier, dimanche, ainsi que le président de la République, qui a notamment eu un long contact avec M. Ban Ki-moon. Parmi tous mes contacts, le plus poignant a été un échange par téléphone que j'ai eu avec M. Iatseniouk, Premier ministre ukrainien. Je lui ai demandé ce que l'on pouvait faire pour les aider. J'ai trouvé un homme, et dans sa voix c'était poignant, qui vient d'accéder au pouvoir – avec la nouvelle majorité – et qui voit que, même si le calme était rétabli à Kiev, son pays fait l'objet d'une intervention extérieure. C'était extrêmement poignant. Aussi nous essayons de stopper l'intervention russe et d'autre part de dialoguer.

Q – De la stopper par la diplomatie, c'est la seule arme que nous avons ?

R – Par la diplomatie bien sûr.

Q – Il n'est pas possible d'envisager un soutien militaire à l'Ukraine ?

R – Non. Nous n'en sommes absolument pas là. Stopper par la diplomatie cela se décline par trois voies : l'OTAN qui s'est réunie et qui a pris un certain nombre de positions. C'est aussi, le G7 – c'est-à-dire les sept pays les plus riches du monde – qui va publier un communiqué et qui reprend les idées émises par la France. Troisième point, je me retrouve, à Bruxelles, avec mes collègues des affaires étrangères de l'Europe. Nous allons prendre des positions de principe, avancer sur un certain nombre de propositions et Mme Ashton, en notre nom, sera à Kiev demain. Il y a une convergence de toute la diplomatie – que ce soit le G7, l'UE et l'OTAN – pour essayer de bloquer l'intervention russe, mais, en même temps, d'établir un dialogue, c'est le

sens de proposition de médiation que nous avons faite. Qui peut mener cette médiation ? Ça peut être l'Organisation pour la sécurité et la coopération en Europe, qui est un organisme dont on parle peu mais qui réunit tous les pays d'Europe et puis, plus largement, ce sont cinquante-sept pays. Un organisme qui a l'habitude d'envoyer des observateurs – ce qui pourrait être intéressant, notamment en Crimée – et qui peut jouer un rôle de médiation. Et il peut y avoir ce groupe de contact dont nous avons parlé avec les Allemands, et on va voir si les Russes l'acceptent ; ou bien ça peut être les Nations unies.

Q – Avez-vous vous-même, Laurent Fabius, des contacts avec par exemple avec votre homologue russe ?

R – Oui, bien sûr. Je l'ai eu plusieurs fois au téléphone et il doit venir en France après-demain, puisque la France accueillera une réunion sur le Liban. Nous nous téléphonons souvent.

Q – L'intégrité de l'Ukraine peut-elle être discutée d'une manière ou d'une autre ou avec la place particulière de la Crimée – beaucoup de bases militaires stratégiques russes...

R – Cette intégrité doit être reconnue.

Q – Mais la Crimée a un statut plus ou moins d'autonomie. Mais fait-elle partie de l'Ukraine ?

R – Si on réfléchit d'un point de vue historique, c'est toujours la même démarche de la part des Russes. Ils considèrent que les pays qui, à un moment ou à un autre, ont appartenu à leur empire ne doivent pas être en dehors d'un certain contrôle. Dans l'affaire de la Crimée, ils ont déjà une base à Sébastopol et, compte tenu de ce qui s'est passé en Ukraine avec le départ de Yanoukovitch, ils veulent remettre la main sur la Crimée. Évidemment, c'est inacceptable du point de vue du droit international. Mais ce que je veux dire c'est que les Ukrainiens, et j'en ai parlé à M. Iatseniouk, doivent rassurer, c'est-à-dire reconnaître la spécificité des russophones qui sont très nombreux en Ukraine et puis donner des garanties.

Q – Vladimir Poutine a obtenu le déploiement des troupes russes...

R – L'autorisation.

Q – L'autorisation, donc samedi par le Sénat russe, jusqu'à la normalisation de la situation politique est-il dit dans la résolution prise par le Sénat...

R – C'est un concept tout à fait flou.

Q – C'est une manière de refuser le gouvernement actuel ukrainien ?

R – Oui. Mais, en même temps, pour avoir moi-même négocié l'accord du 21 février, celui-ci reconnaissait le changement de gouvernement et dans nos conversations avec M. Yanoukovitch...

Q – Que les Russes n'ont pas accepté...

R – À l'époque, ils ont accepté l'accord du 21 février mais maintenant, ils disent qu'il n'a pas été respecté. Dans nos conversations avec l'ancien président, M. Yanoukovitch, le fait qu'il y ait un nouveau Premier ministre – M. Iatseniouk – était évoqué expressément, donc cet argument de la part des Russes n'est pas pertinent. Mais c'est toujours la même démarche historique, ils n'acceptent pas qu'un pays qui a été antérieurement sous leur dépendance puisse s'émanciper. Ils disent que la légalité dans ce pays n'a pas été respectée et ils prennent appui sur cette accusation pour se donner des pouvoirs d'intervenir – on l'a vu en Géorgie en 2008 et à l'époque on avait dit : «Voilà ! Il ne faut pas accepter l'occupation de l'Ossétie du Sud et de l'Abkhazie», ils sont toujours occupés.

Q – Vladimir Poutine est-il un homme dangereux, Laurent Fabius ?

R – Je ne dirais pas les choses en ces termes. La Russie est un ami, un partenaire historique de la France. Mais il faut respecter les lois internationales, l'intégrité des territoires et l'unité des territoires.

Q – La Russie, aujourd'hui, viole les lois internationales ?

R – Les Ukrainiens ont le droit de choisir leur destin.

Q – La Russie viole, aujourd'hui, les lois internationales ?

R – S'installer dans un pays contrairement au droit international, c'est violer la loi internationale.

Q – La France livre des armements à la Russie il y a notamment des contrats qui concerne des Frégates entre la France et la Russie, allez-vous suspendre ces contrats ?

R – Nous n'en sommes pas là.

Q – C'est paradoxal de livrer des armes à un pays qui viole les lois internationales ?

R – Pour le moment nous essayons de stopper le mouvement russe en Ukraine et d'établir le dialogue. Vous avez vu que la France a été l'un des premiers pays à dire : «en ce qui concerne le G8, qui lui aussi doit fonctionner selon les lois internationales, nous suspendons notre participation» et je pense que les autres pays du G7 vont faire la même chose.

Q – Vous avez l'espoir de stopper cette escalade militaire, Laurent Fabius, ce matin ?

R – Oui !

Q – Vous pensez que la voie de la diplomatie peut apporter quelque chose ?

R – Bien sûr. Je pense que pour la Crimée c'est très difficile parce que, de fait, elle est déjà sous contrôle russe, mais il faut absolument préserver l'intégrité et l'unité de l'Ukraine. Et j'ajouterais que c'est l'intérêt de la Russie car celle-ci est très engagée économiquement en Ukraine. Et pour l'Ukraine la situation n'est pas : «être avec la Russie ou bien avec l'Union européenne». On ne choisit pas entre les deux rives d'un fleuve, la Seine a sa rive droite et sa rive gauche et, l'Ukraine, ça doit être la même chose.

Q – John Kerry est à Kiev demain, vous prévoyez d'y aller vous ?

R – John Kerry sera à Kiev demain et il sera à Paris le lendemain. Si c'est utile, je m'y rendrai à nouveau.

Q – Bonjour Monsieur le Ministre, Merci d'être resté avec nous pour répondre aux questions des auditeurs de RTL. Trouvez-vous normal que depuis plusieurs années maintenant, le quasi-monopole des relations entre l'Union européenne avec l'Est, principalement la Russie et l'Ukraine, soit laissé à un groupe de pays comme la Pologne et les pays baltes dont le tropisme antirusse, pour des raisons historiques, est très clair. Ceci se traduit donc par une approche dangereuse et cela a été le cas à mon sens pour l'accord de Vilnius. Je voudrais donc signaler par exemple que le représentant de l'Union européenne à Moscou est un Letton.

R – Que voulez-vous dire Monsieur, serait-ce que finalement l'Union européenne est tonique sur ces dossiers parce qu'elle est manipulée, en tout cas sous influence d'anciens pays de l'Est du clan soviétique ?

Q – Je veux dire qu'elle délègue trop à des pays qui ont tendance à voir dans la Russie, pour des raisons historiques, une menace là où elle n'existe pas forcément. Il en résulte une politique trop difficile. L'absence de tout partenariat, de perspective de tout partenariat stratégique avec la Russie. Et finalement, en Ukraine on en arrive à un conflit.

R – Il faut distinguer deux choses Monsieur. D'une part, les relations générales que nous Français, nous Européens, devons avoir avec la Russie. J'ai compris votre question, vous avez raison de dire que ces relations, en termes normaux doivent être bonnes. La Russie est un grand pays, c'est un partenaire traditionnel de la France. Géographiquement, historiquement, culturellement et économiquement, il y a toutes les raisons d'avoir des relations avec ce pays et il ne faut pas que ces relations générales soient déséquilibrées. Historiquement encore, certains pays que vous avez cités ont subi des revers particuliers du point de vue russe, c'est la raison pour laquelle il faut équilibrer ces relations. Ce n'est pas du tout une raison pour accepter que la Russie viole les lois internationales, en l'occurrence qu'il y ait cette intervention dans un pays qui n'est plus un pays russe, c'est l'Ukraine. Lorsque la Russie se livre à ce type d'intervention, et ce n'est pas la première fois car la même chose s'est produite en Géorgie et en Transnistrie, il faut réagir comme nous le faisons.

Q – Mais vous disiez vous-même tout à l'heure Laurent Fabius que cela n'avait rien changé, en l'occurrence pour les deux territoires occupés par les russes à l'époque en Géorgie ?

R – C'est la raison pour laquelle il faut en tirer les leçons. Je me souviens, c'était en 2008, il y avait eu des déplacements et de grandes interventions.

Q – et Nicolas Sarkozy avait été très actif.

R – Et il avait eu raison de l'être. Il y avait eu plusieurs interventions pour dire que nous allions empêcher la Russie de mettre la main sur deux provinces de Géorgie. Si vous allez aujourd'hui dans ces deux provinces, elles sont de fait sous contrôle russe ; il faut donc éviter cela. Pour

revenir à la question de l'auditeur, nous devons avoir des relations normales et je dirai même positives, voire excellentes.

Q – Nous ne sommes donc pas sous l'influence des polonais, il n'y a pas de filtre polonais sur la Russie n'est-ce pas ?

R – Nous ne sommes sous l'influence de personne mais ce n'est pas une raison, lorsque la Russie se comporte d'une façon inadmissible, d'accepter ce comportement.

Q – Franchement, que peuvent faire la France et même l'Europe. «Il y a des mois que vous êtes spectateurs alors : Pourquoi ne pas reconnaître que M. Poutine est intouchable ?»

R – Je ne suis pas de cet avis. Comme on parle de spectateurs, vous vous souvenez peut-être que les 20 et 21 février, je suis allé à Kiev en Ukraine, avec mes deux homologues allemand et polonais. Là-bas avaient lieu des massacres. Il y avait un affrontement terrible et sanglant entre d'un côté, le pouvoir de M. Yanoukovitch, et de l'autre côté l'opposition. Nous avons discuté durant des heures, l'Europe dont la France, et au bout du compte, un accord a été signé. Il a permis que la majorité soit changée et surtout que les meurtres et les assassinats cessent. Finalement, M. Yanoukovitch a pris « la poudre d'escampette ».

Q – Le sentiment que l'on peut avoir quand même c'est que Vladimir Poutine a finalement attendu la fin des Jeux olympiques de Sotchi et ensuite il a remis la main sur ce qu'il estime lui appartenir.

R – C'est ce que je disais tout à l'heure. Ce type de comportement ne peut pas être accepté. Donc, nous avons raison de réagir. Cela ne veut pas dire déclarer la guerre à la Russie.

Q – Et vous dites que Vladimir Poutine n'est pas intouchable, qu'il ne peut pas faire ce qu'il veut même si c'est le sentiment général ?

R – On ne peut pas être à la fois membre actif du G8, accueillir à Sotchi tout le monde en grande pompe, en avoir le bénéfice et avoir des comportements qui sont contraires à ce groupe que représente le G8. Q – L'OTAN est intervenue en Serbie pour libérer le peuple kosovare qui avait droit à son auto-détermination. Aujourd'hui, la Crimée demande la même chose en fait car historiquement, c'est un État rattaché à la Russie. Je crois que c'est Khrouchtchev en 1954 qui l'a rendu à l'Ukraine. Donc aujourd'hui, la solution, c'est de faire voter le peuple de Crimée pour savoir s'il veut ou non son indépendance ?

R – Je crains que ce soit un peu plus compliqué parce qu'il y a des provinces, des régions qui sont à l'intérieur d'une nation. Si chaque région, à partir d'un référendum organisé plus ou moins librement, pouvait décider de sortir d'une nation, vous n'auriez plus l'Espagne telle qu'elle existe aujourd'hui, plus l'Afrique telle qu'elle existe aujourd'hui. Il faut à la fois concilier la spécificité de toute une série de territoires et en même temps, préserver une certaine stabilité. Vous ne pouvez pas avoir un «happening» permanent.

Q – Donc, vous dites non à un référendum d'auto-détermination pour la Crimée.

R – Il y aura au mois de mars une consultation du peuple de la Crimée, cela a été prévu et je ne sais pas d'ailleurs quelle en est la valeur juridique mais cela aura au moins une valeur politique. Le principe du droit international est d'organiser les nations pour qu'elles puissent exister en tant que telles et, en même temps, qu'elles respectent les spécificités locales. Dans le cas précis qui nous occupe, nous demanderons aux Ukrainiens de prévoir des dispositions pour que la Crimée – qui a une particularité – puisse la voir respectée. J'irai même plus loin Monsieur, la nouvelle majorité ukrainienne a voté une loi qui ne reconnaît plus, pour être simple, les langues régionales. Cette loi met donc en cause le parler russe à l'intérieur de l'Ukraine. Nous pensons que c'est une erreur. J'ai parlé hier à M. Iatseniouk qui envisage de revenir sur cette loi. Lorsque vous avez une situation telle que celle de l'Ukraine où beaucoup de gens sont russophones et très attachés à la Russie, si vous leur donnez le sentiment qu'ils ne peuvent plus parler le Russe, forcément il y a une réaction. Il faut à la fois conserver l'unité nationale, et cela vaut aussi pour nous Français, pour les Italiens, pour les Allemands, il faut aussi permettre les spécificités dans les régions.

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Засідання РБ ООН від 3 березня 2014 року

United Nations S/PV.7125
Security Council
Sixty-ninth year
7125th meeting
Monday, 3 March 2014, 3.30 p.m.
New York
Provisional

President: Ms. Lucas	(Luxembourg)
Members:	
Argentina	Mrs. Perceval
Australia	Mr. Quinlan
Chad	Mr. Cherif
Chile	Mr. Errázuriz
China	Mr. Liu Jieyi
France	Mr. Araud
Jordan	Prince Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al-Hussein
Lithuania	Mrs. Murmokaitė
Nigeria	Mrs. Ogwu
Republic of Korea	Ms. Paik Ji-ah
Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
Rwanda	Mr. Gasana
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Mark Lyall Grant
United States of America	Ms. Power

Agenda

Letter dated 28 February 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2014/136)

The meeting was called to order at 3.35 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Letter dated 28 February 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2014/136)

The President (spoke in French): In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of Ukraine to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Oscar Fernandez-Taranco, Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I now give the floor to Mr. Fernandez-Taranco.

Mr. Fernandez-Taranco: Since the briefing by the Deputy Secretary-General to the Security Council on 1 March 2014 (see S/PV.7124), the situation in Ukraine has continued to evolve rapidly. We understand that there is a continuing build-up of Russian troops in Crimea and that a number of Ukrainian military bases have been surrounded by Russian troops. In addition, the

situation in eastern Ukraine remains fluid, with reports of demonstrations in certain cities and attempts by local groups to seize control of some official buildings.

On Sunday, 2 March, Ukraine's Parliament urged Russia to fulfil immediately the terms of the agreement on its Black Sea fleet's temporary presence in Ukraine's territory and called for the rapid withdrawal of Russian troops to their bases. The Russian position on events was articulated by Foreign Minister Lavrov in remarks made today in the Human Rights Council. Foreign Minister Lavrov stated that Russia's actions in relation to Ukraine were "a question of defending our citizens and compatriots and ensuring human rights".

The Secretary-General has remained closely engaged on the situation in Ukraine. In the latest telephone conversation with President Putin over the weekend, on 1 March, the Secretary-General told him that he was closely following the serious and rapidly unfolding developments in Ukraine. The Secretary-General expressed grave concern about the continuing tense situation that could compromise the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country. He reiterated that it was critical to restore calm and proceed to an immediate de-escalation of the situation and asked for cool heads to prevail. The Secretary-General appealed to President Putin to urgently engage in direct dialogue with the authorities in Kyiv.

As members of the Council know, the Secretary-General has repeatedly emphasized that it is critical that full respect for and preservation of Ukraine's independence, unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity be ensured. He has underscored the utmost importance of restoring calm in order to de-escalate tensions immediately through dialogue. He has stressed that, in the spirit of the United Nations Charter, we should all adhere to the principles of the peaceful settlement of disputes.

Following the Security Council's consultation on Saturday and given the developments on the ground in Ukraine, the Secretary-General asked Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson to travel to Ukraine on Sunday. While in Ukraine, the Deputy Secretary-General will be personally apprised of the facts on the ground and will subsequently brief the Secretary-General on the next steps the United Nations could take to support the de-escalation of the situation. The Deputy Secretary-General arrived in Kyiv today and has already begun his meetings. Robert Serry, who briefed the Secretary-General yesterday in Geneva on his recent mission to Ukraine, joined Mr. Eliasson in Kyiv today.

Over the past 48 hours, the Secretary-General has spoken to a number of key people, including Prime Minister Cameron, President Hollande, President Putin, European Union High Representative Ashton and the Chairperson-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Mr. Burkhalter, as well as OSCE Secretary General Zannier. He also met with Foreign Minister Lavrov today in Geneva. In all these calls and meetings, the Secretary-General reiterated the urgent need for coordination in support of a stable and united Ukraine.

In conclusion, I wish to reiterate the Secretary-General's call for dialogue to de-escalate the tensions immediately. As the Secretary-General has underscored in his calls to world leaders, all of us share the urgent responsibility to assist in finding a peaceful resolution in a collaborative effort.

The President (spoke in French): I thank Mr. Fernandez-Taranco for his briefing.

I shall now give the floor to the members of the Council.

Mr. Churkin (Russian Federation) (spoke in Russian): The Russian Federation initiated the convening of today's meeting of the Security Council because events in our brotherly neighbour Ukraine raise deep concerns for us. The crisis provoked by the State coup in Kyiv as a result of the armed takeover by radical extremists continues to deteriorate and generate very serious threats to the future of that country.

Today in Geneva our Minister for Foreign Affairs Lavrov spoke in detail about the situation in Ukraine. We are convinced that any internal crisis must be overcome through a dialogue held among all political forces and ethnic and denominational groups in a constitutional framework and in accordance with international obligations, including most importantly those related to

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international humanitarian law, in defence of human rights and the rights of national minorities. We must decisively sideline those extremists seeking to take control of the situation through illegal methods, violence and open terror. We all know who unleashed the crisis in Ukraine. By disputing the unequivocally legal actions of the legitimate authorities, some of our partners have chosen to support anti-Government statements and encouraged participants to move to forceful aggression by capturing and setting fire to administrative buildings, attacking the police, stealing from warehouses, mocking regional officials and launching crude attacks against churches. The centre of Kyiv and many towns in western Ukraine have been overrun by armed national radicals chanting extremist anti-Russian and anti-Semitic slogans.

On 21 February, almost three months after the onset of the unrest and excesses, an agreement was reached between the President of Ukraine and the opposition. It was signed by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Germany, France and Poland. The authorities have refused to declare a state of emergency. They have removed the law authorities from the streets. The opposition has done nothing. They have not surrendered their illegal weapons. The civic buildings and streets of Kyiv have not been restored to order. The radicals continue to control the towns.

Instead of the promised establishment of a Government of national unity, a so-called Government of victors has been formed. The Parliament of Ukraine took a decision limiting the language rights of minorities; they have disbanded the judges of the Constitutional Court and insisted on their criminal prosecution. Demands have been made to limit or criminalize the use of the Russian language, to ban undesirable political parties and to make examples of them. The victors wish to exploit the fruits of their victory to trample the rights and basic freedoms of the people.

All of this has alarmed the authorities of eastern and southern Ukraine and the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, home to millions of Russians who do not wish to see such developments in their regions. In a situation of ongoing threats of violence by ultranationalists against the security, lives and legitimate interests of Russians and all Russian-speaking peoples, popular self-defence brigades have been established. They have already put down attempts to take over administrative buildings in Crimea by force and to funnel weapons and ammunition into the peninsula. We have information about the preparation of new provocations, including against the Russian Black Sea fleet in Ukraine.

In such circumstances, the legitimately elected authorities of the Republic have asked the President of Russia to help them to restore calm in Crimea. Such assistance is entirely legitimate under Russian law, given the extraordinary situation in Ukraine and the threat posed to Russian citizens, our compatriots, and the Black Sea fleet of the Russian Federation in Ukraine. The President of Russia therefore went before the Federation Council to request that the Russian armed forces be permitted to deploy in the territory of Ukraine until the civic and political situation there has been normalized. On 1 March, the Federation Council supported that appeal, which we hope will sideline the radicals. I repeat, the issue is one of defending our citizens and compatriots, as well as the most important human right – the right to life.

Today, I am also authorized to say that the President of Russia has received the following request from President Yanukovich:

“As the legitimately elected President of Ukraine, I wish to inform you that events in my country and capital have placed Ukraine on the brink of civil war. Chaos and anarchy reign throughout the country. The lives, security and rights of the people, particularly in the south-east and in Crimea, are under threat. Open acts of terror and violence are being committed under the influence of Western countries. People are being persecuted on the basis of their language and political beliefs. I therefore call on President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin of Russia to use the armed forces of the Russian Federation to establish legitimacy, peace, law and order and stability in defence of the people of Ukraine.”

The letter is signed by President Yanukovich and dated 1 March. For all who may wish to see it, I have with me a photocopy of the original letter from the President of Ukraine to the President of Russia.

Those who seek to interpret this situation as a form of aggression and are threatening sanctions and boycotts of all kinds are the very partners who have consistently encouraged political forces close to them to engage in ultimatums, to reject dialogue, to ignore the concerns of southern and eastern Ukraine, and ultimately to polarize Ukrainian society. We call on them to adopt a responsible approach, to set aside geopolitical calculations and to place the interests of the Ukrainian people above all else. The obligations undertaken in the 21 February agreement, including the launch of a constitutional reform process with the participation and full consideration of the opinions of all regions of Ukraine, must be honoured, and their outcome submitted for approval in a national referendum, as well as the establishment of a legitimate Government of national unity that takes the interests of all political forces and regions of Ukraine into account.

The Russian position has been and remains consistent and open. While the Ukraine is merely a geopolitical playground for some Western politicians, for us it is a brotherly country to which we are bound by many centuries of common history. Russia is interested in a stable and strong Ukraine where the legitimate rights and interests of the Ukrainians, our compatriots and all citizens are protected. In this extraordinary situation, which is not of our making and in which the lives and security of the inhabitants of Crimea and south-eastern Ukraine are under genuine threat from the irresponsible and provocative acts of gangs and ultranationalist elements, we emphasize once again that Russia's actions are entirely appropriate and legitimate.

Ms. Power (United States of America): Listening to the representative of Russia, one might think that Moscow had just become the rapid response arm of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. So many of the assertions made this afternoon by the representative of the Russian Federation are without basis in reality. Let us begin with a clear and candid assessment of the facts.

It is a fact that Russian military forces have taken over Ukrainian border posts. It is a fact that Russia has taken over the ferry terminal in Kerch. It is a fact that Russian ships are moving in and around Sevastopol. It is a fact that Russian forces are blocking the mobile telephone services in some areas. It is a fact that Russia has surrounded or taken over practically all Ukrainian military facilities in Crimea. It is a fact that, today, Russian jets entered Ukrainian airspace. It is also a fact that independent journalists continue to report that there is no evidence of violence against Russian or pro-Russian communities.

Russian military action is not a human rights protection mission. It is a violation of international law and of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the independent nation of Ukraine and a breach of Russia's Helsinki commitments and its United Nations obligations. The central issue is whether the recent change of Government in Ukraine constitutes a danger to Russia's legitimate interests of such a nature and extent that Russia is justified in intervening militarily in Ukraine, seizing control of public facilities and issuing military ultimatums to elements of the Ukrainian military.

The answer of course is no. The Russian military are secure. The new Government in Kyiv has pledged to honour all of its existing international agreements, including those covering Russian bases. Russian mobilization is a response to an imaginary threat.

A second issue is whether the population of Crimea or other parts of eastern Ukraine are at risk because of the new Government. There is no evidence of that. Military action cannot be justified on the basis of threats that have not been made and are not being carried out. There is no evidence, for example, that churches in eastern Ukraine are being or will be attacked. The allegation is without basis. There is no evidence that ethnic Russians are in danger. On the contrary, the new Ukrainian Government has placed a priority on internal reconciliation and political inclusivity.

Acting President Turchynov has made clear his opposition to any restriction on the use of the Russian tongue. No one has to explain to Ukraine's new Government the need to have open communications not only with leaders of the country's Russian ethnic majority in the Crimea and elsewhere but also with its neighbours. That is why, when the current crisis began, the

Government sent its former chief of defence to the region to try to defuse the situation. A second emissary was prevented from entering the Crimean Verkhovna Rada to engage in discussions. It is why the Ukrainian authorities have repeatedly reached out to Russia. Russia needs to reciprocate and to begin to engage directly with the Government of Ukraine.

I note that Russia has implied a right to take military action in the Crimea if invited to do so by the Prime Minister of Crimea. As the Government of Russia well knows, that has no legal basis. The prohibition on the use of force would be rendered moot were subnational authorities able to unilaterally invite military intervention by a neighbouring State. Under the Ukrainian Constitution, only the Ukrainian Rada can approve the presence of foreign troops.

If we are concerned about the rights of the Russian-speaking minorities, the United States is prepared to work with Russia and the Council to protect them. We have proposed and wholeheartedly support the immediate deployment of international observers and monitors from the United Nations or the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to ensure that the people about whom Russia expresses such concern are protected from abuse and to elucidate for the world the facts on the ground. The solution to the crisis is not difficult to envision. There is a way out, and that is through direct and immediate dialogue by Russia with the Government of Ukraine, the immediate pull-back of Russia's military forces, the restoration of Ukraine's territorial integrity and the urgent deployment of observers and human rights monitors, not through more threats and more distortions.

Tonight, the OSCE will begin deploying monitors to Ukraine. Those monitors can provide neutral and needed assessments of the situation on the ground. Their presence is urgently necessary in Crimea and in key cities in eastern Ukraine. The United States calls upon Russia to ensure that their access is not impeded.

The leadership in Moscow may well be unhappy about former President Yanukovich's decision to flee Ukraine and move in with them. Russia may be displeased with the new Government, which was approved by Ukraine's Parliament by an overwhelming majority, including members of Yanukovich's own party. Russia has every right to wish that events in Ukraine had turned out differently but it does not have the right to express that unhappiness by using military force or by trying to convince the world community that up is down and black is white.

Russia's calls to turn back time so as to implement the 21 February agreement ring hollow. It was Yanukovich who failed to abide by the terms of that agreement, fleeing Kyiv and ultimately Ukraine. The United States categorically rejects the notion that the new Government of Ukraine is a Government of victors. It is a Government of the people and one that intends to sheppard the country on 25 May towards democratic elections that would allow Ukrainians who would prefer a different leadership to have their views heard. The United States will stand strongly and proudly with the people of Ukraine as they chart out their own destiny, their own Government and their own future.

The bottom line is that for all of the self-serving rhetoric that we have heard from Russian officials in recent days, there is nothing that justifies the Russian conduct. As I said at our last meeting (see S/PV.7124), Russia's actions speak much louder than its words. What is happening today is not a human rights protection mission or a consensual intervention. What is happening today is a dangerous military intervention in Ukraine. It is an act of aggression. It must stop. That is a choice for Russia. Diplomacy can serve Russia's interests. The world is speaking out against the use of military threats and force. Ukrainians must be allowed to determine their own destiny.

Mr. Araud (France) (spoke in French): As I said, during the consultations on Saturday, there is a prevailing feeling of consternation when we see what is happening in Ukraine and when we hear what our Russian colleague has just said. It is in fact the voice of the past that we have just heard. I was 15 years old in August 1968, when the Soviet forces entered Czechoslovakia. We heard the same justifications, the same documents being flaunted and the same allegations. We hoped that, with the building of Europe and the collapse of communism, we would awaken from such nightmares. We had hoped that we would have replaced the dangerous logic of the balance of power with cooperation in respect for the identity and the independence of each.

Now we are brought back to a world where force prevails over the law, where every crisis must have a victor and a vanquished, and where propaganda denies the reality. Let us first recall the facts that no manipulation can hide in the age of television and the Internet.

The facts are straightforward. The Russian army is occupying Crimea, Ukrainian territory, against the will of the Ukrainian Government and in violation of international law. The reasons invoked are blatant untruths. No one is killing anyone in the streets of Kyiv today. No one is threatening the Russian-speaking populations in Crimea or elsewhere. Those are only excuses, which even those voicing them cannot believe, so crude they are.

By occupying Crimea, Russia has taken a territorial bet. The goal is clear – to bring the authorities of Kyiv to heel, to bring them back into the sphere of influence of Moscow and to remind them that their sovereignty is limited, as Mr. Brezhnev once said after invading Czechoslovakia. In short, Russia is taking Europe back 40 years. It is all there: the practice and the Soviet rhetoric, the brutality and the propaganda.

France does not want to play this ridiculous game, which does not serve the interests of anyone, and certainly not the Ukrainian and Russian people. That is why, at the very beginning of the crisis, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of France, along with his German and Polish colleagues, went there to negotiate an agreement, which Russia has refused to endorse until now, only to invoke it today.

When events – the President's flight and the Parliament's about-face – made it impossible for the agreement to be implemented, France continued to defend its spirit – reconciliation through the formation a Government of national unity and the holding of elections under international supervision. That is what is being proposed today by the Prime Minister, who is being stymied by the refusal of the Party of Regions to join the Government. That is what the acting President is seeking; he has refused to sign a law that, rashly and unfortunately, diminished the role of the Russian language.

In line with the position of seeking a reasonable solution that respects everyone's interests and sensitivities in the framework of Ukraine's independence and territorial integrity, there are six points that should be the basis for putting an end to the crisis. These six simple points should be accepted by all parties who respect international law: first, the return of Russian armed forces to their bases, verified by international observers; secondly, the immediate cantonment, disarmament and dissolution of paramilitary elements and other groups with illegal weapons, monitored by international observers; thirdly, the Ukrainian Parliament's re-establishment of the law on regional languages; fourthly, the establishment of a high council for the protection of minorities; fifthly, the implementation of constitutional reforms; and sixthly, the organization of presidential elections on 25 May under the aegis of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). These are simple principles, the implementation of which international mediation should be able to negotiate with all the parties concerned. The Secretary-General of our Organization, together with the European Union and the OSCE, has a central role to play in that area.

But let there be no mistake – the will to find a negotiated solution that meets the requirements of international law, safeguards the rights of all Ukrainians, and makes it possible to stabilize a democratic and unified Ukraine in its regional context, cannot accommodate the persistent violations of international law perpetrated by Russia. France wants to cooperate with Russia, with which we have a long common history, but not at any price and not in violation of our principles and values.

The denial of reality, the scorn for international law and the renunciation of any discourse that protects national sovereignty that we have heard today do not inspire optimism. Russia seems to be returning to its old ghosts, playing outmoded roles in an outdated setting on the stage of a bankrupt theatre. If it continues to misread the mindset of the new times and to place more trust in force than in dialogue, it is with regret but with determination that France, with its European partners, will draw consequences in its relations with Russia. Russia alone would be responsible for that setback. France, its partners and the international community as a whole ask only for

respect for international law and Ukrainian sovereignty, which Russia is clearly and brutally violating.

Sir Mark Lyall Grant (United Kingdom): The pretense is now over. The world can see that Russian military forces have taken control of the Crimean peninsula, part of the sovereign territory of Ukraine. That action is against the express wishes of the legitimate Ukrainian Government. It is a clear and unambiguous violation of the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine, and is a flagrant breach of international law.

We can see absolutely no justification for those actions. We have heard from Russia that their forces are in Ukraine to protect minorities from armed radicals and anti-Semites. We hear claims of interference in the affairs of the Orthodox Church. We hear claims of hundreds of thousands of refugees. But Russia has provided no evidence of any of that. It is clear that the claims have simply been fabricated to justify Russian military action.

In assuming control of a sovereign part of Ukraine on a trumped-up pretext, the Russian Federation has contravened its obligations as a member of the international community. It has violated Article 2 of the Charter of the United Nations, which prohibits the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State. It has failed to honour its international commitments as a founding member of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and as a signatory to the 1975 Helsinki Final Act. It has reneged on its obligations under the 1997 bilateral Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership between Russia and Ukraine and the 1994 Budapest Memorandum.

The Russian representative claims that Mr. Yanukovich has called for Russian military intervention. We are talking about a former leader who abandoned his office, his capital and his country; whose corrupt governance brought his country to the brink of economic ruin; who suppressed protests against his Government leading to over 80 deaths; and whose own party has abandoned him. The idea that his pronouncements now convey any legitimacy whatsoever is far-fetched and in keeping with the rest of Russia's bogus justification for its actions. The Government in Kyiv is legitimate and has been overwhelmingly endorsed by the Ukrainian Parliament.

In the twenty-first century, no country should be acting with such blatant disregard for international law. Those actions will be met with a strong and united response from the international community. Russia should not be surprised that its political and economic reputation have already suffered. The ruble has fallen and the Russian stock market is now down more than 10 per cent.

Just as we condemn the Russian Federation for its confrontational acts, we commend the Government of Ukraine for refusing to rise to provocation. That is a wise decision. We urge the Ukrainian Government to continue to act calmly and to avoid actions or rhetoric that would inflame tensions or provide a further pretext for further military action.

We call on the Russian Federation to immediately cease all military action in Crimea and to refrain from any interference elsewhere in Ukraine. Russia should withdraw its forces to their bases and return to force levels previously agreed with the Government of Ukraine, as part of the Black Sea Fleet basing arrangements.

If Russia is genuinely concerned about protecting minority groups and upholding the human rights of Ukrainian citizens, then armed intervention is not the way to address those concerns. Instead, Russia should open up a direct dialogue with the Ukrainian Government in Kyiv and not simply pick and choose individuals with whom it wishes to engage. It should respond to requests by Ukraine and other signatories of the 1994 Budapest Memorandum to hold consultations, as specified by paragraph 6 of that Memorandum. It should engage constructively in the debate taking place in the OSCE and other institutions concerning the deployment of a fact-finding mission and an international observer mission to Ukraine. Such a mission could establish the real facts on the ground, monitor the situation and, indeed, provide any necessary reassurances and guarantees through peaceful means.

We welcome the Secretary-General's decision to send the Deputy-Secretary-General to Kyiv

today. I hope that he will also go to the Crimea and eastern Ukraine. We call on the Secretary-General to use his good offices to their fullest extent to help to de-escalate the current situation. This is not 1968 or 1956. The era in which one country can suppress democratization in a neighbouring State through military intervention on the basis of transparently trumped-up pretexts is over.

We stand ready to work with Ukraine, Russia and all our international partners to support a stable, united, inclusive and economically prosperous Ukraine. The United Kingdom urges Russia to uphold its obligations under international law, including under the Charter of the United Nations; to act in a way that promotes stability, rather than to destabilize the region through the promotion of new frozen conflicts; and to support democratic processes and the rule of law, not to subvert or suppress them.

Ms. Murmokaitė (Lithuania): Lithuania strongly condemns the clear violation by the Russian Federation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine. The military actions we are witnessing on Crimean soil defy the fundamental principles of international law, the Helsinki Final Act, the Budapest Memorandum of 1994, the Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership between Russia and Ukraine of 1997, and the legal framework regulating the presence of the Russian Black Sea fleet in Crimea. This blatant breach of the Charter of the United Nations has no place in the twenty-first century, and for too many in our part of the world evokes the memories of the darkest pages of the twentieth century. It is a threat to international peace, security and stability, and must be qualified clearly as such.

Such violations of international law must also entail international responsibility. Nothing – none of the events – in Ukraine merits a military invasion such as we are witnessing from the Russian side. The will of the Ukrainian people to pursue a path of democratic transformations and rebuild the rule of law in their country must be respected. We call on the Russian Federation to withdraw its forces back to their permanent bases and to refrain from any further intervention or interference in Ukraine. osc

Let me stress that the international community has a wide array of instruments that can and must be used to resolve existing differences and de-escalate the situation through political dialogue and consultations, especially as all of the major regional and international organizations – the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Council of Europe and others – are offering their mediation and good offices to this effect. The presence of Deputy Secretary-General Eliasson and OSCE representatives on the ground testify clearly to that.

We welcome the proposal of the OSCE to send a monitoring mission to Crimea and other regions of Ukraine. We urge the Russian Federation to respond positively.

In the light of the international efforts, Russia cannot continue forging ahead with military invasion, especially as Ukraine has repeatedly offered consultations with Russian counterparts. Consultation mechanisms are also foreseen in the Budapest Memorandum and must be used to de-escalate the situation. All of these avenues should be utilized with a sense of great urgency, including through bilateral contacts, to move away from the brink of war.

We stress once again the inadmissibility of the threat or use of force in international relations. We call on the international community to stand united in support of Ukraine's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. Efforts to destabilize the situation, as well as to stoke radical action and separatism in Crimea and elsewhere in Ukraine, are highly dangerous. We commend the restraint shown by the new Government of Ukraine and its determination not to give in to provocation.

We support the efforts of the Secretary-General to defuse the crisis and welcome the proposals, as I said before, to send monitoring missions. We would welcome any other bodies and missions that may help to ease the situation. We urge the Russian Federation to respond to these efforts and to seize the opportunity before it is too late.

Mr. Gasana (Rwanda): The situation in Ukraine, in particular the Crimea, is alarming and may pose a threat to international peace and security. We stress the need for all international actors to

respect the Charter of the United Nations and resolve their disputes in conformity with existing bilateral and multilateral agreements. We therefore strongly urge all parties and stakeholders in the Ukrainian crisis to exercise extreme restraint in order to de-escalate the tensions. We further call for an inclusive political dialogue acknowledging the diversity of Ukrainian society and ensuring the protection of ethnic minorities, including the Russian community.

Given the current situation, we believe more than ever that the United Nations has a critical role to play. We welcome the visit of Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson to Kyiv in an effort to find a diplomatic and political solution to the Ukrainian crisis. We also welcome initiatives of several capitals, including the visits today by both the United States Secretary of State and the United Kingdom Foreign Secretary to Kyiv, as well as the efforts of the President of the Swiss Confederation, in his capacity as Chairperson-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, to convene a meeting of the international contact group on Ukraine.

However, given the complexity and fragility of the situation on the ground, we believe that it is important to harmonize all of these international efforts. We therefore reiterate the proposal we made in closed consultations on Saturday to establish a quartet for Ukraine, to be convened by the Secretary-General and composed of the United Nations, the European Union, the OSCE and the Russian Federation. We believe that only the concerted and harmonized efforts of the main stakeholders, aimed at ensuring the respect of the unity, territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine, while considering the interests of the Russian Federation in Ukraine, would provide a lasting solution to this crisis.

As the world is commemorating the centenary of the Great War, let me conclude by hoping that all international actors have learned the lessons of that War and its consequences for the European continent. Although Rwanda is geographically remote from Ukraine, we fear that the current tension, if not well handled, could bring the entire planet back to the darkness of history, aggravated by the increased military and nuclear capabilities of the world's Powers.

Prince Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al-Hussein (Jordan) (spoke in Arabic): Jordan wishes to express its deep concern regarding the unfolding developments in Ukraine, in particular in the Crimean region. We call on all parties to exercise calm and self-restraint and not to further escalate the situation by taking military measures or by threatening the use of force.

Jordan reaffirms the need to respect the sovereignty of Ukraine, its territorial integrity and its political independence. We reaffirm the prohibition of the use of force on its territory, or any part thereof, and of the occupation thereof, including the Crimean region. Jordan calls on all States concerned to respect the terms of their agreements and treaties with Ukraine. In this regard, we reaffirm the need to adhere to the provisions of the Budapest Memorandum of 1994 and the Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership between Ukraine and the Russian Federation of 1997.

Russia and Ukraine must embark on serious and effective dialogue. This dialogue should lead to the return of the Crimean region to Ukrainian control as soon as possible. We call on Ukraine to take immediate steps to resolve the causes of tension, both internally and externally, and to respect human rights, in particular of minority groups, and to revoke any measures that have been taken which may undermine such rights. At the same time, we stress the need to refrain from interference in the internal affairs of Ukraine so that the country may decide its political future for itself.

The Security Council must assume its responsibilities regarding the situation currently prevailing in Ukraine. We support the mediation efforts of the Secretary-General and Mr. Serry, and their contacts with the various parties in this regard.

We wish to receive further clarification from the parties concerned regarding the situation on the ground, and in the Crimean region in particular. This would help the Security Council to address the situation accordingly. We note the need for the Security Council to investigate the crisis in the Crimean region, to look into mediation and dispute settlement mechanisms that could be used in the light of the information provided, and to assess whether an active act of aggression is being committed on Ukrainian territory.

In that regard, we would refer to General Assembly resolution 3314 (XXIX), which considers the use of armed force by a State on the territory of another State that is outside the scope of agreement between the two countries to be an act of aggression. The same applies to the deployment of irregular armed groups in order to perform military acts in another State.

We welcome the efforts already taken and to be taken within the framework of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to deal with the current crisis and the establishment by the OSCE chairmanship of a contact group and a fact-finding mission. We call on the United Nations and OSCE to coordinate their efforts in order to remove the causes of tension and achieve a peaceful solution that preserves Ukraine's territorial integrity and enables a return to stability and calm in the country.

Mr. Liu Jieyi (China) (spoke in Chinese): China is deeply concerned about the current situation in Ukraine. We condemn the recent extreme and violent acts in that country. We have urged all sides in Ukraine to peacefully resolve their internal differences within a legal framework and conscientiously to protect the legitimate rights and interests of all peoples in Ukraine so as to restore normalcy to the country as soon as possible.

China consistently stands for the principles of non-interference in the internal affairs of any country and of respect for Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

There are reasons why the events in Ukraine have progressed to where they are today. China will follow closely the developments on the ground and calls on all sides to find a political solution through dialogue and negotiations on the basis of respect for international law, the principles of international relations and the maintenance of regional peace and stability.

Mr. Quinlan (Australia): I thank Assistant Secretary-General Fernandez-Taranco for his briefing this afternoon, and we welcome Ambassador Sergeyev's participation in this meeting.

The situation in Ukraine clearly continues to escalate. Tensions continue to rise, and the potential for military confrontation is obvious. Since the Council met on Saturday (see S/PV.7124), Russian military activity in Crimea has seriously intensified, and there are reports of more Russian troop deployments on Ukraine's eastern and southern borders, violations of Ukraine's airspace by Russian fighter planes, and Russian naval vessels blocking the exits of Sevastopol Bay in Crimea.

We are seriously concerned about the escalation of Russian military activity. Those actions, along with the decision by the Russian Parliament to authorize the use of force in Ukraine, are wholly unacceptable. Russia's actions are undermining the right of the Ukrainian people to choose their own future, and are also contrary to international law. They contravene the Charter of the United Nations. They also contravene agreements to which Russia itself is a party: the 1994 Budapest Memorandum; the 1975 Helsinki Final Act; and the 1997 bilateral Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership between the Russian Federation and Ukraine. Under those agreements, there is a specific commitment to respecting the territorial integrity of Ukraine, as well as to non-intervention and to refraining from the use or threat of use of force.

The Australian Government, together with the broader international community, which is speaking loudly and with one voice, has urged Russia to stand down, withdraw its armed forces, abide by its international legal commitments and immediately take steps to reduce tensions. Russia must engage in direct dialogue with Ukraine in accordance with article 7 of its own Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership with Ukraine.

In the Council, Australia has already called for Russia to respect Ukraine's unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity, and we reiterate that call here today. We also reiterate our earlier call to not just avoid provocation, but to take proactive steps to de-escalate the crisis. We commend the continued restraint shown by Ukraine itself in the face of continued and very serious provocation. We support the efforts of the new Government of Ukraine to deal with the crisis and stabilize the situation in its country.

The international political engagement we have seen to date on this issue has been essential and of course must continue and increase. It is indicative of the level of concern regarding Russia's actions and the extent of the determination on the part of the international community to de-

escalate the crisis. The international community and the Council must support all efforts towards de-escalation. That means exploring and promoting all opportunities for mediation and dialogue. Australia would also strongly support the deployment of a full monitoring mission to Ukraine, and we are grateful to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) for looking carefully at that possibility. That would be the best way to address Russia's stated concerns about minority rights, and we urge Russia to consider it. We welcome the news that the OSCE will begin deploying some initial monitors tonight.

We also welcome the engagement of the Secretary-General and the visit of Deputy Secretary-General Eliasson to Ukraine. We urge all parties to cooperate with the Deputy Secretary-General as he seeks to promote dialogue and cooperation and see for himself the facts on the ground. It is imperative that he be given access to all parts of Ukraine.

To conclude, the situation should obviously be resolved by peaceful means. There is no other option. As Australian Prime Minister Abbott said in the Australian Parliament yesterday, unprovoked aggression should have no place in our world. Russia should stand down and withdraw its forces from Ukraine in accordance with its obligations, and the people of Ukraine ought to be able to determine their future themselves.

Mr. Errázuriz (Chile) (spoke in Spanish): We express our deep concern over the serious escalation of the crisis in Ukraine, which must be urgently reversed. We call for the greatest restraint and moderation.

We would once again reiterate, as we have stressed previously, the obligation to respect the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine, in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations. Moreover, the parties involved must refrain from taking actions in contravention of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, especially the use or threat of use of force.

The Budapest Memorandum is clear. It represents a commitment to respecting the independence, sovereignty and current borders of Ukraine and to refraining from the use or threat of use of force against the territorial integrity and political independence of Ukraine. Those obligations must be complied with.

The international community must continue to provide support to reach a peaceful solution to the crisis. In this context, we support the efforts in support of international mediation or other mechanisms, including those that could be used by regional organizations to help resolve the crisis. We welcome the decision of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to send observers to the eastern part of Ukraine. Chile supports the efforts of the Secretary-General, and we welcome in particular the mission led by the Deputy Secretary-General, Mr. Jan Eliasson, who is at this very moment in Kyiv. We also call for the Russian Federation to consider undertaking consultations in the framework of the Treaty on Friendship and Cooperation in order to find a solution to the present crisis.

I wish to conclude by stressing the fact that it is up to the people of Ukraine to define their own destiny in an inclusive process that guarantees the rule of law, human rights, fundamental freedoms and respect for the rights of minorities.

Mrs. Perceval (Argentina) (spoke in Spanish): I would also like to thank Mr. Oscar Fernandez-Taranco for his briefing. Through him, we would like to express our appreciation to the Secretary-General and other United Nations officials for their efforts to promote a negotiated solution in the situation.

Argentina is following with deep concern the latest political developments in Ukraine, especially in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. Argentina reaffirms the Security Council's responsibility to ensure that international peace and security are maintained within the framework of the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. In that vein, we recall the obligation that all States must settle their international disputes in a peaceful fashion in order not to endanger international peace and security, in accordance with the provisions of Article 33 of Chapter VI of the Charter, respecting the principles contained in Article 2 of Chapter I and recognizing the significant role that relevant regional organizations can play as

provided for in Chapter VIII of the Charter.

We echo the call of the Secretary-General on all those involved to refrain from actions or statements that may escalate tensions and initiate constructive dialogue through peaceful means to find a way out of the current crisis. All political players and their international partners should heighten their efforts in order to find solutions through inclusive dialogue in which all social and political sectors of the various regions participate. We believe that it is indispensable for authorities who are responsible for leading in the transitional period to enjoy the support and participation of all political forces. We emphasize that it is the primary and unavoidable responsibility and obligation of the State to protect its population including all its ethnic and linguistic minorities. It is therefore essential that any action that can contribute to polarization, the rhetoric of confrontation and the heightening of tensions should be avoided.

Argentina is convinced of the need to work for a united Ukraine, honouring the principles of international law and with full and unconditional respect for human rights, which is the only way in which the Ukrainian people can find a democratic way out of the crisis presently affecting their country. The international community must focus its efforts on supporting such a process in order to cooperate and achieve political agreements that will put an end to the current crisis that Ukraine is facing.

Mrs. Ogwu (Nigeria): What began three months ago as a political protest is increasingly taking on a dimension that today can best be described as precarious. We call on all concerned to abide by the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, particularly Article 2, which calls on all States Members of the United Nations to settle their disputes by peaceful means and to refrain from the use of force against the territorial integrity of any State.

The current situation in Ukraine, especially in Crimea, represents a clear and potent threat to international peace and security, and we would like to see a rapid de-escalation of tension and hostile rhetoric. The concerned parties must embrace dialogue as a means of resolving the crisis and facilitate an expeditious return to normalcy in Ukraine. The prerequisite for that is mediation, as other speakers before me have pointed out. We therefore call on the international community and particularly those who can exert a constructive influence over the concerned parties to intensify efforts towards mediation in the crisis. We firmly believe that the use of preventive diplomacy tools at such a time represents the most expedient and effective option for bringing about a peaceful resolution.

We want to reiterate our call on all concerned to abide by the provisions of the 1994 Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances, which guarantees the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine. We note that the provisions of the Memorandum call for the signatories to consult when a situation arises that raises questions concerning the commitments they undertook in the document. That clause is even more relevant now and indeed represents an opportunity to peacefully resolve the current crisis.

We are encouraged by indications that the Government of Ukraine is taking great strides to ensure greater political inclusiveness in the governance of the country. That, we believe, is a prudent way of addressing one of the underlying causes of the dispute and of ensuring an early return to peace and stability.

The call by the Secretary-General for cool heads to prevail remains relevant under the circumstances, and we urge all concerned to refrain from provocative action that could precipitate now and in the future unnecessary human suffering.

Ms. Paik Ji-ah (Republic of Korea): The Republic of Korea remains deeply concerned over the situation in Ukraine, particularly the escalation of tensions in the Crimean region. Given the tense situation, we call on all parties to exercise maximum restraint and surmount the crisis through dialogue. It is vital that the unity, independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine be fully respected in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. The Republic of Korea hopes that the situation in Ukraine will be settled in a peaceful manner. In that vein, we support the mediation efforts of the international community, particularly those of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. We hope that the Deputy Secretary-General's visit to Ukraine

will help to explore all possible responses to the situation.

Mr. Cherif (Chad) (spoke in French): Chad is deeply concerned by the serious turn of the situation in Ukraine despite the many appeals of the international community for a de-escalation, calm and dialogue. Chad believes that any conflict between States Members of the United Nations should find a peaceful solution within the framework United Nations Charter and in accordance with the principles of sovereignty, non-use of force and peaceful settlement of disputes.

Given the deteriorating situation in Ukraine, Chad reiterates its appeal for restraint and calm and calls upon the international community to undertake a mediation in order to bring about a dialogue between the parties. In that regard, Chad supports all mediation efforts of the international community seeking to bring the parties concerned to settle their differences in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and respect for the commitments under the various agreements.

The President (spoke in French): I shall now make a statement in my capacity as representative of Luxembourg.

Luxembourg is deeply concerned about the recent developments in Ukraine, in particular in Crimea. Our position is reflected in the conclusion that the Foreign Affairs Council of the European Union has just adopted today during an urgently convened meeting. We strongly condemn the violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity by Russian armed forces and the decision taken last Saturday by Russia's Federation Council to authorize the deployment of Russian armed forces on the territory of Ukraine.

Those actions are a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the Helsinki Final Act. I would like to echo the appeal of the European Union to Russia to withdraw its armed forces without delay in order to meet its obligations under the 28 May 1997 Agreement between Russia and Ukraine on the Status and Conditions of the Presence of the Russian Black Sea Fleet on the Territory of Ukraine.

The crisis must be resolved peacefully. A first critical step would be for Russia to accept Ukraine's offer to hold consultations without delay, as provided for in the Memorandum on Security Assurances in Connection with the Republic of Ukraine's Accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, signed 5 December 1994 by Ukraine, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States, and under the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership, signed on 31 May 1997 between Russia and Ukraine.

We would like to believe that it is still possible to avoid the worst. Owing to its history, unfortunately, Luxembourg is well placed to understand the threats that a military escalation poses to the peace and security of Ukraine and the region. We must therefore do our utmost to start a de-escalation of the situation through specific actions. We resolutely support the ongoing efforts within the United Nations, in particular the good offices role of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who took the decision to dispatch the Deputy Secretary-General to Ukraine.

The principles of the United Nations and the very *raison d'être* of the United Nations are at stake. We call on the entire international community to support the efforts of the United Nations, together with those of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Council of Europe and the European Union, to reach a political settlement of the crisis with the parties concerned. We welcome the preparations under way with a view to establishing an OSCE observer mission to impartially assess the situation on the ground.

A lasting political solution to the Ukrainian crisis also requires an inclusive political dialogue, taking into account the diversity of Ukrainian society, the aspirations of all Ukrainians and the need to respect the rights of all Ukrainians. Luxembourg supports the new Government and Parliament of Ukraine, which have taken steps to promote that inclusive political dialogue. We encourage the Ukrainian authorities to appeal to the expertise of the Council of Europe and the OSCE, in particular with regard to the protection of the rights of minorities.

In conclusion, we welcome the restraint shown by the Ukrainian authorities in the face of the crisis, in particular in Crimea. It is vital for all parties to respect the unity, territorial integrity,

independence and sovereignty of Ukraine.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

I give the floor to the representative of Ukraine.

Mr. Sergeyev (Ukraine) (spoke in French): At the outset, I wish to thank you, Madam President, and all members of the Security Council for having given me the floor and for your important remarks, where I heard broad support for my country. Ukraine counts greatly on the Security Council to exert all possible efforts at the international level in order to guarantee the protection of the Ukrainian people, the sovereignty of my country and its territorial integrity. (spoke in English)

At the beginning of this meeting, we listened to the briefing of the representative of the Russian Federation with great attention. Unfortunately, we have still not received any compelling answer to the simple question as to why the military forces of the Russian Federation are illegally occupying the Crimea and brutally violating international law and bilateral agreements. I would like to recall that, according to the Budapest Memorandum on security assurances signed in 1994 between Ukraine and guarantor States, including Russia itself, my country has given up its nuclear arsenal to Russia, while Russia, inter alia, was obliged to refrain from the threat of or use of threat of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of Ukraine. In that regard, I want to underline that with this aggression, the Russian Federation is specifically undermining the regime of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in general.

I wish to brief the Council on the most recent developments on the territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, Ukraine. As of today, beginning from 24 February, approximately 16,000 Russian troops have been deployed in Crimea by military ships, helicopters and cargo aeroplanes from the neighbouring territory of the Russian Federation. The Russian troops keep making attempts to seize, block and control Ukraine's crucial governmental and military entities in Crimea – the Parliament of Crimea, all civil and military airports, means of communication, radio stations, customs services, military and coastguard bases and the headquarters of Ukraine's navy in Crimea. All main roads are blocked.

The build-up of Russian Federation troops and military equipment along the eastern border of Ukraine clearly indicates Russia's preparation for a possible military intervention in Ukraine – the other parts of our country. So far, the Ukrainian armed forces have exercised restraint and refrained from active resistance to the aggression, although they are in full operational readiness. The Russian Federation is performing active information and psychological operations in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, as well as in the south-eastern regions of Ukraine. Those are aimed at discrediting the legitimate authorities of Ukraine and misleading public opinion by calling the Russian intervention a peacekeeping operation.

The Minister of Internal Affairs of Ukraine announced today information about possible provocative acts by the Russian side on the territory of Crimea. Tonight, unknown armed persons are planning to attack and possibly kill Russian soldiers, presenting it as if the attack were committed by Ukraine from within. That is going to be used as a pretext for the ongoing armed intervention by Russia against Ukraine.

The Russian Federation is concerned about the human rights and freedoms of the ethnic Russians on the territory of Ukraine. I would like to inform the Council that it is the obligation of our Government and people to care about that. We do not need external help. Our Minister for Foreign Affairs agreed with the High Commissioner on National Minorities of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to provide an observer mission in Crimea.

Once again, we call upon Security Council members to authorize an international mediation and monitoring mission to Crimea to also monitor the situation with regard to the human rights of ethnic Russian and other ethnic groups and the so-called Russian-speaking population. I, too, am a Russian-speaking person but I do not need any support. My appeal to the Russian Federation is that it demonstrate that it is still a respectful permanent member of the Security Council. It should not undermine the authority of, and confidence in, this universal body.

I know that in the media there are some Russian companies and one Ukrainian television station.

Therefore, with the Council's permission, I will continue in Russian.(spoke in Russian)

I would like to congratulate all Orthodox Christians on the beginning of Lent and to call on all of Russia's Christians and their leaders to seek peace. Do not provoke God's wrath. Come to your senses. Pray for us and hear us.

Unfortunately, the representative of the Russian Federation has attempted to explain the presence of Russian troops in Crimea by saying they are serving as peacekeepers. As we have heard from many who spoke today, those acts are seen as aggression and a provocation of a large-scale armed conflict in Ukraine. That is unacceptable for a State that is one of the guarantors of our sovereignty and territorial integrity under the Budapest Memorandum – and, moreover, for a permanent member of the Security Council, which shares with other Member States the very important function of supporting peace and stability throughout the world. None of that representative's reasoning about the legitimacy of the invasion of Ukraine can be condoned from the standpoint of the Charter of the United Nations. All Russia's arguments with regard to the protection of the Russian population, for example, which supposedly condone military intervention, are part of an issue that is totally within the national purview of the Ukrainian Government and its citizens and should be carried out under our Constitution. All citizens, regardless of their ethnicity or nationality, have equal rights. Under our Constitution, only the Ukrainian Parliament can take those decisions. Do we need military assistance to deal with those humanitarian questions? I have already said that we do not need that type of assistance.

The representative of the Russian Federation continues to refer to the agreement of 21 February as the basis for a settlement of the crisis in Ukraine. We are very surprised by such reasoning. The Russian side, which participated in the mediation talks in reaching that agreement, together with our European partners, refrained from signing the agreement and did not even recognize it as such. Moreover, in the opinion of the Russian representative, how could it be implemented in the context that he is talking about, if one of the major players – former President Yanukovich – left the capital and in fact refused to implement his constitutional functions?

The Russian representative continues to call what happened in Ukraine a coup d'état. In the democratic world, there is a more precise definition. What took place was a revolution of dignity.

We have different understandings about human rights. In November 2013, people of all nationalities protested in the streets without any party officials instructing them and without any pressure from the West – contrary to what the Russian representative asserted. People went out to defend their right to a life of dignity against a wretched, corrupt system that had brought about extreme poverty to mining regions in the east and rural areas of the centre and south of the country, as well as unemployment in the west. Meanwhile, as the entire world saw on television, the relatives of former President Yanukovich, who the Russian representative is defending, lived in luxury.

The Russian representative reiterated today what was already said in a statement by Minister Lavrov, namely, that the former authorities used absolutely legitimate means in curbing unrest. That means that the peaceful student protesters who were brutally beaten by the police on the night of 30 November and on 1 December, whose rights were violated, now stand accused of violating rights. So, while in fact the police beat them, now it seems that the protesters were the ones at fault. And thus it was the protesters who brought repressive laws to Parliament limiting their constitutional rights of freedom of speech and association and laws curbing the rights of the mass media and the freedom of expression – laws that Yanukovich was forced to nullify in the face of pressure from public opinion.

I think the Russian representative is saying that something is wrong in his country. I am sorry that he told an untruth about the Church. All denominations have supported the people, including the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, which is canonically related to the Moscow Patriarchate. The highest official of the Ukrainian Church has called on Russian Orthodox Christians to pause and pray for Ukraine, but not to get ready to kill Ukrainians.

The Russian side justified its decision to carry out a military intervention in Ukraine by saying

that the Prime Minister of Crimea, Mr. Aksyonov, had requested it. His appointment runs counter to the Constitution. He is not a legitimate leader of the administrative territory of Ukraine.

Allow me to recall that Ukraine is a unified State, and Crimea, in line with its powers, is not a member of the Federation. Without the central Government's authorization for troops to come in from Russia, we see it as an unauthorized act of aggression. Even in Crimea it is not supported by many of the people.

Therefore, in accordance with the call by the Secretary-General, the people of the east were brought into the Government's work. Four ministers in Ukraine's current Cabinet were born in Russia, while several governors and territorial leaders in the eastern regions are also Russian-speaking.

In spite of the economic difficulties in the country, the Government of Ukraine is continuing to provide assistance to Crimea. The National Bank of Ukraine provided support to the Crimean bank in the amount of 400 million hryvnias.

Unfortunately, I must note an unfair game played by Russia in the area of misinformation, which is also contributing to the destabilization of our country. Many examples have been given in the past few days. I do not wish to repeat them. However, we would like to take the opportunity afforded by this meeting to once again call on our Russian partners to stop spreading false information. (spoke in English)

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to you, Madam President, and to all members of the Security Council, in particular those who expressed support for Ukraine, who support the imperative to resolve all the problems via diplomatic and political means and to stop the aggression.

The President (spoke in French): The representative of the Russian Federation has asked to take the floor again to make an additional statement. I give him the floor.

Mr. Churkin (Russian Federation) (spoke in Russian): First of all, I would like to welcome my Ukrainian colleague, Mr. Sergeyev, with whom I have been working for quite some time here at the United Nations. I congratulate him on the fact that today he spoke not only in English and French, but also in Russian. It was the first speech that I can recall him delivering in Russian. I should like to tell him, better late than never! I hope we will hear other speeches from my Ukrainian colleague in Russian, although, as we heard, he is also very competent in English and French.

In the course of the statements made by Mr. Sergeyev and other colleagues, I heard a number of strange and even surprising claims. I will make some comments on those. First, the statements made by my Ukrainian, French and British colleagues, if I remember correctly, included the claim that Russia is seeking to exert pressure on Ukrainian democracy. But can a forcible takeover be called democracy? What we are saying is that there must be a normal constitutional process that takes the interests of all regions and all people in Ukraine into account. Is that not democracy? We are calling for democracy, but others are trying to make it seem that what we are calling for is not democracy.

Mr. Sergeyev brought up the very dramatic and tragic events of the past three months, for which we have expressed our great sympathy. There is no doubt about that. There should be no doubt about whether Russia understands that the basis of the political crisis is dissatisfaction on the part of the masses with Mr. Yanukovich's actions as President. But let us be honest about one thing – somewhere along the way, perhaps after the break-up of the demonstrations that was mentioned, laws were adopted under Yanukovich. These laws were repeatedly criticized, although such laws exist in many other countries. There was even a point at which one could not cross the road during a demonstration. Such measures have been taken in many countries. Under French law, in 2009 if I am not mistaken, it was forbidden to wear a mask on the street during a peaceful political demonstration. There may be some other currents at play, but it seems that many elements under discussion also exist in normal democratic countries.

That is not the important issue; it is a matter of principle at play here. Why have my colleagues

decided that what we have in Ukraine now is democratic governance? As Ambassador Sergeyev noted, we can all recall what happened in 1917, when a democratic revolution was followed by dictatorship. We remember that all too well. We have the feeling that, in essence, the Kyiv Government comprises nationalist radicals. They could be replaced by others who might be more presentable to the West, but what motivates them are their backers – the ones who brought them to power.

Let us not be fooled into believing that any change of Government, especially if it is violent, leads to democracy. Some of our western colleagues seem to think that this is the case. We would like to see the process under way in Ukraine lead to the establishment of genuine democracy in that country.

My colleague from the United States said that there is a need to respect the Constitution of Ukraine. We believe that that is indeed important. I am trying to imagine what would happen if, while President Obama was in California, Mitt Romney turned up at the White House and the United States Congress, in one House of which there is currently a Republic majority, all of a sudden voted to impeach President Obama. How would United States public opinion react to that? Would that be a manifestation of democracy? That is exactly what happened in Ukraine. Why did Mr. Yanukovich leave? He was scared into leaving Kyiv for Kharkiv. He was intimidated into signing the agreement of 21 February. He was threatened that the presidential residence would be stormed if the premises were not vacated by 10 a.m.. That is not democracy. That is not respect for the Constitution.

The situation in Crimea is very complex. The Autonomous Republic of Crimea enjoys special status. There was concern that the violent actions in Kyiv would lead to a similar violent capture of the Administration there. Someone came to power in Crimea and took vigorous actions. He subordinated himself to all power structures.

Some wish to make it seem that there are only Russian armed forces in Crimea, but there are also the Ukrainian armed forces who have sworn allegiance to the new authorities in the Autonomous Republic of the Crimea – for example, the Commander of the Ukrainian Fleet, which is also based there; he too has sworn allegiance to the new authorities. There are also a number of self-defence militias, which were created when the Crimean people were afraid that force would be used due to the movement of armed contingents from Kyiv. These people were armed and promised to look for their so-called friends there – that is, militants to restore the appropriate Government.

Then there is the presence of the Black Sea fleet. The numbers are interesting. The Ukrainian representative said that there are some 16,000 military personnel of the Russian Black Sea fleet, but under our agreement up to 25,000 Russian troops can be stationed there. They are there to protect sites and prevent extremists from taking actions that could harm civilians or endanger their lives and health. Perhaps our Ukrainian colleague views this as excessive, but I fully agree with the authorities of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea.

I was also surprised to hear Ambassador Power state that all of these concerns are fabricated. That claim truly surprises me. I have the impression that Ms. Power is taking her information from United States television. Well, if she gets all her information from United States television alone, then of course everything in Ukraine must seem just wonderful. The wave of democracy there was interrupted only when the bad guy Yanukovych ran away.

There was an attempt to take over the Kyiv Pechorska Lavra, which is as dear to me as it is to Ambassador Sergeyev – perhaps even more. I am not from Ukraine; I am from Russia. From the reports of the American Ambassador and our own information, I am sure that our media, like that of many other countries, has portrayed events quite differently. What about the wave of violence that swept through western and central Ukraine? What about the armed attacks against administrative buildings? What about the municipal leaders who were dragged from their offices, tied to pillars and mocked? Was that democracy? Is that a normal political process? Would we see someone dragged out like that in Chicago or in Bordeaux, for example? I do not think so. I do not think we would deem such actions admissible in any democratic country.

What, then, are we to make of the events in Kyiv? Was that merely a made-up concern? Attempts to take over administrative buildings in almost all cities in eastern and southern Ukraine were not made up. An armed group invaded and tried to remove the Government and to set up its own undemocratic and illegitimate authority.

I shall now turn to one of the key points I would like to highlight. It is not only we who are concerned. It is not important that we hold such concern. This concern is shared naturally by people living in southern and eastern Ukraine.

I now return to a point on which Ambassador Sergeyev knows I am right. As I have already mentioned, unfortunately the right-wing forces in Ukraine are very strong. They cannot stand Russian citizens or ethnic Russians. Let us recall how their leaders aligned with Bandera and Shukhevych, who fought under Hitler's banner against the Soviet Union's Red Army component of the anti-Hitler coalition. Those who share their ideology are unfortunately very close to the Ukrainian authorities; in fact, they carry them on their shoulders. Can one therefore not find it justifiable or imaginable that people living there would have concerns – millions of people, with 1.5 million of them in Crimea.

The key issue here is, does anyone really think that Russia could allow a repeat of what happened there in central and eastern Ukraine, where millions of Russians live? I would recall that, years ago, the United States took over Grenada. President Reagan said that they were defending American citizens who resided there. That was 1,000 people, and there was no threat to those citizens from Grenada. We have millions living there. They have concerns.

Our colleagues have referred to international institutions – the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the United Nations. Granted, those institutions might be used. We do not deny that. But those of us working at the United Nations understand very well what international institutions are like. In Kosovo there were not just institutions, but deployed NATO forces. What did they do in 2004 to stop the repression and attacks that took place there, which forced many thousands of Serbs to leave the area? Nothing was done. Some here have called for an OSCE observer mission to be sent to Ukraine. Do they know what nationalist radicals think of such a mission? They will not even hear of it. Also, it will take months to make the preparations for such a mission, so who knows what could happen there in the meantime?

Another very important point that I want to address is the following. We called this meeting it. No one should think that we called it to provide a fuller picture of what is really happening from our view point. The two previous meetings were somewhat spontaneous, it is true. I would like to repeat that a decision by our President, which was authorized by the Federation Council, to deploy Russian armed forces on the territory of Ukraine has not yet been taken. And the fact that we are holding this meeting does not mean that such a decision will be taken in the near future.

However, in order to avert something we all want to prevent, it is essential to bring home to those who happen to be in power in Kyiv and who control the situation in vast areas of Ukraine, as well as those who support them and influence them, that there should be no continuation of a policy of faits accomplis and the seizure of power by force.

We talked about defensive language rights. Yes, a lot of work will have to be done there, with the possible participation of international agencies. But let us understand one thing now: we must all refrain from making any plans for, or falling back on the habit of, violently imposing authority or a philosophy, culture or world view on other people. That is undemocratic and could have very dangerous consequences in Ukraine.

On a more practical matter, one of my colleagues said that we cannot talk about the agreement of 21 February because Yanukovich left. Well, so what? The point is that our task is not to return Yanukovich to power. Is it not understood that Yanukovich will never return to power, that he will never go back to his residence in Kyiv and never rule the State – although we continue to consider him the legitimate President of Ukraine at present, for the reasons I have stated. The point is that this is not a matter of Yanukovich or no Yanukovich. The point is that democratic parameters for resolving the crisis in Ukraine are set out in the agreement. This is not about returning to one law out of the blue; there should be constitutional reform. They have been

constantly changing the laws in Ukraine for the past 15 years, which may be the reason for the political turmoil. There should be a process between the different regions and political forces.

The Party of Regions has been scared off, and so they think it no longer exists. But it exists. It has huge support in the western part of the country, which is Ukraine's main industrial centre.

That is what we are talking about. That is what should be done, in addition to giving up force as a way of solving problems.

The President (spoke in French): The representative of the United States has asked for the floor to make a further statement.

Ms. Power (United States of America): In response to my Russian colleague's comments, I would like to make a couple of points. First, I would like to address his point about the legitimacy of President Yanukovich and his point about the February 21 agreement, which he has made several times.

To be clear, we commend the work done by France, Germany and Poland to mediate and negotiate that agreement, with Russia very much in observance. We would have been prepared to support the completion of that agreement. Under its terms, President Yanukovich had 24 hours to sign the first piece of action pursued in the Rada: the changing of the Constitution pursuant to the 21 February agreement. Not only did President Yanukovich not sign it but, as my Russian colleague reminds us, he left the city. Indeed he fled the city. He packed up himself and his family and he left the seat of the presidency vacant for two days while his country was in crisis. He also left vast evidence of corruption and vast evidence of the amounts that he had stolen from the Ukrainian people. In that context, with 371 votes, the democratically elected Rada voted Yanukovich out of office, with his own party turning against him. That is the history.

With respect to the present, what we have heard today – with the exception of one member of the Security Council, namely, the Russian Federation – is overwhelming support for the territorial integrity of Ukraine and for peaceful dialogue. There are so many options available to Russia to safeguard the rights of ethnic Russians and to address the concerns that have been raised: so many options short of military action. Therefore, the very simple questions for Russia today are the following. Why not support international mediation? Why is that not part of their remarks today? Why not support an observer mission? Why not engage directly with the Ukrainian authorities who want to resolve the crisis peacefully? Why not pull back their forces instead of sending more? Why not?

When military intervention in the face of a crisis like this is the first resort, it is hard to avoid concluding that Russia does not want peace and does not want a diplomatic solution. Why choose military action when the consequences could be devastating? Only someone who fears the truth would be fearful of monitors who are deployed for the specific purpose of identifying and reporting the truth. That is all.

The President (spoke in French): The representative of France has asked for the floor to make a further statement.

Mr. Araud (France) (spoke in French): For four and a half years I have had the honour to serve on the Security Council. And for four and a half years I have had the honour of working with the representative of the Russian Federation. In that time, I have heard the representative of the Russian Federation invoke whenever possible the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of another country. As soon as we talk about human rights in a given country, the representative of the Russian Federation says that there should be absolutely no interference in the domestic affairs of another country. I have just heard a statement that is nothing more than pure interference in the internal affairs of Ukraine. I am sorry to have to recall that there should be some sort of coherence in the foreign policies that we should be aspiring to. Everything that the representative of the Russian Federation has just said is interference in the internal affairs of Ukraine.

Secondly, the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation has told us that the decision for the Russian armed forces to enter Ukraine has not yet been taken. Please, everyone knows

that the Russian army is controlling the Republic of Crimea. That is a fact. Of course they had no need to enter Ukraine, since they were already there. At this hour, the Russian army is occupying Ukraine. That is a fact. The Internet and television do exist, and Russian soldiers are not even hiding the fact that they are occupying Ukraine and surrounding the army bases of the Ukrainian army.

Thirdly, there is a long-standing habit of always calling one's opponent a Nazi before getting rid of him. The Soviets were good at that. No – not all the demonstrators who were in the streets in Kyiv were Nazis, and for the most part they were not from the far right or radical nationalists. If members of the Council need evidence of that, it is quite simple. Elections can be held on 25 May under international supervision – for example, under the supervision of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). Let the Ukrainians vote. They will decide, under OSCE monitoring, what future they want.

Finally, I am very touched by the Russian Federation's attachment to the 21 February agreement, which the Russian Federation had previously rejected. I repeat – it is an agreement that the Russian Federation had refused to endorse and that it now invokes incessantly. It is better to find the path of wisdom late than never.

The President (spoke in French): The representative of the Russian Federation has asked for the floor to make further statement.

Mr. Churkin (Russian Federation) (spoke in Russian): Perhaps I should not comment on such trivial things, but the statement made by my colleague Ms. Power made it sound as if we oppose something that we do not oppose. We are not excluding the role of some international bodies, but I explained why that approach might not be enough.

More importantly, I would like to ask my French colleague not to engage in hyperbole. We do not need hyperbole. Furthermore, I did not say that the majority of those who protested in the streets of Kyiv were radical nationalists. I did not say that. The minority of them may have been, but the problem is that they were the ones who not only called the tune but also played along with the band. They have now taken over Government authority in Kyiv and are sending people to east and southern Ukraine and to the territory of Crimea.

The President (spoke in French): The representative of the United Kingdom has asked for the floor to make a further statement.

Sir Mark Lyall Grant (United Kingdom): I do not want to prolong today's debate but I must take issue with some of the things that the Russian ambassador has said.

Let us be clear about the facts of what has happened in Crimea. The Russian forces have forcibly taken over military and civilian airports and infrastructure. They have set up roadblocks and pressured Ukrainian military leaders to defect. They have given other Ukrainian units ultimatums to surrender. They have blocked Ukrainian ports and vastly increased their military forces all along the Russian-Ukrainian border.

There is no justification for that military action in international law or in the Agreement between Ukraine and the Russian Federation on the Status and Conditions of Presence of the Black Sea Fleet of the Russian Federation in the Territory of Ukraine, as article 6 of that Agreement sets forth very clearly: "Military formations shall respect the sovereignty of Ukraine, shall abide by Ukrainian laws and shall not interfere in the internal affairs of Ukraine." What part of that Agreement justifies the military action that we have seen Russian taking in Crimea?

My Russian colleague has said just now that the Russian Federation is not against the idea of an Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe monitoring mission to eastern Ukraine and Crimea. Can he now confirm therefore that the Russian Federation accepts the deployment of such a mission in the next few days?

The President (spoke in French): The representative of the Russian Federation has asked for the floor to make further statement.

Mr. Churkin (spoke in Russian): We are not sitting with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). I cannot talk about the OSCE. We are not talking about the OSCE. It has its own functions. We supported Mr. Eliasson's mission to Ukraine. As for an

OSCE mission, that has to be discussed. I support what Mr. Sergeyev said early to the effect that there is too much disinformation and too many statements, particularly those that are not rooted in reality. Much of what Sir Mark Lyall Grant said about what is going on in Crimea is just not in line with reality.

The President (spoke in French): The representative of Ukraine has asked for the floor to make further statement. I now give him the floor.

Mr. Sergeyev (Ukraine) (spoke in Russian): I am speaking in Russian in order to be properly understood. I support what Ambassador Churkin said with regard to the need to speak openly and be extremely honest. I just want to clarify a few issues he raised in his statement. I will be clear.

First, as to the occupation or threat of occupation of the Pechersk Lavra monastery in Kyiv, which is in canonical relationship with the Moscow Patriarchate, when the unrest began we received information that there might be some kind of provocation against the monastery. The monastery issued a statement that same day and repeated it the next day to the effect that the exterior of the monastery was being guarded by ordinary people from the Maidan to prevent any provocation. That is the entire answer. The demonstrators were defending the monastery from possible provocations.

As to the Black Sea fleet, I have something to add. Our Agreement provides for a numerical strength for the Black Sea fleet of 11,000 people, including about 2,000 marines and 5,300 other military from the Russian armed forces. Let us pay close attention – in December 2013, our Ministry was notified by the Russian side that the Black Sea fleet would be maintained at a numerical strength of 11,000.

I would now like to go back to statement made by the representative of Jordan. He quoted the annex of General Assembly resolution 3314 (XXIX), in which the concept of aggression is defined. Article 3 of the annex contains a non-exhaustive list of what would qualify as an act of aggression. The list provides for the eventuality that if within the territory of a State – for example, Ukraine – the armed forces of another State – for example, Russia, and in this case the Black Sea fleet – are present with the agreement of the receiving State, and the permitted number and location of the troops are specified, and there is a violation of the specified number and location of troops without the agreement of the receiving country, that is an act of aggression. In that regard, I am not even referring to the number of military forces that infringed the airspace of Ukraine, namely, M-14 combat helicopters that were not part of the Black Sea fleet, or the many other transport aircraft that have infringed our airspace. There has thus been an increase in the number of Russian military within our territory, in violation of all of our agreements. That is aggression.

There has been much speculation about language. I and my Administration have explained to the press and to many of my colleagues that the first law upon Ukraine's independence, promulgated in 1992, was the law on national minorities, which guaranteed equal rights and protection of the national interests of all ethnic groups, including linguistic minorities. In principle, the substantive law that was adopted in 2012 under pressure by the former Ukrainian Government did not take into account more than 2,000 amendments, and the opposition did not participate in the vote.

We did not need that legislation because it was enough to have the 1992 law and the Constitution. I would recall that when Ukraine went to the Council of Europe, it took on an obligation to sign and to ratify the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, not languages of minorities but minority languages. The former Governments redid the Charter, saying that it should apply not only to languages such as Crimean Tartar, Karaim and others that need to be protected, but to all languages of national minorities that are protected by law. We have therefore now got rid of that law. The Government said that the Parliament would once again consider the ratification of the Charter, which we undertook to ratify. We signed and ratified it. Incidentally, to date, the Russian Federation has not ratified the Charter. But we are ratifying it. For languages that do not have a territory and have no official definition, we will defend those languages that would disappear because there are not many people who speak them.

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With regard to the Party of Regions, unfortunately an untruth was said. The Party of Regions, the former ruling party, was a large faction of the current Parliament. Moreover, one of the leaders of that faction, Mr. Tygipko, said that he would run for President. No one heard that. The ruling party called Mr. Yanukovych what he is, that is, a coward and a traitor. It was not a comment about the Parliament. The Parliament was elected legally for a long time, not in a revolutionary way. It has all the power that it needs to appoint the Government. It has the full range of powers to conduct elections. Today, it was announced there would be presidential elections on 25 May. Let us therefore give that an opportunity to work and for us to learn how to live together and how to govern.

I agree that we need assistance so that we can get past this crisis, which has been going on for years, and help the country to build its future in such a way that people will not be ashamed to live there. We need that assistance in order to form a civil society and, of course, we invite all to come and help and to see how we are doing that but not to bother us when we do not ask for it.

The President (spoke in French): There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers. The Security Council has thus concluded its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 5.35 p.m.

ОБСЄ

На спеціальному засіданні Постійної ради ОБСЄ обговорювали ситуацію, що склалася навколо України

(ППУ України у Відні)

03 березня 2014, 19:00

Сьогодні, 3 березня ц.р., представники держав-учасниць ОБСЄ зібралися у Відні на спеціальному засіданні Постійної ради ОБСЄ у зв'язку з подальшим загостренням ситуації в Україні.

Майже всі держави-учасниці ОБСЄ залишаються стурбованими з приводу агресивних дій Росії в Автономній Республіці Крим (Україна). Ці дії ставлять під сумнів фундаментальну основу регіональної безпеки – Гельсінські принципи, якими керуються держави-учасниці у своїх відносинах.

Окресливши останні події у Криму Постійний представник України Ігор Прокопчук розцінив дії Росії як порушення її міжнародних зобов'язань, взятих як в рамках міжнародних договорів, так і двосторонніх угод з Україною. Він закликав держави-учасниці ОБСЄ продемонструвати повну солідарність з Українським народом у цей вирішальний момент його історії. Серед кроків, які необхідні для мирного врегулювання кризи, представник України відзначив направлення моніторингової місії зі з'ясування фактів.

Майже усі промовці висловили повну підтримку суверенітету, незалежності та територіальної цілісності України. Європейський Союз, зокрема, рішуче засудив явне порушення суверенітету та територіальної цілісності України. На фоні військових кроків Росії, ЄС позитивно відзначив стриманість України у реагуванні на провокації.

Сполучені Штати, представлені помічником Державного секретаря Вікторією Нуланд, засудили дії Росії, які є порушенням міжнародного права, норм та принципів ОБСЄ.

Багато послів закликали до негайного початку діалогу з метою деескалації ситуації. На загальне переконання, зусиллям щодо мирного врегулювання ситуації сприятиме використання інструментарію ОБСЄ, який має бути використаний негайно.

Швейцарське Головування в ОБСЄ розглядає у цьому зв'язку можливість створення Міжнародної контактної групи з питань України, а також направлення моніторингової місії до Криму. Серед очікуваних кроків також – посилення співробітництва України з інституціями ОБСЄ.

Statement at the extraordinary meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council on current situation around Ukraine delivered by Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the International Organizations in Vienna Ihor Prokopchuk

03 березня 2014, 23:16

Mme Chairperson,

What we witness today in the crisis around Ukraine is a violation of the Basic principles upon which this Organization is founded.

There is an imminent threat of military aggression against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine originating from another OSCE participating State – the Russian Federation.

There is an imminent and serious threat to the regional security and to security of Europe that can have far-reaching repercussions.

Mme Chairperson,

Since the most recent meeting of the Permanent Council last Thursday, the situation around Ukraine has dramatically escalated.

On 27 February unidentified armed men entered the Crimean parliament in the regional capital Simferopol by force and hoisted a Russian flag on the roof. On Friday armed men took control of an airport in the Black Sea port of Sevastopol and another airport in Simferopol, prompting flights cancellation. The situation was further aggravated when Russian military helicopters and military cargo airplanes violated the Ukrainian airspace, brought in additional troops and the Russian servicemen blockaded a unit of the Ukrainian border guard in the port city of Sevastopol. On Saturday and Sunday, the Russian military units made attempts to enter the Ukrainian military bases in Crimea, declaring ultimatums to disarm under the threat to use force. The cases of pressure and intimidation are mounting as we speak.

With regard to the developing situation, the Foreign Ministry of Ukraine proposed to hold urgent consultations on this situation based on the bilateral Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership of 1997. This proposal was turned down by the Russian side. Ukraine's proposal to arrange urgent multilateral consultations at the level of states-signatories of the 1994 Budapest Memorandum was likewise rejected by the Russian Federation.

On 28 February 2014 the Parliament of Ukraine adopted a Resolution with an Address to the guarantor-states under the Budapest Memorandum. The Ukrainian Parliament called upon the Russian Federation to abstain from steps which encroach upon the state sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine and to refuse support of separatism in Ukraine in any form. The Parliament also appealed to the states-signatories of the Budapest Memorandum to confirm by practical actions their commitment to respect independence and sovereignty and the existing borders of Ukraine.

Despite these numerous appeals to the Russian Federation, and despite the proposals of the Ukrainian side to engage into constructive dialogue on any issues that would be of interest to the Russian Federation, the next step by Moscow was to authorize the use of military force against Ukraine.

On 1 March 2014, the Parliament of the Russian Federation authorized the President of the Russian Federation to deploy military forces of the Russian Federation in Ukraine, citing "extraordinary situation in Ukraine, threat to the citizens of Russian Federation, compatriots, personnel of the military contingent of Russian Federation's armed forces" as reasons.

The Ukrainian side considers these actions of the Russian Federation to be in breach of the Principle to refrain from the threat or use of force, contained in the Helsinki Final Act.

Mme Chairperson,

We call upon the Russian Federation to abide by its bilateral and international commitments, to stop the violation of international law and basic principles of the OSCE, and not to resort to armed aggression against Ukraine.

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We call upon the Swiss Chairmanship and the participating States to take all measures that would stop the existing breach by the Russian Federation of the basic principles of international law;

We call upon the states-signatories of the Budapest Memorandum to demonstrate in practical actions their commitment to guaranteeing the respect of the independence and sovereignty and the existing borders of Ukraine;

We call upon all delegations to fulfill their commitment under the Lisbon Document of 1996 not to support participating States that threaten or use force in violation of international law against the territorial integrity or political independence of any participating State.

Dear colleagues,

There is an urgent need to prevent the military intervention of the Russian Federation and to deescalate the existing tensions around Ukraine. Ukraine calls for the potential of the OSCE to be fully applied in the present situation.

We suggest that the following steps should be taken in this regard:

1. The establishment of an international mission of observers, including from the OSCE, to establish facts on the ground in Ukraine, and specifically in the Crimean peninsula;
2. Application of the available OSCE mechanisms and expertise to support stabilization of the situation in Ukraine.

We also welcome the reports that the initiative of the Chairmanship regarding the establishment of an international contact group under OSCE auspices is gaining more attention from the participating States. As there is a number of international organizations engaged in assisting Ukraine, the issue of co-ordination is essential.

Furthermore, the following steps of the Russian Federation would be necessary to cease the existing threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine:

1. An immediate repeal of the authorization to use the military forces of the Russian Federation in the territory Ukraine;
2. The return of all military units of the Russian Federation's Black Sea Fleet to their permanent duty stations;
3. Establishment of direct political dialogue with authorities of Ukraine.

Mme Chairperson,

On Saturday evening, in view of the aggressive stance taken by the Russian Federation in relation to sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, the Council of National Security and Defense of Ukraine adopted the decision to bring the military forces of the state into full combat readiness.

Ukraine is a peaceful country but it will protect its sovereignty and territorial integrity from an aggressive war with all possible means, in full compliance with the UN Charter.

We call for solidarity of all participating States to uphold and protect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine and the principles to which all our countries are committed.

Mme Chairperson,

I have the following comments in reply to the points raised by the Russian Federation.

- On the authorities in Ukraine:

The new Ukrainian Government under Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk was formed by the constitutional majority of a legitimately elected parliament, representing the entire population of Ukraine.

Any concerns that the Russian Federation may have regarding the situation in Ukraine should therefore be addressed to this government.

The failure to recognize by the Russian Federation the legitimacy of the new government of Ukraine that was formed in full accordance with the constitutional and legal framework of Ukraine constitutes the breach of the Principle of sovereign equality and respect for the rights inherent in sovereignty.

- On the Agreement on Resolution of Political Crisis in Ukraine of 21 February:

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At the time of an acute political crisis which resulted in deaths of nearly 100 civilians, when on 21 February with the assistance of the international mediators a way was found to stop violence, there was a sincere disappointment in Ukraine when the Russian representative refused to put his signature under the Agreement on resolution of political crisis in Ukraine, the implementation of which Moscow now so strongly advocates.

This Agreement was breached by the former President Yanukovich, as he refused to sign the law which restored the validity of the 2004 Constitution in Ukraine, an immediate step which was placed as number one in the Agreement. With this refusal he rendered this Agreement obsolete. The former President withdrew from performing his constitutional duties and fled the country.

An attempt by the Russian delegation to link the threat of force with implementation of an agreement between the Ukrainian political forces constitutes a breach of the Principle of non-intervention into internal affairs.

- On the safety of persons belonging to national minorities

The Ukrainian side underscores that safety and security of the population at the territory of Ukraine, including that of foreign citizens and national minorities, is guaranteed by the Government of Ukraine. There were no cases of organized violence directed against the citizens of Russian Federation or personnel of the Russian Federation's armed forces that could give ground to allegations of threat to these specific groups in Ukraine.

The Government of Ukraine is strongly committed to upholding the principles and commitments of the OSCE. The rights of national minorities, including the Russian minority, are fully guaranteed at the whole territory of Ukraine by law and in practice. Their observance is subject to international monitoring within existing mechanisms, including by the OSCE High Commissioner of National Minorities. There is no ground for allegations about threats to these rights. The legislation mentioned by the Russian colleague never came into force.

The decisions on a referendum in Crimea are illegitimate as they are not consistent with the existing constitutional and legal framework of Ukraine.

The Ukrainian side is ready to further expand its scope of co-operation with the OSCE in all dimensions of our work. The Government is committed to ensure that the OSCE expertise is duly used in such spheres as democratic elections, protection of human rights, especially the rights of national minorities, freedom of media, strengthening the rule of law, the civil society and many others.

As we have announced at the last meeting of the Permanent Council, the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights is invited to observe the upcoming presidential elections in Ukraine on 25 May. Today I would like to hand over to Director Lenarcic the official letter of invitation and to express our hope that our co-operation with the ODIHR in preparing and conducting this election will be an efficient and productive one.

**United States Mission to the OSCE Statement for the Special Meeting on Ukraine
As delivered by Victoria Nuland, Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian
Affairs at the OSCE Special Permanent Council
Vienna March 3, 2014**

Thank you Madam Chair.

My thanks to Ambassador Guldemann for being here, to the Ambassador for Ukraine, and to all the chairs of the OSCE institutions.

There should be no question where the United States stands on this matter. The President has been clear; we have also joined a statement at NATO of the 28 allies, we've also joined a G7 statement. We consider Russia's actions in Ukraine to be a violation of international law and a violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the independent nation of Ukraine, and a breach of Russia's Helsinki Commitments and its UN obligations.

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When President Obama and President Putin spoke by phone two days ago our President made his position clear. President Putin spoke of a number of concerns from Russia's side many of which we reject flatly.

That said, if in fact Russia had legitimate concerns about the security of its space or the security of the Russian minority in Ukraine, the answer was **not** to deploy military force – the answer was to enter immediately into negotiations with the transitional government in Kyiv and to invite international organization such as this one to help address any concerns they may have had.

So the President made clear to President Putin that while we reject Russia's version of reality in this instance there is still a way out of the current complex if Russia chooses to make the right choices. And that very much involves this institution: the OSCE has the tools to address any legitimate concerns with regard to security on the ground, with regard to minority rights, and with regard to preparations for this democratic transition to lead to free and fair elections.

I am here today, at President Obama's request, to urge this organization to take immediate action to help de-escalate the situation, to address legitimate concerns and to urge the Russian Federation to take advantage of this tool, this institution of which Russia has been a member for all of these years, to bring your policy into the 21st century, to address concerns peacefully and through mediation and through observation rather than through military force.

So with that in mind the United States urges the OSCE to move immediately, to begin to augment its field office in Kyiv, to begin to deploy monitors to Crimea and to flash points in Ukraine's east where we may have concerns that violence is being stirred up. We urge the OSCE to take advantage of the draft that Canada put forward yesterday; we thank our Canadian allies for that initiative. We applaud an OSCE monitor mission. We would like see that mission approved today, if possible, and if not, certainly within the coming days, and to immediately deploy to Ukraine and to provide an opportunity for Russian forces to pull back to their bases and for the situation in Ukraine to normalize.

Over the medium term we also see the OSCE as the primary vehicle for supporting Ukraine as it moves forward towards free and fair democratic elections in May. There will need to be support in the area of election reform, in the area of reform to the election commission, and there'll obviously have to be broad and deep monitoring of the pre-election and the election period.

We commend the Ukrainian government for coming here to the OSCE and asking for the deployment of all of those tools of support. And we urge the Russian Federation to pull back to bases immediately and accept the international support, UN support and OSCE support, that is on offer and join the rest of the international community in supporting the sovereignty, the territorial integrity and the democratic free choice of the Ukrainian people to make their own future.

Thank you.

Press Gaggle at the OSCE with Victoria Nuland, Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Following the OSCE Special Permanent Council Meeting on Ukraine Vienna, March 3, 2014

A/S Nuland: Good afternoon everybody. I'm delighted to be here at the OSCE at this high-level meeting.

On the situation in Ukraine: there should be no question where the United States stands on this matter. President Obama has made very clear that we condemn in strongest terms the violations on Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity by forces from the Russian Federation. We reject these breaches of international law and Russia's own obligations under international law, under the Helsinki Final Act, and with regard to its undertakings directly with the government of Ukraine. The United States strongly supports and welcomes the transitional government in Ukraine; we are committed to helping this government and the people of Ukraine restore stability, restore unity, and restore political and economic health to their country on the way to

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free and fair elections in May as called. As you know, Secretary Kerry will be in Ukraine tomorrow to underscore these messages and to bring concrete support from the United States.

We have made clear – President Obama has made clear to President Putin – that even as we reject and condemn the action they have taken, that there is way out of this situation. The way out of this situation is through direct dialogue with the sovereign government of Ukraine, the pull back of forces, the restoration of Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity and to make use of the tools of international organizations like the UN, like the OSCE, to address any concerns that anyone may have with regard to the current situation in Ukraine.

I was very gratified by the session that we had, to see that so many of the tools that the OSCE has are going to be deployed in Ukraine as soon as possible. As you probably know, the HCNM is already in Ukraine, the Chair’s Representative Ambassador Guldemann will go tomorrow; today there was an announcement that the OSCE will begin deploying tonight monitors to Ukraine who can provide neutral facts, make a true assessment of the situation on the ground. We hope that these monitors will be permitted to travel to Crimea where they are needed most and also to key cities in eastern Ukraine, and begin to provide reassurance and a true honest assessment of what is going on and to provide some protection and comfort for the Ukrainian people.

Over the longer term, we believe that the OSCE should launch a full-scale monitoring mission. We hope there will be consensus for that here. There was a proposal made by Canada which the United States strongly supports. This monitoring mission can go first and foremost to Crimea to de-escalate tensions and can provide an out for the Russian Federation if it so chooses. It can pull its forces back to base and have them replaced by independent monitors from the OSCE and from the UN.

Over the longer term, this organization can also help the Ukrainian people with the other challenges that it has – first and foremost, to have free and fair elections. There was an announcement today that ODIHR will begin deploying its first team to Ukraine. The United States will strongly support all of these missions with personnel and with finances. The OSCE has also taken a decision to begin deploying police experts and others who can help with the normalization of the security situation not only on the streets in Kyiv and key cities but also in Crimea if Russia would allow that to happen.

So again, I want to stress that all of the issues that may be of concern to any nation and to the Ukrainian people, whether it is the condition of national minorities, whether it’s security and stability, whether it is the capability for free and fair elections, whether it is independent observation – all of those missions can be supported by the OSCE. That is why we are here today. We call on Russia to make the right choice: pull back your forces, deploy and support international monitors to Crimea and to eastern Ukraine and begin a real and productive dialogue with your neighbor in Ukraine. The Ukrainian people, the Ukrainian government support all of these things, and the United States stands with them in those requests.

Q&A:

Question: ...(inaudible)...

Nuland: As you know, President Obama spoke to President Putin two days ago; Secretary Kerry will see Minister Lavrov in the coming days in Europe; Secretary Hagel, our Secretary of Defense, spoke to the Minister of Defense Mr. Shoigu yesterday or the day before, those contacts continue. The Vice President is endeavoring to speak to Prime Minister Medvedev... so we are using all of our channels of dialogue to make the case to Russia that it doesn’t have to be this way, that it should make a 21st century choice to settle its issues politically and through negotiations, not with military force.

Question: China has declared its support for the action of Russia – is this a reason for us to be more nervous...(inaudible)?

Nuland: I haven’t seen the statements by China, but I cannot imagine that it is in the interest of the Chinese government to support a violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of any state. Other questions?

Question: (inaudible)...OSCE missions...(inaudible)

Nuland: Well again, under the authorities of the Chairman in Office here, the Swiss Chairman, a number of advance teams are being deployed today, both on the human rights side, on the observation and investment side, and on the election side – it is up to Russia to make the right choice. The body here is beginning to scope what a permanent monitoring mission will be. Based on the conversation in there it will be a very, very broad consensus for that monitoring mission. We call on Russia to join that consensus, make the right choice and pull back its forces.

Question: Do you see any softening by Russia...(inaudible)?

Nuland: When President Obama and President Putin spoke, our President made clear that we would hope that we could have a good conversation here, and President Putin did not close the door to that, so we will keep working here because that is the right course of action.

Thank you very much.

Media censorship and intimidation of journalists in Ukraine must stop, says OSCE media representative

VIENNA, 3 March 2014

OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media Dunja Mijatović today said harassment of journalists in Ukraine must stop, and that members of the media must be able to perform their work.

“I call on all responsible parties to ensure safety of journalists in Simferopol, Donetsk and Kharkiv and to stop interfering with their work,” Mijatović said.

According to reports, on 3 March the Chernomorskaya television and radio channels, the largest independent broadcaster on Crimean peninsula, was shut down.

On 3 March the Council of Ministers of Crimea also issued a statement threatening to stop the rebroadcast of a number of Ukrainian channels from Kyiv.

“I reiterate that in difficult and sensitive situations such as the current one in Ukraine, media freedom and plurality of opinions must be ensured,” Mijatovic said. “All citizens must have the right to receive all available information, irrespective of its source, without censorship from the authorities and regardless of frontiers.”

Mijatović noted that on 2 March a group of about 30 men, in military uniform, targeted offices of the Information and Press Centre, a hub for independent media in the region, and the Crimean Centre for Investigative Journalism in Simferopol.

She also noted the continued physical harm to journalists, with attacks in Donetsk and Kharkiv, where journalists of Radio Liberty, Perviy Delovoi and the Ura-Inform Donbass portal were assaulted by protesters in the presence of law enforcement officers who did not intervene.

“I strongly encourage all parties to refrain from restrictive and violent practices. Silencing media is not acceptable under any circumstances, and especially not in times of crisis,” Mijatović said.

Mijatović visits Ukraine from 4 to 7 March 2014.

The Representative’s earlier statements on the media freedom situation in Ukraine are available here: <http://www.osce.org/home/115781>

The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media observes media developments in all 57 OSCE participating States. She provides early warning on violations of freedom of expression and media freedom and promotes full compliance with OSCE media freedom commitments.

Learn more at www.osce.org/fom, Twitter: @OSCE_RFoM and on [facebook.com/osce.rfom](https://www.facebook.com/osce.rfom).

OSCE/ODIHR to send an election observation mission for the 25 May early presidential election in Ukraine

WARSAW, 3 March 2014

The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) announced today that it would send an election observation mission to Ukraine for the 25 May early presidential election.

The announcement came after the Office received an invitation to observe from the Ukrainian authorities, in line with ODIHR's role as the OSCE institution mandated to observe and assess elections for their conformity with OSCE commitments and other international standards for democratic elections, as well as with national legislation.

The mission will comprise a core team of experts, based in Kyiv. ODIHR will request 100 long-term observers to follow preparations and the campaign in the regions of the country in the weeks leading up to the vote, and 900 short-term observers to monitor election day proceedings, counting and tabulation of election results.

The mission will follow the entire election process, including the work of the election administration and relevant state bodies, implementation of the legislative framework, campaign activities, and the resolution of election disputes. As part of the observation, the mission will also carry out comprehensive monitoring of the media coverage of the campaign.

The size and format of this election observation mission are similar to those for previous ODIHR observation missions in Ukraine.

The ODIHR mission expects to be joined by a mission from the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, as well as delegations from other parliamentary institutions, in observing procedures on election day.

ODIHR is the specialized institution of the OSCE dealing with elections, human rights and democratization.

ПА ОБСЕ

OSCE PA President expresses grave concern at developments in Ukraine; calls on States to respect Helsinki Final Act

COPENHAGEN, 3 March 2014

OSCE Parliamentary Assembly President Ranko Krivokapic today expressed grave concern at developments in Ukraine and urged all OSCE participating States to respect the principles and spirit of the Helsinki Final Act.

"I am gravely concerned at the deteriorating situation in Ukraine, which threatens the security and peace of the entire region. Any breach of the sovereignty of an OSCE participating State is in violation of the Helsinki Final Act, which prescribes respect for the inviolability of frontiers and the territorial integrity of States, as well as non-intervention in internal affairs and a commitment to peaceful dispute-resolution. Failure to comply with these commitments is indefensible," Krivokapic said.

"I call on Russia and Ukraine to take immediate steps to de-escalate the situation, including through reliance on dialogue within the OSCE and its Parliamentary Assembly," he added.

The Parliamentary Assembly continues to monitor the situation in Ukraine and supports the efforts of the Swiss Chairmanship-in-Office toward achieving a diplomatic solution.

This is a press release issued by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. The views expressed in this press release do not necessarily reflect those of the OSCE Chairmanship, nor of all OSCE participating States.

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly is comprised of 323 parliamentarians from 56 countries spanning, Europe, Central Asia and North America. The Assembly provides a forum for parliamentary diplomacy, monitors elections, and strengthens international cooperation to uphold commitments on political, security, economic, environmental and human rights issues.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
STATEMENT

Berlin, 3 March 2014

Ukraine: remarks by President Barroso

Today, President Barroso made the following remarks on the situation in Ukraine in the margin of the event "A Soul for Europe" in Berlin:

"We have already expressed our very serious concerns about the situation. The situation has not improved. We are, of course, working with all our Member States to have a common, a firm response to those developments. Today, there will be a Foreign Affairs Council and, very soon, the Heads of States and Government of the European Union will also meet to have a common response. Many contacts have been taking place with the Ukrainian authorities and, also, with the Russian authorities, because we believe it is very important to show our commitment to the sovereignty of Ukraine.

At the same time we are now preparing a package of support to Ukraine. We are working with the IMF, and myself and the European Commission are preparing some options for supporting Ukraine. As we said, we keep our willingness to offer Ukraine the political association and economic integration through the association agreement, and also the free trade agreement. But there are some difficulties in that country to which we have to respond through emergency measures. So this is the point. To work in the economic field, as a matter of urgency, trying to articulate with our partners internationally to support that country but also politically to do everything that we can, to avoid the escalation, to avoid the lack of respect for the sovereignty of Ukraine. And I believe this is shared by all European countries, we will see this today when they meet at Foreign Affairs Ministerial level."

MEx 14 / 03.03

**DAILY NEWS
03 / 03 / 14**

Ukraine

During the course of the weekend, the G7 together with the President of the European Commission and President of the European Council issued a statement on Ukraine.

The statement made three key points: it "condemns the Russian Federation's clear violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine". It also notes "that Russia's actions in Ukraine also contravene the principles and values on which the G-7 and the G-8 operate" and refers to the decision to suspend preparations of the scheduled G-8 Summit in Sochi in June. In addition, the statement makes clear that the G-7 will "support Ukraine's work with the International Monetary Fund to negotiate a new program and to implement needed reforms. IMF support will be critical in unlocking additional assistance from the World Bank, other international financial institutions, the EU, and bilateral sources."

An extraordinary Foreign Affairs Council meeting will take this afternoon in Brussels. Read the statement by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton .

In addition, President Barroso this morning in Berlin has made a number of comments on the current situation in Ukraine .

**EUROPEAN COUNCIL
THE PRESIDENT**

Brussels, 3 March 2014

EUCO 54/14 PRESSE 115 PR PCE 47

President of the European Council Herman Van Rompuy calls an extraordinary meeting of EU Heads of State or Government on Ukraine – Brussels, Thursday 6 March 2014

The President of the European Council, Herman Van Rompuy, has decided to convene an extraordinary meeting of EU Heads of State or Government on Thursday 6 March 2014 to discuss the situation in Ukraine. The summit is expected to begin at 11h30 and finish with a press conference around 15h. The EU Heads of State or Government will discuss the latest developments in Ukraine and how to facilitate the necessary de-escalation of the situation.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

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PRESS RELEASE

3305th Council meeting

Foreign Affairs

Brussels, 3 March 2014

President Catherine Ashton

**High Representative of the Union for
Foreign Affairs and Security Policy**

3 March 2014

Main results of the Council

The Council held an extraordinary meeting to discuss recent developments in Ukraine. The EU strongly condemned the violation of Ukrainian sovereignty and territorial integrity by Russia. The Council urged Russia to immediately withdraw its armed forces to the areas of their permanent stationing and called for dialogue between Ukraine and Russia. In the absence of de-escalating steps by Russia, the Council agreed that it would decide about consequences such as suspending bilateral talks on visa matters as well as on the #ew Agreement, and would consider further targeted measures. "We are firmly convinced that there needs to be a peaceful solution to the crisis, in full respect of international law", said EU High Representative Ashton after the meeting.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Council conclusions on Ukraine

FOREIGN AFFAIRS Council meeting

Brussels, 3 March 2014

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

1. The European Union strongly condemns the clear violation of Ukrainian sovereignty and territorial integrity by acts of aggression by the Russian armed forces as well as the authorisation given by the Federation Council of Russia on 1 March for the use of the armed forces on the territory of Ukraine. These actions are in clear breach of the UN Charter and the OSCE Helsinki Final Act, as well as of Russia's specific commitments to respect Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity under the Budapest Memorandum of 1994 and the bilateral Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership of 1997. These actions are also a clear breach of the Ukrainian constitution which specifically recognises the territorial integrity of the country and

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states that the Autonomous Republic of Crimea can only organise referenda on local matters but not on the modification of the territorial configuration of Ukraine.

2. The EU calls on Russia to immediately withdraw its armed forces to the areas of their permanent stationing, in accordance with the Agreement on the Status and Conditions of the Black Sea Fleet stationing on the territory of Ukraine of 1997. Russia should also without delay agree to the request by Ukraine to hold consultations, as foreseen in the bilateral Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership of 1997, and to take part in urgent consultations among all signatories and adherents of the Budapest Memorandum of 1994.

3. The EU calls for a peaceful solution to the current crisis and full respect of the principles of and obligations under international law. The EU remains ready to engage in and promote any constructive dialogue with all parties aimed at reaching such a peaceful solution and will continue its engagement in international facilitation efforts, working with the UN, the OSCE, and other international actors, including on proposals for international observation and mediation, and welcomes a possible OSCE fact finding mission in this regard.

4. The Council recalls the EU's ambitions and openness to a relationship with Russia based on mutual interest and respect and regrets that these common objectives have now been put in doubt. The EU and those Member States who are participants of G8, have decided for the time being to suspend their participation in activities associated with the preparations for the G8 Summit in Sochi in June, until the environment comes back where the G8 is able to have meaningful discussion. In the absence of de-escalating steps by Russia, the EU shall decide about consequences for bilateral relations between the EU and Russia, for instance suspending bilateral talks with Russia on visa matters as well as on the New Agreement, and will consider further targeted measures. The Council decides to remain permanently seized, in order to be in a position to take rapidly all necessary measures.

5. The European Union commends the measured response demonstrated so far by Ukraine. The European Union stands by the efforts of the new Ukrainian Government to stabilise the situation and pursue the course of reforms. The EU reaffirms the necessity of further constitutional reform in Ukraine and to hold free, fair and transparent Presidential elections with OSCE-ODIHR observation. The EU reaffirms the utmost importance of ensuring inclusiveness at all levels of government by the Ukrainian authorities, including through steps designed to reach out to all Ukrainian regions, population groups and to ensure full protection of national minorities in accordance with Ukraine's international commitments. In this regard, it encourages Ukraine to draw on the expertise of the Council of Europe and the OSCE.

6. The EU is ready to further pursue its efforts with the international community and international financial institutions, especially the IMF, to assist Ukraine. To this end, the EU and its Member States will lend their full support to an international assistance package to address the urgent needs of Ukraine, based on a clear commitment to reforms. The Council welcomes the efforts already undertaken by the Commission, which has dispatched a fact-finding mission to Kyiv in parallel to the IMF mission. The Council also encourages interested third countries to join such an international assistance package. Recalling its conclusions of 20 February 2014, the Council agreed to swiftly work on the adoption of restrictive measures for the freezing and recovery of assets of persons identified as responsible for the misappropriation of State funds, and the freezing of assets of persons responsible for human rights violations.

7. The Council reconfirms its offer of the Association Agreement, including a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area. The Agreement would bring opportunities for sustainable economic development and prosperity to all the regions of Ukraine, including Crimea, as well as to its neighbours. The Agreement does not constitute the final goal in EU-Ukraine cooperation. The EU reiterates its commitment to enhance people to people contacts between the EU and Ukraine, i.a. through the visa liberalisation process, in line with agreed conditions in the framework of the VLAP.

8. The Council calls on High Representative Catherine Ashton to continue her contacts with all parties with a view to contributing to a peaceful resolution of this crisis.

Заява Кетрін Ештон щодо останніх подій у Криму (03/03/2014)

Високий представник ЄС із закордонних справ і безпекової політики Кетрін Ештон зробила таку заяву: "Я засуджую сьогоднішнє рішення Росії щодо використання збройних сил в Україні. Це – необґрунтована ескалація напруги. Через це я закликаю Російську Федерацію не надсилати свої війська, а просувати свої погляди у мирний спосіб.

Будь-які пересування, дії або розміщення сил мають проводитися у відповідності до міжнародного права і зобов'язань: Статуту ООН, Заключного акту ОБСЄ, Будапештського меморандуму 1994 року, а також двосторонніх угод – зокрема, тих, що регулюють перебування Чорноморського флоту в Криму.

Я закликаю усі сторони негайно послабити напругу за допомогою діалогу, що має проходити у повній відповідності до українського та міжнародного права. Єдність, суверенітет і територіальна цілісність України мають шануватися за будь-яких обставин та усіма сторонами. Будь-яке порушення цих принципів є неприйнятним. Стриманість та відчуття відповідальності потрібні зараз як ніколи.

Я високо оцінюю зважену реакцію перехідного уряду України на ці вкрай тривожні події, що відбуваються в Автономній Республіці Крим протягом кількох останніх днів.

У понеділок для обговорення реакції Євросоюзу на ці події відбудеться позачергова зустріч Ради міністрів ЄС із закордонних справ. Після цього я також зустрінуся з Міністром закордонних справ Росії Сергієм Лавровим. У середу я завітаю до Києва для обговорення цих питань з усіма залученими сторонами".

3 березня 2014 року відбулася зустріч міжнародних фінансових донорів України (03/03/2014)

У ході зустрічі міжнародні донори ще раз підтвердили свою готовність надати підтримку новій українській владі та демократичному громадянському суспільству у складний перехідний період, який очікує Україну. Зустріч було проведено в рамках процесу постійної координації дій основних міжнародних донорів; вона мала на меті забезпечити концентрацію заходів донорської спільноти як на нагальних, так і на більш довготермінових потребах України, а також їхню узгодженість з планами української влади й громадянського суспільства. У ході сьогоднішнього обговорення особливий наголос був зроблений на необхідності здійснювати координацію та нарощувати обсяги допомоги, аби сприяти проведенню майбутніх виборів, допомогти новій владі започаткувати економічні реформи, які можуть бути підтримані в рамках нової програми співпраці з МВФ, сприяти реформуванню сфери державного управління та боротьбі з корупцією. Окрім того, донори висловили свою налаштованість до тісної співпраці з новою українською владою, аби підтримати формування дієвої й ефективної основи для координації програм технічної допомоги та загальної допомоги у сфері розвитку.

Ukraine's Crimea envoy asks EU to move beyond expressing solidarity to action

Press release (EP) – External relations – 03-03-2014 – 20:11

Boris Tarasyuk, the Ukrainian government's special envoy for Crimea, told the foreign affairs committee on Monday that Ukraine needed the EU to sign the association agreement as quickly as possible. He called Russia's action "both intervention and aggression" and voiced his gratitude for MEPs' solidarity.

“The institutions in place in Ukraine at this moment are legitimate. There is no justification for the military movement that we have seen,” said the foreign affairs committee chair, Elmar Brok (EPP, DE). “I have been in Ukraine recently. We did not see fascists in power. Instead we saw people that are standing up for democracy and civil rights. I saw no indication of discrimination in place against those of Russian ethnic origin,” he added.

“Russia has now started to prevent the Ukrainian people from realising their dream to become an inseparable part of European society,” said Mr Tarasyuk. “What Russia is doing is both intervention and aggression. This is a special kind of political-military operation,” he continued, stressing that the Ukrainian government gave orders not to shoot and not to provide any provocation.

Association agreement

Replying to MEPs’ questions, Mr Tarasyuk stressed the importance of the European Parliament’s solidarity and the need to sign the association agreement as quickly as possible. As examples of possible EU action, he also mentioned the launch of EU police monitoring missions and the lifting of visa requirements, as well as offering the prospect of possible EU membership.

Sanctions

Responding to MEPs’ questions on sanctions, Mr Tarasyuk argued in favour of imposing them, including economic sanctions on Russia. . He added that sanctions should also target those involved in the decisions to use armed force on the territory of Ukraine.

He also pointed out that Russia pledged to uphold Ukraine’s territorial integrity in the "Budapest memorandum" signed with the US and the UK in 1994.

Protection of minorities

Mr Tarasyuk told MEPs that national minorities are respected in Ukraine and that there are plans to prepare a new version of the law on minorities. He reminded them that Ukraine is a party to the Council of Europe’s European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and respects its provisions.

ПАРС

Culture Committee cancels Moscow meeting, citing Ukraine crisis. Legal Affairs Committee condemns ‘serious violation of the basic principles of the Council of Europe’

Strasbourg, 03.03.2014

The Chairperson of the Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) has decided to cancel a forthcoming meeting of the committee in Moscow, scheduled for 11 March. In a letter explaining the decision, Ana Gutu (Republic of Moldova, ALDE) said the “grave crisis situation” following the 1 March decision of the upper house of the Russian parliament had caused the committee “profound concern”. The meeting will now take place in Paris.

In a separate decision, PACE’s Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights has said the violation of Ukraine’s territorial integrity by Russian armed forces constitutes “a serious violation of the basic principles of the Council of Europe” and has called for a PACE fact-finding mission to Crimea.

Meeting in Paris today, the committee said it “condemns without reservation the violation of the territorial integrity of Ukraine by armed forces of the Russian Federation over the weekend of 1 and 2 March 2014, and expresses its gravest concern that members of the upper house of the Russian Parliament unanimously authorised such action in advance”.

PACE’s Standing Committee – which brings together around 60 of its leading members and acts in the name of the Assembly between plenary sessions – is also due to discuss the situation in Ukraine at a meeting in Paris on Friday 7 March.

Statement issued by the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights

Paris, 03.03.2014

The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, meeting in Paris today, adopted the following statement:

"The Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights of the Parliamentary Assembly condemns without reservation the violation of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine by armed forces of the Russian Federation over the weekend of 1st and 2nd March 2014 and expresses its gravest concern that members of the upper House of the Russian Parliament unanimously authorised such action in advance.

The Committee believes that there has been a serious violation of the basic principles of the Council of Europe mentioned in Article 3 of, and the preamble to, the Statute.

The Committee therefore calls on the Assembly, as soon as possible, to send a fact-finding mission to Crimea."

Standing Committee to discuss the political crisis in Ukraine 03/03/2014

STANDING COMMITTEE

A current affairs debate on the political crisis in Ukraine has been proposed by the Group of the Unified European Left (UEL) of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) to be held at the forthcoming meeting of PACE's Standing Committee(*) scheduled in Paris on 7 March.

Debates on increasing the reporting of suspected sexual abuse of children; on the fight against AIDS among migrants and refugees; on Europe's endangered heritage; and on the need to reinforce the training of legal professionals on the European Convention on Human Rights, will also feature on the agenda.

After the opening of the meeting by PACE President Anne Brasseur, and a statement by Thorbjørn Jagland, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, the parliamentarians will hold an exchange of views with Ranko Krivokapic, President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

The Standing Committee meeting, which is open to the press, will be held on Friday 7 March 2014 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Assemblée nationale (Salle Lamartine), 101 rue de l'Université, Paris 7ème (Metro station: Invalides/Assemblée nationale). At the opening of the meeting, the Standing Committee will decide whether to hold the current debate.

(*) The Standing Committee, which acts on the Assembly's behalf between plenary sessions, is made up of the President and Vice-Presidents of the Assembly, the chairpersons of political groups, the chairpersons of national delegations and the committee chairpersons, totalling some 60 parliamentarians from the Council of Europe's 47 member States.

HATO

Joint press point by NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg and the President of Slovak Republic, Andrej Kiska

03 Mar. 2015

JENS STOLTENBERG (NATO Secretary General): President Kiska, it is a great pleasure to welcome you here at NATO Headquarters and thank you so much for the excellent talks and meeting we have just finished.

Slovakia plays an important role in our Alliance and I thank you for your contributions. You support the measures we are taking to keep Allies safe.

You are helping to build security in Afghanistan. And Slovakia are strengthening our military capabilities through projects such as the Allied Ground Surveillance reconnaissance drones.

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So I very much welcome our cooperation and I welcome your contributions. You just visited Kiev and we discussed the situation in Ukraine and we have all agreed that the Minsk agreement and the ceasefire is the basis for negotiated peaceful solution in Ukraine and it is therefore extremely important that the Minsk agreement and the ceasefire is respected and implemented in full.

We still see some incidents and that underlines that the ceasefire is fragile. But at the same time it seems like the overall picture is that the ceasefire is holding.

It is important that all sides respect their commitments and that the separatists backed by Russia do not use this pause in the fighting to prepare for a new offensive.

All heavy weapons have to be moved from the frontline in accordance with the Minsk agreement and the OCE monitors have to have full access to the area to be able to monitor the ceasefire.

The crisis in Ukraine but also the turmoil in the Middle East and North Africa shows that we cannot take our security for granted. And that is the reason why we are making our forces more ready to deal with the security challenges we face.

This includes the creation of a new 'Spearhead Force' and the establishment of command and control centres in Eastern European Allied countries.

These measures will ensure that we will be able to defend all Allies. And we are glad to be able to state that we are implementing what we call the Readiness Action Plan according to our plans and our commitments and it's on track.

We know that increase investments in our collective defence is not something that comes for free.

That's also the reason why NATO leaders at the Summit last fall in Wales decided on the defence investment pledge stating that we are going to stop the cuts in defence spending, gradually increase defence spending as our economies grow and then reach 2% of GDP for defence spending over a decade.

And I welcome what you stated so clearly in our meeting that Slovakia is going to increase defence spending to invest more in defence but also to invest more in new equipment new technologies.

Because that is something which is really needed in the whole Alliance making sure we are able to deliver as we promised to do.

I know this is not easy. But I count on you and I look forward to continue our cooperation and I am very glad to have had this opportunity to meet with you Mr. President, welcome.

ANDREJ KISKA (President of the Slovak Republic): Thank you very much. Mr. Secretary General, once again, thank you very much. Yes, the most important topic which we talked today is the situation of course in Ukraine. And Slovakia has the border of Ukraine and it's very crucial for us, for our country, what's going on there.

And last week I personally was in Kiev and I had a long discussion with President Poroshenko and Prime Minister Yatsenyuk. But this discussion which I had in Kiev last week was mostly about the reference in Ukraine.

Today, which we had a discussion, a conversation today was more about the security and we all agree that the ceasefire exists but it's very fragile. And we have to do our best what can we do to keep the ceasefire.

Russia has its own responsibility for keeping the ceasefire in place and generally we have to say that the security in Europe has worsened and now we face challenges which we could even not have imagined a few years ago.

For Slovakia, of course NATO is crucial for our security, and I am glad that all Slovak top officials are fully aware of our responsibilities in this context.

At the NATO meeting, the Summit in Wales, in full agreement with the cabinet I announced our commitments. And we have our responsibility to our citizens to fulfil them.

And we have pledged that our defence budget will rise, and today I was glad also to confirm that the process of modernization of Slovak armed forces has begun. And our ambition is really absolutely to reduce our dependence on Russian military equipment.

The very crucial topic which I also opened with, in today's discussions with Secretary General is information war. It is not enough to have the best weapons. We have to focus also a campaign to manipulate public opinion in our countries. And we have to be able to defend ourselves against an organized spread of disinformation. And this is not, we are not talking about to deny any discussion about to have a different opinion. We are talking about really manipulating effects and about clear lies.

And in the context of what's going on in Ukraine, we in our country, we can see a lot of increasing of this information war and we face problems, we have to face this problem which is now much bigger than before.

So I asked Mr. Secretary General to deal with this issue and that we have to pay close attention to this problem.

Thank you very much.

MODERATOR: We have time for one question over there. Please introduce yourself and your outlet.

QUESTION: Good morning. Peter Mayer(ph), from RTVS Slovak National Broadcaster. I have a question for the Secretary General. What do you think is the role or could be the role of Slovakia in the near future, especially when we see the development in Eastern Ukraine compared to today's role? Is there any space for increasing of some things? Thanks.

JENS STOLTENBERG (NATO Secretary General): So Ukraine, Slovakia can be a part of our efforts in the Alliance to support Ukraine. And Slovakia is already doing that. But I think we all can step up and do even more. And that is about political support for Ukraine and it's about practical support for Ukraine.

And Slovakia is part of that already.

Just the visit of the President to Kiev was a sign of political support for Ukraine, for the sovereignty and the territorial integrity of Ukraine. And Slovakia, NATO, we all are also strongly supporting the peace process, the Minsk Agreement and of course the full implementation of the Minsk Agreement and the ceasefire.

This is a political support provided by Slovakia and provided by NATO.

In addition, Slovakia is part of our practical support because Slovakia is supporting one of the trust funds we have established to help and to assist Ukraine. And Slovakia is supporting the trust fund for medical rehabilitation, which is key, and which is very much needed.

So I thank Slovakia for its contribution. And of course we always welcome more because there's a great need in Ukraine for both strong political support, for strong practical support, and also support through the different trust funds, including medical rehabilitation, which Slovakia is already supporting.

MODERATOR: Please.

QUESTION: Hello. I'm (inaudible...) Agency. Mr. Kiska has just mentioned disinformation war. Does NATO have any instruments, any possibility how to fight against, how to deal with these issues?

JENS STOLTENBERG: Yes, we have. And especially we have the strength because we too counter this kind of propaganda because we are such a strong Alliance of 28 democracies. So I think that both as an Alliance but also as the nation states, the different Allied countries are answering and are facing, encountering the propaganda and the information war which we see that is going on and which is a way to try to undermine the coherence and the unity of the Alliance.

But it's not successful because actually the Alliance, NATO is stronger and more united than we have been for a very long time. And we stay united both when it comes to our message in defending the right of Ukraine to decide its own future; but also we are standing united in the decision and the implementation of enforcing, increasing our own collective defence, being able to defend all Allies against any threat.

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We don't believe that we should meet propaganda with propaganda. And it might be that lies and propaganda get some traction in the short term. But in the long run, we are certain that the truth will prevail.

And therefore facts, taking part in the open debate and open democracies, both from nation states but also as an Alliance is the best way of countering the propaganda we see.

MODERATOR: Thank you very much indeed. This concludes this press point. Thank you. Have a good day.