
УКРАЇНА VS РОСІЙСЬКА ФЕДЕРАЦІЯ

РФ

Президент РФ

Телефонний розговор с Федеральным канцлером Германии Ангелой Меркель

2 марта 2014 года, 22:50

Сегодня по предварительной договорённости состоялся телефонный разговор Владимира Путина с Федеральным канцлером Федеративной Республики Германия Ангелой Меркель.

В связи с высказанной А.Меркель озабоченностью развитием событий в Крыму и на Украине в целом В.Путин обратил внимание на неослабевающую угрозу насильственных действий со стороны ультранационалистических сил, подвергающих опасности жизнь и законные интересы российских граждан и всего русскоязычного населения. Подчёркнуто, что меры, предпринимаемые Россией, полностью адекватны сложившейся экстраординарной ситуации.

В.Путин и А.Меркель условились продолжить консультации как в двустороннем (по линии внешнеполитических ведомств), так и в многостороннем форматах в целях содействия нормализации

Телефонный разговор с Генеральным секретарём ООН Пан Ги Мун

2 марта 2014 года, 02:00

Состоялся телефонный разговор Владимира Путина с Генеральным секретарём ООН Пан Ги Мун, в ходе которого обсуждалась кризисная ситуация на Украине. Владимир Путин отметил, что в случае эскалации насильственных действий в отношении русскоязычного населения, проживающего в восточных регионах Украины и в Крыму, Россия не сможет остаться в стороне и будет применять необходимые меры в рамках международного права. С обеих сторон подчёркнута необходимость предотвращения дальнейшего разрастания кризиса на Украине.

Телефонный разговор с Президентом США Бараком Обамой

2 марта 2014 года, 01:20

По инициативе американской стороны состоялся телефонный разговор Владимира Путина с Президентом Соединённых Штатов Америки Бараком Обамой.

Подробно обсуждены различные аспекты экстраординарной ситуации на Украине.

В ответ на проявленную Барак Обамой озабоченность планами возможного использования российских Вооружённых Сил на территории Украины Владимир Путин привлёк внимание к провокационным, преступным действиям ультранационалистических элементов, по сути поощряемых нынешними властями в Киеве.

Президент России акцентировал наличие реальных угроз жизни и здоровью граждан России и многочисленных соотечественников, находящихся на украинской территории. Владимир Путин подчеркнул, что в случае дальнейшего распространения насилия на восточные регионы Украины и Крым Россия оставляет за собой право защитить свои законные интересы.

Уряд РФ

Телефонний розговор Дмитрия Медведева с Арсением Яценюком

2 марта 2014 01:00

В ходе телефонного разговора Председателя Правительства России Дмитрия Медведева с назначенным Верховной Радой Украины премьер-министром Арсением Яценюком была выражена заинтересованность в сохранении стабильных и дружественных отношений с Украиной.

При этом было отмечено, что Российская Федерация оставляет за собой право защищать законные интересы граждан и военнослужащих, расквартированных на территории Крыма. Российские Вооружённые Силы, в случае необходимости, вправе действовать в пределах мандата, предоставленного Президенту России Советом Федерации Федерального Собрания РФ.

Также в ходе разговора Дмитрий Медведев обратил внимание на возможную ответственность украинских должностных лиц в случае принятия противоправных решений об использовании силы в отношении российских граждан.

МИД РФ

СООБЩЕНИЕ ДЛЯ СМИ

О телефонном разговоре статс-секретаря – заместителя Министра иностранных дел России Г.Б.Карасина с первым заместителем Министра иностранных дел Турции Ф.Синирлиоглу

415-02-03-2014

2 марта по инициативе турецкой стороны состоялся телефонный разговор статс-секретаря – заместителя Министра иностранных дел Российской Федерации Г.Б.Карасина с первым заместителем Министра иностранных дел Турецкой Республики Ф.Синирлиоглу.

Стороны продолжили обсуждение ситуации на Украине. Ф.Синирлиоглу информировал Г.Б.Карасина об итогах рабочего визита в эту страну Министра иностранных дел Турции А.Давутоглу. Была подчеркнута важность продолжения совместных усилий, направленных на нормализацию общественно-политической обстановки на Украине.

УКРАЇНА

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

**У НЕДІЛЮ, 2 БЕРЕЗНЯ 2014 РОКУ, ВІДБУЛОСЯ ЗАКРИТЕ ПЛЕНАРНЕ
ЗАСІДАННЯ ВЕРХОВНОЇ РАДИ УКРАЇНИ СЬОМОГО СКЛИКАННЯ.**

Голова Верховної Ради України Олександр Турчинов зустрівся у неділю 2 березня 2014 року з Віце-прем'єр-міністром, Міністром закордонних справ Грецької Республіки Евангелусом Венізелосом.

Під час зустрічі Сторони обговорили ситуацію, що склалась в Україні, особливу увагу приділивши подіям, що відбуваються в Криму.

Голова Верховної Ради України повідомив, що Українська Сторона "звернулась до своїх партнерів та країн – гарантів територіальної цілісності та безпеки України, згідно з Меморандумом 1994 року, з проханням виконати свої зобов'язання по відношенню до нашої країни".

У свою чергу Е.Венізелос наголосив, що для Греції питання територіальної недоторканності та недоторканності кордонів – "надзвичайно чутлива тема". Тому,

підкреслив Віце-прем'єр-міністр, "ми повністю розуміємо Україну і всіляко підтримуватимемо її позицію".

Крім того, за словами Е.Венізелоса, Україна є, "безперечно європейською державою, тому надзвичайно важливо, щоб Вільнюські угоди були реалізовані, і Угода про Асоціацію була нарешті підписана". "Підписання цієї Угоди – не кінець шляху України до Європи, а лише його початок", – додав він.

О.Турчинов повідомив, що Уряд скасував постанову "Януковича-Азарова" про припинення європейської інтеграції України. "Колишнє керівництво спробувало заблокувати наш рух до Європи, але питання євроінтеграції – це один із наших пріоритетів", – підсумував він.

(Прес-служба Апарату Верховної Ради України)

У неділю 2 березня 2014 року відбулась телефонна розмова Голови Верховної Ради України Олександра Турчинова з Патріархом Московським і всієї Русі Кирилом.

Під час розмови, що відбулась за ініціативи Російської Сторони, Голова Верховної Ради України О.Турчинов розповів Патріарху Кирилу, що немає жодних підстав говорити про дискримінацію в Україні по мовному, національному чи релігійному принципу. "Подібних фактів в нашій країні не було і не буде", – наголосив він.

Крім того, Керівник Парламенту акцентував на відсутності "юридичних, політичних чи будь-яких інших підстав для введення російського військового контингенту на півострів Крим".

"Блокування та захоплення цивільних та військових об'єктів становить реальну небезпеку для кримського населення", – додав він.

О.Турчинов попросив Патріарха передати Президенту В.Путіну "про необхідність припинити агресію по відношенню до українського народу, що створює небезпеку для всього регіону та може привести до припинення наших добросусідських стосунків".

"Будь-які питання, – наголосив Голова Верховної Ради України, – між нашими країнами повинні вирішуватись шляхом переговорів та на паритетних засадах, які повинні базуватись на взаємоповазі".

(Прес-секретар Голови Верховної Ради України)

КМ України

А.Яценюк: РФ має невідкладно виконати Угоду про перебування ЧФ на території України і відвести війська до місць дислокації

02.03.2014 | 14:10 ДЕПАРТАМЕНТ ІНФОРМАЦІЇ ТА КОМУНІКАЦІЙ З ГРОМАДСЬКІСТЮ СЕКРЕТАРІАТУ КМУ

«Парламент зазначив, що пересування як солдатів, так і техніки та озброєння, які є на території України і належать до ЄС, можливе тільки у випадку наявності дозволу компетентних органів України. Україна не надавала дозволу Росії на заведення додаткового контингенту в розмірі 6 тисяч військовослужбовців», – заявив Прем'єр-міністр України Арсеній Яценюк на брифінгу в Парламенті в неділю, 2 березня.

Арсеній Яценюк підкреслив, що сьогодні Парламент прийняв рішення, яке вимагає, щоб Росія невідкладно виконала Угоду про тимчасове перебування Чорноморського флоту на території України, яка передбачає термінове відведення військ Росії в місця постійної дислокації.

«Ми також звернулись до Президента Росії не приймати рішення щодо фактичного оголошення війни Україні, а саме застосування збройних сил на території України». – наголосив він.

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Прем'єр-міністр зазначив, що сьогодні Верховна Рада конституційною більшістю продемонструвала єдність, спрямовану на підтримку і захист територіальної цілісності і суверенітету України: «Парламент чітко визначив, що на території АР Крим діють виключно Конституція України і закони України. Це означає, що будь-то, хто приймає рішення і виконує ці рішення на території Автономії, повинні діяти виключно в межах законодавства України».

Також, за його словами, парламент прийняв рішення про необхідність забезпечення дофінансування для формування обороноздатності Збройних Сил.

Арсеній Яценюк наголосив, що розпочаті перевірки стану Збройних Сил і стану правоохоронної системи України: «Протягом останніх чотирьох років як проти правоохоронної системи, так і проти спеціальних служб, Міністерства оборони України і всіх військових формувань, здійснювалася цілеспрямована диверсія по підризу обороноздатності держави. Цим буде займатись військова і Генеральна прокуратура України».

Як підкреслив Прем'єр-міністр, навіть незважаючи на те, що «антиукраїнські сили здійснювали підризу діяльність щодо обороноздатності країни і що у нас катастрофічна ситуація з державними фінансами, Уряд знайшов можливість для фінансового забезпечення на цей дуже складний період Збройних Сил України».

Прем'єр-міністр ще раз наголосив, що жодних підстав для військової агресії на території України і території АР Крим, яка входить і буде входити до складу України, у «Російській Федерації не було, немає і не буде».

А.Яценюк: Конфлікт повинен бути невідкладно вирішений всіма засобами і методами, але насамперед мирним шляхом

ДЕПАРТАМЕНТ ІНФОРМАЦІЇ ТА КОМУНІКАЦІЙ З ГРОМАДСЬКІСТЮ
СЕКРЕТАРІАТУ КМУ

02.03.2014,14:17

Українські Збройні Сили здійснюють захист власних штабів, власних військових частин, знаходяться в місцях постійної дислокації і не піддалися на жодну провокацію, яка була протягом останніх діб, – повідомив на брифінгу в парламенті в неділю, 2 березня, Прем'єр-міністр України Арсеній Яценюк.

Він повідомив, що протягом декількох останніх днів здійснювалась низка провокацій, «які, напевно, на думку російських військових, мали б на меті легалізацію перебування російського збройного контингенту на території Автономії».

За його словами, учора вночі командувач Військово-морських сил України повідомив йому що «фактично кожні півгодини Росією в особі Чорноморського флоту та військового контингенту, який зараз перебуває на території Автономії, здійснюються системні провокації для конфлікту, який би мав збройне застосування».

«Ми вважаємо, що цей конфлікт повинен бути невідкладно вирішений всіма засобами і методами, і в першу чергу – мирним шляхом», – наголосив Прем'єр-міністр.

«Ми вирішуємо цю кризу на даному етапі політичними і дипломатичними шляхами», – наголосив Арсеній Яценюк і підкреслив, що для цього задіяні всі інструменти.

Він повідомив, що протягом останньої доби він провів декілька розмов з федеральним канцлером Німеччини Ангелою Меркель, віце-президентом США Джо Байденом, головою Європейської комісії Жозе-Мануелем Баррозу, Президентом Європейської Ради Германом Ван Ромпеєм, а також низкою міністрів закордонних справ, зокрема главою МЗС: «Усі країни не просто висловлюють стурбованість, а й зробили жорсткі заяви і оцінки дій Російської Федерації на території України».

Арсеній Яценюк нагадав, що відбулося засідання Ради безпеки ООН з приводу України «Ми далі продовжуємо підключати всі міжнародні організації, починаючи з ООН, та

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закінчуючи ОБСЄ, Радою Європи, НАТО, міністрами закордонних справ ЄС», – зазначив Глава Уряду.

«Наше завдання зараз – вжити всіх заходів для вирішення збройного конфлікту, який спровокований Російською Федерацією без будь-яких підстав на території України, – виключно мирним шляхом», – підкреслив Арсеній Яценюк.

МЗСУ

Звернення В.о. Міністра закордонних справ України Андрія Дешиці до української громади

02 березня 2014, 12:53

Дорогі українці,

Закордонні українці, де б вони не проживали, ніколи не залишалися байдужими до своєї історичної Батьківщини, підтримуючи її у часи безнадії і в радісні дні.

Ви несли світові правду про Україну, коли вона була закута в кайдани комунізму. Ви оприлюднювали жахливі факти Голодомору у той час, коли інформація про криваві сторінки історії України свідомо приховувалася.

У ці дні, коли Україна знову перегортає чергову трагічну сторінку своєї непростой історії, коли на Майдані у Києві вирости нові барикади із живих квітів у пам'ять Героїв Небесної Сотні і сотень тисяч невідомих мужніх захисників свободи і демократії в Україні, хочу звернутися зі словами вдячності до великої Української громади.

Ваші заяви і звернення до урядів держав та громадськості, пікети і демонстрації у сотнях міст світу були неоціненною підтримкою – джерелом мужності й оптимізму для захисників Майдану, усіх учасників жорстокого протистояння з бандитським владним режимом, який zalив українську землю святою кров'ю її найкращих синів. Багато з вас особисто приїжджали на Майдан, щоб продемонструвати солідарність із своїм народом.

Ви допомогли мобілізувати громадську думку в світі на підтримку борців за демократію і свободу. Сподіваємося на вашу підтримку і сьогодні, коли нова демократична влада взялася за активну роботу з відбудови української економіки та державності.

Глибока вдячність вам за це і шана.

В.о. Міністра закордонних справ України Андрій Дешиця провів телефонну розмову з главою МЗС Данії Мартіном Лідегором

02 березня 2014, 14:30

Обговорено сучасне внутрішньополітичне становище в Україні, зокрема розвиток ситуації в Автономній Республіці Крим.

В.о. Міністра А.Дешиця поінформував свого колегу про дії керівництва України щодо недопущення збройної агресії з боку Російської Федерації.

М.Лідегор наголосив, що Данія рішуче засуджує будь-яке порушення територіальної цілісності України і вже закликала Росію за жодних обставин не вдаватися до використання військової сили.

М.Лідегор висловив готовність вже найближчим часом відвідати Україну на запрошення свого українського колеги.

В.о. Міністра закордонних справ України Андрій Дешиця провів телефонну розмову з Міністром закордонних справ Грузії Майєю Панджикідзе

02 березня 2014, 15:00

11 РОЗДІЛ. 2 БЕРЕЗНЯ 2014 РОКУ, НЕДІЛЯ

Глава вітчизняного МЗС А.Дешиця поінформував свою грузинську колегу щодо ситуації в Автономній Республіці Крим та заходів, які вживаються керівництвом України для її розв'язання політико-дипломатичними шляхами.

Міністр М.Панджикідзе підтвердила безумовну підтримку Грузією суверенітету і територіальної цілісності України.

З метою практичного забезпечення міжнародної підтримки України В.о. Міністра А.Дешиця запросив М.Панджикідзе відвідати Україну з офіційним візитом. Домовлено, що візит буде здійснено вже найближчим часом.

В.о. Міністра закордонних справ України Андрій Дешиця провів телефонну розмову з Діючим головою ОБСЄ, Міністром закордонних справ Швейцарії Дідьє Буркхальтером

02 березня 2014, 16:44

Глава вітчизняного МЗС А.Дешиця поінформував Діючого голову ОБСЄ про ситуацію в Автономній Республіці Крим, зокрема у зв'язку з незаконною військовою присутністю РФ, та про заходи, які вживаються керівництвом України для її розв'язання політико-дипломатичними шляхами.

Він наголосив на важливості негайного реагування ОБСЄ на події, що стрімко розвиваються.

Д.Буркхальтер підтвердив заплановане здійснення вже найближчими днями візитів в Україну Особистого представника Діючого голови ОБСЄ з питань України Т.Гульдманна, Верховного комісара ОБСЄ з питань національних меншин А.Торс та Представника ОБСЄ з питань свободи ЗМІ Д.Міятович.

Він також повідомив, що на 3 березня 2014 року скликане екстрене засідання Постійної ради ОБСЄ для розгляду ситуації в Україні.

Сторони домовилися підтримувати тісні постійні контакти.

В.о. Міністра закордонних справ України Андрій Дешиця провів телефонну розмову з Генеральним секретарем Ради Європи Торбйорном Ягланом

02 березня 2014, 19:06

2 березня ц.р. відбулася телефонна розмова в.о.Міністра закордонних справ України А.Дешиці з Генеральним секретарем Ради Європи Т.Ягланом.

Обговорено актуальні питання внутрішньополітичної ситуації в Україні та співробітництва України з Радою Європи з метою врегулювання ситуації.

Було також наголошено на важливості недопущення порушення територіальної цілісності та суверенітету України, зокрема, з огляду на військову присутність одного з членів Організації на території нашої держави.

В.о. Міністра окремо привернув увагу Генерального секретаря РЄ до ухвалення 2 березня ц.р. Верховною Радою України двох постанов Верховної Ради України: “Про Заяву Верховної Ради України”, у якій зокрема, наголошується, що “Україна гарантує захист основоположних прав і свобод усіх громадян, які проживають на території України, в тому числі права на вільне використання мови, свободу віросповідання та світогляду”, та “Про Звернення Верховної Ради України до парламентів держав-гарантів безпеки України та міжнародних організацій”.

В.о. Міністра закордонних справ України А.Дешиця зустрівся з Послом ФРН в Україні К.Вайлем

02 березня 2014, 20:13

Відбулася зустріч В.о. Міністра закордонних справ України А.Дешиці з Послом ФРН в Україні Крістофом Вайлем. Сторони обговорили розвиток внутрішньополітичної ситуації в Україні, особливу увагу було приділено ситуації на Кримському півострові.

Андрій Дешиця поінформував про заходи, які вживає керівництво держави для захисту суверенітету України, її територіальної цілісності та забезпечення непорушності кордонів. Посол К.Вайль привітав вираженість рішень, прийнятих Верховною Радою і РНБО України, та наголосив на важливості підтримання постійного діалогу з керівництвом РФ для зниження напруги у південних і східних регіонах країни.

Звернення Посла України у Великій Британії Володимира Хандогія до українців Сполученого Королівства

(Посольство України у Великобританії)

02 березня 2014, 17:05

У ці складні для України дні відвертої агресії з боку Російської Федерації звертаюся до Вас із закликом об'єднати зусилля задля підтримки незалежності й територіальної цілісності нашої держави.

Те, що відбувається зараз на території Кримського півострова, який є невід'ємною складовою частиною нашої держави, є не лише спробою анексії частини суверенної території України. Це не тільки брутальне порушення норм міжнародного права та гарантій безпеки нашої держави, раніше наданих Росією. Це є спробою знищити демократію, яку український народ виборов під час героїчного супротиву на вулицях українських міст.

Саме демократичні цінності та повага до прав людини є тим, що має об'єднувати нас сьогодні. Ми вправі очікувати на те, що країни Заходу та міжнародні організації, які протягом усього періоду незалежності нашої держави надавали дієву допомогу у цих питаннях, і тепер практичними діями підтримають прагнення народу України жити у демократичній та вільній країні.

Зараз, коли кремлівська пропаганда намагається переконати увесь світ у тому, що Росія є миротворцем, який, буцімто, прагне захистити етнічних росіян на території нашої держави від «фашистів та націоналістів», ніхто не повинен піддаватися на інформаційні провокації і цю відверту брехню. Правда нездоланна, і жодна сила перемогти її нездатна.

Ми вдячні Урядові Сполученого Королівства, українцям Великої Британії, всім небайдужим за підтримку України у цей непростий момент її історії та засудження агресивних дій Кремля. Ми віримо, що ця підтримка і надалі буде активною і матиме сталий і конкретний характер.

Україна – миролюбна держава, яка подала світу приклад ядерного роззброєння. Ліквідуючи третій у світі за своєю потужністю ядерний арсенал ми цілком поклалися на отримані нами гарантії. І час скористатися цими гарантіями настав.

Повага та любов до України зараз мають бути підкріплені конкретними справами. Ми глибоко переконані, що будь-який конфлікт у ХХІ столітті має вирішуватися виключно мирним шляхом без застосування сили за участі міжнародного посередництва ОБСЄ, ООН, Ради Європи, ЄС та країн Будапештського меморандуму. Ми впевнені, що Велика Британія через своїх представників у цих організаціях надасть свою авторитетну оцінку подіям в Україні.

Будьмо ж разом у цей складний для Вітчизни час. Саме у єдності наша сила!

Заява Посольства України у Франції

(Посольство України у Франції)
02 березня 2014, 18:57

Ворожі дії Росії по відношенню до України в ці дні потрясли весь світ.

Рішення Ради Федерації Росії про введення військ в Україну є прямою загрозою територіальній цілісності та суверенітету нашої країни, а також ставить під сумнів мир і стабільність в Європі.

Ця поведінка Росії є актом агресії проти Української держави та грубим порушенням міжнародного права.

Російська Федерація відмовилася виконувати свої зобов'язання країни-гаранта відповідно до Будапештського меморандуму 1994 року, який передбачає утримання від загрози чи застосування сили проти територіальної цілісності України.

Зіткнувшись з цим фактом військової інтервенції, ми закликаємо французький уряд вживати конкретних заходів, аби покласти край діям агресора і знайти політичне рішення задля попередження подальшої військової ескалації.

Ми широко сподіваємося, що в цей критичний для України момент Франція не залишиться осторонь і оперативно забезпечить ефективне посередництво.

Україна не має залишатися віч-на-віч з такою агресією. Лише невідкладні спільні зусилля міжнародної спільноти дозволять захистити цінності, основоположні для Організації Об'єднаних Націй та Європейського Союзу, нехтування якими вже принесло два страшних лиха на наш континент у минулому столітті.

Нове українське керівництво є відданим політиці миру та поваги прав людини, що може бути засвідчено міжнародними місіями зі спостереження та посередництва.

У зв'язку з цим ми закликаємо французьку владу, політичні кола, представників громадянського суспільства та медіа до солідарності з українським народом.

КРАЇНИ-ЧЛЕНИ ГРУПИ "G-7"

G-7 Leaders Statement

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

March 2, 2014

We, the leaders of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States and the President of the European Council and President of the European Commission, 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.

США

Secretary of State John Kerry with David Gregory of NBC's Meet the Press

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Office of the Spokesperson

March 2, 2014

Boston, Massachusetts

QUESTION: I'm now joined by the Secretary of State John Kerry. Mr. Secretary, welcome back to Meet the Press.

SECRETARY KERRY: Glad to be with you. Thank you, David.

QUESTION: So for the past 10 days, Administration officials and the President himself have basically said to Russia: Don't do this or else. Here, just Friday, the President laying it out when he spoke to Vladimir Putin.

(Video clip plays.)

PRESIDENT OBAMA: The United States will stand with the international community in affirming that there will be costs for any military intervention in Ukraine.

(End of video clip.)

QUESTION: Now you've called this an invasion. So what are the costs?

SECRETARY KERRY: Well, we're now discussing all of the options. This is an act of aggression that is completely trumped up in terms of its pretext. It's really 19th century behavior in the 21st century, and there is no way, to start with, that if Russia persists in this, that the G8 countries are going to assemble in Sochi. That's a starter.

But there's much more than that. Russia has major investment and trade needs and desires. I think there's a unified view by all of the foreign ministers I talked with yesterday, all of the G8 and more, that they're simply going to isolate Russia, that they're not going to engage with Russia in a normal business-as-usual manner, that Russia is inviting opprobrium on the international stage. There could even be, ultimately, asset freezes, visa bans. There could be certainly disruption of any of the normal trade routine. There could be business drawback on investment in the country. The ruble is already going down and feeling the impact of this. And this is not – the reason for this, David, is because you just don't invade another country on phony pretext in order to assert your interests.

QUESTION: Well, but what –

SECRETARY KERRY: There are ways to deal with this, and President Putin knows that. President Obama yesterday offered mediation. There are plenty of ways to protect Russian-speaking people in Crimea or other parts of Ukraine. But they are really sort of a hidden pretext here of possibly trying to annex Crimea, and –

QUESTION: Is there a military option? There is, as you know, a security arrangement with Ukraine that goes back to the '90s between the U.S. and Ukraine and other Western powers. Does NATO draw a line here to try to check any further aggression beyond Crimea into the eastern part of Ukraine?

SECRETARY KERRY: Well, NATO is meeting today. The North Atlantic Council is meeting probably even as we speak now. They will be – I know that the Secretary General of the – of NATO Rasmussen issued a statement, a very strong statement, against what has happened. But I don't know what is actually on the table with respect to the steps they may or may not take. But they're deeply concerned. Today or tomorrow, the European Foreign Affairs Council will meet. They are very concerned about what has happened. We talked yesterday with Japan, with others. This is a global concern, because in the 21st century countries have been working to establish a different kind of behavior as the norm.

QUESTION: That I understand. I'm just trying to understand – I think a lot of people watching us are trying to understand how important is Ukraine, essentially, to the United States. What's our interest there? Is this worth fighting for, literally?

SECRETARY KERRY: David, let me make it clear. The people of Ukraine are fighting for democracy, they're fighting for freedom, they're fighting to have their voices heard and not be governed by a kleptocracy, by a tyrant, by someone who puts their political opposition in jail, somebody who robs the country of its livelihood and future. And they spoke out against snipers from roofs who were killing them; they kept on marching and fought for their freedom. Now they have the opportunity for that democracy.

And by the way, President Yanukovich's only supporters abandoned him. They voted against him. They impeached him. So Russia and President Putin are aligning themselves firmly with this kleptocracy. They're aligning themselves with the person who was legitimately stripped of his power by the parliament, even by his own supporters. I think this is an enormous mistake for Russia, and we hope – President Obama hopes that President Putin will turn in the direction that is available to him to work with all of us in a way that creates stability in Ukraine. This does not have to be and should not be an East/West struggle. This is not about Russia and the U.S. This is about the people of Ukraine, and that's who needs to be front and center.

QUESTION: I just want to clarify this. I mean, I gather by what you're saying you don't want to be too precise. Is there a military option that has to be contemplated here?

SECRETARY KERRY: David, the last thing anybody wants is a military option in this kind of a situation. We want a peaceful resolution through the normal processes of international relations. But in the absence of President Putin making the right decision to work with the Government of Ukraine, to work with the West, to work with all of us –

QUESTION: Okay.

SECRETARY KERRY: – as I said a moment ago, this is not about Russia and the United States; it's about the people of Ukraine. And we ask President Putin to step back from being in violation of the UN Charter, in violation of the Helsinki Final Act, in violation of the 1997 Russia-Ukraine basing agreement. I mean, they are in direct, overt violation of international law

QUESTION: But can I just challenge you on one point?

SECRETARY KERRY: – and we ask them to step back. Yes.

QUESTION: You say it's not about the U.S. and Russia, but the reality is that just Wednesday you told my colleague, Andrea Mitchell, that Vladimir Putin said he would respect the territorial integrity of Ukraine. Now you're talking about Russia annexing the Crimea. Something happened. And I wonder, as you hear some criticism from conservatives who say the issue here is that Vladimir Putin is not afraid, that he saw a red line by this Administration in Syria and then no follow-up, no action, that he thinks that he can provoke the U.S. and the West and that President Obama won't do anything in response.

SECRETARY KERRY: Well, he's finding out the opposite. Let me make it clear: President Putin is not operating from a place of strength here. Yanukovich was his supported president. Yanukovich was thrown out, despite Putin's support. Yanukovich turned on his own people. President Putin is using force in a completely inappropriate manner that will invite the opprobrium of the world, and it already is. He is not going to gain by this.

He may be able to have his troops for some period of time in Crimea unless he resolves this, but the fact is he's going to lose on the international stage. Russia is going to lose. The Russian people are going to lose. He's going to lose all of the glow that came out of the Olympics, his \$60 billion extravaganza. He is not going to have a Sochi G8. He may not even remain in the G8 if this continues. He may find himself with asset freezes on Russian business. American business may pull back. There may be a further tumble of the ruble. There is a huge price to pay.

The United States is united; Russia is isolated. That is not a position of strength.

QUESTION: Two quick ones here as we extend, this – these difficulties with Russia, your blunt talk this morning, also extends to Syria, where you've been very clear that Russia's support for

Bashar al-Assad, in your words, has allowed Assad to double down in his killing efforts of his opponents in this civil war. Isn't it true, Mr. Secretary, that you support a more robust intervention into Syria, that you would like to see some kind of military action to at least train those rebel fighters in Syria? Is it time for that? And has Russia complicated the Syrian effort?

SECRETARY KERRY: I support the President's policy and I support what the President is doing now, reviewing all of the options, as he has been continually with respect to Syria, David. The fact is we are doing more than almost any other country. We're doing an enormous amount. And once again, Russia is playing a very duplicitous game and a very dangerous game. They proclaim that they are worried about the terrorists, worried about Syria, worried about the impact on Jordan and on Lebanon and surrounding countries, and yet they continue to support Assad in a way that prevents him or helps him to make the decision not to come to the table to negotiate. It's a completely contradictory and cynical policy. And I believe Russia, in the Crimea and in Syria, is really engaging in activity that is completely contradictory to the standards that most of us are trying to operate by in the 21st century.

QUESTION: Before I get to –

SECRETARY KERRY: It's certainly not behaving like a G8 country.

QUESTION: Before I get to my final question on Israel with a big meeting with Benjamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, coming to meet with President Obama, Marco Rubio is on this program in just a few minutes and saying it's time for the Administration to publicly acknowledge that the reset with Russia is dead. Do you acknowledge that?

SECRETARY KERRY: Well, I don't know what you mean by the reset. Long ago –

QUESTION: The reset in relations that this Administration called for.

SECRETARY KERRY: No, I know, I know. I know. But long ago, we've entered into a different phase with Russia. I don't think this is a moment to be proclaiming one thing or the other. We've had difficulties with Russia with respect to certain issues, and even as we have, we've managed to do the START Treaty, they've cooperated on Afghanistan, they've cooperated on Iran. So this is – it's not a zero-sum, dead/alive. It's a question of differences, very profound differences on certain issues and certain approaches, and we've made those very clear over the course of the last months.

[...]

QUESTION: Mr. Secretary, we always appreciate your time. Thanks so much.

SECRETARY KERRY: Thank you, David.

Secretary of State John Kerry with Bob Schieffer of CBS's Face The Nation

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Office of the Spokesperson

March 2, 2014

Boston, Massachusetts

QUESTION: We are joined now by Secretary of State John Kerry who is in Boston this morning. Mr. Secretary, thank you for being here. The Ukrainian prime minister says this morning that Russia's actions amount to a declaration of war and he says, "We are on the brink of disaster." Do you agree with that?

SECRETARY KERRY: Well, it's an incredible act of aggression. It is really a stunning, willful choice by President Putin to invade another country. Russia is in violation of the sovereignty of Ukraine. Russia is in violation of its international obligations. Russia is in violation of its obligations under the UN Charter, under the Helsinki Final Act. It's a violation of its obligations under the 1994 Budapest agreement. You just don't, in the 21st century, behave in 19th century fashion by invading another country on completely trumped up pretext. So it is a very serious moment.

But it's serious not in the context, Bob, of Russia-U.S. It's serious in terms of sort of the modern

manner with which nations are going to resolve problems. There are all kinds of other options still available to Russia. There still are. President Obama wants to emphasize to the Russians that there is a right set of choices that can still be made to address any concerns they have about Crimea, about their citizens, but you don't choose to invade a country in order to do that.

QUESTION: The President spoke to Vladimir Putin, we're told, for 90 minutes yesterday. The White House is describing it as the toughest phone call of his presidency. Do you think it had any impact?

SECRETARY KERRY: Well, we're going to have to wait and see, but I think it was a very important conversation. The President was very strong. He made absolutely clear that this was unacceptable and that there will be serious repercussions if this stands. The President asked Mr. Putin, as – in fact, told Mr. Putin it was imperative to find a different path to roll back this invasion and undo this act of aggression. He pointed out the many different ways in which Russia could have chosen to act.

I mean, if you have legitimate concerns about your citizens, go to the United Nations. Ask for observers. Engage the other country's government. There are any number of choices available to Russia. Russia chose this brazen act of aggression and moved in with its forces on a completely trumped up set of pretext, claiming that people were threatened. And the fact is that that's not the act of somebody who is strong. That's the act of somebody who is acting out of weakness and out of a certain kind of desperation.

We hope that Russia will turn this around. They can. Again and again, all week, President Obama and I and others have insisted that we believe there's a way to deal with this issue. This doesn't have to be a zero-sum game. It is not Russia versus United States, Russia v. Europe. This is about the people of Ukraine. The people of Ukraine are the people who initiated what is happening there. Their President Yanukovich, supported by Russia, lost all support, all legitimacy. He fled in the night. His own supporters deserted him. They went to their parliament and they voted according to their parliamentary process.

So this is a democratic process that has placed this new government to where it is, and President Putin and Russia ought to respect that.

QUESTION: Mr. Secretary, when you come right down to it, the President says there's a cost. And I suppose there are certain diplomatic things you could do. You could boycott the G-8 and so on. But when you come right down to it, what can we really do here? I mean, I don't suppose anybody thinks we're going to declare war on Russia here and send military forces in there.

SECRETARY KERRY: Well, there are very serious repercussions that could flow out of this. There are a broad array of options that are available, not just to the United States but to our allies. I spent yesterday afternoon on the phone with many of my counterparts. I talked to ten of the foreign ministers of those countries most engaged – the G-8 plus some others. And all of them, every single one of them, are prepared to go to the hilt in order to isolate Russia with respect to this invasion. They're prepared to put sanctions in place. They're prepared to isolate Russia economically. The ruble is already going down. Russia has major economic challenges. I can't imagine that an occupation of another country is something that appeals to people who are trying to reach out to the world. And particularly if it involves violence, I think they're going to be inviting major difficulties for the long term.

The people of Ukraine will not sit still for this. They know how to fight. They've demonstrated remarkable bravery, Bob. I mean, you think about Yanukovich positioning his snipers on the rooftops of Kyiv. And notwithstanding people falling to the right and to the left, these marchers kept on marching and they demanded their freedom. They demanded their opportunity to have their voices heard without a kleptocracy and a tyranny governing them.

I think Russia needs to think very carefully about the choice that it's making. And there are visa bans, there are asset freezes, there is isolation with respect to trade and investment. American businesses may well want to start thinking twice about whether they want to do business with a country that behaves like this. These are serious implications. And I know from my conversations yesterday, every one of our allies and friends are determined to stay united and to

make clear there is a price attached to this kind of behavior.

QUESTION: Are we actually prepared, Mr. Secretary, to boycott the G-8 meeting there?

SECRETARY KERRY: Well, absolutely prepared to if this – if we can't resolve it otherwise. But the preference of the President, myself, the entire Administration is to resolve this. We're not trying to make this a battle between East and West. We don't want a return to the Cold War. Nobody wants this kind of action. There are many ways to resolve this problem. As President Obama urged President Putin yesterday, this is the moment to engage directly with the Government of Ukraine. This can be resolved. We're prepared to mediate, to help. We're prepared to provide economic assistance of a major sort. We want the Congress to join us in providing that assistance. We hope that this can be resolved according to the standards of the 21st century, and frankly, according to the standards of the G-8. If Russia wants to be a G-8 country, it needs to behave like a G-8 country. And I guarantee you that everybody is determined that if this cannot be resolved in a reasonable, modern, 21st century manner, there are going to be repercussions.

QUESTION: All right. Well, Mr. Secretary, thank you so much for joining us this morning.

SECRETARY KERRY: Thank you.

Secretary of State John Kerry with George Stephanopoulos of ABC's This Week

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Office of the Spokesperson

March 2, 2014

Boston, Massachusetts

QUESTION: We are joined now by Secretary of State John Kerry. Mr. Secretary, thanks for joining us this morning. We've got these reports now – Russian forces surrounding Ukrainian military bases in the Crimea. Ukraine's prime minister says, "We are on the brink of disaster." Is he right?

SECRETARY KERRY: Well, we hope not. We hope it's not going to be a disaster. What has already happened is a brazen act of aggression in violation of international law, in violation of the UN Charter, in violation of the Helsinki Final Act, in violation of the 1997 Ukraine-Russia basing agreement. Russia has engaged in a military act of aggression against another country and it has huge risks, George. It's a 19th century act in the 21st century that really puts at question Russia's capacity to be within the G-8, to –

QUESTION: All those violations, sir, so what's the penalty for what Russia has already done?

SECRETARY KERRY: Well, we're busy right now coordinating with our counterparts in many parts of the world. Yesterday the President of the United States had an hour-and-a-half conversation with President Putin. He pointed out importantly that we don't want this to be a larger confrontation. We are not looking for a U.S.-Russia, East-West redux here. What we want is for Russia to work with us, with Ukraine. If they have legitimate concerns, George, about Russian-speaking people in Ukraine, there are plenty of ways to deal with that without invading the country. They have the ability to work with the government; they could work with us; they could work with the UN; they could call for observers to be put in the country. There are all kinds of alternatives. But Russia has chosen this aggressive act which really puts in question Russia's role in the world and Russia's willingness to be a modern nation and part of the G-8. I think there are – they are inviting the possibility of very serious repercussions on trade, on investment, on assets – asset freeze, visa bans – on the potential of actions by the global community against this unilateral step.

QUESTION: Let me pin you down on that, sir. Specify it: Is the United States willing to impose sanctions if Russia doesn't back down? Are you willing to go to Ukraine and show solidarity with the Ukrainians if Russia doesn't back down?

SECRETARY KERRY: Absolutely. And the United States and the President is currently

considering all options; they're all on the table. We would call on Congress immediately to the degree that they are prepared to be helpful, that they immediately lay down with us an economic package in order to assist Ukraine. We think it's very important for the international entities – the OSCE, the UN, NATO, the North Atlantic Council, the EU Foreign Affairs Council, which will meet tomorrow – all need to weigh in and I believe they will weigh in heavily.

QUESTION: So let me just pin you down on that. You're saying that Congress is considering military aid to Ukraine. You want Congress to pass military aid to Ukraine. But do you want them to impose economic – economic – excuse me. Do you want them to impose economic sanctions on Russia?

SECRETARY KERRY: They're – it may well come that we would have to engage in that kind of activity. Absolutely. I think all options are on the table. There's no question but that Russia needs to understand this is serious. And we and the other friends and allies engaged in this are all deadly serious about this. You cannot behave this way in the 21st century and sit around the table of the normal entities and pretend that life is as usual. It is not going to be as usual, but we believe there is an alternative. We call on Russia to engage with the Government of Ukraine. We're prepared to work very closely with Russia in order to address whatever legitimate concerns may exist. We believe there are many alternatives before you get to an invasion, and none of those have been tried at this point in time.

QUESTION: But the invasion has already happened, sir, hasn't it?

SECRETARY KERRY: The invasion of Crimea has already happened. That's absolutely accurate. And we believe that President Putin should make the decision to roll it back. And we will continue to press for that as well as for his legitimate engagement with the current Government of Ukraine in order to avoid further increase in the tension and the crisis.

QUESTION: Sir, are there any military options on the table? During the crisis with Georgia, President Bush moved military warships to the region, sent humanitarian aid on a military aircraft. Is the U.S. prepared to do that now? Anything more?

SECRETARY KERRY: George, the hope of the United States and everybody in the world is not to see this escalate into a military confrontation. That does not serve the world well, and I think everybody understands that. The President has all options on the table. But the President's preference was clearly stated yesterday in his hour-and-a-half conversation with President Putin. President Obama made it clear that we are prepared to work with Russia. We understand that Russia has interests in Crimea. The Ukraine Government is prepared to respect the base agreement. Nobody has threatened those Russian interests. And we're prepared to stand up against any hooligans, any thuggery, any individual efforts with Russians in order to create stability in Ukraine and allow the people of Ukraine to make their choices for the future.

QUESTION: But do you have any indication at all that President Putin is taking heed of what President Obama is saying?

SECRETARY KERRY: Well, they just had the conversation yesterday. And the President invited him to engage with the government. I understand there may have been one phone call. We're going to continue to engage diplomatically. This is a time for diplomacy, and we will engage diplomatically as much as we can in order to steer this away from an increase in the tension in the level of the crisis. Nobody wants this to spiral into a bad – a worse direction. The fact is that there are many options available to Russia by which Russia can see its interests met. And the most important thing to remember here is this is not – or should not be – East-West, Russia-United States, Russia versus Europe. This is about the people of Ukraine, people who stood up against snipers firing at them from the roofs, who are fighting against the tyranny of having political opposition put in jail.

And President Putin, I think, needs to think carefully about Russia's real interests here. Russia may be able to invade Crimea, but in the end Russia will isolate itself. There'll be costs to the economy of Russia, costs to Russian business, costs to Russian individuals. And ultimately, I think, Russia will isolate itself on a global stage that it just spent \$60 billion through the Olympics to try to present a different face on. It seems to me that if Russia were to step back and

look at where its interests are, we ought to be able to work this out through the diplomatic process. If Russia chooses not to, there will be serious repercussions.

QUESTION: Does that – do those repercussions include the U.S. not going to the G-8 Summit in Sochi come this summer, sir?

SECRETARY KERRY: It's a distinct possibility. We would hope, rather, that Russia will choose to engage with us, to work with the Government of Ukraine, choose a different direction. Russia has cooperated with us on the START Treaty, on Afghanistan, on Iran. It ought to be possible to find legitimacy in this particular moment in order to be able to deal in a way that serves the world much better than this choice they've made. We're open to that. We encourage that. President Obama made it clear he prefers that. But the choice is really up to Russia at this point.

QUESTION: Mr. Secretary, thanks very much for your time this morning.

SECRETARY KERRY: Thank you.

Secretary Kerry's Travel to Kyiv

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Office of the Spokesperson

March 2, 2014

STATEMENT BY JEN PSAKI, SPOKESPERSON

In Kyiv on March 4, Secretary Kerry will meet with senior representatives of Ukraine's new government, leaders of the Rada, and members of civil society. The Secretary will reaffirm the United States' strong support for Ukrainian sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, and the right of the Ukrainian people to determine their own future, without outside interference or provocation.

З заявою про сучасну кризу в Україні, зачитаною проєдставником США в ОБСЄ, Послом Даніелем Б. Баєром на позачерговому засіданні Підготовчого комітету у Відні 2 березня 2014 року, та з Прес-релізом Місії США в ОБСЄ можна ознайомитися нижче у розділі ОБСЄ.

Readout of the President's Calls with Prime Minister Cameron, President Komorowski, and Chancellor Merkel

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

March 2, 2014

President Obama spoke separately this afternoon with Prime Minister Cameron of the United Kingdom, President Komorowski of Poland, and Chancellor Merkel of Germany. The leaders expressed their grave concern over Russia's clear violation of Ukrainian sovereignty and territorial integrity, which is a breach of international law and a threat to international peace and security. The leaders stressed that dialogue between Ukraine and Russia should start immediately, with international facilitation as appropriate.

The leaders affirmed the importance of unity within the international community in support of international law and their support for the Government of Ukraine, including its territorial integrity and its efforts to move forward with elections in May so that the Ukrainian people can continue to determine their own future in this historic hour. The leaders also pledged to work together on a package of multilateral and bilateral financial assistance to help Ukraine as it pursues urgently needed reforms to stabilize its economy. The leaders agreed to continue to

coordinate closely, including bilaterally, and through appropriate international organizations. The President reaffirmed the United States' longstanding and continuing commitment to security and democracy in Eastern Europe.

Senior Administration Officials on the Situation in Ukraine

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Office of the Spokesperson

March 2, 2014

Background Briefing

Via Teleconference

MODERATOR: Good afternoon and thank you, everyone, for joining us today. Before we get started, I just want to remind you that this call is on background. Our speakers today are [name withheld] will be referred to as Senior Administration Official Number One from this point forward. Also with us is [name withheld] who will be referred to as Senior Administration Official Number Two. And we have [name withheld] will be referred to as Senior Administration Official Number Three.

With that, we will go ahead and start with brief remarks from our speakers and then we'll turn it over to you to take a few questions.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL ONE: Sure, thanks. I'll just give a very quick overview of what the President's been doing. Yesterday, you know he was updated by his national security team and spoke separately with President Putin of Russia, Prime Minister Harper of Canada, and President Hollande of France. Today, the President has spoken with Chancellor Merkel of Germany. He'll be – he is either speaking now or will be speaking to Prime Minister Cameron of the United Kingdom and President Komorowski of Poland.

The President's point in all of his calls, frankly, has been to underscore the complete illegitimacy of Russia's intervention in Crimea, in Ukraine, and to underscore the support of the United States for Ukraine's territorial integrity and its sovereignty. We can talk through what steps we're taking on the diplomatic side to make clear that there will be political and economic costs for Russia in terms of its isolation from the international community, as well as the affirmative steps we're taking to signal our strong support for the people and government of Ukraine, including taking steps towards providing robust economic and technical assistance as well as reassuring them through their participation and consultations in Euro-Atlantic institutions.

With that, I'll hand it over to my colleague.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL TWO: Thanks very much. I thought I would quickly go through the ground situation in Ukraine, then talk about the diplomatic strategy that we have both, as Speaker One said, to make it clear that a broad consensus in the international community considers what Russia has done illegitimate, but also to provide an off-ramp, if you will, should Russia be willing to address its concerns in a manner other than with military force, and then also to talk a little bit about our support for Ukraine.

So first to the ground situation, as you will have seen, Russian forces now have complete operational control of the Crimean Peninsula, some 6,000-plus airborne and naval forces with considerable materiel. The Ukrainians, by and large, have stayed in base. In some cases, they've actually locked their weapons up. We've also had occasional ethnic skirmishes in parts of the east. In particular, we are watching Kharkiv, where there have been efforts to stir up ethnic Russians and Russian citizens in protest to the government. We also have a large Russian military exercise going on on the Russian side of the border to Ukraine's east. That exercise is due to wrap up in the next couple of days.

Just to go back to the presidential phone call yesterday with President Putin, as Speaker One said, the President in that call flatly rejected President Putin's arguments with regard to his rationale for moving his military into Crimea, including the illegitimacy of the government in

Kyiv and his assertion that Russian citizens or his – or the base in Sevastopol were under direct threat.

They did then begin talking about a way ahead, with the President pressing that there were other ways for Putin to address any concerns that he might have, and that they could be addressed consensually in dialogue with the Ukrainian Government; that the Vice President and the Secretary of State's conversations with both acting President Turchynov in Ukraine, and Prime Minister Yatsenyuk indicated that they were eager for dialogue, that they were committed to protecting the rights of all minorities in Ukraine, and that they had no plans to change any of the international obligations that Ukraine had during this transition period, notably, including the base.

The President also stressed that if there were concerns either about safety or about minorities, that there were international tools available to President Putin – monitoring through the United Nations, monitoring and observation through the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe – and that we, the United States, would support both Russia and Ukraine if they wanted to avail themselves of those tools. So – but and I would say Putin did not slam the door on that, but there was agreement to continue to discuss.

So on those two vectors – first on delegitimizing what the – what President Putin has chosen to do, we have, as you have seen, worked with allies and partners around the world to have strong national statements that match the statement that we put out yesterday, making clear that we all consider the Russian occupation of Crimea to be a violation of international law, a violation of Russia's obligations under the UN Charter and various other commitments, including their bilateral basing agreement with the Ukrainians.

You will have seen this afternoon a very strong statement from the North Atlantic Council making clear that it too – all 28 members condemned the actions that Russia has taken, called for a pullback, and re-expressed its support for Ukraine. There was also a NATO-Ukraine Council meeting today to show broad political support for Ukraine, and we expect that there will be a NATO-Russia Council tomorrow to use that format to make clear the view of all 28 allies to the Russians and to insist on an explanation.

Moving forward, we are also working with our G-7 partners. You saw in the President's statement yesterday reference to the fact that in light of Russian action, we do not see moving forward with preparations for the G-8 summit in Sochi, that Russia's actions are incompatible with the basic underlying principles that allowed us to bring them into the G-8 in the first place. There have been a number of national statements, notably by Canada, the UK, France, making clear that they too will suspend participation in G-8 preparatory fora. So that's further to the pressure strategy.

We are also looking with allies and partners at a broad menu of options to curtail our economic and trade relationship, to look at pressure on individuals who may have been responsible, and to curtail normal activity that we have ongoing with Russia at this time to make it clear how we feel about this.

At the same time, we are also pursuing efforts to settle these concerns another way, as I said, through deployment of monitoring and observation teams. Assistant Secretary Victoria Nuland is on her way to Vienna tomorrow for a high officials meeting of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. The OSCE, as you may know, has a very strong record of providing observation and monitoring in conflict situations. We will be looking at what we can do immediately to get monitors into eastern Ukraine, where we could have flashpoints to get monitors to the flashpoint now on the Crimean Peninsula between the area where the Russians are occupying and the rest of Ukraine, and also to propose and scope a much broader OSCE mission that could go in to replace Russian military forces if the Russians can be persuaded to pull back.

We are doing similar work in the UN. The UN also has the ability to send monitors. So that would also provide a way other than military forces to address any concerns about either the security of the base or the protection of minorities. The Ukrainians themselves have welcomed

and invited OSCE or UN monitors – and UN monitors. They approved that not only from the government, but also through the Rada today.

And then now on to other steps that we're taking to support Ukraine, Secretary of State Kerry will travel to Kyiv. He will be there on Tuesday for consultations with the transitional Ukrainian government. He will also meet with members of the Rada, we expect, civil society, and talk about steps that we are taking to support Ukraine economically, to support Ukraine politically, and to address the needs that they have.

We are also, at the Ukrainians' request, calling a meeting, likely on Wednesday but later in the week, of the parties who committed in 1994 at Budapest when Ukraine made the decision to become a nonnuclear state to protect Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. The four signatories to that were the UK, the U.S., Russia, and Ukraine. Ukrainians have asked for emergency consultations under this Budapest agreement, and we will call those and host those later in the week and see whether the Russians show.

Just a few last comments here: We are concerned as we watch this situation that the Russians have badly miscalculated here. There is a very proud and fierce tradition in Ukraine of defending their sovereignty and territorial integrity. So far, Ukraine has showed and Ukrainians individually have showed marked restraint, notably led by the government, which has insisted that its own forces stay in barracks. But the longer this situation goes on, the more delicate it becomes.

More broadly, what we see here are distinctly 19th and 20th century decisions made by President Putin to address problems – deploying military forces rather than negotiating, rather than talking. But what he needs to understand is that in terms of his economy, he lives in the 21st century world, an interdependent world. And as you may have noticed, his economy is not in the greatest of shape. The ruble has taken a significant hit over the last three days. He depends on good trade relations with all of us, notably with Europe, and it is going to be very difficult to maintain that kind of a relationship with the outside world while he is using his military forces to threaten and intimidate a neighbor.

Let me stop there.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL ONE: Great. [Senior Administration Official Three], anything you want to add to open?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL THREE: Sure. I would just follow up on the point about the Russian economy because I know a lot of the focus is on what actions are being taken to show the Russian Government and the Russian people the cost of the action that their president has chosen. And those are really important and I know we'll talk more about them.

But to put a specific number to it, the Russian ruble has fallen 8.3 percent year to date, and so the Russian economy is really quite vulnerable given the level of integration to international markets' reactions to concerns about the Russian actions in Ukraine in the last week.

I would also add that when the President spoke with President Putin, he made very clear that in addition to the terrific capabilities that the UN and the OSCE have for monitoring, for fact-finding, for creating the kind of reassurance and transparency to address the kinds of concerns that President Putin brought up and that you're hearing in the Russian press, about which I would say there's absolutely no evidence. This is all being discussed in the Russian press, but there is no confirmation of any of the stories we're seeing about attacks on Russians or many of the claims we're seeing.

But he pointed out to President Putin that Russia has a leading role in both of those institutions. Russia has a leadership responsibility and a leadership opportunity, and so the door is quite open to addressing Russia's – the concerns that they've expressed, to working on them together in a way that is consistent with international law; and not only Russia's commitments, but Russia's potential role to help meet the – to help address this crisis in a way that is constructive and worthy of a great power.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL ONE: Great. Operator, we'll move to questions.

OPERATOR: Okay, certainly. And ladies and gentlemen, if you wish to ask a question, press *

then 1 on your touchtone phone. You'll hear a tone indicating you've been placed in queue. You may remove yourself from queue at any time by pressing the pound key. If you're using a speakerphone, pick up the handset before pressing the numbers. If you have a question, *1.

Your first question comes from the line of Michael Gordon of *New York Times*. Please go ahead.

QUESTION: Great, thank you. You mentioned in your background call a number of economic steps that the Administration is considering. Secretary Kerry said that that might include evicting Russia from the G-8 or postponing a meeting. But can you specify any step, economic or diplomatic, that the Administration has already taken or is prepared to take this week beyond proposing sending observers – an economic or a diplomatic step to isolate Russia?

And also, there are reports that even today Russia is sending thousands of troops to Crimea to reinforce its position. That doesn't seem like the behavior of a country that's likely to reverse course. Can you please address that? And what is your response to those reports? Thank you.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL ONE: Yeah, I'll go first here and then let – [Senior Administration Official Two] may want to get in here. But, Michael, first of all, we have suspended participation in the preparatory meetings for the Sochi G-8, so keep in mind that these aren't just meetings where leaders show up in June. There is a whole host of meetings that lead into that. So that's an action that's already been taken. The United States will not be participating in meetings in preparation for the Sochi G-8.

That's a pretty strong signal of the fact that we believe that Russia does not have a role to play in the G-8 if it continues on this current course, and we're working to coordinate that position with the other members of the G-7, frankly, who broadly share our concerns.

In terms of political isolation, I think it's a pretty strong signal to Russia when you have the North Atlantic Council meet and universally condemn this action but also meet with the Ukrainian Government. And so part of this is the fact that the Russian Federation is isolated from these institutions of the international community, but part of it is also that they are demonstrating their support for the Ukrainian Government in Kyiv, which has, frankly, rejected the degree of Russian heavy-handed influence in favor of a more European orientation.

And then we're also considering steps to be taken in the very near future around expediting the provision of economic assistance to the Government of Ukraine. So that is something that, as we head into the week, we're looking to move as quickly as we can on. [Senior Administration Official Two], you may want to add to that.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL TWO: I would just add that we are also, as we said, beginning to review all of our economic and trade cooperation with the Russian Federation. We have already taken some decisions to cancel meetings that were planned next week which had been put on to try to deepen and broaden that relationship. For example, we had a negotiation team from USTR heading to discuss a bilateral investment treaty with the Russians. That trip will now not go forward. And we're reviewing the full menu of other things that we have in place in the coming weeks.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL THREE: I would add that we also – on that list, we canceled a Russian visit to the United States to talk about cooperation in international energy markets as well.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL TWO: And we anticipate – there's a big naval event coming up that we will also intend to cancel. So you'll start to see in mil-mil channels, in economic channels, and these other cooperation channels meetings be canceled until they make the right decision.

QUESTION: Can you address the second part – my second part of my question, please?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL ONE: That was the fact that they're still in Crimea?

QUESTION: No, Russian troops flowing to Crimea today in considerable numbers –

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL TWO: Look, Michael –

QUESTION: – to reinforce their position.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL TWO: – it is – there is no question that they are in

an occupation position in Crimea, that they are flying in reinforcements, and they're settling in. That is not – and that is the situation that we confront. That said, it is Russia's choice whether it wants to behave in this manner or whether it wants to come back into the community of civilized nations.

So we – even as we make it hurt for them economically, politically, morally, and legally for what they've done, we will continue to leave the door open and provide opportunities for a better, more 21st century way forward.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL ONE: And I don't think that the long – that time aids them in this regard. With time, they will find themselves further isolated from international institutions, from the international community. There will be a further impact on their economy. The trade and commercial ties that were referenced have been the priority of Russia in their relationship with us and their relationship with Europe; and if those are put on hold, together with the destabilizing impact of this intervention, I think it could have a long-term hit on the Russian economy.

And then finally, all this is doing is reinforcing the people of Ukraine's desire to orient towards Europe. So it is not going to have a desired impact if it is – if one of the goals was to reverse what's been taking place in Kyiv over the last several months.

We'll go to the next question.

OPERATOR: Okay. And the next question, it comes from the line of Arshad Mohammed of Reuters. Please go ahead.

QUESTION: Yeah. Secretary Kerry several times in his interview today on ABC said that all options are on the table. I think he said it three times. Is the U.S. Government giving any serious consideration to the possibility of a military option in Ukraine in response to either Russia's seizure of the Crimea or the possibility of Russia moving further into eastern Ukraine or elsewhere in the country?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL ONE: I'll just go first. And look, right now I think we are focused on political and economic and diplomatic options. And we do have a wide range of options, to include isolation, potential sanctions, and relationships between Russia and international institutions. So we have not – and frankly, our goal is to uphold the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine, not to have a military escalation. So I don't think we're focused right now on the notion of some U.S. military intervention. I don't think, frankly, that would be an effective way to de-escalate the situation. So the Secretary, I think, was referring to the fact that we have a broad toolkit and we have many options to consider.

On the – I would say that it is a strong signal that NATO – it's reaffirming its relationship with Ukraine today. That has a political component, but that's also a forum for consultation. And then I think on the military side we are able to consult and have discussions with our Ukrainian counterparts, just as we do diplomatically and on economic issues.

But I don't know, [Senior Administration Official Two], if you want to add to that.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL TWO: I don't think I can improve on that. I think that was right up there. We are not – we're looking to de-escalate this.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL ONE: Yep. Next question.

OPERATOR: Okay. And the next question comes from the line of Margaret Brennan of CBS News. Please go ahead.

QUESTION: Thanks so much for doing this. Can you give us a sense of bigger picture, how this tension – if it's leading to disruption of planned meetings, et cetera, with Russia – how this complicates other diplomatic efforts underway for the Administration right now in which Russia is a key part? I'm thinking, of course, of chemical weapons treaty delivery. I'm also thinking of the pressure against Iran. Can you talk about – I know you want to keep these things in separate lanes, but there is some crossover here.

And then specifically, can you flesh out a little bit more on the shape and scale of some of these economic measures that are being considered? I'm thinking when you're talking about putting pressure on those who might be responsible, whether or not you're talking about actions you

considered with Ukrainian officials and visa bans and asset freezes. Can you flesh that out?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL ONE: Sure. I'll take the first one, and my colleagues may want to take second.

I think, Margaret, obviously we have a very broad relationship with Russia that touches on a lot of different issues. Clearly, our bilateral relationship is going to be impacted by Russia's action in the Ukraine, and we've already begun to impose consequences. At the same time, when you look at an issue like Iran, we don't believe that Russia has participated in the P5+1 process as some kind of favor to the United States or as some vehicle of improving relationships with us. I think it's because Russia, like every other world power at the table, has an interest in nonproliferation and not seeing an escalation into conflict in the Persian Gulf.

On Syria, they have not been cooperative on a host of issues, a whole range of issues. So in some respects that's – I wouldn't hold that up as an issue where we've gotten the type of Russian cooperation we've wanted in the first place. But I wouldn't – I would say on the chemical weapons they have invested a lot in that issue, and clearly President Putin has invested his own personal prestige in the issue, and they have an interest in seeing chemical weapons removed from Syria, given their concerns about the extremist threat that, frankly, could emanate from Syria into their borders. So on chemical weapons in particular, I do think they have an interest.

I'd just also note before we move on to the second question that on Syria, generally, President Putin has consistently suggested that the reason for opposing any further sanction on the Assad regime is respect for territorial integrity, sovereignty of Syria, and so there's an extraordinary amount of Russian hypocrisy in what we see in Ukraine today. But my colleagues may want to take the second portion.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL THREE: I want to follow up – before we move to the question of what we're doing for Ukraine, I just want to reiterate – I want to emphasize that we've said from the beginning of the Administration that our strategy has been to work with Russia where we agree and to be very, very clear with Russia and with the international community where we think Russia's on the wrong track, where it makes the wrong choices. We have focused on where it's possible, and you know the list of the issues. What the question raises is simply pointing to the fact that both elements of that remain true. We want to work with Russia on Iran and on Syria because we have a responsibility to the global community. Those are serious problems that we want to work on. But that's not going to somehow lead us to not tell the truth and not support Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and do everything we can to make sure that Russia respects Ukraine as a sovereign country.

On the economic issue, I'd just – I'm going to let my colleague go into the details because I know [Senior Administration Official Two] has more granularity on it, but I want to point out just sort of for big picture point is that the main problem with Ukraine right now and the economy is really short term. Ukraine is facing a short-term challenge, not because it is not a strong economy with a lot of potential, but precisely because it has been so mismanaged by the previous leadership. And so the focus of our efforts right now is on helping Ukraine get through this short-term challenge. But over the long run, Ukraine has a low debt-to-GDP ratio, markets are signaling that over several months Ukraine, as long as it gets through the short-term period, it will be in a position to be successful. And that's where we want to get Ukraine. We want to get Ukraine to that point, to be able to be poised for success under a new leadership.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL TWO: Just to underscore the point that speaker one made about the Russian position on Syria, for years Russian Government has warned everyone in the international community, including the United States, not to violate Syria's sovereignty and territorial integrity, claiming that that was a fundamental tenet of international law. How does that square with the choice that they have now made in Ukraine? Either you obey the rules or you don't obey the rules.

Moving on to Ukraine, just to say you know what we're working on. We are working on – with the new transitional technical government on an IMF package that can then be matched by bilateral contributions, other support through international financial institutions like the IBRD, et

cetera. And as colleague three said, this is a short-term problem that results from the gross mismanagement and corruption and ripping off of the Ukrainian economy of the previous regime. Ukraine is a very rich country and will be even richer when some of the natural gas is exploited.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL ONE: And on punitive measures, I'd just add – because that was referenced in the question. Yeah, we have a broad range of tools that can include things from visa bans to individual sanctions. So as this continues, if it continues, we would consider those types of options going forward.

We'll take the next question, please.

MODERATOR: Okay. And the next question comes from the line of Jay Solomon of *Wall Street Journal*. Please go ahead.

QUESTION: Hi. Thanks for doing this. Over the past four or five years, by far the most effective sanctions – again, it's whether it was Iran or North Korea, Burma – have been very targeted sanctions on companies and senior individuals. Can you confirm whether that's something that's already being looked at as part of the response – those types of targeted sanctions of banks? Because the Russians seem extremely vulnerable due to the amount of money they have in banks in London or Geneva that they could be hit pretty hard if you go down that course. But I just don't know if that's something that we can say is already being considered.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL TWO: Jay, I think we're not going to get into any more details about what's being considered, but you are absolutely right about the vulnerability of Russian banks. We're looking at all of the options.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL ONE: Yeah, and I think it's both the immediate chilling impact on the Russian economy of people being aware of the international condemnation of this action and of there being a halt to the types of trade and commercial ties that they've sought to broaden with us and potentially other European and Western countries. And then there's that second subset of more punitive actions like the ones you reference. And again, we don't want to get ahead of those, but again, we'll be taking a look at all these different elements, because in the long term this will have a cost on the Russian economy. And the President was very clear in his word choice of cost. Some of those costs will be imposed by the United States. Some of those Russia has already invited upon itself. And you see that as evidenced in the ruble. And some of that will be internationally. So this is – there are many vulnerabilities that I think will only grow if Russia does not make the right choice and take the off-ramp that has been provided to join an effort and de-escalating the situation.

We'll take the next question.

OPERATOR: Okay, thank you. And next question comes from the line of Andrea Mitchell of NBC News. Please go ahead. Andrea Mitchell, your line is open.

Okay, and she dropped from queue. Just a moment. Next question from the line of Josh Rogin of *The Daily Beast*. Please go ahead.

QUESTION: Hi. Thanks very much. You mentioned at the top of the call that you're seeing signs of efforts to stir unrest in parts of eastern and southern Ukraine, outside of Crimea. I'm wondering if you can expand on that a little bit. Specifically, my question is: Do you see any evidence that there are either Russian armed forces or Russian paramilitary forces or Russian intelligence forces on the ground out in Ukraine, outside of Crimea, and are they involved in that effort? Thank you.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL TWO: What we're seeing in Kharkiv in particular are efforts to stir up tensions between ethnic Russians and ethnic Ukrainians. We're seeing some protest activity both ways, for the Ukrainian Government and against it. We have not seen Russian military moves in the east of Ukraine at this stage, at this point in time, but we're watching very carefully.

QUESTION: But you are saying that it is the Russians that are stirring the unrest in parts of Ukraine outside Crimea?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL TWO: I am not assigning responsibility there. I'm

simply saying that we are concerned that tensions are being stirred up.

QUESTION: You (inaudible). Okay, thank you.

OPERATOR: Okay, thank you.

MODERATOR: We've got time for a couple more.

OPERATOR: Okay. And the next question, it comes from the line of Martha Raddatz of ABC News. Please go ahead.

QUESTION: Hi. I just want to go back to the end of Michael Gordon's question. Is there any indication that Vladimir Putin is listening to anything the U.S. is saying? I mean, it certainly doesn't appear that way. And could you elaborate a little bit more on the call with Putin in regards to that, or whether he is taking anything to heart?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL ONE: Well, we in this Administration have made it a practice to not look into Vladimir Putin's soul, so I can't speak for him. What I can say is that we're not just speaking from the United States; we're speaking from the entire world. And what you see is, I think, a very clear message that nobody is going to accept the legitimacy of this action in Ukraine.

He has a number of choices of make. The first one is whether to continue to escalate through movement into other parts of Ukraine from – so we've already seen the intervention in Crimea, and it would be even further destabilizing to expand that intervention into eastern Ukraine.

And our bottom line is they had to pull back from what they've already done, go back to their bases in Crimea. But we'll be watching very carefully, of course, and we'll be very, very, very concerned if we saw further escalation into eastern Ukraine. And frankly, I think that President Putin will have some decisions to make here, because frankly, the course that he is on will take Russia into a much weaker position in the international community.

QUESTION: [Senior Administration Official One], are –

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL ONE: Well, let me just – to be clear, Martha, what's happened – let's remember what's happened in the last three months, which is a pro-Russian government in Kyiv was effectively rejected by the people of Ukraine when they chose not to orient towards the West. The leader of that government fled, packed up in the middle of night, and a pro-Western government took its place in Kyiv. That's hardly a huge success for Russia.

QUESTION: A pro-Ukrainian, pro-Western –

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL ONE: Yeah, as I said, pro-Western. That's hardly a huge success story for President Putin. And now he is under a pretext of – a variety of pretexts, frankly – intervening militarily in a way that is only going to hurt Russia's standing in the international community. So again, I don't think this is somehow a moment of strength for Russia or its leader.

But sorry, Martha, I don't know if you –

QUESTION: No, that's all right. But no indication that he's listening at all to any of these warnings or threats?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL ONE: Well, we'll have to see what he does. I mean, we'll have to see what they do with their forces with respect to potential escalation in the eastern Ukraine. We'll have to see what they do with their forces in Crimea. But I don't know if my colleagues want to add to that.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL THREE: I would also add we'll see – Putin did not disagree that the UN and the OSCE were options for addressing the issues that he raised and that Russian officials have raised in public about concerns about the safety of Ukrainian citizens who are ethnic Russians and ethnic speakers – and I want to emphasize they are Ukrainian citizens. So we'll see. This issue – they're not going to be able to duck this issue. It's going to be raised in the OSCE, as senior official two pointed out. It's going to be raised in the UN.

So if they are serious about these concerns, then they need to step to the table. And so we can't answer for you whether Putin and the Russian leadership are listening to the opportunities before them to address their concerns. Their actions will speak louder than words.

OPERATOR: Okay. And the next question comes from the line of James Rosen of Fox News. Please go ahead.

QUESTION: Can you hear me all right?

OPERATOR: Yes.

QUESTION: Thank you very much for doing the call. It just seems to me that you wouldn't be viewing this whole set of events through a realist perspective if you did not take some acknowledgment of the chronology here, whereby the President of the United States appears in the briefing room at the White House on Friday evening and warns of costs if the Russian Federation violates the territorial sovereignty and integrity of Ukraine, and later that night and over the next morning, that is precisely what the Russian Federation does. This further, of course, occurs in the context of what has happened in Syria, where the President several times drew a red line, and when that red line was crossed, sought to deny that it was his red line but in fact said it was the world's red line.

The question I think Martha was raising and I think is on a lot of people's minds right now is whether the President of the United States – this President of the United States has a credibility problem around the world with other foreign leaders, and particularly very strong ones like Vladimir Putin, and doesn't these set of facts and the chronology, in fact, establish that? Thank you.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL ONE: Well, I guess there's a question there. The – let's look at the chronology again of what happened in Ukraine, okay, which is that several months ago, you had a government that was backed by Russia that rejected an association agreement with the European Union, and in doing so invoked – evoked a, essentially, popular uprising against its legitimacy. And over many months, Russia sought to back up their government in Kyiv, and they were unsuccessful in that effort. And the people of Ukraine effectively rejected the legitimacy of their own government. The Rada has voted to install a government that reflects the views of the Ukrainian people and their desire for an orientation to the West. The pro-Russian president is forced to flee in the middle of the night and pack up, and shows up on the border and then shows up in Russia, right?

So Ukraine, a key – a very important country for the Russians, essentially the Russians see their guy in Kyiv get – have to flee in the middle of the night, to leave town, and be replaced by a pro-Western –

QUESTION: We've heard this litany. I'm wondering about a response to my question about the last 72 hours.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL ONE: Yes. I'm getting to the question, which is that you have said that he is a strong leader. I don't think that he – Vladimir Putin – so the premise of your question is that he is strong and the President of the United States is weak, when, in fact, he is not acting from a position of strength right now. He is acting from a position of having lost the government that they backed in Kyiv and made a play to move in to Crimea, a piece of Ukraine, and being met with international condemnation.

I think when the President of the United States goes to the briefing room, it's very important that the world knows where the United States stands, that he lays a predicate, frankly, for what we're doing now, which is we saw very concerning Russian moves with them moving forces. So when he went out to speak, we had frankly already begun to see things that were concerning to us. That's why he spoke. And by doing so, he lays a predicate for us to say, "We warned you not to do this. Now that you have, we are going to mobilize the international community in response to what you've done." And that's exactly what we're doing.

And you're seeing the ability of the United States to bring with us not just ourselves, but the rest of the G7 countries, the rest of NATO, and frankly, the broad majority of the world in condemning its actions and beginning to isolate Russia. So the credibility of the President is manifested in how many leaders and how many countries are joining with us and standing with us in rejecting this Russian action.

And again, I don't think that there is a narrative of strength here for President Putin. That's why I

go through the chronology. Because he is looking at a situation in which we now have a pro-Western, democratic Ukrainian Government in Kyiv that is looking to the West. That is not a good development for him. So –

QUESTION: Well, if I can just follow up –

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL TWO: James, can I just put one more point on this? Which is –

QUESTION: Certainly, certainly.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL TWO: – this chapter has proven decisively that when it comes to soft power, the power of attraction, Vladimir Putin has no game. So he's left with hard power. And it's a very dangerous game to play in Ukraine because the Ukrainian people are not going to stand for it, and nor is the international community.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL THREE: I would add that let's put the blame for the Russian decision to invade Ukraine and violate Russia's international commitments exactly where it belongs, which is at the feet of Vladimir Putin.

QUESTION: If I can simply follow up, it just seems to me that this may be a first occasion where senior Administration officials of this rank are left arguing that an occasion where the head of Russia flagrantly disregards a warning from the President of the United States issued on the world stage as a win for that President of the United States.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL ONE: James, I'm not –

QUESTION: You're trying to make a virtue out of his being disregarded and flouted by Vladimir Putin.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL ONE: This is not about a win for anybody. We're focused on the people of Ukraine. We're not focused on some political game here in Washington. Look, Russia has done this before too. I'm sure they were warned not to do what they did in Georgia in 2008, and they did. So this is not the first time in history that there has been an act of an aggression – of aggression by a foreign leader or a Russian leader.

What the United States does is we define clearly our interests and we pursue them in conjunction with our allies around the world. And we're focused on how can we support the Ukrainian people who have – who should be, frankly, everybody's focus right now. They're the ones who have heroically stood up for the last several months to demand democracy. That's what I'm focused on. I'm not focusing on whether people are going to give us credit for X or Y or Z.

I do think it's a bit strange to lift up this action, this outrageous action that President Putin has taken, as some great show of strength by him. What it is, is it's a show of weakness in the sense that they have lost the government that they backed in Kyiv and have now had to resort to the type of intervention that is going to lead them to be severely isolated within the international community and, frankly, is not going to achieve the objective of un-ringing the bell that we heard in Kyiv when the Ukrainian people were able to take control of their own future.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL TWO: I'm going to hop off here. I've got a plane to catch. Thank you all. Thanks, [Senior Administration Official One].

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL ONE: Okay. We can take one more question.

OPERATOR: Okay. Then the final question is from the line of Elise Labott of CNN. Please go ahead.

QUESTION: Thanks so much for doing the call. Just to kind of follow up a little bit on Martha's question, I understand that you're waiting to see what he does, whether – to know whether he's listening. But do you think that these measures that you're taking right now, that he's obviously calculated that he can withstand some of these costs because, as you discussed before, that this is an existential issue for him and this is a zero-sum game, as – despite your denial, it kind of is for you too?

So I'm wondering, if he's willing to withstand those costs, how far are you prepared to take it knowing that he can have his own retaliation? I mean, you saw what he did with the Magnitsky Act. He had moves of his own – canceling U.S. adoptions of Russian children. So I'm just wondering, like, how far you think this tit-for-tat can go. I mean, and isn't the diplomatic track

on some of these monitors and making Putin part of the solution rather than part of the problem preferable?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL ONE: Sorry, I'll just make a quick comment, Elise. Part of this depends on how this plays out. Again, obviously, our preference would be for Russia to de-escalate right now and to accept international observers and to go back to their bases in Crimea. Then we will see again whether they make the decision to escalate further in eastern Ukraine.

I think as this plays out over time, though, we will want to create a dynamic in which Russia is steadily facing greater pressure from the international community for any continued military intervention and presence in Crimea and within Ukraine's borders. But my colleague will probably be able to speak well to President Putin's calculus and our response.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL THREE: Well, as [Senior Administration Official One] pointed out, being inside Putin's head is not someplace anyone wants to be. So I won't speculate too much on his calculations. But I do want to point out that the strategy that the President has laid out and that we're working on with our allies and partners in the international community, and which you're going to see playing out in the next couple of days and weeks going forward, is partly the costs that Russia has taken on upon itself and will begin to experience, but it's also – as we've already mentioned, it's offering a better way, a way – an off-ramp. They have made a terrible choice. They've made the wrong choice. They're going to begin to see the effects of that choice. That doesn't happen in 24 hours. That's going to take some time. It's going to take time to affect the Russian economy. It's going to take time for it to begin to sink in that the ambitions for an innovation economy, more international investment, all the things that Russian leaders have been saying are their number one priority, are not going to happen. That's going to take a little while for them to see.

QUESTION: But if I could just quickly follow up, though. The way that you're talking about those type of things – like, those type of costs to an economy take an awful long time. I mean, don't you think this situation kind of – you need to settle this kind of pretty soon? I mean, you saw that happened in Georgia. It wasn't any kind of – although you weren't in the – it was a different administration, but it wasn't any threats of economy or kicking him out of G8 or anything like that that got him to pull back. It was some kind of diplomatic solution where he could save face and then he could pull back. I mean, it sounds like some of the things that you're talking about –

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL THREE: Well, like I said, the –

QUESTION: – him feeling the costs on the economy could take months.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL THREE: And I said, and the other part of the strategy is to offer him a way out. You just said the – a diplomatic solution. So that is part of the strategy and that's being worked in the UN, at the OSCE, with European allies. And so you're exactly right. You asked a question in which you pose it exactly right; you have to have both elements to the strategy.

So I – sorry, I've lost my own train of thought. But the expectation that this is going to change in 24 hours is not – that's not in the real world. We're talking about being realistic. That's not real world. Real world is a serious situation that the Russians have created, it's going to take serious efforts to unwind it, and we're absolutely seriously engaged in doing that.

QUESTION: Thank you.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL ONE: Yeah, and I just – that's a good note to close on here is that we are going to move very quickly in some regards in terms of our actions with other international partners and organizations in terms of our assistance to Ukraine, but then we're prepared to continue in the longer term if that's what it takes. At the same time, at every juncture there's an off-ramp for Russia if they choose to de-escalate, and we'd like to see them do that and pull back. In Georgia, that was enough to get them to pull back to some extent, although, of course, Abkhazia and South Ossetia continue to be unresolved issues.

So what we want to see is the full sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine restored, and

frankly, to do so in a way that allows them to move forward with their own democratic future, which includes the elections in May.

So thanks, everybody, for getting on the call. Just a quick update: You heard the announcement of Secretary Kerry's travel to Kyiv on Tuesday. The President's calls are complete with the leaders of Poland, the United Kingdom and Germany, so we'll get you a readout of that – a written readout shortly.

Thanks, everybody.

MODERATOR: Thank you. And I just want to remind everyone that today's call is on background and we appreciate you joining us today.

ВЕЛИКОБРИТАНІЯ

PM phone call with President Obama: 2 March 2014

2 March 2014

David Cameron and Barack Obama spoke about events in Ukraine.

Following the phone call, a Downing Street spokesperson said:

The Prime Minister and President Obama spoke at 9pm tonight.

They agreed that Russia's actions were completely unacceptable. They agreed on the urgent need for de-escalation and for Russia to engage in a dialogue directly with Ukraine.

They agreed there must be "significant costs" to Russia if it did not change course on Ukraine.

Statement on Ukraine: 2 March 2014

2 March 2014

The Prime Minister remains gravely concerned about events in Ukraine and is determined to pursue all avenues to reduce tensions.

A Downing Street spokesperson said:

The Prime Minister remains gravely concerned about events in Ukraine and is determined to pursue all avenues to reduce tensions and de-escalate a very dangerous situation.

This evening he will speak to President Obama, Polish Prime Minister Tusk and Lithuanian President Grybauskaitė.

Earlier today the Foreign Secretary flew to Kiev to meet the new Ukrainian authorities, make clear our support for them, and urge continued restraint.

In current circumstances, the Prime Minister is clear that the focus of our engagement with Russia must be the situation in Ukraine, rather than other normal business. The Foreign Secretary announced earlier today that the UK will not take part in any of the G8 preparatory meetings in Russia planned for this week.

The Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary have also decided that it would be inappropriate for UK ministers to attend the Sochi Paralympics in current circumstances.

The Prime Minister remains fully supportive of our Paralympic athletes' participation at Sochi.

A stable Ukraine is in the interests of everyone – including the UK. Ukraine is one of the largest countries in Europe and a neighbour of the European Union. Its economic prosperity, security and stability matter. The sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine has been violated and this cannot be the way to conduct international affairs.

ІТАЛІЯ

Crimea: coordination meeting at the Foreign Ministry; support efforts to prevent worsening tensions

2014-03-02

The situation in Crimea and possible political-diplomatic initiatives to ease tension in the region were examined at a coordination meeting at the Farnesina today, 2 March 2014. Chaired by Foreign Minister Federica Mogherini, the meeting was attended by the diplomatic advisers of the President of the Republic, the Prime Minister and the Minister of Defence; the Director of the Department for Information and Security, and Foreign Ministry officials. It took place on the eve of the European Union's Foreign Affairs Council in Brussels.

Participants agreed on the need to support all efforts to prevent a dangerous confrontation and a sharpening of tensions in south-eastern Ukraine, while keeping communication channels open at the international level.

Minister Mogherini to chair technical meeting at the Foreign Ministry on situation in Ukraine

2014-03-02

Foreign Minister Federica Mogherini will chair a technical meeting this morning at the Farnesina to review the situation in Ukraine. The meeting will also discuss her telephone contact today with German Foreign Minister Steinmeier and her conference call with the American Secretary of State, Kerry, the High Representative for European Foreign Policy, Ashton, and a number of European colleagues.

This afternoon, Minister Mogherini and Defence Minister Pinotti will attend a meeting called by the Prime Minister's Office to prepare the Italian position in the run-up to the European Union's Foreign Affairs Council taking place in Brussels tomorrow, 3 March 2014.

Minister Mogherini is in constant contact with the Italian ambassadors in Kiev, Moscow and Washington, and with our Permanent Representatives to NATO, the EU and the United Nations. She is following the situation in Crimea and south-eastern Ukraine closely and, with the rest of the government, is making every effort to prevent events from precipitating further.

Ukraine: Government summit at Palazzo Chigi – Press Palazzo Chigi

2014-03-02

Prime Minister Matteo Renzi has chaired a meeting at the Cabinet Office in Palazzo Chigi on the situation in Ukraine. Participants included Foreign Minister Federica Mogherini, Defence Minister Roberta Pinotti, the Under-Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office, Marco Minniti, and the Director of the Department for Information and Security, Giampiero Massolo.

The Prime Minister is following developments in Crimea closely and with great concern, in close contact with our European and international partners. He spoke this afternoon (2 March 2014) with the German Chancellor, Angela Merkel, and with the French President, François Hollande.

The Italian Government joins in the international community's pressing request for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity to be respected. Violations of these principles would be utterly unacceptable for Italy.

To this end, Italy urges Russia to avoid any action that would further intensify the crisis and to pursue dialogue through all possible channels.

At the same time, the Italian Government exhorts the authorities in Kiev to support all efforts to maintain stability and pacification in Ukraine with full respect for legality and the protection of minorities.

ПІМЕЧКИНА

Foreign Minister Steinmeier on the situation in the Crimea: change of course still possible,

stop Europe being split

02.03.2014

Foreign Minister Steinmeier issued the following statement in Berlin today (2 March) on the current situation in Ukraine:

Zusatzinformationen

We are on an extremely dangerous path of escalating tensions. A change of course is still possible. There is still a chance of stopping Europe being split. To do so, all those responsible need to refrain from taking any further steps which can only be interpreted as provocation. Anything else would cause the situation to spiral, with uncertain, possibly drastic consequences, and could destroy many years of constructive cooperation on increasing security in Europe.

Russia has no right to deploy its military in Ukrainian territory beyond the rules of the lease agreement on Russia's Black Sea Fleet. We call on Russia with all urgency to refrain from any violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

We are actively advocating that the new political leaders in Kyiv protect the rights and interests of all the people of Ukraine. This particularly involves unequivocal protection of minority rights, including use of minority languages. The OSCE, and notably its High Commissioner on National Minorities, can play an important role here.

ФРАНЦІЯ

Ukraine – Communiqués de la présidence de la République (Paris, 02 mars 2014) Paris, 2 et 1er mars 2014

1/ONU Le président de la République s'est entretenu aujourd'hui avec le Secrétaire général des Nations unies, M. Ban Ki-moon, de la situation en Ukraine. Le président de la République a rappelé sa très vive inquiétude concernant les risques d'escalade militaire à la suite de la décision du conseil de la Fédération de Russie d'autoriser l'envoi de troupes en Ukraine. Il a évoqué avec le Secrétaire général des Nations unies les principes qui doivent guider une solution à la crise actuelle: 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; l'organisation de l'élection présidentielle de manière transparente et incontestable.

Le président de la République a encouragé le Secrétaire général des Nations unies à poursuivre également ses efforts en ce sens.

2/États-Unis/UE François Hollande s'est entretenu ce soir avec Barack Obama, Herman Van Rompuy et Angela Merkel sur la situation grave et inquiétante que connaît l'Ukraine. Face aux risques d'escalade liés à la décision du conseil de la Fédération de Russie d'autoriser l'envoi de troupes russes, le président de la République a marqué l'importance d'une position commune, fondée sur le respect de l'intégrité territoriale et la souveraineté de l'Ukraine, le soutien au gouvernement ukrainien chargé de conduire le processus électoral, et la reconnaissance des droits des différentes communautés en Ukraine, comme des liens qui lient la Russie à ce pays. Le président de la République s'est également entretenu avec Vladimir Poutine. Il lui a fait part de sa très vive préoccupation et l'a appelé à éviter tout recours à la force ainsi qu'à chercher avec la communauté internationale une solution de sortie de crise.

3/ Pologne Le président de la République s'est entretenu aujourd'hui avec M. Donald Tusk, Premier ministre de Pologne. Ils ont partagé leur plus vive inquiétude à la suite de la décision du conseil de la Fédération de Russie d'autoriser l'envoi de troupes russes en Ukraine, qui fait peser des menaces réelles sur l'intégrité territoriale et la souveraineté de l'Ukraine. Le président de la République a estimé que tout devait être fait pour éviter une intervention extérieure et les risques d'une escalade éminemment dangereuse. Le président de la République a salué l'action

commune de la Pologne de l'Allemagne et de la France pour sortir de cette crise. Il a appelé à une action européenne rapide et coordonnée lors du prochain Conseil des affaires étrangères le 3 mars prochain. (Source: site Internet de la présidence de la République)

Ukraine – Entretien de M. Laurent Fabius, ministre des affaires étrangères, avec «Europe 1/i-Télé/Le Monde» – extraits (Paris, 02 mars 2014)

Q – Dans ce climat de crise en Ukraine, peut-être de guerre, vous êtes Laurent Fabius très attendu. Rarement, nous avons été semble-t-il aussi près du déclenchement d'une guerre civile généralisée entre Ukrainiens, d'une confrontation Est – Ouest comme au pire moment de la guerre froide. Et à nouveau sur ce malheureux continent européen, ces terres de sang qui ont connu les horreurs et les barbaries de la deuxième guerre. Ce dimanche peut être crucial, il y a des journées comme ça, vous en avez connues quand vous étiez à Kiev. Les chefs d'État se sont beaucoup téléphoné, Barack Obama Poutine, François Hollande et Poutine pour la deuxième fois en une semaine. Et les ministres des affaires étrangères, vous-même, vous vous êtes beaucoup parlés avec John Kerry aussi et avec le Russe Lavrov, ce sera intéressant. Je voulais dire que tout est fait, me semble-t-il encore, pour que l'irrationnel et la brutalité de la région ne nous emporte pas vers de nouvelles violences. Tout d'abord, comment qualifiez-vous la crise qui se déroule actuellement entre la Russie et l'Ukraine?

R – J'ai fait le point juste avant de venir pour participer à cette émission, je vous remercie de m'accueillir. Évidemment, la situation est très préoccupante, même si ce matin il semble qu'il y ait davantage de calme sur le terrain. Mais sur le fond, la situation est très préoccupante. Je m'en suis évidemment entretenu avec beaucoup de collègues, le président de la République a parlé à beaucoup de chefs d'État. La position de la France, que nous souhaitons partager avec nos amis du G7, qui regroupe les principales nations du monde développé, est la suivante. Premier point, nous condamnons l'escalade militaire russe et nous souhaitons que, dans les meilleurs délais, intervienne une médiation. Ce pourrait être une négociation soit directement – ce serait la meilleure solution – entre les Russes et les Ukrainiens, soit par l'intermédiaire des Nations unies ou de l'OSCE. Mais il y a une condamnation claire et nette. Deuxièmement, les décisions qui ont été prises par nos partenaires russes sont contraires aux principes du G7 et du G8. La position de la France est de souhaiter que soit suspendue la préparation du G8 de Sotchi, qui devait avoir lieu au mois de juin, tant que les partenaires russes ne seront pas revenus à des principes conformes au G8 et au G7. Et troisièmement, nous soutenons l'intégrité et l'unité de l'Ukraine, nous voulons apporter aux nouvelles autorités tout notre soutien, et en particulier notre soutien économique. Une mission du Fonds monétaire s'y rendra dans quelques jours, et nous souhaitons apporter notre soutien à cette nation en grande difficulté. Voilà, en accord avec le président de la République, les trois principes qui vont guider notre action dans les jours qui viennent, et nous souhaitons que l'ensemble des pays du G7 soit sur la même position.

Q – Quelle est également l'analyse que vous faites sur le terrain, est-ce qu'il y a pour vous un risque d'intervention militaire, que Poutine aille plus loin et envoie effectivement les troupes en Ukraine?

R – Comme vous le savez, la Chambre haute du Parlement russe a voté hier une autorisation donnée au président Poutine d'intervenir «jusqu'à la stabilisation politique», selon la délibération de la Chambre haute. On ne sait pas trop sa signification. Certains disent que d'ores et déjà, il y a eu intervention. Q -C'est ce que disent les Ukrainiens, vous avez des informations en ce sens? R – Ce que nous avons constaté avec nos partenaires, c'est qu'il y a eu plusieurs centaines d'hommes en uniforme, mais sans signaux apparents, qui sont intervenus et ceci est contraire au droit international. Q – Qui sont ces hommes?

R – On peut penser qu'en tout cas, ils défendent la cause russe en Ukraine.

Q – Ce sont des Russes de Crimée ou des Russes de Russie?

R – Je ne sais pas, mais en tout cas il y a désormais une autorisation, une espèce de blanc-seing,

qui est donné au président russe. Cette escalade militaire, à laquelle nous assistons, nous voulons évidemment qu'elle s'arrête et nous la condamnons.

Q – Mais pourquoi parle-t-on d'escalade militaire si des soldats russes n'ont pas franchi la frontière, des soldats russes, la frontière pour entrer en Crimée ou dans l'Ouest de l'Ukraine? C'est-à-dire c'est la prévention que vous faites ou vous constatez qu'il y a déjà intervention militaire?

R – Je viens de vous le dire, en tout état de cause la Chambre haute du parlement russe a autorisé la possibilité d'une intervention militaire.

Q – Oui mais la Chambre haute, on sait en Russie ce que c'est. R – Il y a donc une autorisation juridique. Q – Autrement dit Laurent Fabius, tout dépend aujourd'hui du caractère et des nerfs aussi de Vladimir Poutine et de la pression extérieure. Vous connaissez Poutine, est-ce qu'il est d'un genre impulsif ou est-ce que c'est quelqu'un qui peut perdre son sang-froid?

R – Je ne me lance pas dans la psychologie. Je crois qu'on est dans une situation où il ne faut pas faire d'interprétation au deuxième degré ni au troisième degré. Simplement, il y a une situation très sérieuse, on pourrait même dire très grave, et il faut donc essayer d'aller vers la désescalade.

Q – Est-ce que vous comparez cela au précédent géorgien, est-ce que vous conseillez aux Ukrainiens de ne pas répondre aux Russes pour éviter une riposte forte des Russes?

R – J'ai eu les autorités ukrainiennes au téléphone, et il y a eu différents appels. Le Premier ministre Arseni Iatseniouk est sur la ligne que vous dites. Mais c'était avant un certain nombre de décisions russes. De son côté, Vitali Klitschko a pris une position plus dure, nous n'en sommes pas là. Ce qu'il faut, c'est aller vers la désescalade et celle-ci n'est possible que si d'une part, toute une série de pays prennent une position ferme et nette, c'est celle que je viens de définir; et si d'autre part nos partenaires russes comprennent – selon l'expression qui est utilisée – que s'ils continuent tout cela aura un coût.

Q – La France n'enverra pas de porte-avions en mer Noire?

R – Non, nous voulons obtenir une désescalade. Et ceci n'est possible qu'avec une position ferme et en commençant déjà à prendre des dispositions, notamment sur le front politique et économique.

Q – Qu'est-ce que ça veut dire «ça aura un coût»?

R – Par exemple, lorsque la France souhaite que soient interrompus les préparatifs du G8, qui est une enceinte très importante sur les plans politique et économique, cela entraîne toute une série de conséquences. La Russie est traditionnellement notre amie, et nous attendons d'un ami traditionnel autre chose qu'un bruit de bottes.

Q – Justement s'il va plus loin, qu'est-ce qu'on peut faire, qu'est-ce que peut faire la France ou même l'Union européenne s'il franchit le cap? R – Nous avons tout à l'heure deux réunions de l'Otan. La Pologne, qui est membre de l'Otan, a demandé – elle en a le droit – une réunion spéciale sur la base de ce qu'on appelle l'article 4 de la charte, parce qu'elle s'estime menacée par ce qui se passe en Ukraine.

Q – Vous partagez cette crainte des Polonais? R – Nous participerons à la réunion et nous verrons ce que nos amis polonais vont nous dire. Ensuite, il y aura une autre réunion de l'Otan avec l'Ukraine qui n'est pas un membre de l'Otan, mais avec qui nous avons un partenariat et nous verrons ce que les Ukrainiens nous diront. Demain, il y aura à Bruxelles une réunion des ministres des affaires étrangères, à laquelle je participerai, où nous prendrons un certain nombre de dispositions et entretemps nous nous consultons. Pour la seule journée d'hier, le président français a eu de longues conversations avec les présidents Poutine et Obama, avec monsieur Barroso et avec Madame Merkel. J'ai eu John Kerry et je suis en contact avec différents collègues.

Q – Donc vous parlez beaucoup mais pour quelle résultat? R – Pour essayer d'avoir une désescalade et d'obtenir cette médiation, la France d'ailleurs est disponible. Et cette médiation, elle peut être faite au niveau des Nations unies, il y a eu également une réunion du Conseil de sécurité. Elle peut être faite au niveau de l'OSCE, elle peut être faite au niveau d'une nation et la France est tout à fait disponible.

Q – Mais les Russes disent sans arrêt «on n'accepte pas les médiations imposées».

R – Les Russes font partie de la communauté internationale.

Q – Est-ce qu'on peut envisager que la Chancelière Merkel et par exemple le président Hollande aillent rencontrer Poutine pour parler face à face avec lui?

R – Pour le moment ils se sont parlés au téléphone, Madame Merkel et François Hollande se sont parlés et ont eu le président Poutine. Concrètement, la conversation est claire et nette. Du côté français on demande aux Russes s'ils vont envoyer ou non des troupes et s'ils vont retirer ces troupes. La réponse des Russes c'est de dire que les autorités ukrainiennes ne sont pas les autorités légitimes.

Q – Vous les connaissez vous, elles sont légitimes pour vous?

R – Mais bien sûr que oui. Je suis allé à Kiev, avec mes collègues allemand et polonais, pour obtenir une cessation des massacres en Ukraine. Nous les avons obtenues parce qu'il faut se rappeler que la semaine dernière, il y avait des dizaines de morts chaque jour.

Q – L'accord que vous avez négocié n'a pas été respecté et a conduit à la destitution du président Ianoukovitch, est-ce que tout ça, vous le reconnaissez?

R – Ne reprenez pas immédiatement la thèse russe, si vous voulez bien. Nous avons négocié pendant plusieurs heures et nous avons obtenu plusieurs choses à la fois, de l'opposition de l'époque, qui est devenue majorité, et du président Yanoukovitch. Tout d'abord que ce dernier accepte de démissionner, ensuite que l'on revienne à la Constitution de 2004 et, enfin, qu'il n'y ait pas d'utilisation de la violence. Là-dessus, le président Yanoukovitch est parti pour la Crimée et ensuite pour la Russie.

Q – ...Vous lui avez demandé de démissionner?

R – Non, on lui a demandé d'abrégé son mandat, et il a signé un texte disant – alors que son mandat se terminait l'année prochaine – qu'il partait cette année. Ensuite il est parti, il a déserté. Il y a eu un renversement de majorité au Parlement puisque l'opposition est devenue majorité, et il y a eu arrêt des massacres, cet arrêt était absolument essentiel et nous l'avons obtenu. Et l'esprit de ce que nous avons signé a été parfaitement respecté. Je vais même vous donner une information supplémentaire. Nous avons discuté avec l'opposition, qui est devenue majorité, et avec monsieur Yanoukovitch de qui serait Premier ministre, et le nom de monsieur Iatseniouk est venu dans la conversation. Et donc il était acquis pour les uns et pour les autres, y compris pour monsieur Yanoukovitch, que ce serait monsieur Iatseniouk qui serait nommé Premier ministre. Donc quand on nous dit qu'il n'y a pas de respect de la légalité...

Q – Vous trois, ministres allemand, français et polonais, des affaires étrangères présents dans la médiation, vous avez pu calmer le jeu sur place, apaiser...

R – Et surtout arrêter les massacres.

Q – Nous étions là ce jour où il y a eu 60 à 70 morts...

R – Il faut aussi faire le tour de l'ensemble de la question et là, je fais allusion à ce que vous disiez à l'instant. Il faut que du côté des nouvelles autorités ukrainiennes, il y ait respect de la diversité de ce qu'est l'Ukraine.

Q – Ce qui n'est pas encore le cas.

R – Ce qui doit être le cas, car vous savez qu'il y a une partie qui est non seulement russophone mais aussi profondément russophile, et une autre partie qui est plus proche de l'Union européenne. L'Ukraine, c'est notre conception qu'il faut arriver à faire partager, ce n'est pas ou la Russie ou l'Europe, c'est et la Russie et l'Europe.

Q – C'est quoi la solution? Parce que pour bien comprendre aussi, effectivement vous avez discuté de ça avec vos confrères, mais lorsqu'il y a eu la première conversation entre le président Poutine et le président Hollande, est-ce que le président français a été prévenu du fait que Poutine voulait durcir le ton, est-ce que vous étiez au courant des intentions de Poutine?

R – Ce que le président Poutine et le mon collègue Sergueï Lavrov nous ont dit, c'est qu'ils estimaient que la légalité n'avait pas été respectée. Ils l'ont dit dès le début mais ils n'ont pas dit qu'elles étaient les conséquences qu'ils en tiraient. Et nous leur avons dit que les choses ont été respectées.

Q – Mais au fond, si vous permettez, est-ce qu'ils ont tort, de leur point de vue d'État est-ce qu'ils ont tort? Parce qu'en Ukraine, les Ukrainiens de Kiev ont pris le pouvoir contre un régime pourri, brutal d'Yanoukovitch.

R – Que tout le monde appelle «Yanoucescu» par référence à monsieur Ceausescu.

Q – Donc une question tout de suite, est-ce qu'il faut l'accuser de crimes de masse et le traiter comme un criminel de guerre, de criminel?

R – Il va y avoir la procédure internationale. Mais je reviens si vous voulez bien au point que je voulais souligner. Il faut en même temps que les autorités ukrainiennes respectent la diversité et l'unité. Nous soutenons l'unité et l'intégrité du territoire, mais il faut que cette diversité soit respectée. La Crimée jusqu'ici bénéficie d'une spécificité, il est prévu un référendum pour le 30 mars. Au départ, il devait avoir lieu le jour de l'élection présidentielle et il a été avancé. C'est là où la négociation, la médiation peut intervenir et il faut qu'il y ait des observateurs pour voir la régularité de ce scrutin. Cela peut paraître paradoxal dans cette situation aussi tendue, mais chacun des Ukrainiens doit se sentir dans un pays où il est reconnu.

Q – Est-ce que la Crimée peut avoir le droit à l'autodétermination?

R – On ne va pas se battre sur des termes juridiques, mais il y a déjà un statut spécifique, et cela doit certainement faire l'objet de discussions.

Q – Et on voit bien que l'Ukraine est coupée en 3 morceaux, qui cherchent à la fois leur légitimité et leur avenir. Ce pouvoir ukrainien de Kiev a pris le pouvoir par la force et a pris d'assaut des palais. Pourquoi la France reconnaît ce régime? Pourquoi elle le reconnaît, pourquoi n'attend-t-elle pas les élections du 25 mai et pour reconnaître des gens qui auraient une légitimité à ce moment-là?

R – Vos prémices sont inexactes. L'opposition n'a pas pris le pouvoir par la force. Vous avez été sur place, vous avez vu qu'il y avait des gens à Maïdan, qu'il y avait aussi des gens qui soutenaient le régime jusqu'au dernier moment et qui étaient là avec des «snipers» pour tuer les gens depuis des toits. Et l'installation du Premier ministre, monsieur Iatseniouk, a été parfaitement régulière.

Q – Pendant que vous négociez votre médiation, il y avait des morts sur la place, les snippers tiraient, il y avait en même temps le palais où vous étiez qui était presque encerclé, il y avait une menace sur le Parlement, ce n'est pas les conditions les plus libres pour installer une équipe légitimement!

R – Oui, je l'ai remarqué.

Q – C'est très bien que vous le disiez ainsi. Mais une fois que nous avons conclu cet accord, la Rada, c'est-à-dire le Parlement qui a été légalement élu s'est réuni et il y a eu un changement de majorité...

R – S'il vous plaît, je veux aller jusqu'au bout. Il y a eu un changement de majorité, il y a eu un vote parfaitement légal qui a désigné monsieur Iatseniouk et ensuite, un certain nombre de ministres ont été désignés. Donc il n'y a pas de question de légitimité. Ce qui est tout à fait vrai, c'est que doit avoir lieu une élection présidentielle, qui a été fixée au mois de mai. Et évidemment cette élection présidentielle, on verra qui est candidat, donnera une légitimité forte au nouveau président dans le cadre de la Constitution de l'Ukraine.

Q – Et comment vous évaluez l'influence et l'importance de ces groupes extrémistes, même flirtant avec les néonazis dans l'opposition actuellement?

R – Il reste une certaine influence et celle-là, il faut absolument l'endiguer. C'est une raison supplémentaire pour soutenir la majorité ukrainienne. J'ajoute un dernier élément mais je ne veux pas qu'on soit trop technique, c'est que parfois on dit «mais le gouvernement de monsieur Iatseniouk ne réunit pas l'ensemble du spectre politique». D'accord, mais qui refuse de rentrer dans le gouvernement? C'est le Parti des régions qui est le parti pro-russe. Donc on ne peut pas à la fois refuser d'entrer dans un gouvernement et dire ensuite «qu'il n'est pas suffisamment légitime puisque nous avons refusé d'y entrer». Je répète la position française. Tout d'abord condamnation de l'escalade et volonté de médiation, et la France est disponible. Deuxième point, nous demandons la suspension des préparatifs du G8 et enfin soutien à l'unité et à l'intégrité de

l'Ukraine avec un appui économique.

Q – Les peuples d'Europe sont inquiets, comme les dirigeants de l'Europe, et je pense que vous avez constaté qu'aucun citoyen européen n'a envie de mourir ou pour Sébastopol ou pour Kiev. Un de vos illustres prédécesseurs Claude Cheysson avait dit «naturellement, nous ne ferons rien» après le coup d'État en Pologne. Vous, s'il y a une intervention militaire en Ukraine, y a-t-il une réponse militaire?

R – Aujourd'hui, nous ne sommes pas dans cette hypothèse, je vous ai dit que nous souhaitons une désescalade et que nous prenions des dispositions pour cela, aussi bien sur le plan diplomatique -arrêts des préparatifs pour le G8 et le G7 -, sur le plan économique pour aider l'Ukraine et aussi en disant ce que nous avons à dire aux Russes et en même temps en appelant à une médiation.

Q – Alors justement par rapport à la graduation de la riposte, on voit les États-Unis et le Canada qui disent «nous, on veut boycotter complètement le Sommet du G8». Vous vous dites... la France dit «on va suspendre les travaux», est-ce que ce n'est pas une réponse un peu tendre en fait?

R – Non. Nous avons une position que nous souhaitons être partagée par nos collègues, vous les avez cités, les Américains, les Canadiens et d'autres, tous les membres du G7. Le G8 et le G7 ont un certain nombre de principes et de valeurs, et celles-ci sont tout à fait contradictoires avec ce qui se passe en Ukraine. Et donc nous disons: tant que les Russes ne sont pas revenus à une attitude plus conforme à ces valeurs, nous allons suspendre les préparatifs. Nous souhaitons du même coup qu'ils y reviennent.

Q – Mais est-ce que ça peut aller jusqu'au boycott? Est-ce que la France peut finalement envisager de ne pas être absente, de le dire... de ne pas être présente au sommet?

R – Non mais, un G8 dont sept membres sont absents...

Q – Et un G8 qui serait chargé de faire la paix?

R – Non, ce n'est pas le rôle du G8. Et en plus, le G8 aura lieu en juin. Alors que la médiation dont je parle, et que je souhaite, peut être faite soit par le secrétaire général des Nations unies ou un de ses envoyés, soit par l'OSCE, soit par d'autres. Nous-mêmes pouvons y contribuer, aujourd'hui nos amis Britanniques sont sur place, il y a toute une série de possibilités, si on veut avancer. Mais pour ça, il faut qu'il y ait une volonté. Elle existe de notre part.

Q – Quelle architecture finale pour l'Ukraine? Est-ce qu'on reste dans le cadre actuel? Quelle est votre vision?

R – Ce qui est souhaitable ce n'est pas à moi de le définir, c'est aux Ukrainiens de le définir. La démocratie, ce n'est pas un vain mot. Il est souhaitable d'avoir l'unité, – cela veut dire que l'Ukraine doit rester un pays, et non pas être disloqué -, l'intégrité et en même temps, le respect des diversités. Il y a évidemment là-bas des diversités: vous avez parlé de la Crimée, mais on peut aussi parler de l'est, que ce soit Kharkov ou Donetsk. Et puis il y a aussi une spécificité d'un certain nombre de territoires qui sont à l'ouest. C'est une des difficultés, mais faisons attention: c'est un problème plus général. Je ne veux pas faire de la philosophie politique à partir de ce cas dramatique, mais si à chaque fois qu'il y a une diversité dans une nation – et celle-ci évidemment comporte, pour des raisons historiques, beaucoup de diversité – on met en pièces la réalité de la nation, à ce moment-là, il n'y a plus de paix possible. Et ça joue aussi dans d'autres pays: d'une manière tout à fait différente, c'est une situation que l'on peut retrouver en Afrique ou ailleurs.

Q – Pour répondre à la diversité, est-ce que l'idée d'une fédération avec trois régions autonomes n'est pas une idée qui peut progresser vers l'unité, et en même temps qui serait garantie par les grandes puissances? Mais vous avez parlé de médiation: quand vous l'avez dit, ou quand le président Hollande l'a dit à Poutine, comment a-t-il accueilli l'idée, premièrement? Et est-ce que la médiation est une forme d'ouverture?

R – Oui, bien sûr. Nous sommes dans une situation de tension, et le risque c'est d'aller vers une escalade militaire encore plus grande.

Q – Et la médiation, c'est la culture de Poutine?

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R – Écoutez, là encore, je ne fais pas de psychologie. Il faut voir quel est le coût de chaque décision. Et je pense que la Russie, qui est un grand pays, qui a une vision mondiale, doit prendre tout ça en considération.

Q – Et l'Allemagne et Vladimir Poutine vont recevoir Madame Timochenko. Et la France?

R – J'ai eu Madame Timochenko au téléphone il y a trois jours et je crois avoir été un des premiers à l'appeler. Vous savez qu'elle se fait soigner, parce que sa situation est difficile du point de vue physique. Elle a beaucoup apprécié que je me mette en rapport avec elle, au nom du président Hollande et en mon nom. De la même façon j'avais eu Monsieur Klitschko et très souvent Monsieur Iatseniouk. Mais on va voir ce que les choses donnent. Madame Timochenko a exercé des responsabilités importantes dans le passé et vous savez dans quelles conditions elle a été emprisonnée ensuite. Pour le reste, nous allons voir.

Q – Ça sera un retour en arrière.

R – Ne pas porter de jugement. Disons que, en tout cas, j'ai eu un contact avec elle, et puis on va voir ce qui se passe. Nous n'allons pas nous substituer aux Ukrainiens, il faut quand même être cohérent.

Q – Qu'est-ce que vous dites aux Ukrainiens...?

R – Si on veut que d'autres ne se substituent pas aux Ukrainiens, il faut en faire de même.

Q – Qu'est-ce que vous demandez aux Ukrainiens de Kiev?

R – Aux Ukrainiens de Kiev, et au pouvoir représenté par Monsieur Iatseniouk, d'être à la fois unis, de mettre en oeuvre un certain nombre de réformes – ils le savent, le discours d'investiture de Monsieur Iatseniouk était extrêmement courageux. Et en même temps, nous sommes prêts à les aider, notamment sur le plan économique, puisque la situation était dramatique.

Q – Aide économique, c'est une plaisanterie?...

R – Ce n'est pas du tout une plaisanterie!

Q – L'Europe promet 600 millions, c'est rien face aux 12 ou 15 milliards de dollars que peuvent donner les Russes.

R – Mais ce que vous appelez une plaisanterie, c'est peut-être le fond du sujet. L'intérêt des Russes n'est certainement pas que l'Ukraine soit dans une situation de désastre économique. Les banques qui sont le plus engagées, à hauteur de 20 à 30 milliards d'euros, sont les banques russes. Les oligarques des deux côtés ont des intérêts croisés. Donc tout ce qui peut améliorer la situation de l'Ukraine est non seulement positif pour les Ukrainiens -il faut d'abord penser à eux -, mais aussi pour l'Europe et aussi pour la Russie! Donc ce n'est pas du tout une situation mineure.

Q – Alors nous avons été peut-être un peu longs sur l'Ukraine, mais aujourd'hui c'est tout à fait normal parce qu'on est au bord d'on ne sait quoi. Est-ce que vous excluez qu'on en revienne, de la part du Kremlin, à l'époque où ils envoyaient les chars à Prague, à Varsovie, à Budapest? Vous l'excluez, ça?

R – Il y a une phrase de Léon Blum qui me sert souvent de référence: «je le crois parce que je l'espère». (...)

ОСНОВНІ МІЖНАРОДНІ ОРГАНІЗАЦІЇ

ОБСЄ

На засіданні Підготовчого комітету Постійної ради ОБСЄ держави-учасниці Організації обговорили ситуацію, що склалася навколо України

(ПП України у Відні)

02 березня 2014, 21:56

Сьогодні представники держав-учасниць ОБСЄ зібралися у Відні на терміновому засіданні Підготовчого комітету Постійної ради ОБСЄ у зв'язку із загостренням ситуації

навколо України

Останні агресивні дії Російської Федерації в Автономній Республіці Крим (Україна) створили підстави для глибокої стурбованості щодо безпеки у регіоні ОБСЄ, яка може зазнати непоправної шкоди. Переважна більшість делегацій розцінили ці дії як порушення принципів ОБСЄ, які Росія зобов'язалася дотримуватися в рамках Статуту ООН і Гельсінського Заключного акту.

Постійний представник України Ігор Прокопчук особливо підкреслив, що ці агресивні дії вчинила держава, яка, підписавши Будапештський Меморандум 1994 року як один з гарантів, взяла на себе зобов'язання утримуватися від загрози або застосування сили проти територіальної недоторканності та політичної незалежності України, а також зобов'язалася поважати незалежність, суверенітет та існуючі кордони України.

Український посол висловив упевненість у необхідності негайних заходів для припинення посягань на суверенітет України, деескалації напруженості та вирішення всіх питань шляхом політичного діалогу.

Майже усі промовці, у тому числі представники держав-членів ЄС, Сполучених Штатів, Туреччини, Канади, Грузії, Норвегії та Азербайджану, висловили повну підтримку суверенітету, незалежності та територіальної цілісності України. Росію закликали утримуватися від втручання у внутрішні справи України.

Більшість делегацій висловили глибоку стурбованість з приводу ескалації внаслідок військових провокацій з боку Російської Федерації в Автономній Республіці Крим, а також з приводу вчорашнього рішення Ради Федерації Федеральних Зборів Росії які надали дозвіл на використання збройних сил РФ на території України.

Лунали численні заклики до негайного початку діалогу з метою деескалації ситуації та попередження такого розвитку подій, який може мати безпрецедентний вплив на регіональну безпеку. У зв'язку з цим, США та Велика Британія підтвердили свою готовність до проведення консультацій згідно з положеннями Будапештського меморандуму 1994 року.

На загальне переконання, корисним для врегулювання кризи мирним шляхом може стати використання інструментарію ОБСЄ, який має бути використаний негайно.

Швейцарське Головування в ОБСЄ, у свою чергу, поінформувало про здійснені та заплановані кроки на шляху до розв'язання кризи. Так, на завтра запланована зустріч Діючого голови ОБСЄ з міністром закордонних справ Росії. Плануються також візити Верховного комісара ОБСЄ у справах національних меншин та Особистого посланника Діючого голови ОБСЄ у справах України до Києва та Автономної Республіки Крим, Представника ОБСЄ з питань свободи ЗМІ – до Києва. Представник Швейцарського головування поінформував про ідеї створення Міжнародної контактної групи з питань України. Розглядатимуться також можливі варіанти застосування механізмів моніторингу. Завтра ситуація навколо України буде предметом обговорення на спеціальному засіданні Постійної ради ОБСЄ.

United States Mission to the OSCE Press Release on Ukraine

March 2, 2014

The United States Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs, Victoria Nuland, and the U.S. Permanent Representative to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Ambassador Daniel Baer, will represent the United States at emergency meetings called by the OSCE's Swiss Chairmanship on the Russian Federation's invasion of Ukraine.

Ambassador Baer will participate in an emergency ambassadorial meeting of the 57 OSCE participating States at 17:00 on Sunday, March 2, at which the participating States will discuss the latest situation on the ground and options for de-escalation, including international monitoring.

On Monday, March 3, at 11:00, Assistant Secretary of State Nuland will take the U.S. seat for a Special Meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council on Ukraine. This event will feature remarks by the OSCE Chair-in-Office's Personal Envoy on Ukraine, Swiss Ambassador Tim Guldemann, and is scheduled to be immediately followed by a press conference.

United States Mission to the OSCE Statement on the Current Crisis in Ukraine
As delivered by Ambassador Daniel B. Baer to the Extraordinary Preparatory Committee Meeting
Vienna
March 2, 2014

Thank you for calling this meeting today. The current crisis is a reminder of the urgent work of this organization and that regional security is not something that is permanent or finished, but something that requires constant work.

I want to start by thanking the distinguished Ambassador of Ukraine for his presentation and for his efforts to keep us informed. I also offer him my heartfelt support during this difficult time.

The United States condemns the Russian Federation's military action in Ukraine and its violation of Ukrainian sovereignty and territorial integrity in full contravention of Russia's obligations under the UN Charter, the Helsinki Final Act, its 1997 military basing agreement with Ukraine, and the 1994 Budapest Memorandum. Secretary Kerry yesterday called the actions of the Russian Federation "a threat to the peace and security of Ukraine and of the wider region." Indeed, it is a threat to the peace and security of the whole of the OSCE space, and is the reason we are gathered here today. As Secretary Kerry clearly stated yesterday, "unless immediate and concrete steps are taken by Russia to de-escalate tensions, the effect on U.S.-Russian relations and on Russia's international standing will be profound." The effects on relations between the Russian Federation and every single participating State around this table, to which the Russian Federation has pledged its commitment to abide by principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity, will be profound.

Russian actions in and against Ukraine and its territory are in direct violation of its OSCE commitments. Specifically, recent Russian actions violate the Helsinki Final Act of 1975 regarding refraining from the threat or use of force, respect for the inviolability of frontiers, and the territorial integrity of States. Russian actions violate the 1990 Charter of Paris, which reaffirms our common pledge to refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State and that any violation of this commitment constitutes a violation of international law. Russia's actions are in breach of its 1994 Budapest Summit commitments, to refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and the Helsinki Final Act. Russia has placed its armed forces in violation of the 1996 Lisbon Summit document that any troops in the territory of another state are there with the freely expressed consent of the host state. Furthermore, Russia's actions violate its commitments undertaken in the 1999 Istanbul Summit and Charter for European Security, and reaffirmed in the 2010 Astana Summit Declaration to respect the rights and sovereignty of other states, to refrain from the threat of force, and to allow other states to choose their own security and political arrangements, among other commitments.

These obligations and commitments that the Russian Federation is directly violating are the very ones we have so often heard them make firm statements in support of upholding. We have heard those statements in the United Nations, as we have heard those statements here in the Permanent Council. In official Russian Federation statements in these organizations over the past several years, we've heard Russia's Permanent Representatives and even its Foreign Minister remind us of the sanctity of the principle of territorial integrity in the Middle East, in Moldova, in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in Sri Lanka. This must also be true of Ukraine. These principles and

commitments are universal and cannot be selectively applied by the Russian Federation. We've heard the Russian Federation's Permanent Representative to the UN state that the work of UN Charter Chapter VIII regional organizations "shall make every effort to achieve pacific settlement of local disputes through regional arrangements," and that the work of these organizations "must harmoniously complement the principle of international law enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, including non-interference in internal affairs, the territorial integrity of States, the inadmissibility of the use or threat of use of force." We participating States are gathered here today to call on Russia to be true to its words, to uphold its commitments, and to cease its violations of the territorial integrity of Ukraine.

Following a discussion between President Obama and President Putin yesterday, President Obama called on Russia to de-escalate tensions by withdrawing its forces back to bases in Crimea and to refrain from any interference elsewhere in Ukraine. We echo that call here today.

Now just a moment ago we heard from the delegate of the Russian Federation a repeat of their concerns about the protection of Russian citizens, the treatment of minorities, and the security of Russian military installations and personnel in Crimea. An international monitoring mission is the right way to address these concerns.

Indeed, in their conversation, President Obama told President Putin that, if Russia has concerns about the treatment of ethnic Russian minority populations in Ukraine, the appropriate way to address them is peacefully through direct engagement with the government of Ukraine and through the dispatch of international observers.

I would like to thank my colleague from Canada for Canada's leadership and I look forward to working with her and others on what a monitoring mission can look like.

We call today for OSCE observers to be sent immediately to Ukraine. The U.S. will seek all possible means to support an OSCE observer mission, as should all participating States around this table. Those assembled here should make the decision today to move forward with plans and preparation for a monitoring mission immediately to: monitor and prevent conflict; ensure the protection of human rights of members of minorities; prevent border conflict; promote respect for territorial integrity; and to maintain peace, stability and security in the region.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Swiss Chair updates UN Secretary General on latest OSCE activities regarding Ukraine
BERN, SWITZERLAND, 2 March 2014

OSCE Chair and Swiss Foreign Minister Didier Burkhalter discussed the crisis regarding Crimea with UN Secretary General, Ban Ki Moon, and emphasized the importance of coordination between the UN and the OSCE.

Burkhalter, in a meeting with Ban at the margin of a conference, expressed his deep concern about the developments regarding Ukraine and warned against any further actions which could lead to a dramatic escalation of the situation.

"The unity, territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine within its existing and internationally recognized borders must be respected", Burkhalter said. "I urge all participating States to respect the principles enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act and to refrain from any unilateral action which could further aggravate the crisis."

He had a chance to inform the UN Secretary General on the OSCE Preparatory Committee Meeting on Ukraine which took place this afternoon in Vienna led by the Swiss OSCE Chairmanship, Burkhalter said. "I confirmed that first proposals on next steps and further activities put forward by OSCE participating States were presented, including possibilities for monitoring the situation in Ukraine." As a follow-up a Special Permanent Council was called for by Switzerland for Monday, March 3. Burkhalter and Ban benefited from the occasion to update each other on latest developments and agreed to keep each other informed and to coordinate, as events unfold.

OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities on urgent mission to Ukraine

3 March 2014

Astrid Thors, the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, arrived in Ukraine on Sunday, 2 March 2014, to assess first-hand the situation on the ground, especially regarding the Crimean peninsula.

Starting on Tuesday, she will participate in a high-level OSCE delegation, including Ambassador Tim Guldemann, the Special Envoy of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, as part of OSCE efforts to de-escalate the crisis.

Prior to departing, Thors said, "I am deeply concerned about the escalating risk of violent conflict on the Crimean peninsula. I again urge all actors to exercise restraint in their actions and to use all means available for de-escalation and the peaceful resolution of the present tensions."

HATO

North Atlantic Council statement on the situation in Ukraine

2 March 2014

The North Atlantic Council condemns the Russian Federation's military escalation in Crimea and expresses its grave concern regarding the authorisation by the Russian Parliament to use the armed forces of the Russian Federation on the territory of Ukraine.

Military action against Ukraine by forces of the Russian Federation is a breach of international law and contravenes the principles of the NATO-Russia Council and the Partnership for Peace. Russia must respect its obligations under the United Nations Charter and the spirit and principles of the OSCE, on which peace and stability in Europe rest. We call on Russia to de-escalate tensions.

We call upon the Russian Federation to honor its international commitments, including those set out in the Budapest Memorandum of 1994, the Treaty on Friendship and Cooperation between Russia and Ukraine of 1997, and the legal framework regulating the presence of the Russian Black Sea Fleet, to withdraw its forces to its bases, and to refrain from any interference elsewhere in Ukraine. We urge both parties to immediately seek a peaceful resolution through bilateral dialogue, with international facilitation, as appropriate, and through the dispatch of international observers under the auspices of the United Nations Security Council or the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

Ukraine is a valued partner for NATO and a founding member of the Partnership for Peace. NATO Allies will continue to support Ukrainian sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, and the right of the Ukrainian people to determine their own future, without outside interference. We emphasise the importance of an inclusive political process based on democratic values, respect for human rights, minorities and the rule of law, which fulfils the democratic aspirations of the entire Ukrainian people.

We met today, at Ukraine's request, to consult in the NATO-Ukraine Commission. We intend to engage with Russia in the NATO-Russia Council.

Preventing WMD proliferation: NATO's engagement with its global partners

Speech by NATO Deputy Secretary General Alexander Vershbow at the annual NATO conference on WMD arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation – Doha, Qatar

02 Mar. 2015

Mr. Minister,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to address this eleventh Annual NATO Conference on WMD Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-proliferation. Over the past decade, this conference has turned into a truly global forum for frank and open dialogue on non-proliferation and disarmament.

Our conference brings together all the key players and organizations that are involved in non-proliferation efforts. Because the format of our conference is both informal and intimate, we can have a frank and open discussion which is more difficult in other international meetings on this topic. And to have such an open discussion is all the more important this year when the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty is up for review

This year's conference also has another special dimension. It is the first to take place outside of Europe. And it takes place here in Qatar only a few months after a visit by the Secretary General and the North Atlantic Council, when we celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative.

This is a strong demonstration of the important role that NATO attributes to engaging with partner countries here in the Gulf region. And I would like to thank our hosts for their warm hospitality and for all the hard work that went into organizing our meeting.

We meet at a critical time for the security of all our nations: in Europe, the Middle East, and Asia.

In Europe, Russia's aggression against Ukraine has violated a rule that we thought was firmly established in Europe: that the sovereignty of independent nations is sacrosanct, and that borders must never be changed by force. Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea and its continuing destabilization of Eastern Ukraine have put the European security system – and all the rules and agreements that underpin it – under severe strain.

Russia's modus operandi in the Ukraine conflict is often described as "hybrid warfare": a mix of regular and irregular forces, support for separatists, cyber attacks, and propaganda. But the conflict also has a WMD dimension. Russia has stepped up its nuclear exercises and integrated a nuclear component into conventional exercises. Russian bombers have been flying closer to Allied borders. And the Russian leadership has been boasting about the development of new nuclear weapons. Perhaps this is mostly rhetoric, but it is highly irresponsible.

The same holds true for Russia's breach of the 1994 Budapest Memorandum. In this agreement, Russia had committed to uphold Ukraine's territorial integrity in exchange for Ukraine transferring former Soviet nuclear weapons back to Russia. Some Ukrainians are now wondering whether they should have kept the weapons they once inherited, rather than giving them away in exchange for a worthless promise. Other countries may wonder, too, and that's not good news for the future of our non-proliferation efforts.

As a result, we have no choice but to re-think our approach to Russia and its trustworthiness as an international partner. We do not want to see our past achievements in arms control, confidence-building and transparency evaporate. Russia should realize that, by violating its commitments, by avoiding transparency, and by making its neighbors feel insecure, it also diminishes its own security. But for the time being, there is no sign Russia yet realizes that.

Here in the Gulf and the Middle Eastern region, the security challenges may be different, but they are no less severe. We face an unresolved conflict in Syria, sectarian tensions and terrorism in Iraq, and a power struggle in Yemen. The so-called 'Islamic State' continues to spread fear and destruction across the region. It is reportedly interested in acquiring chemical weapons from old Iraqi sites. And it is inspiring people to commit terrorist acts in Europe.

And there is more. While diplomatic efforts have been pursued for more than ten years, Iran has not convinced the international community that its nuclear activities are entirely for civilian purposes. A verifiable agreement that meets the requirements of the international community could have enormous benefits for the security of the entire region. But until such an agreement is reached, insecurity and suspicion will linger.

A further area where some frustration has been expressed is the limited progress towards the

creation of a WMD-free zone in the Middle East. To establish a regime that takes account of everyone's security interests was always going to be very challenging. But we also know that some nations consider progress in this area to be an important element of the wider non-proliferation bargain. And that is why we are very lucky to have the Facilitator for the Helsinki Process, Undersecretary Jaakko Laajava, with us today to update us on his efforts.

Another important subject for our conference is the future of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. The NPT remains a cornerstone of the international non-proliferation regime. The next Review Conference is only two months away. The topic of a WMD-free zone in the Middle East is one of several contentious issues on the agenda, and reaching a satisfactory outcome won't be easy.

Yet it is critical that the Treaty be upheld, and that we do not allow it to be undermined by countries such as North Korea, which are pursuing WMD programs that are in clear violation of the provisions and the spirit of the Treaty.

Several countries – inside and outside the Treaty – continue to increase their nuclear arsenals and to develop new types of weapons. This only increases the frustration of other countries about the slow progress of further disarmament efforts.

We can already see some of this frustration turning into policy initiatives: for example, the discussions outside the NPT framework on “outlawing” nuclear weapons due to their humanitarian impact. I do not doubt the moral foundation of such efforts. But one thing is clear: they should not distract from the key objectives of the Treaty. We need to take great care to maintain the integrity of the NPT and its entire web of obligations.

So we see worrying developments in several areas. But do they mean that we are helpless? Do they mean that WMD proliferation is something that will proceed largely beyond our control?

I don't think so. We have the means to do something about it. Indeed, if we look back at the history of international non-proliferation efforts, we can see many positive achievements. We have seen considerable unity of purpose across the international community. And many states have given up their ambitions to acquire weapons of mass destruction and dismantled their programs.

Indeed, it was only very recently that the international community scored a huge non-proliferation success. First, Syria joined the Chemical Weapons Convention, then the declared chemical weapons were removed from Syria, and then its production and storage facilities were destroyed.

This has greatly reduced a serious WMD risk for the region. I am proud to say that NATO Allies played an important role in this endeavor. And I hope it will serve as an incentive for other countries in the region to ratify the CWC and other WMD treaties.

To be clear: doubts on the completeness of Syria's declarations remain. There are also still worries about the use of other toxic chemicals, such as Chlorine, by the Syrian Regime. And sooner rather than later the international community must also address the challenge posed by other chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) material from past WMD programs that still remains in Syria and Iraq. But the case of Syrian chemical weapons shows that it is possible to meet the non-proliferation challenge.

I firmly believe that further success will require two things: first, all countries, and all international institutions, must play their part. And second, we need an open and frank debate on what the challenges are and how we can address them.

At NATO, we are consistently trying to use the structures and mechanisms of our Alliance to strengthen the non-proliferation regime.

Our cooperation with partner countries reflects this very clearly. When it comes to capacity building to defend against WMD, CBRN and terrorist threats, NATO is engaged with many countries, including here in the region, through training courses, exercises, and scientific cooperation.

In Kuwait, for example, we are organizing a ‘CBRN first responders’ course. In Egypt, NATO's Science for Peace and Security Programme is financing a large de-mining project that will help

save many lives. And for many years, officials and experts from the region have participated in numerous workshops and training courses run by NATO institutions, such as our NATO School in Oberammergau and our CBRN Centre of Excellence in the Czech Republic.

These steps contribute to enhancing our collective expertise on dealing with the proliferation challenges of the 21st century. And above all, they help to create a true community of people who are ready to deal with common challenges together.

Which brings me to our second task: to continue to engage in a frank and open debate. This is what our conference today is all about. We have invited many distinguished speakers. But there will also be ample time for discussion, both here in this room and in the margins of our programme. And that is a very deliberate decision.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Almost seventy years have passed since the end of World War II. There will be big commemorations in Europe in the spring and in the Pacific region later this year. These events should remind us of the disastrous consequences of inhuman ideologies coupled with military expansionism and advanced weaponry.

But the end of World War II also marked a new beginning, with the creation of a range of multinational institutions – from the United Nations to NATO, and from the International Atomic Energy Agency to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. All these institutions were based on the realization that the search for national security requires more than just national efforts. And they have all proven their effectiveness many times over the past few decades.

It is this fundamental truth that brings us here today. The goal of our conference is not to arrive at unanimous positions, but at a better understanding of each other's views. The famous physicist Werner Heisenberg once said that knowledge emerges through dialogue. So let us heed Heisenberg's advice. I wish us all a very successful conference.

Thank you

Press statement by NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg at the joint press point with the President of France François Hollande at the Élysée in Paris

02 Mar. 2015

Thank you so much Mr. President Hollande, for the warm welcome. And thank you also for your kind words.

I remember very well last time I was in Paris because that was during the Unity Rally after the terrorist attacks in Paris.

And I would like to commend you and the people of France for the way you handled that very serious attack on your open society, on the freedom of speech. And that you acted as one, you stood together in protecting our open and free societies, and the values which are so important for all of us.

These are the same fundamental values that NATO protects.

And France is a strong Ally at the heart of a strong NATO.

I very much welcome the contribution of France, both to our collective defence and to our political cooperation within the NATO Alliance.

Today, we discussed, as you said, both the challenges that we are facing to the east of the Alliance and to the south.

I support your tireless efforts, Mr President, together with Germany, to try to find a political solution to the crisis in Ukraine. This crisis is caused by Russia's aggressive actions, violating international law.

Now, I welcome the ceasefire. The ceasefire is fragile, but it seems like it's holding. And it is important to build on this ceasefire to create a lasting, peaceful, political solution to the crisis in

Ukraine.

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 a new offensive.

All heavy weapons must be withdrawn in accordance with the Minsk agreement.

And OSCE monitors should be allowed full access to be able to monitor the ceasefire, the withdrawal of heavy weapons and the implementation of the Minsk agreement.

We strongly condemn the murder of Boris Nemtsov in Moscow a few days ago. He was a strong voice for democracy. And we call on an impartial investigation into this terrible crime.

So we face a changed security environment in Europe. In response, NATO is implementing the biggest reinforcement of our collective defence since the end of the Cold War.

And France is playing a key role, and a leading role.

France is contributing to assurance measures in the Eastern part of the Alliance. And France is playing a lead role in implementing the Readiness Action Plan, which increased the readiness and the preparedness of NATO forces.

We are developing our response force, the NATO response force. And we are doubling the size of the NATO response force from 13,000 to 30,000. And we are also making it more ready and more prepared. And France is playing a key role, also by taking the lead of one of the brigades, which is going to be the Very High Readiness Spearhead Force.

This is solidarity within the NATO Alliance in practice. This is following up on the core idea of NATO, where we are protecting each other.

And I'm very grateful for the strong contribution by France to our collective defence and to the Alliance.

To the south, violent extremism poses a direct threat to the security of all NATO countries. France is also playing a major and key role in fighting terrorism, in the coalition against ISIL, as well as in Sahel and the Central African Republic.

These are significant contributions by France to our shared security.

During our meeting today we also discussed the importance of strengthening the unique partnership between NATO and the European Union.

And we agreed on the need to reinforce Europe's defence industrial base. This is important for both our security and for employment in Europe.

So Mr. President, I thank you for your personal commitment to NATO, to the Alliance.

And I am looking forward to continuing working with you. And I thank you for receiving me and my delegation here today.