
УКРАЇНА VS РОСІЙСЬКА ФЕДЕРАЦІЯ

РФ

Президент РФ

Телефонный разговор с Президентом Франции Франсуа Олландом

По инициативе французской стороны состоялся телефонный разговор Владимира Путина с Президентом Франции Франсуа Олландом.

12 марта 2014 года, 19:00

Лидеры двух государств обменялись мнениями по кризисной ситуации на Украине, в том числе относительно возможностей активизации международного содействия урегулированию в этой стране. Условлено продолжить обсуждение, в частности, в ходе запланированного на 18 марта 2014 года визита в Москву министров иностранных дел и обороны Франции.

Телефонный разговор с Президентом Швейцарии, действующим председателем ОБСЕ Дидье Буркхальтером

По инициативе швейцарской стороны состоялся телефонный разговор Владимира Путина с Президентом Швейцарии, действующим председателем ОБСЕ Дидье Буркхальтером.

12 марта 2014 года, 18:45

Главы государств обменялись поздравлениями в связи с 200-летием в 2014 году установления дипломатических отношений между Россией и Швейцарией. Стороны отметили высокую динамику двустороннего сотрудничества и выразили настрой на дальнейшее развитие взаимовыгодных связей, в том числе на политическом уровне. Подробно рассматривалась ситуация на Украине. В.Путин и Д.Буркхальтер обсудили возможности ОБСЕ в контексте содействия урегулированию кризиса в этой стране.

МЗС РФ

СООБЩЕНИЕ ДЛЯ СМИ

О встрече заместителя Министра иностранных дел России Г.М.Гатилова с Послом Великобритании в Москве Т.Бэрроу

521-12-03-2014

12 марта заместитель Министра иностранных дел Российской Федерации Г.М.Гатилов принял Посла Великобритании в Москве Т.Бэрроу по его просьбе.

Обсуждались политические и гуманитарные аспекты сирийского урегулирования, в т.ч. в контексте итогов второго раунда межсирийских переговоров в Женеве. Г.М.Гатилов акцентировал важность поиска общих знаменателей в позициях сирийских сторон и в этой связи подчеркнул необходимость продолжения межсирийских переговоров в Женеве на основе согласованной повестки дня.

Отмечалось, что российская сторона исходит из приоритетности задач скорейшего прекращения насилия и ликвидации террористической угрозы в Сирии, которая приобретает трансграничный характер и требует объединения усилий как правительства, так и оппозиции в целях ее искоренения.

Г.М.Гатиллов указал, что в оценках гуманитарной ситуации требуется неполитизированный и объективный подход в точном соответствии с резолюцией Совета Безопасности ООН 2139 от 22 февраля 2014 года.

УКРАЇНА

**В.о.Президента України - Голова Верховної Ради України
ВР України**

Комітет Верховної Ради України з питань національної безпеки і оборони 12 березня 2014 року звернувся до Комітету Ради Федерації Федеральних Зборів Російської Федерації по обороні і безпеці і Комітету Державної Думи Федеральних Зборів Російської Федерації по обороні.

"Працюючи у комітетах, які по парламентській лінії несуть відповідальність за сектор безпеки і оборони наших країн, ми і ви, як ніхто, розуміємо рівень загроз, пов'язаних з нинішнім конфліктом в Автономній Республіці Крим між Україною і Російською Федерацією. Від наших позицій чималою мірою залежить можливість перевести розв'язання цього конфлікту в русло мирного діалогу, а також багато залежить від того, як будуть діяти парламенти наших країн", – зазначається у Зверненні.

Члени Комітету висловлюють впевненість у тому, що немає таких питань, стосовно яких неможливий діалог. "Ми пропонуємо почати таку розмову, залишивши за його рамками ключове питання про територіальну цілісність України – це питання, яке не підлягає обговоренню", – наголошують народні депутати.

Комітет висловлює впевненість у тому, що "російська сторона також беззастережно дотримується тези про те, що питання територіальної цілісності Російської Федерації не є предметом переговорів з ким би то не було. Все інше може бути предметом переговорів, для цього вимагається припинення демонстрації сили".

Члени Комітету з питань національної безпеки і оборони пропонують російським парламентаріям встановити мораторій на ескалацію напруги, почати діалог на рівні парламентських комітетів, шукати рішення на основі мирних і правових методів. "Ми готові до таких зустрічей в Москві, в Криму, будь-якому іншому місці, оскільки ми, впевнені що й ви, не допускаємо навіть думки про воєнний конфлікт між нашими країнами, між українським і російським народами", – наголошується у Зверненні.

Комітет з питань свободи слова та інформації 12 березня 2014 року ухвалив заяву щодо ситуації у інформаційному просторі АР Крим.

Текст заяви затверджено рішенням Комітету.

Як зазначається у документі, "самопроголошена влада Криму за допомогою озброєних загонів кубанських "козаків" та російських окупаційних військ захопила стратегічні об'єкти української телекомунікаційної інфраструктури, радіотелевізійний передавальний центр Криму, інші структурні підрозділи державного Концерну РРТ і влаштувала жорстку інформаційну блокаду півострова". "Наразі з ефірних і кабельних мереж вимкнені всі українські загальнонаціональні телевізійні канали та найпотужніший регіональний – ТРК "Чорноморка". Натомість на їх частотах транслюють російських мовників. Отже, маємо справу з агресивною інтервенцією і в інформаційному просторі нашої держави", – наголосили члени Комітету.

"Окупаційний режим чинить безпрецедентний тиск на журналістів. У Криму за час протистояння задокументовано більше 70 випадків брутальних порушень прав

журналістів і перешкоджань їхній діяльності, нападів озброєних людей на представників мас-медіа, жорстоких побиттів знімальних груп, псування апаратури, пограбувань" – йдеться у заяві.

Народні депутати також підкреслили, що кримська влада запровадила "тотальну цензуру інформаційного простору, дійшло до того, що у порядку акредитації представників ЗМІ на висвітлення так званого загальнокримського референдуму 16 березня прописали в обов'язках журналістів "не поширювати матеріали негативного характеру" .

"Такі дії є неприпустимими у цивілізованому світі. Це грубе порушення конституційних прав громадян на вільний доступ до інформації, на свободу слова. Кримські сепаратисти розтоптали не лише українське законодавство, а й основоположні принципи міжнародного права, зокрема, й передбачене статтею 10 Конвенції про захист прав людини та основоположних свобод право на вільне поширення інформації", – зазначається у документі.

Члени Комітету також звернули увагу на те, що сьогодні "у безпрецедентних умовах ескалації напруги на півострові, яка весь час балансує на межі гарячої фази, доводиться працювати українським і зарубіжним журналістам. Завдяки їх самовідданості, вірності професійному обов'язку, особистій мужності операторів та репортерів світ бачить правдиву інформаційну картину з українського півострова".

Комітет висловив вдячність і підтримку всім журналістам, які, "ризикуючи здоров'ям і життям, цілодобово висвітлюють кримські події, не відступають від базових інформаційних стандартів об'єктивності і збалансованості".

Народні депутати засудили "протиправні дії представників самопроголошеної влади автономії, спрямовані на зачищення інформаційного простору, перешкоджання професійній діяльності журналістів", і звернулися до правоохоронних органів України в Автономній Республіці Крим з вимогою "зупинити наругу над свободою слова, створити безпечні умови для роботи вітчизняних і зарубіжних журналістів".

КМ України

Віце-прем'єр-міністр Володимир Гройсман провів робочі зустрічі з послами Австрії та Ізраїлю

12.03.2014 | 18:59 Прес-служба Віце-прем'єр-міністра

12 березня Віце-прем'єр-міністр – Міністр регіонального розвитку, будівництва та житлово-комунального господарства Володимир Гройсман провів робочі зустрічі з Надзвичайним і Повноважним Послом Республіки Австрія в Україні Вольфом Дітріхом Хаймом та з Надзвичайним і Повноважним Послом Держави Ізраїль в Україні Реувеном Діном Елем. У ході зустрічей обговорювались питання розширення співпраці з урядами Австрії та Ізраїлю щодо реалізації комплексу реформ в Україні.

Зокрема, в ході зустрічі з австрійським дипломатом мова йшла про можливість залучення міжнародної експертної та фінансової допомоги в питаннях електронного врядування, розширення транскордонної співпраці, боротьби з корупцією, проведення аудиту використання державних коштів в інфраструктурній та інших сферах. Від імені українського Уряду Володимир Гройсман передав подяку Уряду Республіки Австрія за чітку і послідовну позицію в питаннях збереження суверенітету, територіальної цілісності та демократичного майбутнього України. Пан Вольф Хайм запевнив українську сторону в тому, що Уряд його країни сприятиме пришвидшенню підписання Угоди про асоціацію з ЄС і впровадженню безвізового режиму з країнами ЄС.

У ході зустрічі з Послом Ізраїлю обговорювалося також питання перспектив подальшого розвитку українсько-ізраїльських відносин, зокрема торгово-економічної співпраці та реалізації інфраструктурних проектів. Володимир Гройсман також висловив вдячність

ізраїльській стороні за участь у лікуванні громадян України – учасників Євромайдану, які постраждали в результаті останніх трагічних подій.

МЗС України

Заступник Міністра закордонних справ України Данило Лубківський зустрівся із заступником Міністра закордонних справ та європейської інтеграції Республіки Молдова Валеріу Ківерем

12 березня 2014, 18:56

12 березня 2014 р. заступник Міністра закордонних справ України Данило Лубківський провів зустріч із заступником Міністра закордонних справ та європейської інтеграції Республіки Молдова Валеріу Ківерем.

Сторони обговорили актуальні питання та перспективи двосторонніх відносин між Україною та Республікою Молдова. Відбувся обмін думками щодо запланованого на 17 березня 2014 р. робочого візиту в Україну Прем'єр-міністра Республіки Молдови Юріє Лянке, який матиме важливе значення як для розвитку політичного діалогу між двома країнами, так і для активізації двостороннього співробітництва у всіх сферах взаємного інтересу.

Окрему увагу співрозмовники приділили внутрішньополітичній ситуації в Україні, насамперед подіям в Автономній Республіці Крим. Зокрема, Валеріу Ківерь підтвердив беззастережну підтримку Республікою Молдова суверенітету і територіальної цілісності України та засудив незаконні дії Російської Федерації на території нашої держави.

Стаття Представника України при ЄС К.Єлісєєва для "Financial Times"

12 березня 2014, 09:28

Від пана К.Єлісєєва,

Сер, на кримський сценарій росіян надихнув фільм «Хвіст виляє собакою» 1997 року: штучні обґрунтування загрози російськомовній меншині в Криму підігриваються масованою пропагандою у стилі ТАСС та офіційними заявами часів Андрія Громико. Найбільшим заручником цієї ситуації є російський народ, який тримають у паралельній реальності, де діяльність їхнього керівництва завжди «на благо».

Обережно-вивірена реакція ЄС повільно, але впевнено, наближає нас до чергового замороженого конфлікту в регіоні Східного партнерства. На жаль, брак єдності і страх рішучих дій з боку ЄС були частиною розрахунку Кремля.

Для тих, хто сумнівається: ви повинні розуміти, що йдеться не про покарання Росії, а про зупинення ескалації ситуації і повернення її до «статус-кво».

Ділові зв'язки між ЄС і Росією є природними і взаємовигідним. Це - взаємна залежність, відтак, будь-які паузи у відносинах не можуть тривати довго. Але будьте готові принаймні здивувати Москву та довести на практиці, що спільні цінності важливіші, ніж економічні інтереси.

Вся Європа шокована російською безкарністю і брехнею в Криму, не повторюйте помилок минулого. Звертайтеся до ваших громадських та ділових кіл, пояснюйте, що відбувається, обговорюйте можливі короткострокові негативні наслідки більш рішучої реакції.

Ще одна важлива річ: найкращими санкціями щодо Росії буде щедра, всеосяжна та невідкладна допомога Україні. ЄС має закріпити досягнення своєї «м'якої сили».

Це ще не пізно. Ми все ще в змозі відповісти «хулігану» силою нашої єдності. Не можна ані вести справи, ніби нічого не сталося, ані проводити політику умиротворення. Йдеться про людей, йдеться про демократію в Україні, про міжнародні гарантії, які Україна отримала в обмін на відмову від свого ядерного потенціалу.

За відсутності миру в Європі будь-які економічні інтереси стають неактуальними.

**Костянтин Єлісєєв,
Посол України при ЄС,
Брюссель, Бельгія**

КРАЇНИ-ЧЛЕНИ ГРУПИ "G-7"

Statement of G-7 Leaders on Ukraine March 12, 2014

We, the leaders of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States, the President of the European Council and the President of the European Commission, call on the Russian Federation to cease all efforts to change the status of Crimea contrary to Ukrainian law and in violation of international law. We call on the Russian Federation to immediately halt actions supporting a referendum on the territory of Crimea regarding its status, in direct violation of the Constitution of Ukraine.

Any such referendum would have no legal effect. Given the lack of adequate preparation and the intimidating presence of Russian troops, it would also be a deeply flawed process which would have no moral force. For all these reasons, we would not recognize the outcome.

Russian annexation of Crimea would be a clear violation of the United Nations Charter; Russia's commitments under the Helsinki Final Act; its obligations to Ukraine under its 1997 Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership; the Russia-Ukraine 1997 basing agreement; and its commitments in the Budapest Memorandum of 1994. In addition to its impact on the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, the annexation of Crimea could have grave implications for the legal order that protects the unity and sovereignty of all states. Should the Russian Federation take such a step, we will take further action, individually and collectively.

We call on the Russian Federation to de-escalate the conflict in Crimea and other parts of Ukraine immediately, withdraw its forces back to their pre-crisis numbers and garrisons, begin direct discussions with the Government of Ukraine, and avail itself of international mediation and observation offers to address any legitimate concerns it may have. We, the leaders of the G-7, urge Russia to join us in working together through diplomatic processes to resolve the current crisis and support progress for a sovereign independent, inclusive and united Ukraine. We also remind the Russian Federation of our decision to suspend participation in any activities related to preparation of a G-8 Sochi meeting until it changes course and the environment comes back to where the G-8 is able to have a meaningful discussion.

США

Remarks by President Obama and Ukraine Prime Minister Yatsenyuk after Bilateral Meeting

THE WHITE HOUSE, Office of the Press Secretary

March 12, 2014

Oval Office

3:30 P.M. EDT

PRESIDENT OBAMA: It is a pleasure to welcome Prime Minister Yatsenyuk to the Oval Office, to the White House.

I think all of us have seen the courage of the Ukrainian people in standing up on behalf of democracy and on the desire that I believe is universal for people to be able to determine their own destiny. And we saw in the Maidan how ordinary people from all parts of the country had said that we want a change. And the Prime Minister was part of that process, showed

tremendous courage, and upheld the principles of nonviolence throughout the course of events over the last several months.

Obviously, the Prime Minister comes here during a very difficult time for his country. In the aftermath of President Yanukovich leaving the country, the parliament, the Rada, acted in a responsible fashion to fill the void, created an inclusive process in which all parties had input, including the party of former President Yanukovich. They have set forward a process to stabilize the country, take a very deliberate step to assure economic stability and negotiate with the International Monetary Fund, and to schedule early elections so that the Ukrainian people, in fact, can choose their direction for the future. And the Prime Minister has managed that process with great skill and great restraint, and we're very much appreciative of the work that he has done.

The most pressing challenge that Ukraine faces at the moment, however, is the threat to its territorial integrity and its sovereignty. We have been very clear that we consider the Russian incursion into Crimea outside of its bases to be a violation of international law, of international agreements of which Russia is a signatory, and a violation of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine. And we have been very firm in saying that we will stand with Ukraine and the Ukrainian people in ensuring that that territorial integrity and sovereignty is maintained. I think we all recognize that there are historic ties between Russia and Ukraine, and I think the Prime Minister would be the first one to acknowledge that. And I think the Prime Minister and the current government in Kyiv has recognized and has communicated directly to the Russian Federation their desire to try to manage through this process diplomatically. But what the Prime Minister I think has rightly insisted on is, is that they cannot have a country outside of Ukraine dictate to them how they should arrange their affairs. And there is a constitutional process in place and a set of elections that they can move forward on that, in fact, could lead to different arrangements over time with the Crimean region, but that is not something that can be done with the barrel of a gun pointed at you.

And so Secretary Kerry is in communications with the Russian government and has offered to try to explore with his counterpart, Foreign Minister Lavrov, a diplomatic solution to this crisis. We are in close communication with the Ukrainian government in terms of how we might proceed going forward. But we will continue to say to the Russian government that if it continues on the path that it is on then not only us, but the international community -- the European Union and others -- will be forced to apply a cost to Russia's violations of international law and its encroachments on Ukraine.

There's another path available, and we hope that President Putin is willing to seize that path. But if he does not, I'm very confident that the international community will stand strongly behind the Ukrainian government in preserving its unity and its territorial integrity.

Let me just make two final points. Obviously, because of the political turmoil, the economic situation in Ukraine has become more challenging, not less. And that's why I'm very proud that not only as critical members of the International Monetary Fund, the IMF, we are working with the Prime Minister and his team in a package that can help to institute necessary reforms inside of the Ukraine, but also help to stabilize the situation so that people feel confident that in their daily lives they can meet their basic necessities.

We're also asking Congress to act promptly to deliver on an aid package, including a \$1 billion loan guarantee that can help smooth the path for reform inside of Ukraine and give the Prime Minister and his government the capacity to do what they need to do as they are also organizing an election process. So I would just ask both Democrats and Republicans, who I know are unified in their support of Ukraine, to move quickly to give us the support that we need so that we can give the Ukrainian people the support that they need.

And then, finally, Mr. Prime Minister, I would ask that you deliver a message on behalf of the American people to all the Ukrainian people, and that is that we admire their courage; we appreciate their aspirations. The interests of the United States are solely in making sure that the people of Ukraine are able to determine their own destiny. That is something that here in the

United States we believe in deeply. I know it's something that you believe in deeply as well. And you can rest assured that you will have our strong support as you move forward during these difficult times.

Thank you.

PRIME MINISTER YATSENYUK: Thank you, Mr. President. And we highly appreciate the support that you have given to the Ukrainian people. And my country feels that the United States stands by the Ukrainian people.

Mr. President, it's all about the freedom. We fight for our freedom. We fight for our independence. We fight for our sovereignty. And we will never surrender.

My country has faced a number of challenges. The military one is a key challenge today, and we urge Russia to stick to its international obligations, to pull back its military into barracks, and to start the dialogue with no guns, with no military, with no tanks, but with the diplomacy and political tools.

On behalf of my government, I would like to reiterate that we are absolutely ready and open for talks with the Russian Federation. We adhere to all international obligations. And we as the state of Ukraine will fulfill all bilateral and multilateral international treaties.

On the economic side, Mr. President, we highly appreciate the support of the United States and the decision to guarantee \$1 billion loan for the Ukrainian economy. You know that we resumed talks with the IMF. We do understand that these are tough reforms, but these reforms are needed for the Ukrainian state. And we are back on track in terms of delivering real reforms in my country.

As I already informed you, probably in the nearest future, next week or in 10 days, Ukraine is to sign a political part of -- association agreement with the European Union, and we want to be very clear that Ukraine is and will be a part of the Western world, and our Russian partners have to realize that we are ready to make a new type or to craft a new type of our relationship where Ukraine is a part of the European Union, but Ukraine is a good friend and partner of Russia. So much will depend on whether Russia wants to have this talk and whether Russia wants to have Ukraine as a partner or as a subordinate. As I already indicated, we will never surrender and we will do everything in order to preserve peace, stability, and independence of my country. And we appreciate your personal support, the support of your government, support of the American people to the Ukrainian people.

Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT OBAMA: Mr. Prime Minister, thank you very much.

Q (Inaudible.)

PRESIDENT OBAMA: Julie, we completely reject a referendum patched together in a few weeks with Russian military personnel basically taking over Crimea. We reject its legitimacy. It is contrary to international law. It is contrary to the Ukrainian constitution.

I know that we've heard from the Russian Federation this notion that these kinds of decisions are often made in other places, and they've even analogized it to Scotland or other situations of that sort. In each of those cases that they've cited, decisions were made by a national government through a long, lengthy, deliberative process. It's not something that happens in a few days, and it's not something that happens with an outside army essentially taking over the region.

As you just heard the Prime Minister indicate, the people of Ukraine recognize historic ties with the people of Russia. The Prime Minister you just heard say, repeat what he said often, which is they're prepared to respect all international treaties and obligations that they are signatories to, including Russian basing rights in Crimea. The issue now is whether or not Russia is able to militarily dominate a region of somebody else's country, engineer a slapdash referendum, and ignore not only the Ukrainian constitution but a Ukrainian government that includes parties that are historically in opposition with each other -- including, by the way, the party of the previous President.

So we will not recognize, certainly, any referendum that goes forward. My hope is, is that as a consequence of diplomatic efforts over the next several days that there will be a rethinking of the process that's been put forward.

We have already put in place the architecture for us to apply financial and economic consequences to actions that are taken. But our strong preference is to resolve this diplomatically. And as you heard the Prime Minister say, this idea that somehow the Ukrainian people are forced to choose between good relations with the West or good relations with Russia, economic ties with the West or economic ties with Russia, is the kind of zero-sum formulation that in the 21st century, with a highly integrated, global economy, doesn't make any sense and is not in the interests of the Ukrainian people.

I actually think, in the end, it's not in the interests of Russia either. Russia should be thinking about how can it work with Ukraine to further strengthen its economic ties and trade and exchanges with Europe. That will make Russia stronger, not weaker. But obviously Mr. Putin has some different ideas at this point.

We do not know yet what our diplomatic efforts will yield, but we'll keep on pressing. In the meantime, the main message I want to send is that we are highly supportive of a government in Kyiv that is taking on some very tough decisions, is committed to law and order, inclusivity, committed to the rights of all Ukrainian people, and is committed to fair and free elections that should settle once and for all any questions that there may be about what's transpired since former President Yanukovich left the country.

And the most important thing to remember is this is up to the Ukrainian people. It's not up to the United States. It's not up to Russia. It's up to the Ukrainian people to make a decision about how they want to live their lives. That's what all of us should support. And certainly that's the reason why I'm so pleased to have the Prime Minister here today.

END 3:46 P.M. EDT

Ukraine in the White house Daily Press Brief

March 12, 2014

Q: Jay, the timing of today's announcement that there will be some oil released from reserves, is that just a coincidence that it's happening today? Or is this an effort to send a signal to Russia that the U.S. is willing to use the reserves to pressure oil prices and put pressure on the ruble?

MR. CARNEY: As the Department of Energy said this morning, they are required by law to conduct continual evaluation of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve and its system's drawdown and sales procedures. Due to the recent dramatic increase in domestic crude oil production, significant changes in the system have occurred, including pipeline expansion, construction of new infrastructure, reversed flow of existing pipelines, and increased use of domestic crude oil terminals. So in order to appropriately assess the system's capabilities in the event of a disruption, today the DOE authorized a test drawdown and sale of up to 5 million barrels of sour crude oil.

Now, they have the details, but in answer specifically to your question, yes, this action was taken consistent with the requirements by law of the DOE to evaluate the Strategic Petroleum Reserve and its drawdown capacity. So it's a test for operational reasons.

Q: So today's announcement is purely for operational reasons?

MR. CARNEY: Correct.

Q: But stepping back for a second, is the United States willing to use the SPR more generally as a tool for price modulation to put pressure on oil prices and pressure on the ruble? Some sort of sanction?

MR. CARNEY: I want to separate the issues here. First of all, we don't talk about and I don't discuss potential releases of the SPR. This is a test, so I would refer you to the DOE about this test.

On the general matter of Ukraine and actions that the United States can take in concert with our European and other partners, we have an executive order in hand, signed by the President, that creates authorities for the Secretary of Treasury in consultation with the Secretary of State to take action with regards to sanctions. And that authority is flexible and it is broad, and we are continuing to evaluate the use of that authority via sanctions to hold accountable individuals and entities for the actions that Russia has already taken when it comes to the violations of Ukraine's territorial integrity, its violations of Ukraine's sovereignty.

And obviously we have that tool available to us as we move forward, and as we assess whether or not Russia will step back from its actions, will return its military personnel to bases in Crimea, whether it will cease the kinds of actions that are a violation of Ukraine's territorial integrity and its sovereignty, or whether it will move forward and continue to take these kinds of actions. And we have a tool available to us now, again, working with our European partners and our other partners, in order to sanction individuals and entities as necessary.

Q: So using the SPR is not a tool in your Ukraine toolbox?

MR. CARNEY: I'm not associating the SPR with anything I just said about the general authorities that we have through the executive order signed by the President. What I'm saying is that we have the capacity to level sanctions on individuals and entities, and we have authorities and capacities that are broad and flexible to take action accordingly because there have been costs and there will be costs to Russia for its clear violation of international law, for its clear violation of treaties and memoranda that it is party to, for its violation of Ukraine's sovereignty. Jim.

Q: It doesn't sound like there's much you can do to stop this referendum from happening in Crimea on Sunday, but there have been some reports of maybe a potential wrinkle that could maybe perhaps offer an off-ramp in all of this in that the referendum could happen but Russia could say that they're not going to recognize it, they're not going to annex Crimea as a result of that referendum, whatever the Crimeans decide to do. Is that potentially a solution in the mix here?

MR. CARNEY: Well, any referendum on Crimea and on the status of Crimea and its territory must be conducted consistent with Ukrainian law. And it is our understanding, as I've said in the past, that the Ukrainian constitution requires an all-Ukrainian referendum to alter the territorial boundaries of Ukraine. And that is obviously what is being contemplated through this action, which is inconsistent with and in violation of the Ukrainian constitution.

So Ukraine, most importantly, would not recognize the legality or legitimacy of this referendum, but neither would the United States nor would the world, save perhaps a few nations. How Russia might view it if it comes to pass is an important question. It's clearly not legal under the Ukrainian constitution. It is clearly something that if carried out, would be done -- would be carried out in a way that's not consistent with the rules laid out under Ukrainian law, and it violates the fundamental principle that, I think in this century and for a long time now, changes to a sovereign nation's border should not be made by a foreign nation, a foreign government or over the heads of democratically elected officials. And that's what this would represent.

Q: And do you think that or does the President think that Vladimir Putin needs a face-saving move here? The steps that you outlined as a part of the potential off-ramp don't really offer Putin any kind of face-saving, in terms of an end result.

MR. CARNEY: Well, I wouldn't characterize it that way necessarily, but I disagree that the so-called off-ramp on offer here from the international community doesn't provide the leadership of Russia with a means by which to pursue and protect Russia's legitimate interests in Ukraine, and that includes its naval base in Crimea, a naval base established by law in agreement between the Ukrainian and Russian governments, and the protection of the rights of ethnic Russians in Ukraine. We've recognized that those are real interests. We've recognized that the two countries have deep historical and cultural ties that will not end and should not end.

So there's an opportunity here for Russia to maintain the arrangement it has with Ukraine when it comes to its naval base there in keeping with treaties and agreements that it has signed with

Ukraine and with the international community, and to ensure through the presence of international monitors and observers that the rights of ethnic Russians are protected. So I think that's a substantive off-ramp, if you will, an opportunity provided by the international community to Russia to make sure that its legitimate concerns are addressed without resorting to -- or without seeing Russia resort to a violation of an independent state's territorial integrity.

Q: Jay, so Secretary Kerry is going to meet again with Foreign Minister Lavrov. The State Department said earlier this week that there would be no such meeting unless there were, in the words of Jen Psaki, "concrete evidence" that Russia is prepared to engage in these proposals and these discussions in a serious way. So I'm wondering, have we seen concrete evidence that Russia is now going to seriously engage on this?

MR. CARNEY: Well, we've made clear to the Russians that we're open to further dialogue and that we want to see concrete evidence. We view this as an opportunity, again, for Secretary Kerry to meet with Foreign Minister Lavrov, his counterpart, to discuss the situation in Ukraine, discuss the situation in Crimea, make clear that there is a way out of this diplomatically and peacefully that Russia can avail itself of, and to continue that discussion.

It's certainly worth doing, in our view, because there are already costs associated with Russia's decisions here, its violations, and there will be greater costs, inevitably, if Russia continues down this path. And those will be assessed -- those costs will be assessed by obviously the United States and our allies and our partners, but also by the impact on Russia's economy that these kinds of actions that flout international law and send signals to potential investors around the world that Russia doesn't abide by law -- international law -- that has a dramatic impact on Russia's economy and on Russia's status in the world. If you want to participate in the international economy and do so responsibly, you need to demonstrate the kind of responsible behavior that does not include arbitrary violations of a neighboring nation's territory.

Q: But my question was, have we seen any concrete evidence that Russia is softening its position on this or is willing to engage in a way that they have not until now? I mean, is that why we're seeing Kerry go over there? Because, again, they were saying there wasn't going to be another --

MR. CARNEY: No, I understand the question and all I would simply say is that we view it as appropriate for Secretary Kerry to meet again with Foreign Minister Lavrov to discuss again the situation, to make the case again for why a far better choice here would be to deescalate and for Russia to pursue its interests through the means available to it that are legal and have the endorsement of the international community. Because as we've made clear, any further escalatory steps would make pursuing the diplomatic path more difficult, would raise the cost to Russia.

And as you know, the President is meeting with the Prime Minister of Ukraine today and that meeting will, by itself, I think demonstrate the fact that we strongly support the Ukrainian people; we strongly support Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty; we strongly support and urge the effort underway in Congress to pass legislation that would provide bilateral assistance to Ukraine. And that's a stance taken not just by the United States but by countries throughout the region and the world.

Q: Can you clarify your remarks on Ukraine? You say you're supporting the actions of Congress on loan guarantees. But what about -- where are sanctions now? I mean, you said you wanted to isolate the Russian economy and really hurt Russia. And now you're talking about if these steps continue -- I mean, where are you?

MR. CARNEY: Well, as you know, there were actions already taken by the State Department when it comes to visa bans.

Q: But you haven't actually --

MR. CARNEY: We never name individuals because that is not allowed under the rules when it comes to visas. But that has taken effect. And I believe the Europeans have announced that they've done similar things. The executive order created the authorities to impose sanctions on individuals and entities. And I can assure you that those individuals whose job it is to focus specifically on developing sanctions and identifying targets of those sanctions are hard at work

and that there will be consequences for the actions Russia has already taken to violate Ukraine's territorial integrity.

The question moving forward -- so it's a both/and proposition. There are costs that Russia has paid and will pay because of what it's already done, but there is also going to be further costs incurred -- if they fail to deescalate and they continue forward on the path they've adopted, they try to annex Crimea illegally, there would be greater costs. And that would come through sanctions and actions by our European partners and allies in addition to actions by the United States, as we take the steps that we are working with Congress to take to provide bilateral support, as we hopefully take steps with Congress to ensure that IMF quota reforms are passed so that the IMF is able to provide the maximum level of assistance to Ukraine and to the Ukrainian government at this very difficult time.

So the impact of all of this I think will be clear. Russia has an opportunity to avoid further costs by deescalating, returning its military personnel to their bases, making sure that the levels are below -- at or below the maximum levels agreed to between the Ukrainian and Russian governments in Crimea, and to engage in a dialogue facilitated by international partners with the Ukrainian government on steps to move forward as the country moves towards elections in May.

Q: But will you say when you -- even if you can't name the specific people whose visas were banned, are you going to say when they've actually started?

MR. CARNEY: The visa bans are in effect. So you're separating -- there are two separate actions. When we announced the executive order last week, we also announced -- the State Department did -- that they had taken action on visa bans. But as I understand it, they're not allowed to identify individuals publicly in that process, but that has happened. Separate from that --

Q: Some people have had their visa banned?

MR. CARNEY: Correct.

Q: And assets frozen also?

MR. CARNEY: These are visa bans.

Q: Oh, okay.

MR. CARNEY: So the sanctions have to do with the authorities created by or authorized by the executive order. And that process is underway and it is a very broad and flexible tool that we have available to us.

Margaret.

Q: Thanks -- a couple on Ukraine. On the issue of the loan guarantees, kind of to get into the nitty-gritty -- the Senate wants to attach the IMF reforms to it; the House doesn't want to. I know the White House would probably prefer to get some IMF stuff done, too, but have you made a strategic decision on whether you're really willing to go to the mat on this? Are you going to take the fight to the House to try to get both done, or are you going to step back?

MR. CARNEY: Here's the thing about this: We all support -- Democrats and Republicans -- providing substantial assistance to Ukraine during this difficult time, to the Ukrainian people and the Ukrainian government. The support that we can provide through the loan guarantee program bilaterally is substantial, and Congress needs to take action to make sure that happens. But all along, our view has been -- and I think this is shared by Democrats and Republicans on the Hill -- that whatever bilateral assistance the United States is able to provide should serve as a complement to the substantial assistance the International Monetary Fund can and should provide.

So if lawmakers view it that way, as I understand they do, then it is absolutely in Congress's interest and the United States' interest as well as in Ukraine's interest that these quota reforms from 2010 are passed, which would enable the IMF to provide broader and deeper assistance to Ukraine.

So there's no cost associated in terms of additional funding from the United States for that to happen, but we strongly support the passage of IMF quota reforms because, in general, it's the

right thing to do and, specifically, when it comes to providing assistance to Ukraine and the Ukrainian people at this difficult time, it's the right thing to do.

Q: -- okay, it's important, it's the right thing to do. Do you think -- so do you think they're swayable or --

MR. CARNEY: Again, we're working with Congress in both -- and members in both houses and leaders in both houses to move this forward. And we are making the arguments that I just made to you about why it's important for Ukraine's sake that the assistance package and the quota reform pass.

Q: Also on Ukraine, everything is still on for this afternoon here, right? The Prime Minister had cancelled a press conference. So no changes to his schedule you're aware of?

MR. CARNEY: I'm not aware of anything.

Q: In that meeting, do you expect the President, beyond the support that we all know he'll talk about publicly probably in the spray, do you expect him to get into some nitty-gritty details about, starting on Sunday, assuming that this referendum passes, about what the U.S. will do in concert with Ukraine? Some of that, like, what happens next stuff?

MR. CARNEY: Well, I think I'll point you to the President, who will have the opportunity to talk to the pool at the end of the meeting that he has for a summary of what the discussion was. But I think it's fair to say that they're going to discuss all of the above when it comes to the situation that Ukraine is currently experiencing.

Q: And would you be willing to preview for us that the U.S. at least has decided if the referendum goes the way everyone thinks it's going to go what you will do next? I mean, it would be great if you want to announce it here, but if not, has the President reached a decision on what he does Sunday?

MR. CARNEY: Well, I'd say two things. One, Secretary Kerry is going to London to meet with Foreign Minister Lavrov on Friday and we certainly hope that Russia makes a decision to follow a different path to deescalate and to pursue the diplomatic avenue open to it for resolving this conflict. So I'm not going to start speculating about what actions we would take except to assure you that the international community would surely take actions if Ukraine -- rather, Russia continues down this path.

Q: Last one -- so what he's asking is -- when you say to take a different path, not yank the referendum, but just not to take the ball and run with it? Is that the path? It's following up on Jen's question from earlier.

MR. CARNEY: No, we've been very clear that what Russia needs to do is return its forces back to their bases, make sure that the level of Russian military personnel in Crimea is consistent with the agreements between the Ukrainian government and the Russian government, engage in a dialogue with the help of the international community and international partners with the Ukrainian government about the issues that have arisen here towards free and fair elections in May that have been called for by the Ukrainian government when there's an opportunity for the Ukrainian people to choose their President in a democratic way and where all voices in Ukraine are heard and represented at the polling stations.

Q: Jay, the goal of the Kerry-Lavrov meeting is not to see that the referendum doesn't happen -- that's not something that's on the table you think as an option?

MR. CARNEY: Well, I think the referendum -- which, if held, would not be recognized, its results would not be recognized, is not legal under the Ukrainian constitution -- is a part of the puzzle here. What we have called on Russia to do is to take action that it's directly responsible for, which is the movement of its military and its actions consistent with its agreements with the Ukrainians.

Q: But this meeting is not about seeking the scrubbing of the referendum?

MR. CARNEY: Again, since we don't recognize it, we don't think it's -- and neither does the Ukrainian government; most importantly, it's certainly not helpful when it comes to reducing tensions or deescalating the situation.

Q: Is the referendum itself, to use your words earlier, an "escalating step" in this crisis?

MR. CARNEY: No question.

Q: Okay. And then if there was a subsequent -- as the Russians have indicated there will be -- parliamentary action to annex, that would clearly fall into that category as well?

MR. CARNEY: That would qualify as escalatory, which is a word I had not known existed before this morning.

Q: But you used it so I wanted to give you another chance.

MR. CARNEY: Hey, I'm not sure what word -- a lawyer I think wrote this.

Q: I just want to clear up a couple things. One, I've noticed, I think this is the second or third time you guys put out a statement that says "G7 Nations." I mean, is there an announcement? Is there no more G8? Like, how do --

MR. CARNEY: I actually covered a G7 once. That's how long I've been around.

Q: Is it -- are they out? Is it now this is going to be the way -- the new norm? I mean, I know it's semantics.

MR. CARNEY: Well, no, this is a fair question. We and the other G7 nations have suspended preparations for the G8 meeting in Sochi, because it is inconceivable to us that we can move forward with those preparations given the actions taken by Russia in Ukraine. And it is hard to see how that would change if Russia does not deescalate and choose a different course.

We are consulting regularly with our G7 partners, and we put out the statement that you mentioned this morning. I'm not going to project into the future here, because Russia has an opportunity to make some decisions that allow Russia to pursue and protect its interests. But --

Q: So you've suspended them from the G8 but not kicked them out yet? Is that fair to say?

MR. CARNEY: We've suspended preparations on the next meeting of the G8, which happens to be --

Q: The fact that you speak as the G7 almost, right? I mean, is that the equivalent of Russia suspended and --

MR. CARNEY: Well, I think in this case, one member of the G8, Russia, has taken actions that made it necessary for the G7 to speak as the G7.

Q: On the Ukraine aid bill, I'm wondering -- it doesn't seem like it's going to move through the Senate this week before people leave for recess. Is that something that's concerning to you guys? And how much disappointment is there, especially since the President said last week he wanted to see --

MR. CARNEY: We want to see Congress act on it quickly. We think that a lot of members have publicly stated their views on the transgression we've seen from Russia, on the plight of Ukraine. In this circumstance, it's absolutely appropriate for members to channel those observations and feelings into action, and that action is in the form of legislation that would provide loan guarantees to the government of Ukraine. So we want to see that happen as quickly as possible.

In terms of the makeup of that legislative package -- we've talked about that a couple of times today -- it's our view that as part of the effort to make sure that Ukraine is getting as much assistance as possible from the international community, that the quota reforms ought to be passed.

Q: You don't see it as important to get it done before the meeting on Friday, or the referendum --

MR. CARNEY: I'm not putting -- I think it's important to get it done, absolutely, as soon as possible.

Jared.

Q: Jay, two quick questions. One on Ukraine. Do you know whether the U.S. or Russia initiated Friday's meeting?

MR. CARNEY: That I would refer you to the State Department. I think Secretary Kerry announced the fact that he was going to London today when he was up on the Hill, and I'm not sure who initiated it. We've made clear that we want to continue diplomatic discussions with Russia and to see concrete action taken by Russia to deescalate the situation. But I don't know who called whom.

**U.S. Concerned about Russian Involvement in Roadblocks on Crimea
United States Mission to the OSCE
Vienna, Austria**

PRESS RELEASE

March 12, 2014

The U.S. Mission to the OSCE today expressed its deep concern over indications of the involvement of Russian military personnel in the establishment of roadblocks on the Crimean peninsula. Evidence of the Russian military presence was cited in a report submitted by an OSCE military observer team which was repeatedly prevented from entering Crimea from March 5-10.

The passage into Crimea of the multinational delegation sent to Ukraine under the Vienna Document Chapter III was blocked five times in multiple locations by heavily armed guards lacking clear national identification.

"This report adds to our deep concerns and clearly suggests direct involvement by the Russian federation and its agents in preventing impartial, unarmed observers from doing the work they are supposed to do," U.S. Ambassador to the OSCE Daniel Baer said today. "Russian encouragement of and support for illegal checkpoints is unhelpful."

The conclusion of the observer team's report states, "the [Ukrainian Police escort] and Team were consistently refused access at gunpoint and therefore were not able to dispel concerns over the reported unusual Russian Federation military activity. However, the Team observations produced significant evidence of equipment consistent with the presence of Russian Federation military personnel [in the vicinity of] the various roadblocks encountered during the period of the observation."

Among the evidence cited in the report were "[Russian] pattern uniforms and combat equipment without identifying patches," "trucks bearing license plate numbers associated with Black Sea Fleet," and armored personnel carriers, "one of which is a naval infantry version displaying [Russian] markings."

Opening Remarks by Secretary of State John Kerry before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, Office of the Spokesperson

March 12, 2014

Washington, D.C.

SECRETARY KERRY: Thank you very much, Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member Lowey, Mr. Chairman Rogers of the full committee. Let me just thank all of you, first of all, for your very generous comments of understanding of the complications of the world we're living in today, but also I just want to thank you for your thoughtful and substantive consideration of all of these issues that face us. We're deeply appreciative for the leadership that this committee brings to the country.

I, as you all know, spent a lot of time up here, 29-plus years. And in that time I learned that choosing to be on the Foreign Relations Committee or the Foreign Appropriations Committee, et cetera, is not necessarily automatically the easiest thing to explain at home, and it doesn't always result in some of the direct claims that you can make about ways in which you've assisted your district. But on the other hand, I think it does, because you assist them by advancing the values

and the interests of the country and by helping us to increase American security and stability in the world, all of which comes home to roost one way or the other, either in jobs for districts, states, for the country, but also in the safety and security that we are able to achieve as a result of that.

Let me just say that I'm privileged to lead a remarkable department with men and women all over the world. We've just held our several-days conference of all of our chiefs of mission called back to Washington. Susan Rice spoke to them yesterday, I spent a fair period of time doing this sort of open meeting with them, as well as other meetings we've had. And it's really intriguing to see the energy and interest and passion that they all bring to the effort to represent our country abroad, and with some remarkable 70,000 people in total in various ways – Civil Service, Foreign Service, local employees, particularly local employees make a huge difference to our ability to do our job, and I want to salute all of them.

You have each, in your opening comments, focused on the complications of the world we're living in today, different from anything any of us might have imagined, vastly different from the world of bipolar East-West cold war, and even different from the early years of exuberance in the fall of the Berlin Wall. Now there are sectarian, religious extremists, terrorists, and other challenges released as a consequence of the fall of those countries and the changes in those countries. And so we're challenged. And I believe it is important for us to get caught trying to change things. That's who we are in the United States. And I cannot tell you how much it has been impressed on me in all of the journeys I have made on behalf of the President and our country how much people do look to the United States of America.

I hear it again and again and again everywhere. It's our responsibility to help to make a difference in lots of different situations, and we have to be clear-eyed about the challenges. And obviously, the environment has to be ripe for a breakthrough in one place or another. But particularly for instance in Ukraine. Congresswoman Lowey, you mentioned the need to try to find a diplomatic solution. And our interest is in protecting the sovereignty and the independence and the territorial integrity of Ukraine with our European partners and others. And we have a responsibility to be engaged, and we are engaged. We also have to be willing to try to sit down and de-escalate the situation, as you said, Congresswoman Lowey.

That is why President Obama has asked me to leave tomorrow evening and fly to London to meet with Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on Friday. And I will do that. And we have had previous conversations. As you know, we spoke earlier this week. The President has talked several times to President Putin. We – I will make clear again, as I have throughout this crisis, that while we respect, obviously, that Russia has deep historical, cultural, and other kinds of interests with respect to Ukraine and particularly Crimea, nothing justifies a military intervention that the world has witnessed.

There are many other legitimate ways to address Russia's concerns, and we are trying to make that very, very clear. In my discussions with Minister Lavrov, I have made it clear that there are many reasons for Russia to choose a path of de-escalation and of political solution here. We believe that interests can be met and that most importantly, the desires of the people of Ukraine can be respected, and that the international law can be respected.

We do not seek a world in which we have to apply additional costs to the choices that have been made thus far. We don't think anybody is more served, better served, not for the interests of our efforts in Iran, not for the interests of our efforts in Syria, not for the interests of our efforts with nuclear weapons or Afghanistan or many other places, by isolating Russia. But we will do what we have to do if Russia cannot find the way to make the right choices here. And our job is to try to present them with a series of options that are appropriate in order to try to respect the people of Ukraine, international law, and the interests of all concerned.

So we will offer certain choices to Foreign Minister Lavrov and to President Putin through him, and to Russia, with hopes – and I think the hopes of the world – that we will be able to find a way forward that defuses this and finds a way to respect the integrity and sovereignty of the state of Ukraine.

It couldn't be any clearer: What you all do here and what we talk about here today really matters. And when I think about that, I can't help but recall standing in Kyiv just a few days ago near the Maidan on Institutska Street, right at the spot where so many were struck down by the snipers, looking at the bullet holes up and down lampposts, looking at these extraordinary memorials that people had spontaneously built – stacks of flowers, candles, photographs; and juxtaposed to the street, which was filled with these extraordinary barricades of bedposts and tires and all kinds of detritus, and a street that was covered in a film of the results of the fires that had been lit and the burning that had taken place and the chaos that had ensued.

What came through to me were the voices of the people I talked to on the street, telling me how much they wanted to be able to determine their own future and how grateful they were for our support and assistance, and how they just wanted to be able to live like other people. One man particularly struck me. He had come back from Australia, and he said, "You know, I saw how other people are living, and we just want to be able to make the same choices and live the same way."

What we do is true not just for Kyiv but it's true in so many places, and some places that don't always get the headlines. It matters in a place like South Sudan, a nation that Frank Wolf and some of you helped to give birth to, a nation that is now struggling and needs our support in order to be able to have a chance to survive its infancy. It matters in the Maghreb, where the State Department is coordinating with France to take down al-Qaida, making sure that French forces have the technology and the weapons that they need.

What we do matters to us in terms of where we – what we do in Central Asia, where we're working with several nations to stop the trafficking of narcotics, to keep more heroin off our streets, and to cut off financing for terrorists and extremists. What we do matters on the Korean Peninsula, where we're working with our partners from the Republic of Korea to make sure that we can meet any threat from North Korea and to continue to push for the denuclearization of North Korea. I was just in China and we can talk about that a little later, if you want.

But thanks to the State Department's work, the South Koreans are now making the largest financial contribution to these efforts in the peninsula in the history of our joint security agreement. What we do matters from Bosnia to Indonesia, in our work with NGOs and civil society groups to defend religious freedom, protecting the universal rights of people to practice their faith freely, and working to bring an end to the scourge of anti-Semitism.

This isn't just what we do in this budget; this is an essential part of who we are as Americans. I firmly believe that in this increasingly interconnected world, global leadership isn't a favor that we do for other countries, as you mentioned, Madam Chair, it's vital to our own strength. It's vital to our security and the opportunities that we can provide for our children. Now, I spent enough years here to know that you shouldn't call anything that costs billions of dollars an automatic bargain. But when you consider that American – Americans, the American people pay just one penny of every tax dollar with 46.2 billion in investments in this request, I believe the American people are getting an extraordinary return on their investment.

We have kept our funding request in line with what was appropriated to the Department and USAID in Fiscal Year 2014 within our base request of 40.3 billion. And the additional part of our request for OCO, Overseas Contingency Operations, totals 5.9 billion. And with OCO funding, we support programs, as you know, in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan, as we continue to right-size those commitments. These resources also provide the U.S. – the State Department and USAID with the ability to respond to the humanitarian crisis in Syria and flexibility to meet unanticipated peacekeeping needs.

I know it's easy for some in Congress to support larger cuts in the budget, but what's impossible to calculate completely is the far greater price our country would pay for inaction on many of the things that we're facing today. It's impossible to calculate the dangers in a world without American leadership and the vacuum that that would create for extremists and ideologues to exploit. But I am telling you, without any doubt, more deeply than I ever believed it before when I chaired the Foreign Relations Committee, this year has impressed on me the degree to

which, if we aren't engaged in these things, we will pay the price somewhere down the road for the vacuum that will be created and for the dangers that will come to our country as a result.

For me, it is no coincidence that the places where we face some of the greatest national security challenges are also places where governments deny basic human rights to their nations' people. And that's why development assistance, investing in our partnership with our allies, supporting human rights and stronger civil societies is so critical. These are the surest ways to prevent the kind of tragedy that we are seeing unfold in Syria today.

Now, I know that Frank and others of you have seen these horrors firsthand, as have I. You've looked in the eyes of refugees. There's simply no way to articulate how important it is for the richest, most powerful nation on this planet to do its part to try to make the world a safer and a better place. For the Syrian people, for Lebanon, Turkey, for Jordan, coping with how to keep their societies running and keep extremists at bay while they host millions now of refugees, our support is critical to that. We're the largest donor in the world. And that helps us, because it is critical to us that Lebanon and Jordan remain stable.

With our assistance to one of our oldest allies in the Pacific as it recovers from one of the worst natural disasters in history, Typhoon Haiyan, we're also leading the way. Through an \$86 million contribution from State and USAID to the Philippines, we're working with our partners so that hundreds of thousands of people literally can put their lives back together. And I visited that devastation and saw how it just flattened that community in a matter of minutes.

With our core budget request, there's a 1.35 billion contribution to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. And the goal that President Obama has set today for an AIDS-free generation would have been absolutely unthinkable 10 years ago. It was, I'm telling you, because I wrote the legislation with Bill Frist in the Senate that created the first effort on AIDS, and we got the support of Jesse Helms. And the story since then, with President Bush growing it into PEPFAR and all the things that have happened, is an amazing story for the United States of America and for the world, and an accomplishment. And we're now working to transition the leadership of these lifesaving programs to local hands, with Rwanda, Namibia, and South Africa some of the first to take the reins.

Because of our leadership, children are waking up today in Sub-Saharan Africa who face a very different future from what they did only 10 years ago. And just as our partners in Asia and Europe make a transition from being recipients of American aid – 11 of the 15 countries that we used to give aid to, the biggest aid recipients, are now donor countries. Remarkable story.

Korea, a donor country, was a major recipient of aid and so forth. We can be proud of this. Americans – I think we need to talk about it more. We need to get people to see the huge benefit of this one penny on the dollar investment.

And part of making sure that African nations and many other emerging markets make the most of opportunities and improving reforms to the International Monetary Fund is going to be a critical part of that. I think all of you know the IMF has been a central part of the transformation of so many countries. And it's also important to greater trade with people in our own hemisphere as well as right here at home, and particularly for trade with Brazil, Chile, Colombia, India, Korea, Mexico, Peru, the Philippines, Thailand, all of whom once borrowed from IMF and now are some of the most powerful traders in the world.

So I'll just close by saying to you that Ukraine's struggle for independence, particularly its financial independence, will depend on Congress ratifying reforms that will help Ukraine borrow through the IMF's Rapid Financing Instrument. Our \$200 million investment and sovereign loans are needed urgently, but it's only through the IMF, a reformed IMF, that Ukraine is going to receive the additional help it needs in order to stand on its own two feet.

We are doing, I think, amazing stuff out of many of our embassies and consulates around the world. And I'd just say to you, look at the advocacy from Embassy Lusaka that helped a New Jersey-based firm win an \$85 million contract to build 144 bridges in Zambia, with the potential to grow to a \$250 million contract. That's jobs at home. That's U.S. tax benefit and the strengthening of our economy. Our consular staff in Kolkata helped bring an Illinois-based

Caterpillar together with Sasan Power Limited on a \$500 million deal to develop a 3,960 megawatt power plant. Embassy Wellington and Embassy Apia in Samoa helped TE SubCom, a company based in New Jersey, land a \$350 million contract to lay fiber optics across the Pacific. When 95 percent of the world's consumers live outside of our market, and when foreign governments are out there aggressively backing their own businesses, believe me, this is the kind of advocacy that American workers need to compete. And that's why I've said since day one of becoming Secretary of State, economic policy is foreign policy. And we've just talked about that with all of our embassy chiefs and mission chiefs who have come back to Washington. We've put in place a very strong economic team. And we believe that it's critical to be able to strengthen that.

So Madam Chairwoman, this budget keeps our ironclad partnership with Israel intact, \$3.1 billion in security assistance. And as we make these investments around the world, we can never eliminate every risk, especially in a world where our vital interests are not confined to secure and prosperous capitals. But we can and will mitigate these risks, and we have been in implementing the ARB and working off the lessons learned in Benghazi. This budget does that, and it does more. It implements all of the recommendations of the independent Benghazi Accountability Review Board, and it makes additional investments that go above and beyond that.

Every week, I am sitting with our team to evaluate the threats against a number of different embassies, the levels. We've drawn down, we've added back, we've had authorized departures, we've had mandatory departures. It's a constant challenge. But I believe we're meeting that challenge appropriately and allocating our resources in a way that best protects the men and women serving our country.

I believe this budget strikes a balance between the need to sustain long-term investments in American leadership and the political imperative to tighten our belts here at home. I believe the budget's a blueprint providing the minimum our people need to be able to carry out their mission and to enhance national security and promote global stability.

I will just close by saying to you it is never – and this is not the budget that we would have liked to have; this is the budget we have to have under the circumstances of the budget agreement.

And that's a longer conversation. Maybe we'll get into some of that today.

Thank you, Madam Chairwoman.

FACT SHEET: Increased U.S. Cooperation with Ukraine

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, Office of the Spokesperson

March 12, 2014

Ukraine is facing a moment of historic challenge and historic opportunity. In the coming months, the Government of Ukraine will need to take steps to restore economic stability and to conduct free, fair, and inclusive presidential elections to allow the Ukrainian people to choose their own future.

During Prime Minister Yatsenyuk's visit to Washington today, we discussed specific steps the United States is taking to support Ukraine at this critical time, including the \$1 billion loan guarantee we are working with Congress to provide, and the package of technical and other assistance we are preparing, to meet Ukraine's priority needs. Specific U.S. assistance measures and initiatives discussed today include the following:

Reaffirming our Partnership

We intend to resume activities of the **Strategic Partnership Commission** at the Ministerial level with the goal of deepening the U.S.-Ukrainian Strategic Partnership in the areas of nuclear security and non-proliferation, political dialogue and rule of law, energy security, security cooperation, and science and technology.

The Department of Commerce will organize a **U.S.-Ukraine Business Summit** in Washington, D.C. that will bring together senior-level USG and GOU officials, U.S. companies with investments in Ukraine, and leading economic and legal experts on the Ukrainian market, to discuss how to increase economic growth in Ukraine and deepen our bilateral commercial relationship.

The Department of Commerce, working together with the State Department and USTR, will develop an **Innovation Council** that will focus on creating the eco-system required to accelerate entrepreneurship and develop the legal culture and infrastructure for innovation in Ukraine. Special Envoy for International Energy Affairs Carlos Pascual will visit Kyiv this month for a meeting of the **Energy Security Working Group**, which will focus on efforts to boost Ukraine's energy security, including energy efficiency and the development of alternative energy sources.

The Department of Defense will hold **U.S.-Ukraine Bilateral Defense Consultations** with Ukrainian counterparts in Kyiv within the next month.

A senior-level Department of Commerce delegation will travel to Kyiv to conduct relationship-building with key GOU officials, streamlining future bilateral work on market access cases, pending investments, and means for addressing systemic issues affecting our bilateral commercial relationship.

We will hold a meeting of the bilateral **Trade and Investment Council** through the U.S. Trade Representative's Office to address barriers to trade and investment and explore expanding commercial ties, boosting the investment climate.

Immediate Assistance

Support for the May presidential elections. The United States will double its planned assistance to support electoral law reform to improve election administration, provide election monitoring, and promote robust involvement by a strong and independent civil society and media.

Department of Defense (DoD) personnel will organize a **Humanitarian Assistance Planning Conference** with the Ukrainian Armed Forces. DoD will provide **Meals Ready to Eat (MREs)** to the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

Support for asset recovery efforts. Department of Justice and FBI teams are already in Ukraine to provide strategic advice and capacity building to locate the proceeds of corruption looted by former officials. The State Department also will offer additional assistance and technical expertise for bilateral and multilateral efforts to facilitate Ukraine's efforts to recover these assets located in overseas financial institutions.

New technical support to help Ukraine with immediate economic management challenges. The United States is providing expertise to help the Ukrainian Ministry of Finance and Central Bank navigate near-term economic challenges. The Department of Treasury has already deployed an expert advisor and the United States stands ready to provide additional assistance to meet Ukraine's near-term economic and financial management needs.

Enhancing People-to-People Contacts

The Department of State will expand funding for the inaugural year of the **U.S.-Ukraine Fulbright Science and Technology Education Program ("STEP")**, a pilot project that will fully fund the travel and studies of a select group of Ukrainian graduate students at U.S. universities in the 2014-2015 academic year.

The **Global Undergraduate Exchange Program** will double the number of Ukrainian students for the 2014-15 academic year.

Over 50 additional future leaders of Ukraine will be eligible for **short-term exchanges and professional experiences in the United States** in critically important fields.

The United States will establish an **Alumni Innovation Grant Competition** for Ukrainian alumni of U.S. government exchange programs to allow the best alumni to launch ideas that will benefit their country's future.

Secretary Kerry's Travel to London

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, Office of the Spokesperson

March 12, 2014

STATEMENT BY JEN PSAKI, SPOKESPERSON

At the direction of President Obama, Secretary of State John Kerry will travel to London, UK, on March 14 to meet with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov to discuss the ongoing crisis in Ukraine.

The Secretary will continue to reaffirm the United States' unwavering support for Ukrainian sovereignty, unity, territorial integrity, and the right of the Ukrainian people to determine their own future, without outside interference or provocation by Russia.

Follow Secretary Kerry's travel via [@JohnKerry](#), [@StateDept](#), and [@StateDeptSpox](#) on Twitter and go to the Department's [Flickr](#) account for the latest trip photos. Stay

connected: <http://blogs.state.gov/social-feeds> and keep track of all of the Secretary's travels

at: <http://www.state.gov/secretary/travel/index.htm>.

ПІМЕЧЧИНА

Agreement over action in Ukraine

Mar 12, 2014

Warsaw

In the Crimean crisis it is absolutely crucial that the EU demonstrate unity and that the member states act in concert, stressed Chancellor Angela Merkel and Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk in Warsaw. Their talks were dominated by concerns over the situation in Ukraine.

The current situation, especially in Crimea, was the main item on the agenda of the cordial and in-depth meeting of the two heads of government. Angela Merkel reported that she agrees completely with Prime Minister Donald Tusk in his assessment that this is an extremely serious conflict within Europe. They discussed joint strategies and possible solutions.

Strategies for dealing with the crisis

Angela Merkel listed three main thrusts of action: assistance for Ukraine, the willingness to enter into talks, and – should negotiations fail to bring about a solution - sanctions.

To support Ukraine, the political chapters of the Association Agreement with the EU are to be signed rapidly, possibly at the next meeting of the European Council on 20 and 21 March. In this context, Angela Merkel welcomed the fact that the European Commission is looking to ease trade restrictions on products imported from Ukraine.

With a view to establishing a contact group, much has been attempted to facilitate talks between Russia, the USA and the European Union, noted the Chancellor. It must, however, be said that no progress has been made. The logical consequence is that preparations must now begin for a second phase of sanctions.

De-escalation is still the goal

"We obviously hope for de-escalation," said Angela Merkel. If this fails to materialise, though, which we must expect at this moment in time, the EU foreign ministers will implement the first decisions when they meet on Monday. The topic will also be on the agenda of the coming European Council meeting.

"I think we are going to need stamina here," underscored the Chancellor. The conflict can only be resolved with unified European action. Military action is not an option in the 21st century. The Chancellor did, however, state quite clearly, "We are not going to sidestep conflicts".

Sanctions under consideration

We will be seeking discussion and negotiation, said Angela Merkel, but at the same time, "We will not only be thinking about sanctions, but considering carefully the various stages". The EU has already decided on this course of action should the situation escalate.

Discussion and negotiation are the way to solve problems, she said. It must, however, be noted that this has not worked as we had hoped. The EU has taken precautions, and if necessary "it will have to go ahead with the second stage".

The action will involve freezing the assets of certain groups and imposing travel bans. The technical preparations are already underway. The EU foreign ministers will state clearly at their meeting on Monday "who will be affected" announced the Chancellor.

The G7 states also reserve the right to express their position on the Crimean crisis. Donald Tusk added that the Euro-Atlantic union is the key to the success of all future activities.

For secure energy supplies in Europe

Energy policy was another focus of the talks against the backdrop of the next European Council meeting. The Chancellor urged greater unity on this issue. Progress has been made to the extent that connectivity has been improved among member states, said Angela Merkel. "But there can be no doubt that there is still much to do."

The Chancellor was pleased that an ambitious working programme in the field of climate change mitigation is to be implemented with Poland by the end of the year. Although the situation in the two countries is quite different, both have learned to deal with this, she said. "I believe that Germany and Poland can act together here," declared the Chancellor.

Prime Minister Donald Tusk had proposed joint energy imports. To this end the companies involved must come together around the table.

Cordial bilateral relations

The two heads of government had found joint positions on all problems currently on the table, reported Angela Merkel. This reflects the excellent relations that Germany and Poland enjoy. The Chancellor's trip to Warsaw, originally planned for 8 January, had to be postponed as a result of her skiing accident. The delay only made her appreciate the visit all the more, said Angela Merkel.

Angela Merkel last met her Polish opposite number on 31 January 2014 in Berlin. Even then the situation in Ukraine was at the top of the agenda.

German-Polish relations were long overshadowed by historical factors, but since 1989 they have become consistently closer, as can be seen by the extent to which their economies are interlinked and the large number of cultural projects. Their broadly similar interests are also reflected in their partnerships within the EU and NATO. Since 1997 annual government consultations have been held.

ФРАНЦІЯ

Ukraine - Déclaration des chefs d'État ou de gouvernement du G7 (Paris, 12 mars 2014)

Nous, chefs d'État et 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, appelons la Fédération de Russie à mettre fin à toute tentative de modifier le statut de la Crimée en violation de la législation ukrainienne et du droit international. Nous appelons la Fédération de Russie à cesser immédiatement ses actions en soutien à un référendum sur le territoire de la Crimée portant sur le statut de cette dernière, en violation flagrante de la constitution de l'Ukraine. Un tel référendum n'aurait aucun effet juridique. Étant donné le manque de préparation appropriée et la présence intimidante de troupes russes, il constituerait également un processus profondément vicié qui n'aurait aucune portée morale. Pour toutes ces raisons, nous n'en reconnâtrions pas le résultat. L'annexion de la Crimée par la Russie constituerait une violation manifeste de la charte des Nations unies ; des engagements pris par la

Russie en vertu de l'acte final d'Helsinki ; de ses obligations à l'égard de l'Ukraine en vertu du traité d'amitié, de coopération et de partenariat qu'elle a conclu en 1997 ; de l'accord russo-ukrainien de 1997 sur les bases militaires ; et des engagements pris par la Russie dans le cadre du mémorandum de Budapest de 1994. Outre son incidence sur l'unité, la souveraineté et l'intégrité territoriale de l'Ukraine, l'annexion pourrait avoir de graves implications pour l'ordre juridique qui protège l'unité et la souveraineté de tous les États. Si la Fédération de Russie agit en ce sens, nous déciderons d'autres mesures tant individuellement que collectivement. Nous appelons la Fédération de Russie à désamorcer immédiatement le conflit en Crimée et dans d'autres régions d'Ukraine, à retirer ses forces en les ramenant à leurs effectifs et vers leurs lieux de cantonnement antérieurs à la crise, à engager des discussions directes avec le gouvernement ukrainien et à recourir aux propositions internationales de médiation et d'observation afin de répondre aux inquiétudes légitimes qu'elle peut avoir. Nous, chefs d'État et de gouvernement du G7, appelons instamment la Russie à se joindre à nous pour oeuvrer ensemble, grâce à des procédures diplomatiques, en vue de résoudre la crise actuelle et de soutenir les progrès d'une Ukraine souveraine, indépendante, ouverte à tous et unie. Nous rappelons également à la Fédération de Russie notre décision de suspendre notre participation à toutes activités en rapport avec les préparatifs d'une réunion du G8 à Sotchi jusqu'à ce qu'elle ait changé d'orientation et que le contexte permette à nouveau au G8 d'avoir un débat substantiel./.

12/03/2014 - Paris - Point de presse

Entretien téléphonique de M. Laurent Fabius avec son homologue russe (11 mars 2014)

M. Laurent Fabius, ministre des affaires étrangères, s'est entretenu hier avec son homologue russe, M. Sergueï Lavrov, pour évoquer la crise en Ukraine.

Le ministre des affaires étrangères a rappelé que le vote prévu en Crimée le 16 mars est contraire à la constitution ukrainienne et n'aurait aucune portée juridique.

Les contacts se poursuivent de façon intense pour essayer de trouver une issue aux tensions, qui n'ont déjà que trop duré.

12/03/2014 - Paris - Point de presse

Ukraine

Q - Les médias ukrainiens évoquent les signes de la préparation d'une invasion armée de la partie continentale de l'Ukraine. Quelles sont les mesures que va prendre la France à cet égard ?

On assiste à la redéfinition des frontières en Europe, en violation des fondements de la sécurité collective. À votre avis, que doivent faire la France et l'UE pour que cessent de telles actions ?

R - S'agissant de votre première question, il ne nous appartient pas de commenter les informations de presse. Nous attendons, de la part de la Russie, des signes de désescalade.

Comme M. Laurent Fabius l'a indiqué encore hier, nous sommes mobilisés avec l'ensemble de nos partenaires européens.

Nous avons à la fois marqué notre fermeté - en souscrivant à la décision européenne en faveur de la mise en place de sanctions - et notre détermination à favoriser le dialogue et une issue diplomatique à la crise.

M. Laurent Fabius est en dialogue constant avec ses homologues européens, américain, russe et ukrainien, avec lesquels les consultations se poursuivent actuellement. Il s'est entretenu hier soir par téléphone avec les ministres des affaires étrangères russe, polonais et allemand./.

ОСНОВНІ МІЖНАРОДНІ ОРГАНІЗАЦІЇ

ОБСЄ

Swiss OSCE Chair and Russian President discuss ways out of crisis regarding Ukraine
BERN 12 March 2014

BERN, March 12 2014 - OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and Swiss Foreign Minister Didier Burkhalter discussed the situation regarding Ukraine in a phone conversation with the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin, this afternoon. They talked about possible ways to overcome the current crisis.

In their discussion, Burkhalter and Putin focused on the creation of an international contact group on Ukraine and potential modalities for its establishment; they were also exchanging views on an OSCE monitoring mission, while Burkhalter stressed the importance of an early consensus on its deployment in order to contribute to an improved security situation also for minorities. Furthermore, Burkhalter underlined that processes on regional autonomy and decentralization within a state always must be seen in a long-term perspective.

Burkhalter and Putin agreed to stay in touch and continue their conversation on ways out of the crisis regarding Ukraine.

ЄС

Ukraine: MEPs call for firm action on Russia to prevent further escalation

Article (EP) - **External relations** – 12-03-2014 - 12:31

MEPs called for a strong response to Russia on 12 March in a debate over its military involvement in Ukraine. They also rejected the upcoming referendum on independence in Crimea, which they saw as manipulated and contrary to international and Ukrainian law. The EU should also support Ukraine and continue to work towards a peaceful resolution of the conflict. Dimitris Kourkoulas, Greek deputy foreign minister responsible for European affairs, spoke on behalf of the Council. He called the situation in Ukraine “the most serious crisis in Europe in recent years”. He stressed that the priority should be to find a peaceful solution that fully respects international law. “The European Union is ready to help the Ukrainian people on an economic, financial and technical level,” he said.

José Manuel Barroso, president of the European Commission, called the situation in Ukraine a test for the European Union, which would have geopolitical consequences for our countries. He said Ukraine should not become a border between neighbours who no longer talk.

José Ignacio Salafranca, a Spanish member of the EPP group, said: “We have to clearly reject the referendum that will be held in Crimea: it is illegitimate, it is illegal.” He quoted former Ukrainian prime minister Yulia Tymoshenko in saying that “Russia will go as far as they are allowed to go” and called for firm action, as “otherwise the conflict will become unavoidable”.

Hannes Swoboda, the Austrian chair of the S&D group, said: “Let me be very clear, this is not a legitimate referendum. All the referendums we saw in the past have been totally different. They were done on a legal basis, with international observers, no military pressure on the national assembly.” He said we should make clear to Russia that we cannot accept this referendum.

Underlining that the referendum in Crimea would lead to an illegal annexation by Russia, Hans van Baalen, a Dutch member of the ALDE group, demanded sanctions. “We have to have serious sanctions that will hurt Russia,” he said, wondering if the Council was ready to follow suit.

Rebecca Harms, the German co-chair of the Green group, said it was not true that the EU was powerless, underlining that 45% of Russia's trade is with the European Union. “We don't need to find ourselves in some kind of military conflict. Make it clear to Russia, if they want to isolate themselves, then that is what is going to happen.”

20 РОЗДІЛ. 12 БЕРЕЗНЯ 2014 РОКУ, СЕРЕДА

Ryszard Antoni Legutko, a Polish member of the ECR group, pointed out that there was not much to expect from Europe on the Ukraine issue: "The EU has neither instruments, no will, nor a common foreign policy for that matter."

Nikola Vuljanić, a Croatian member of the GUE/NGL group, warned that not supporting the Ukrainian people strongly can only contribute to the escalation. "The European Union is talking about strong sanctions but only soft constraints are imposed," he said.

Jacek Olgierd Kurski, a Polish member of the EFD group, said: "Putin has said that the fall of the Soviet Union was the biggest tragedy of the 20th century. He is now rebuilding the empire, first Georgia, now Ukraine."

Andreas Mølzer, a non-attached member from Austria, said that if the EU wanted to avoid a permanent flashpoint, we would have to work with everyone. Anything is better than a civil war, he said.