
УКРАЇНА VS РОСІЙСЬКА ФЕДЕРАЦІЯ

РФ

Президент РФ

Телефонный разговор с Президентом Казахстана Нурсултаном Назарбаевым

По инициативе казахстанской стороны состоялся телефонный разговор Владимира Путина с Президентом Республики Казахстан Нурсултаном Назарбаевым.

16 марта 2014 года, 18:30

В.Путин и Н.Назарбаев продолжили обмен мнениями в связи с острым кризисом на Украине. Особое внимание уделено проходящему сегодня в Крыму референдуму. Отмечен высокий уровень его организации, выражено удовлетворение тем, что населению полуострова обеспечена возможность для свободного волеизъявления по принципиально важному для крымчан вопросу.

Телефонный разговор с Федеральным канцлером Германии Ангелой Меркель

По инициативе германской стороны состоялся телефонный разговор Владимира Путина с Федеральным канцлером ФРГ Ангелой Меркель.

16 марта 2014 года, 17:05

Лидеры двух стран обсудили кризисную ситуацию на Украине, а также проходящий сегодня референдум в Крыму. В.Путин обратил внимание на то, что волеизъявление населения полуострова реализуется в полном соответствии с нормами международного права, в частности со статьёй 1 Устава ООН, закрепляющей принцип равноправия и самоопределения народов. Подчеркнуто, что Россия будет уважать выбор жителей Крыма. Президент России вновь выразил обеспокоенность нагнетанием в восточных и юго-восточных регионах Украины напряжённости со стороны радикальных группировок при попустительстве киевских властей.

Состоялся конструктивный обмен мнениями по вопросу возможного направления на Украину масштабной миссии ОБСЕ для мониторинга ситуации.

В.Путин и А.Меркель договорились продолжить обсуждение этих вопросов в ходе дальнейших контактов, в том числе между главами внешнеполитических ведомств С.Лавровым и Ф.-В.Штайнмайером.

Канцлер ФРГ поздравила Президента России с успешным проведением Паралимпийских игр в Сочи.

МЗС РФ

З заявою Постійного представника РФ при ООН на засіданні РБ ООН від 15 березня 2014 року можна ознайомитися у розділі РБ ООН.

Комментарий Департамента информации и печати МИД России в связи с голосованием в Совете Безопасности ООН по проекту резолюции о ситуации на Украине

565-15-03-2014

15 марта в Совете Безопасности ООН состоялось голосование по представленному США проекту резолюции о ситуации на Украине.

Сама по себе эта инициатива изначально не имела под собой никаких оснований: события

на Украине не представляют угрозы международному миру и безопасности, чем по Уставу ООН занимается ее Совет Безопасности. Шаг американской стороны можно объяснить лишь непреодолимым желанием в угоду собственным геополитическим интересам максимально политизировать и без того непростую ситуацию, продолжить нагнетание в международном масштабе истерии вокруг Украины.

К сожалению, вовсе не о стабильности этой страны, безопасности и процветании её жителей пекутся в Вашингтоне. Там по-прежнему оперируют, казалось бы, уже забытыми категориями времен «холодной войны», пытаясь навязать свое видение политического устройства Украины.

В проекте ничего не говорится о ключевых составляющих внутривнутриполитического кризиса на Украине: в первую очередь, о захвате власти в Киеве силовым путём и нарушении достигнутого при посредничестве Германии, Польши и Франции соглашения о стабилизации в стране. Нет в нем и никакой оценки масштабной активизации противоправных действий националистических и экстремистских вооружённых группировок, отмены закреплённых в украинском законодательстве гарантий для национальных и языковых меньшинств и других посягательств на основополагающие права и свободы граждан со стороны тех, кто захватил власть в Киеве и намерен заставить жить по своим "понятиям" всё население дружественного нам государства.

Акцент в документе был сделан на якобы незаконности предстоящего в Крыму референдума, создать лживый информационный фон вокруг которого, очевидно, и было одной из главных задач авторов.

При этом отрицалось право крымского населения на свободное волеизъявление, указывалось на «нелегитимность» референдума, содержался призыв ко всем государствам не признавать его результатов.

Мы неоднократно напоминали нашим западным партнёрам, в первую очередь США, о контрпродуктивности подобных непродуманных действий. Как показала американская инициатива в СБ ООН, наши призывы внять голосу разума услышать не захотели. В этой связи российская делегация в Совете Безопасности ООН проголосовала против проекта резолюции, который принят не был.

Рассчитываем, что те государства-члены ООН, которые до сих пор демонстрировали предвзятый и конфронтационный настрой в связи с ситуацией вокруг Украины, в том числе в ходе обсуждения данного вопроса в СБ ООН, найдут в себе силы встать на путь конструктивного сотрудничества в интересах долгосрочного урегулирования ситуации, обеспечения всего комплекса прав граждан Украины, включая население восточных и юго-восточных областей страны. Считаем, что отправной точкой в данном случае должна быть общая заинтересованность международного сообщества в мире и стабильности на Украине.

Заявление МИД России по событиям на Украине

564-15-03-2014

На Украине продолжают бесчинствовать боевики, в том числе из «Правого сектора».

14 марта в Харькове ими была устроена провокация в отношении мирных демонстрантов, которые пришли высказать свое отношение к так называемой новой власти. В результате открытой боевиками стрельбы два человека погибли, имеются раненые.

Поступает тревожная информация о том, что из Харькова в Донецк и Луганск выехала колонна с вооруженными наемниками «Правого сектора», лидеры которого объявили об открытии «восточного фронта», а на одной из швейных фабрик в срочном порядке шьют российскую военную форму.

На опасность решений Верховной Рады о легитимизации «Правого сектора» и других радикалов путём превращения их в системные силовые структуры типа Национальной гвардии обращал внимание Госсекретаря США Дж. Керри Министр иностранных дел

23 РОЗДІЛ. 15-16 БЕРЕЗНЯ 2014 РОКУ, СУБОТА-НЕДІЛЯ

России С.В.Лавров в ходе их встречи в Лондоне 14 марта с.г. При этом С.В.Лавров настоятельно призвал Дж.Керри использовать влияние Вашингтона на Киев для пресечения разгула ультра-националистов.

К России поступает множество обращений с просьбой защитить мирных граждан. Эти обращения будут рассмотрены.

СООБЩЕНИЕ ДЛЯ СМИ

О телефонном разговоре Министра иностранных дел России С.В.Лаврова с Министром иностранных дел ФРГ Ф.-В.Штайнмайером

569-16-03-2014

В ходе телефонного разговора, состоявшегося 16 марта по инициативе германской стороны, главы внешнеполитических ведомств России и ФРГ С.В.Лавров и Ф.-В.Штайнмайер обсудили развитие ситуации на Украине, в том числе в контексте проведения референдума о судьбе Крыма.

Состоялся обмен мнениями о путях нормализации положения на Украине и возможности содействия этому процессу со стороны международных форматов, включая ОБСЕ.

СООБЩЕНИЕ ДЛЯ СМИ

О телефонном разговоре Министра иностранных дел России С.В.Лаврова с Госсекретарем США Дж.Керри

567-16-03-2014

16 марта по американской инициативе состоялся телефонный разговор Министра иностранных дел Российской Федерации С.В.Лаврова и Государственного секретаря США Дж.Керри.

Министры обменялись мнениями о развитии кризисной ситуации на Украине. С российской стороны было подчеркнуто, что участвовавшие в последнее время провокационные акции ультранационалистических и радикальных сил в юго-восточных регионах, которые уже привели к жертвам среди мирного населения, серьезно дестабилизируют обстановку. С.В.Лавров призвал использовать влияние США на нынешние киевские власти, чтобы побудить их к принятию действенных мер по прекращению массового беззакония и произвола в отношении русскоязычного населения, наших соотечественников, всех украинских граждан, подвергающихся преследованиям за инакомыслие.

Дж.Керри заверил, что Вашингтон уже проводит необходимую работу и рассчитывает на то, что она скоро даст положительный результат.

С российской стороны была подтверждена принципиальная позиция в отношении проводимого в Крыму референдума.

С.В.Лавров и Дж.Керри договорились продолжить рабочие контакты по поиску путей урегулирования на Украине через скорейший запуск конституционной реформы при поддержке со стороны международного сообщества в общеприемлемой форме и при уважении интересов всех регионов Украины.

СООБЩЕНИЕ ДЛЯ СМИ

О телефонном разговоре Министра иностранных дел России С.В.Лаврова с Госсекретарем США Дж.Керри

566-16-03-2014

15 марта по американской инициативе состоялся телефонный разговор Министра иностранных дел Российской Федерации С.В.Лаврова и Государственного секретаря США Дж.Керри.

Главы внешнеполитических ведомств продолжили обсуждение ситуации на Украине и в Крыму. В развитие дискуссии, состоявшейся накануне в Лондоне, С.В.Лавров вновь подчеркнул, что предстоящий крымский референдум полностью соответствует международному праву и Уставу ООН, а его результаты должны стать отправной точкой в определении будущего полуострова. Министр обратил также внимание на необходимость того, чтобы нынешние киевские власти обуздали разгул ультранационалистических и радикальных группировок, терроризирующих инакомыслящих, русскоязычное население, наших соотечественников.

С.В.Лавров и Дж.Керри условились о поддержании дальнейших рабочих контактов по украинской проблематике.

УКРАЇНА

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

У СУБОТУ, 15 БЕРЕЗНЯ 2014 РОКУ, ВІДБУЛОСЯ ПЛЕНАРНЕ ЗАСІДАННЯ ВЕРХОВНОЇ РАДИ УКРАЇНИ СЬОМОГО СКЛИКАННЯ.

<...>

О.Турчинов нагадав про прийняту постанову щодо ситуації в Автономній Республіці Крим. "Ми звернулися до парламенту АР Крим з вимогою скасувати своє незаконне рішення. У випадку відмови від цього у нашій постанові було сказано, що Верховна Рада буде приймати рішення щодо припинення діяльності парламенту Криму і його розпуск. Пройшов час, який Верховна Рада надала сепаратистам", – зазначив він і повідомив, що жодних рішень щодо повернення в конституційну площину не прийнято.

О.Турчинов нагадав, що учора Конституційний Суд прийняв рішення:

"Перше. Визнати такою, що не відповідає Конституції України і є неконституційною Постанову Верховної Ради АР Крим про проведення загальнокримського референдуму від 6 березня 2014 року.

Друге. Постанова Верховної Ради АР Крим про проведення загальнокримського референдуму визнана неконституційною і втрачає чинність з дня ухвалення Конституційним Судом цього рішення.

Третє. Припинити діяльність комісії АР Крим з проведення загальнокримського референдуму, територіальних та дільничих комісій, створених для проведення цього референдуму.

Четверте. Раді Міністрів Автономної Республіки Крим припинити фінансування заходів щодо проведення референдуму, забезпечити знищення бюлетенів, агітаційних матеріалів.

П'яте. Рішення Конституційного Суду України є обов'язковим до виконання на території України, остаточним і не може бути оскаржене".

О.Турчинов зазначив, що відповідно до Конституції України, відповідно до чинного законодавства у випадку визнання Конституційним Судом неконституційності діяльності парламенту Криму Верховна Рада може прийняти рішення про дострокове припинення його повноважень.

Народні депутати 271 голосом включили проект постанови до порядку денного засідання.

О.Турчинов зачитав проект постанови: "відповідно до пункту 28 частини першої статті 85 Конституції України, абзацу п'ятого частини першої статті 22 Конституції Автономної Республіки Крим, частини шостої статті 4 Закону України "Про Верховну Раду України Автономної Республіки Крим", враховуючи висновок Конституційного Суду України у Рішенні № 2-рп/2014 від 14 березня 2014 року у справі про проведення місцевого референдуму в Автономній Республіці Крим щодо порушення Верховною Радою Автономної Республіки Крим Конституції України.

Верховна Рада України постановляє:

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1. Достроково припинити повноваження Верховної Ради Автономної Республіки Крим.
 2. Ця постанова набуває чинності з дня її опублікування".
- В обговоренні взяли участь представники депутатських фракцій.
Верховна Рада 278 голосами прийняла постанову в цілому з урахуванням висловлених пропозицій.
Народний депутат В.Ар'єв повідомив, що зараз у Москві відбувається багатотисячний Марш на підтримку України.
Народні депутати оплесками подякували москвичам за підтримку.

В.о. Президента України, Голова Верховної Ради України Олександр Турчинов 15 березня 2014 року звернувся до громадян України, що проживають в Автономній Республіці Крим, із закликом не брати участь у так званому референдумі, який маріонеткова псевдовлада Криму під контролем російських військових планує провести у неділю.

Про це йдеться в заяві О.Турчинова.

"Цей референдум порушує Конституцію України та Конституцію Автономної Республіки Крим та є фальшивим від початку до кінця, і його підсумки не відобразать реальних настроїв населення Автономії. Треба розуміти, що його результати заздалегідь намальовані у Кремлі, якому потрібна хоч якась підстава, щоб офіційно ввести війська на наші землі і розпочати війну, яка зруйнує людські долі і економічні перспективи Криму", – наголосив О.Турчинов.

"Хочу окремо підкреслити, що завтрашній псевдореферендум не має жодної правової легітимності. Він визнаний протиправним Верховною Радою України, Конституційним Судом України, а також найавторитетнішою міжнародною правовою інституцією – Венеціанською комісією", – зазначив в.о. Президента.

"Тому єдино правильним рішенням з боку кримчан буде ігнорувати цю провокацію Кремля. Я звертаюсь до кожного мешканця Криму із закликом відповідально поставитись до свого майбутнього та не розмінюватись на фальшиві обіцянки, які призведуть регіон до соціально-економічної катастрофи", – йдеться в заяві.

(Прес-служба Апарату Верховної Ради України)

КМ України

Прем'єр-міністр України Арсеній Яценюк зустрівся з делегацією Сенату США
15.03.2014 | 16:50 ДЕПАРТАМЕНТ ІНФОРМАЦІЇ ТА КОМУНІКАЦІЙ З
ГРОМАДСЬКІСТЮ СЕКРЕТАРІАТУ КМУ

У суботу, 15 березня, Прем'єр-міністр України Арсеній Яценюк зустрівся з делегацією Сенату Сполучених Штатів Америки на чолі з Сенатором США Джоном Маккейном. Сторони обговорили питання врегулювання кризи у Криму і можливого реагування на реакцію Росії після референдуму на Півострові.

Арсеній Яценюк та делегація Сенату США обмінялися думками щодо можливих форм співпраці України та Сполучених Штатів.

Американська сторона високо оцінила візит Арсенія Яценюка до США та підтримку Уряду України за позицію в мирному протистоянні проти російської агресії, висловлену Адміністрацією Білого дому та Конгресом США.

У зустрічі також взяли участь сенатори Річард Дурбін, Джон Баррассо, Джон Хоевен, Крістофер Мерфі, Джефф Флейк, Шелдон Уайтхауз.

Арсеній Яценюк: Уряд звернувся до ОБСЄ щодо термінового направлення до України моніторингової місії

16.03.2014 | 15:32 ДЕПАРТАМЕНТ ІНФОРМАЦІЇ ТА КОМУНІКАЦІЙ З ГРОМАДСЬКІСТЮ СЕКРЕТАРІАТУ КМУ

Уряд звернувся до Організації з безпеки і співробітництва в Європі щодо термінового направлення до України моніторингової місії. Про це повідомив Прем'єр-міністр України Арсеній Яценюк в неділю, 16 березня, під час засідання Кабінету міністрів.

За словами Глави Уряду, представникові України про ОБСЄ «дана чітка вказівка проголосувати за мандат щодо міжнародних спостерігачів від ОБСЄ і щоб такий мандат розповсюджувався на східну й південну Україну, в тому числі Крим».

«Сподіваюсь, зараз на позачерговому засіданні ОБСЄ це рішення буде прийнято», – додав Арсеній Яценюк.

Він також підкреслив, що зараз на території Автономної Республіки Крим «під режисурою Російської Федерації проходить циркове видовище – так званий референдум» «До режисури також задіяна 21 тисяча військовослужбовців, які під автоматними дулами переконують про доцільність проведення так званого референдуму».

Глава Уряду нагадав, що на Раді Безпеки ООН в Нью-Йорку «була чітко сформульована позиція: фактично всі члени Ради Безпеки ООН підтримали територіальну цілісність і суверенітет України: «Єдина країна, яка проголосували проти цієї резолюції – це Російська Федерація. Всі інші країни підтримали територіальну цілісність».

«Мова йде про те, що Росія сьогодні залишилась в повній ізоляції. Весь світ демонстративно засуджує Росію за військову агресію без будь-яких причин проти української держави», – наголосив Арсеній Яценюк.

А.Яценюк доручив підготувати правову позицію щодо захисту інтересів України при розподілі коштів і майна колишнього СРСР

16.03.2014 | 16:03 ДЕПАРТАМЕНТ ІНФОРМАЦІЇ ТА КОМУНІКАЦІЙ З ГРОМАДСЬКІСТЮ СЕКРЕТАРІАТУ КМУ

Прем'єр-міністр України Арсеній Яценюк доручив Кабінету міністрів підготувати правову позицію щодо захисту національних інтересів України при розподілі коштів і майна колишнього СРСР.

Арсеній Яценюк підняв це питання під час засідання Уряду в неділю, 16 березня.

Він нагадав, що Україна фактично не завершила розподіл майна в рамках Радянського союзу: «Україна має легітимні і законні претензії по відношенню до Російської Федерації на те майно, яке Росія незаконно залишила за собою».

«Прошу невідкладно вжити заходів для підготовки правової позиції щодо захисту національних інтересів України при розподілі коштів і майна колишнього Радянського союзу», – наголосив Арсеній Яценюк.

Нагадаємо, Верховна Рада ніколи не давала згоди на так званий нульовий варіант із Росією (йдеться про Угоду між Україною і Російською Федерацією про врегулювання питань правонаступництва щодо зовнішнього державного боргу та активів колишнього СРСР).

У Міноборони не виключають спроб Росії повторити "кримський сценарій" на сході та півдні

16.03.2014 | 17:14 ДЕПАРТАМЕНТ ІНФОРМАЦІЇ ТА КОМУНІКАЦІЙ З ГРОМАДСЬКІСТЮ СЕКРЕТАРІАТУ КМУ

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Міноборони не виключає можливість створення оперативно-тактичних угруповань російських військ на кордоні з Україною для повторення «кримського сценарію» у східних та південних регіонах.

Про це заявив в.о. Міністра оборони Ігор Тенюх під час засідання Уряду в неділю.

«На північному, північно-східному та південному напрямках поблизу кордонів з Україною не виключається створення оперативно-тактичних угруповань російських військ та тривають провокації Росії у східних та південних регіонах України з метою створення умов для повторення «кримського сценарію» на зазначених територіях», – сказав Тенюх.

Водночас він наголосив, що наступальні угруповання російських військ на сьогодні не створені. «Загальна чисельність угруповань військ РФ на цих напрямках може становити понад 60 тис. осіб», – додав в.о. Міністра.

Росія нарощує війська в Криму для легітимізації "референдуму" та приєднання Автономії, – І.Тенюх

16.03.2014 | 17:28 ДЕПАРТАМЕНТ ІНФОРМАЦІЇ ТА КОМУНІКАЦІЙ З ГРОМАДСЬКІСТЮ СЕКРЕТАРІАТУ КМУ

Російська Федерація продовжує збільшувати чисельність своїх військ в АР Крим з метою створення сприятливих умов для легітимізації псевдореферендуму та приєднання Автономії. Про це заявив в. о. Міністра оборони Ігор Тенюх під час засідання Уряду 16 березня.

«Російська Федерація на території Автономної Республіки Крим продовжує нарощувати угруповання своїх військ з метою створення сприятливих умов для легітимізації так званого «референдуму» в Автономії та приєднання її до Росії», – заявив він.

Очільник оборонного відомства зазначив, що загальна численність угруповання сил РФ на території АР Крим на сьогодні вже становить близько 21,5 тис. осіб.

Ігор Тенюх: Досягнуто домовленостей щодо припинення блокування військових частин ЗСУ в Криму

16.03.2014 | 19:14 Прес-служба Міністерства оборони

«На сьогодні досягнуто домовленостей щодо припинення блокування військових частин Збройних Сил України в Криму та недопущення будь-яких провокацій до 21 березня». Про це сьогодні, 16 березня, повідомив виконуючий обов'язки Міністра оборони України Ігор Тенюх перед початком засідання Кабінету Міністрів України у Києві.

«До 21 березня російські війська не будуть здійснювати жодних заходів щодо військових частин Збройних Сил України, дислокованих на території Автономної Республіки Крим», – зазначив Ігор Тенюх.

За його словами, відповідну угоду було укладено між командуванням Військово-Морських Сил Збройних Сил України, представниками керівництва Міністерства оборони Російської Федерації та командування Чорноморського флоту.

Керівник оборонного відомства підкреслив, що особовий склад військових частин Збройних Сил України в Криму готовий виконувати завдання керівництва Міністерства оборони та Генерального штабу ЗС України.

«Подальші рішення залежатимуть від того, як розвиватиметься ситуація», – наголосив виконуючий обов'язки Міністра оборони України Ігор Тенюх.

Ситуація у Криму станом на 16.03.2014

(ПП України при ЄС)

16 березня 2014, 18:06

The Crimea, an integral part of Ukraine, is being occupied by foreign troops.

On March 16, 2014, the developments were characterized by the following:

Attempt of separatist forces to conduct an operation, aimed at causing violence on the streets of eastern Ukraine and creating justification for Russia's encroachment in these regions

- In Lugansk, Kherson, Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhia and Kharkiv pro-Russian forces have held small rallies, with number of participants not exceeding 1-2 thousands
- In Kherson, similar rally has failed, as Ukraine law enforcement forces have intercepted a column of 13 cars with Russian nationals who were heading there with the aim of organizing it
- In Dnipropetrovsk, Ukrainian police has intercepted and detained a suspicious car with arsenal of weapons and Russian symbolics in its trunk
- In Zaporizhia, Security Service of Ukraine have detained a group of heavily armed Russian nationals who planned on causing provocations in eastern Ukraine
- In Donetsk, extremist forces, consisting mostly of Russian nationals, have seized the buildings of Security Service and Prosecutor's Office
- In Kharkiv, pro-Russian radicals have attacked the office of "Prosvita" organization

Illegal "referendum" in Crimea, unlawful activities of separatist forces and "puppet government", intimidation and crimes against local population of the peninsula

- Mass falsification of the results and turnout numbers of the "referendum"
- Arrival of neostalinists, ultranationalists and Holocaust-deniers to Crimea as observers of the "referendum"
- Numerous instances of Russian nationals voting during "referendum"
- In Alushta, journalists of "Al-Jazeera" network have been forced out of polling station and physically harassed
- In different Crimean cities, three Greek-Catholics priests have disappeared and their whereabouts are unknown
- In Simferopol, so-called "self-defense" forces have seized and robbed the base of fuel and lubricant preservation
- Near Simferopol, so-called "self-defense" forces have attacked "Red Cross" medics and robbed them
- In Bilogorsk, a dead body of Crimean Tatar national was found

Extension of Russia's military presence on the peninsula, increase in number of Russian troops on eastern and northern border of Ukraine

- In Crimea, the number of Russian troops exceeds 21,000, whereas on the borders with Ukraine there are at least 60,000
- In Sevastopol, Russian armed forces have blocked Ukraine's military hospital
- At least 54 armored personnel carriers are engaged in Russia's military exercises on the territory of Crimea
- In Feodosia, Russian military have surrounded a division of Ukraine's Armed Forces with mines

З заявою Постійного представника України при ООН на засіданні РБ ООН від 15 березня 2014 року можна ознайомитися у розділі РБ ООН.

В.о. Міністра закордонних справ України Андрій Дешиця провів прес-конференцію в кризовому медіа-центрі у готелі «Україна»

15 березня 2014, 15:57

«Міністерство закордонних справ Росії не повинно втручатися у внутрішні справи нашої держави», – наголосив керівник зовнішньополітичного відомства України, виступаючи перед вітчизняними та іноземними ЗМІ під час брифінгу.

Міністр поінформував про основні підсумки візиту Прем'єр-міністра України А.Яценюка до США, участь Глави Уряду у засіданні Ради Безпеки ООН та про консолідовану підтримку міжнародним співтовариством територіальної цілісності і суверенітету України. «14 з 15 країн-членів Ради Безпеки ООН готові прийняти резолюцію щодо України», – зазначив А.Дешиця.

Міністр також повідомив, що підписання політичної частини Угоди про асоціацію між Україною та ЄС може відбутися вже 21 березня, високо оцінив рішення ЄС скасувати в односторонньому порядку торговельні бар'єри щодо товарів з України.

Глава МЗС України підтвердив незмінну позицію нашої держави та міжнародного співтовариства щодо незаконності «референдуму» в Автономній Республіці Крим. Говорячи про необхідність мирного врегулювання ситуації на півострові, А.Дешиця закликав РФ припинити ескалацію напруги та відвести російські війська, які незаконно вторглися на територію України.

Міністр вкотре наголосив, що керівництво Української держави відкрите для рівноправного та повноцінного діалогу з РФ.

Інформація про брифінг міститься за посиланням: <http://uacrisis.org/andrejj-deshhica/>

Andrii Deshchytsia: Withdrawal From CIS Is not on the Agenda

Kyiv, 15 March 2014

“Russian Foreign Ministry should not interfere with our country’s affairs. We thoroughly studied Russia’s behavior back at the time of the Georgian conflict. Russia needs to be a bit more creative, we will not rise to the provocation”, said Ukraine’s Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs Andrii Deshchytsia during a briefing at the Ukraine Crisis Media Center.

“Following the visit of Prime Minister Yatseniuk, we can say we feel the support of the US President, Senate, Congress and even ordinary citizens. 14 out of 15 UN Security Council member countries are ready to pass a UN resolution on Ukraine”, said Mr. Deshchytsia. Negotiations are ongoing with the USA regarding financial assistance.

“We are planning to sign the political part of the EU Association Agreement as early as on March 21”, said acting Foreign Minister. According to him, negotiations are currently underway about creating a free trade area with the EU, and already at this stage the EU is ready to lift trade barriers for Ukrainian goods. Deshchytsia said that he will have a meeting with the NATO secretary on Monday to discuss the date of his arrival to Ukraine.

Mr. Deshchytsia also expressed Foreign Ministry’s official standpoint on the referendum in Crimea: “We do not recognize the referendum in Crimea. More and more countries are arriving at the conclusion that Russia will be held liable if it recognizes this referendum.”

“We want to invite as many military observers as possible to Crimea and to the southeastern regions of Ukraine”, he said, “We are ready for a dialog with the legitimate government of Crimea, but only at a table, not at gunpoint.”

Mr. Deshchytsia said Ukraine is open to a full-fledged dialog with Russia, but any attempts to establish contact with the Russian government have failed so far.

This year Ukraine will chair the CIS. “Withdrawal from the CIS is not on the agenda”, assured Mr. Deshchytsia, “However, certain countries, including Russia, are now trying to sabotage the agreements about holding an economic meeting in Kyiv. A question arises as to how effective

Ukraine's chairmanship will be in the CIS", said acting Foreign Minister.

Andriy Deshchytsia is a Ukrainian diplomat, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ukraine, Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine since 27 February, 2014, Special Representative of OSCE Chairperson-in-Office for Conflict Resolution since 2012.

Заява МЗС України у зв'язку з висадкою 15 березня десанту Збройних сил РФ в Херсонській області

15 березня 2014, 17:31

Міністерство закордонних справ України висловлює рішучий та категоричний протест у зв'язку з висадкою 15 березня 2014 року в районі селища Стрількове Херсонської області десанту військовослужбовців збройних сил Російської Федерації у кількості 80 осіб та захопленням ними селища Стрількове за підтримки 4 бойових вертольотів та 3 бойових бронемашин.

МЗС України заявляє про військове вторгнення Росії і вимагає від російської сторони негайного виведення її збройних сил з території України.

Україна залишає за собою право застосувати всі необхідні заходи для припинення військового вторгнення з боку Росії.

Коментар МЗС України щодо накладення Росією вето на проект резолюції РБ ООН щодо України

15 березня 2014, 19:26

МЗС України висловлює жаль з приводу накладення сьогодні делегацією Росії в Раді Безпеки ООН вето на проект резолюції щодо ситуації в Україні. Ставши єдиною країною, яка виступила проти рішення, спрямованого на деескалацію ситуації в Україні, Росія поставила себе в ізоляцію не лише в Раді Безпеки ООН, але й світі загалом.

Безпрецедентно широке для резолюцій РБ ООН коло співавторів проекту (42) з різних регіонів світу, серед яких США та всі країн-члени ЄС, а також лише 1 голос проти – стали перемогою здорового глузду над мовою сили та підтвердили широку підтримку України перед обличчям збройної агресії з боку Росії.

Викликає обурення, що, будучи одним з постійних членів РБ ООН, яким всі держави-члени Організації ввірили першочергову відповідальність за підтримання міжнародного миру та безпеки, Росія фактично висловила неповагу до основоположних принципів та цілей Статуту ООН. Адже проект резолюції базувався на неприпустимості погрози або застосування сили проти територіальної цілісності та політичної незалежності будь-якої держави, принципі мирного вирішення конфліктів (стаття 2 Статуту ООН), невизнанні законним отримання території як результат погрози або застосування сили та ін.

Іншими словами, «Росія наклала вето на Статут ООН», як слушно висловився Постійний представник Франції при ООН.

Досі жодним відповідальним членом ООН, тим паче постійним членом РБ ООН, не ставилися під сумнів також такі основоположні для сучасної міжнародної та європейської архітектури безпеки документи, як Хельсінкський заключний акт Конференції з безпеки та співробітництва в Європі 1975 року та Будапештський меморандум 1994 року. А відданість Раді Безпеки ООН суверенітету, незалежності, єдності та територіальної цілісності України в межах міжнародно-визнаних кордонів була підтверджена Радою Безпеки ООН, у тому числі самою Росією, в заяві Голови від 20 липня 1993 року (S/26118).

Положення про нелегітимність так званого референдуму в Автономній Республіці Крим, запланованого на 16 березня 2014 року, та те, що його результати не можуть стати

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підставою для будь-яких змін у статусі Автономної Республіки Крим, є також загальновизнаним, оскільки такий крок суперечить не лише Конституції України, але й міжнародному праву.

Все це підтверджує, що сьогоденне російське керівництво взяло на себе особисту відповідальність за підрив основоположних принципів міжнародного права та перетворило Росію на уособлення загрози міжнародному миру та безпеці у 21 сторіччі.

Володимир Хандогій: Іноземна окупація Криму робить волевиявлення його населення недійсним

(Посольство України у Великобританії)

15 березня 2014, 22:58

Україна не визнає так званий “референдум”, який має відбутися в Криму 16 березня. Про це заявив Посол України у Великій Британії Володимир Хандогій в ефірі телеканалу BBC News.

“Голосування, що відбувається у присутності іноземних військ, не може мати серйозні наслідки. Іноземна окупація Криму робить волевиявлення його населення недійсним,” – зазначив Володимир Хандогій.

Посол підкреслив, що Україна вживатиме всіх необхідних заходів для захисту своєї території. “Досі військовослужбовці Збройних Сил України демонстрували виняткову стриманість, не піддаючись на провокації, що відбуваються в Криму. Україна вживатиме всіх необхідних заходів для захисту своєї території і всі повинні це чітко усвідомлювати,” – зазначив дипломат.

Щодо переговорів глав зовнішньополітичних відомств США та Росії Володимир Хандогій зазначив, що вони не виправдали сподівань. “На прес-конференціях Джона Керрі та Сергія Лаврова я почув, що вони не дійшли згоди щодо вирішення ситуації в Україні. Можна впевнено стверджувати, що переговори провалилися,” – сказав дипломат.

Разом з тим, Посол у Великій Британії наголосив, що Україна очікувала більших результатів від зусиль міжнародного співтовариства. “Україна отримала політичну підтримку і ми дуже вдячні за це всім нашим партнерам – Раді Безпеки ООН, НАТО. Ми також високо цінуємо позицію Великої Британії з цього питання. Проте, ми б хотіли бачити більш твердий та рішучий підхід міжнародної спільноти. Потрібно докласти максимальних зусиль та вжити всіх заходів, щоб зупинити Росію від втручання у внутрішні справи України, від окупації, від фактичної анексії частини української території,” – зазначив Володимир Хандогій.

Зустріч Постійного представника України при ЮНЕСКО, Посла Олександра Купчишина з Генеральним директором ЮНЕСКО Іриною Боковою

(ПП України при ЮНЕСКО)

15 березня 2014, 13:23

14 березня 2014 р., у штаб-квартирі ЮНЕСКО, з ініціативи української сторони, відбулася зустріч Посла, Постійного представника України при ЮНЕСКО Олександра Купчишина з Генеральним директором ЮНЕСКО Іриною Боковою.

Українською стороною було висловлено вдячність очільнику Організації об'єднаних націй з питань освіти, науки і культури (ЮНЕСКО) за принципову позицію ООН і особисто її Генерального секретаря Бан Кі Муна, зокрема, його заяву, «що вирішення кризи навколо Криму має бути знайдено на основі принципів Статуту ООН, у тому числі пов'язаних із мирним врегулюванням суперечок і повагою до єдності, суверенітету і територіальної цілісності України».

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В ході зустрічі увагу Генерального директора ЮНЕСКО було привернуто до вкрай напруженої ситуації в Автономній Республіці Крим, спричиненої грубим порушенням Російською Федерацією базових договорів, що регулюють українсько-російські відносини, у тому числі щодо тимчасового перебування на території України Чорноморського флоту РФ, яка, де-факто, розпочала в Криму військову інтервенцію.

У цьому зв'язку українською стороною, серед іншого, було наголошено на пов'язаних із кризою загрозах гуманітарного характеру, питаннях збереження культурної спадщини в Криму, зокрема, розташованих на півострові українських об'єктів Всесвітньої спадщини ЮНЕСКО.

Сторони обмінялись також думками щодо інших актуальних питань порядку денного співробітництва по лінії ЮНЕСКО, зокрема, участі Організації у відзначенні 200-річчя від дня народження Т.Г.Шевченка, ювілей якого внесено до Календаря пам'ятних дат ЮНЕСКО на 2014-2015 рр., у планованій на поточний рік в Україні Міжнародній регіональній конференції за програмою ЮНЕСКО «Освіта для всіх» тощо.

За підсумками зустрічі, яка пройшла в дусі конструктивного діалогу і взаєморозуміння, було домовлено підтримувати подальші робочі контакти з порушених питань між керівництвом Секретаріату ЮНЕСКО та Постійного представництва України при ЮНЕСКО.

КРАЇНИ-ЧЛЕНИ ГРУПИ "G-7"

США

З заявою Постійного представника США при ООН на засіданні РБ ООН від 15 березня 2014 року можна ознайомитися у розділі РБ ООН.

Press conference with Congressional Delegation McCain and Durbin

March 15, 2014

Senator John McCain, Arizona

Senator Dick Durbin, Illinois

Senator Chris Murphy, Connecticut

Senator Ron Johnson, Wisconsin

Senator John Barrasso, Wyoming

Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, Rhode Island

Senator John Hoeven, North Dakota

Senator Jeff Flake, Arizona

Senator McCain: I'm Senator John McCain of Arizona and I'm pleased to be joined today with a bipartisan group of my colleagues: Senator Dick Durbin of Illinois, Senator Chris Murphy of Connecticut, Senator Ron Johnson of Wisconsin, Senator John Barrasso of Wyoming, Senator Sheldon Whitehouse of Rhode Island, Senator John Hoeven of North Dakota, my fellow Senator from Arizona, Jeff Flake.

I won't forget ever when Senator Murphy and I were here four months ago and we stood in the Trade Union Building and watched as hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian patriots stood in the freezing cold and demanded freedom, rule of law and a European future. We're honored to be here to congratulate you on all that you have accomplished, and all of us join the Ukrainian people in mourning more than 100 brave souls who gave their lives for Ukraine's future.

We've met with the President and Prime Minister, government leaders including the Governor of Donetsk, with leaders from across the political spectrum including the Party of Regions and with representatives from Ukraine's business community, civil society, and the Euromaidan Movement.

We're here to express the strong bipartisan support for Ukraine that exists in the U.S. Congress and among the American people. We are united in our full support for Ukraine's sovereignty, national unity, and territorial integrity and against Russia's baseless violation of these principles and its efforts to divide this country.

We are also deeply concerned about reports today of Russian military movement into areas around Eastern Ukraine. These movements are deeply disturbing.

The Ukrainian government is legitimate, constitutional, and has an important popular mandate for change. Change won't be easy, but it's essential now for the government here to reach out to all Ukrainians and take steps to unify the country. Among these are strengthening democracy, the rule of law, reform the economy and the military and move Ukraine toward Europe. We are confident that the government is committed to these principles.

The government must also prepare the country for elections on May 25th. During our visit we've heard overwhelming support for proceeding with elections on schedule and we believe it's critical.

Ukraine's journey will be difficult but Ukrainians will not make that journey alone. The United States and your other partners will be with you. Many of us here serve on our Foreign Relations Committed in the Senate and last week we passed bipartisan legislation to support Ukraine and impose costs on Russia. This legislation provides \$1 billion in loan guarantees to support Ukraine's economy. It provides assistance to help Ukraine strengthen democracy, prepare for elections and enhance security cooperation. It imposes sanctions, severe sanctions, on those responsible for violence and human rights abuses against peaceful Ukrainians, and those who threaten Ukrainian stability, sovereignty and territorial integrity, and on Russian officials responsible for corruption here.

We want to assure you the United States Senate will pass this legislation imminently, and we're confident it can soon become law.

Finally, let me say a word about military assistance, and this is my personal view. Ukraine is going to need a long term military assistance program from the United States. Equipment both lethal and non-lethal. Ukraine has been invaded. Russia is massing forces on the border provoking unrest, threatening to annex part of this sovereign nation, and possibly worse. When free people and patriots, victims of aggression wish to defend themselves and their homes from further aggression and when they ask for some modest means that can help them resist, I believe we should provide it. Not to offer false hope or to harbor it ourselves, but simply it's the right and decent thing to do.

I also want to add there are now thousands of brave Ukrainian members of the military who are surrounded in bases in Crimea. We are deeply concerned about after this phony referendum that's going to take place, that the lives and welfare of these individuals could be in danger. We urgently urge the Russians to be restrained and to respect the lives and welfare of these brave Ukrainian service men and women who are serving their country.

Senator Durbin.

Senator Durbin: I want to thank my colleague John McCain and others who have joined me. This is an extraordinary visit that we've made to Ukraine. It is maybe the largest Senate delegation to visit Ukraine in history. And the moment we came we thought was the right moment. We wanted to say to the people of Ukraine and millions who support Ukraine across the world that we stand shoulder to shoulder with the Ukrainian people who are seeking a new future and a new opportunity. We know that they have a new government with many many challenges, including economic challenges. We know that they are committed to the rule of law, to open and free elections. We stand by them in this commitment.

We have met with the President, the Prime Minister, and leaders of this government. The message we have given them is that we will be by your side on a bipartisan basis in the United States Senate. The visit of Secretary of State John Kerry, the meeting between the Prime Minister and the President just a few days ago are further indications of this strengthening alliance between the United States and Ukraine. But we also come at this moment because we

know we are only hours away from this Soviet-style election in Crimea. We know the outcome. We always knew the outcome of those elections long before they took place.

Keep in mind that there was also a vote today, just hours ago, in the UN Security Council where the nations of the world serving on that Security Council were asked to stand with Ukraine and to reject this referendum. Of course the Russians voted no; the Chinese abstained; all other nations stood with Ukraine and the United States. It is an indication of growing world support for the future of Ukraine and resistance to what the Russians are threatening now in Crimea. We owe it to the people of Ukraine and to those in Crimea to speak up for them at this moment and to tell Russia we will not return to a history of invasion and aggression which was too common in this part of the world.

We also need to make it clear that when countries like the United States, the United Kingdom, Russia and Ukraine enter into an agreement – the Budapest Memorandum – that it means something. When a country will step away from its nuclear arsenal, only asking for protection of its territory and its future, we need to stand by them. That's why we're here as well. We want a more peaceful world and we believe that standing with Ukraine is the way to achieve that.

I'm proud of my colleagues who are with me. I hope you understand the significance of our visit to the Ukraine at this moment in history.

Senator Murphy: Good afternoon. My name is Chris Murphy, Senator from Connecticut and the Chairman of the Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Europe. Senator McCain and I had the opportunity in December to stand on the Maidan looking out over almost a million protestors who were assembled peacefully. Many for different reasons, but all united by the same simple premise, that they wanted to bring dignity back to their country and to their existence. Many of them were there because they wanted an orientation with Europe. Others were there because they wanted new leaders in government. But they all held in common the basic simple belief that it should be the people of this country, no outside entity, that dictates the future of this great nation. It is difficult in Washington these days to get a group of Senators as politically diverse as those who are standing here today to agree on much of anything, but we are standing here united – Republicans and Democrats – as we did in the Foreign Relations Committee last week, making it clear that the United States is going to stand with a free and sovereign Ukraine. That we are going to stand with this new government to help them do what it takes in order to prosper. We passed, as Senator McCain said, a strong bill through the Foreign Relations Committee. Republicans and Democrats supported it. It will offer economic aid to keep Ukraine's economy on its feet and deliver a strong message to Russia that there will be consequences for the actions that have already been taken. We're confident, as well, that we're going to be able to join with our European allies in delivering an economic blow to Russia that will make it clear that there is a price to be paid for this type of aggression.

The next several days will be critical as we look at the broad scope of the history of this nation. We know that there are several thousand Ukrainian troops whose lives are in jeopardy, but we're here today to tell the Russian forces that are surrounding them that we hold them directly responsible for the safety of those brave young men and women who are now cornered in different parts of Crimea.

The world is watching. The message that we bring today both to Ukraine and to Russia is that the United States Senate is watching as well.

Senator Johnson: My name is Ron Johnson. I'm a Senator from the State of Wisconsin.

First of all I want to thank Senator McCain for leading this delegation. I want to thank my colleagues for standing together. The main reason we're here is to show that strong unified support for the courageous people of Ukraine.

Unfortunately, I was not here with Senator McCain and Senator Murphy when they stood with the Ukrainians on the Maidan. But we did walk down to the Maidan. It was a moving experience, incredibly moving experience to understand what happened. I'll tell you what, from my standpoint there is one person I hold accountable for this aggression and it's Vladimir Putin. If there's further bloodshed, there's also one person I will hold responsible. There's one person

that can stop it, that can prevent it. That's Vladimir Putin.

Senator McCain mentioned, and Senator Murphy also mentioned that the brave members of the Ukrainian military now garrisoned in Crimea and those stationed along the border. I've seen moving pictures of journalists that have real courage throughout this process. I want to thank all of you and I want to ask you to maintain that courage. Bring the pictures to the world of what is happening here about this aggression. It's probably the single most important thing that can be done to prevent further bloodshed.

Again, I want to thank our hosts. I want to thank my colleagues here for showing the strong level of support. And I want to thank you for bringing the pictures to the world so that we can prevent further bloodshed. Thank you.

Senator Whitehouse: I'm Senator Whitehouse from Rhode Island. I thank Senator McCain and Senator Durbin for leading this delegation. We have all been moved and inspired by our visit to Ukraine and by Ukraine's commitment to freedom exemplified by the blood-stained Maidan. We hope our country can be helpful as Ukraine rids itself of the shackles of corruption that have burdened its people and enters a new day.

Ukraine's new day is shadowed by menace, however. Russia's conduct is already outside the conduct of a civilized nation and Russia has failed to provide the world adequate assurances that its conduct will not get even worse.

We intend to take a unified message back to our President that he should support Ukraine with the strongest action he feels he can to deter further aggression by Russia to protect Ukraine's independence and territorial integrity, including imposing painful and damaging sanctions on Russia and its industries and oligarchs.

Russia cannot expect to live in a halfway world in which it enjoys the benefits of a community of civilized nations without conducting itself like one. And in the days ahead let us all remember the Ukrainian Marines of Feodosia and other Ukrainian forces garrisoned in the Crimea. Thank you very much.

Senator Barrasso: My name is John Barrasso. I'm a United States Senator from the State of Wyoming.

A number of us on Wednesday had a chance to meet with your Prime Minister, a man of great courage and determination, and do so in Washington, D.C. to see how the people of the United States could be helpful to the people of the Ukraine. We told him that we didn't think meeting with him about Ukraine was enough just there, we wanted to come here to show our commitment to the people of Ukraine. That's why we're here in a unified way, bipartisan – Republicans and Democrats from all different spectrums of politics in the United States.

We walked the Maidan. We saw the bullet holes in the trees and in the buildings. We saw the faces in the pictures of over 100 martyrs, those who gave their lives, and those faces are burned into our brains and they will never be forgotten.

We had a chance to meet and listen to members of the leadership of various parties in the government. We've had a chance to visit with people from different parts of the country. And what we heard from them and what we told them as well is a unified message of this will not stand. We cannot allow Vladimir Putin to do what he appears to be doing.

We have great concerns for those who are surrounded right now in military barracks in the Crimea and we will hold Vladimir Putin personally responsible for anything, the damage that may occur to them. Brave men and women risking their lives for freedom. Thank you.

Senator Hoeven: I'm John Hoeven from the State of North Dakota. I'm serving in the Senate now. Before that, though I was Governor of my state for ten years. We set up a trade office, and during that ten year time line I organized several trade delegations to come to the Ukraine.

Last night I had dinner with leaders from ten different companies representing many other companies and many associations across the Ukraine. That's from just one state in our country. Just one state.

I make that point because we have so many relationships between the United States and the Ukraine. We have much in common. We're here to show our solidarity. And as a way of

showing that we truly are united as Senators, representatives of our Congress and representatives of our country, I want to just read a short note that I took a few minutes ago when we were meeting with the Ukrainian Prime Minister. The reason I want to go through this for just a minute is because it was said by Senator Dick Durbin, who is a Democrat, and I'm a Republican. I want to show that this support is truly bipartisan because I couldn't have agreed more with the points that he was making to reassure your Prime Minister that we stand with you.

He said we need to take economic, diplomatic and political sanctions against Russia. We need to use the Magnitsky Act to take strong action and use the legislation that's been passed by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and have it passed by the full Senate as soon as we get back. We need to undertake economic assistance to the Ukraine, and we need to work with the IMF to make sure that we provide that economic assistance as well as loans not only from our country but also from the European Union. We need to work with the European Union so that when we say we stand with Ukraine we mean not only the United States but all of the European Union and the world as well.

Senator Flake: My name is Senator Jeff Flake from the State of Arizona. My colleagues mentioned walking down the Maidan and to see the determination that is still evidence and will be needed in the coming weeks and months.

Just a word to Russia. This is not your grandfather's war. People are watching today like they never have watched before. There is no drama in tomorrow's referendum. But what is left unsaid and what is still left unknown is how Russia will treat soldiers garrisoned in Crimea and what they do thereafter or don't do in Eastern Ukraine. People are watching like never before. People can organize like never before.

And so we hope to have an outcome that is befitting and honors those that have fallen here. I'm pleased to be here with my colleagues today.

Senator McCain: Questions?

Press: Thank you, Mr. Senator. My name is ____.

As time is running out for the referendum, we have heard about the opinion from the Congress of the United States that it is better for Ukraine to give up Crimea and concentrate on eastern part of the country. Do you agree with that? And why?

Senator McCain: We do not agree at all. We do not agree that Vladimir Putin has license to invade a sovereign nation. As was mentioned by Senator Durbin, an agreement in 1994 that was made when Ukraine gave up its nuclear inventory in return for guarantees of its territorial integrity. So we do not. The last thing we want to do is send any message to people in Crimea that we have abandoned them.

Press: ____, CNBC.

So you [wrote] today, three U.S. Presidents have sought to cooperate with President Putin where interests converge. Those interests do not converge much. He will always insist on being our rival. How far away is that rivalry between the U.S. and the West and Russia from becoming a new Cold War?

Senator McCain: First of all, I don't believe there will be a reignition of the Cold War, but I do believe it's long overdue that we understand Vladimir Putin for who he is and what he is and what his ambitions are.

This is the person that stated that the greatest catastrophe of the 20th Century was the breakup of the Soviet Union. This is the person who wants to restore the [inaudible]. This is the person that occupies parts of the sovereign nation of Georgia, that occupies Transnistria and Moldova, that is now active in an act of naked aggression. Again, all of us are concerned about recent reports of additional military buildup in this area.

So we have to treat him for what he is. That does not reignite the Cold War. But it means we enact steps that make it clear to Vladimir Putin that his ambitions will not be realized by the great community of nations that would resist.

Let me just give you a couple of them real quick. One, start the missile defense system again in Poland and the Czech Republic that we abandoned once. Look forward to perhaps Moldova and

Georgia and Ukraine, if they wish, to become partners in NATO. Have some military exercises with our Baltic friends – Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania – that are under severe pressures from Vladimir Putin and Russia as we speak.

The United States of America with our allies are the strongest force in the world. We can act to counter Vladimir Putin's ambitions without reigniting a Cold War and without conflict.

Margaret Thatcher's famous words about Ronald Reagan was that he won the Cold War without firing a shot. And that can be accomplished.

Press: _____, CCTV News.

Senator McCain, Senator Durbin mentioned that China today abstained from the vote. Do you think that there is a greater role that China could play in helping to diffuse this crisis?

Senator McCain: I'll let Senator Durbin answer.

Senator Durbin: I spoke today to Samantha Power, the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations. She was trying to bring in China to vote with us. The abstention is something, but we wish that they had been with us on this one. But we're going to continue to work with them. We need to really increase that family of nations across the world that are willing to stand up to aggression and I hope that they'll be part of the picture.

Press: [Through Interpreter]. Mr. Senator, there is lots of information out there regarding the U.S. position on this presence, particularly President Obama. If the aggression forces crossed the border from Crimea into Ukraine that this would mean a state of war exists and the United States could potentially take part. Is that a possibility?

Senator McCain: Senator Durbin and I just got off the phone with Secretary Kerry. I can assure that the Congress and the President will be working with the President of the United States. This is too serious for any partisanship. I can't exactly say what the reaction would be because it would have to be a standard size and other aspects of it. But I am confident that the United States of America with our European allies would have a very vigorous response.

Senator Durbin: I would just say that when we met with the Prime Minister in Washington last week and again today, he made it clear that he is not anticipating the so-called military option of boots on the ground. That is not being discussed. We're talking about other ways that we can help Ukraine, other ways that we can put pressure on Russia and other aggressors.

Senator _____: I would just add that the line has already been crossed. There is no moving from Crimea into Ukraine. Crimea is part of Ukraine. And so our message to Russia and to Vladimir Putin is that he needs to take immediate steps to deescalate the situation in Crimea and if he does not, regardless of whether there is any additional incursion, there is going to be an escalating series of steps from both the United States and Europe to make it clear that the actions that have been undertaken already are completely unacceptable within the scope of the world community. And China should be involved in this issue. Every other nation should care about this because this essentially reorders the rules of the game when nations are allowed to unilaterally change borders. That's why this moment in our world's history is so important.

Senator _____: I don't think we should prescribe all the things we will or won't do right here, right now. It's incumbent on Russia and President Putin to step back and diffuse the situation. And we'll have to respond as that situation develops.

The important point here is that we're together and we're solid with Ukraine.

Senator McCain: If I can just point out, we have proven that economic sanctions can be a very powerful weapon. We've seen the effect that it had on the Iranians. Most of us, all of us agree that it brought them to the bargaining table.

A severe regimen of economic sanctions on individuals, corporations and even governments I think can have a significant beneficial impact.

Senator _____: I can volunteer one other thing that can help. We are producing a lot of energy in our country. My state's a great example. We're producing more natural gas every day, we're flaring it off. We need markets. What better way than to start bringing some of that LNG, liquefied natural gas, over here and putting some real pressure in an economic sense on Russia and helping Ukraine and the EU which right now depend on Russia for so much of their energy?

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There are many things we can do. That's just one example. And that's a solution that helps on a long term basis.

Press: Vladimir Razinsky from Al-Jazeera America.

This morning there was a report of the incursion by Russian forces into Ukrainian territory proper that was repelled. Your ideas and suggestions are very long term including economic and military. There seems to be a, where the Russians are actually moving today on the ground. Do you have any reaction or response to the immediate incursions by the Russians rather than the long term economic and military aid?

Senator McCain: Again, it's hard for any of us to respond to hypotheticals, but as I mentioned, we are deeply concerned about reports of Russian military units moving closer and in a more tactical way around eastern Ukraine. I can't say exactly what our response will be, but I think it will be a breach of such enormous consequence that the United States of America and our European allies will be contemplating action that we have not ever in our relation with Russia, to be honest with you.

Senator Johnson: We talked about unity. Let me describe a little bit. We're united – Democrat, Republican. We're united from the Senate to the House. We're united from Congress to the President. We're united from America to the European Union.

The other thing we learned – The reason we came here was to show that unity, to show that support for the courage of the Ukrainian people. One thing we learned, and one message that was given to us loud and clear is Ukrainians will defend themselves. They will defend themselves. Even though the odds are against them, they will defend themselves, which is again why I will point out there is one person that can prevent further bloodshed. That person is Vladimir Putin. We will hold him accountable.

Senator McCain: Thank you very much.

From Senior State Department Official: Readout of Secretary Kerry's Call with Foreign Minister Lavrov

March 16, 2014

State Department Press Corps,

The following is attributable to a Senior State Department Official:

During a phone call with Foreign Minister Lavrov this morning, Secretary Kerry reaffirmed that the United States considers the ongoing referendum illegal under Ukrainian law and restated that the United States will not recognize the outcome. He raised strong concerns about the Russian military activities in Kherson oblast yesterday and about the continuing provocations in eastern cities in Ukraine. Secretary Kerry also called the Foreign Minister's attention to actions taken by the government of Ukraine to arrest those responsible for violence in Kharkiv and steps taken to implement the demobilization and disarmament of irregular forces.

Further to discussions that the United States has had with Russia, our European partners and the government of Ukraine, Secretary Kerry also drew attention to the broad multi-party constitutional reform process already underway in the Ukrainian Rada. He urged Russia to support efforts by Ukrainians across the spectrum to address power sharing and decentralization through a constitutional reform process that is broadly inclusive and protects the rights of minorities. The Secretary made clear that this crisis can only be resolved politically and that as Ukrainians take the necessary political measures going forward, Russia must reciprocate by pulling forces back to base, and addressing the tensions and concerns about military engagement.

Statement by the Press Secretary on Ukraine

THE WHITE HOUSE, Office of the Press Secretary
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 16, 2014

The United States has steadfastly supported the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Ukraine since it declared its independence in 1991, and we reject the “referendum” that took place today in the Crimean region of Ukraine. This referendum is contrary to Ukraine’s constitution, and the international community will not recognize the results of a poll administered under threats of violence and intimidation from a Russian military intervention that violates international law.

No decisions should be made about the future of Ukraine without the Ukrainian government. Moreover, this vote was not necessary. The Ukrainian government has made clear its willingness to discuss increased autonomy for Crimea, and the presidential elections planned for May 25 provide a legitimate opportunity for all Ukrainians to make their voices heard on the future of their country.

In addition, Ukraine, the United States, the EU, the OSCE, the UN, and others have called for Russia to allow international monitors into the Crimean peninsula to ensure that the rights of ethnic Russians in Ukraine are being upheld. Russia has spurned those calls as well as outreach from the Ukrainian government and instead has escalated its military intervention into Crimea and initiated threatening military exercises on Ukraine’s eastern border.

Russia’s actions are dangerous and destabilizing. The UN Security Council recognized this in a vote yesterday that only Russia opposed. As the United States and our allies have made clear, military intervention and violation of international law will bring increasing costs for Russia – not only due to measures imposed by the United States and our allies but also as a direct result of Russia’s own destabilizing actions.

In this century, we are long past the days when the international community will stand quietly by while one country forcibly seizes the territory of another. We call on all members of the international community to continue to condemn such actions, to take concrete steps to impose costs, and to stand together in support of the Ukrainian people and Ukraine’s territorial integrity and sovereignty.

Readout of the President’s Call with President Putin

THE WHITE HOUSE, Office of the Press Secretary

March 16, 2014

President Obama spoke this afternoon with President Putin of Russia. President Obama emphasized that the Crimean “referendum,” which violates the Ukrainian constitution and occurred under duress of Russian military intervention, would never be recognized by the United States and the international community. He emphasized that Russia’s actions were in violation of Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity and that, in coordination with our European partners, we are prepared to impose additional costs on Russia for its actions. President Obama underscored that there remains a clear path for resolving this crisis diplomatically, in a way that addresses the interests of both Russia and the people of Ukraine. He noted that the Ukrainian government continues to take concrete steps that would allow for the de-escalation of the crisis, particularly as it prepares for elections this Spring and undertakes constitutional reform, and he asked that Russia support the immediate deployment of international monitors to help prevent acts of violence by any groups. President Obama reiterated that a diplomatic resolution cannot be achieved while Russian military forces continue their incursions into Ukrainian territory and that the large-scale Russian military exercises on Ukraine’s borders only exacerbate the tension. President Obama said that Secretary Kerry continues to be prepared to work together with Foreign Minister Lavrov and the Ukrainian government to find a diplomatic resolution to the crisis.

ВЕЛИКОБРИТАНІЯ

З заявою Постійного представника Великобританії при ООН на засіданні РБ ООН від 15 березня 2014 року можна ознайомитися у розділі РБ ООН.

Dialogue or Confrontation

From: British Embassy Brasilia, British Consulate-General Rio de Janeiro, British Consulate-General Sao Paulo and British Consulate-General Recife

15 March 2014

Alex Ellis, British Ambassador in Brazil, writes about the crisis in Ukraine and the Crimean referendum

On the eve of the referendum vote that will ask the Crimean population accepted part of the Russian Federation, Alex Ellis, British Ambassador in Brazil, signs an article on the crisis in Ukraine. Check it:

"Ukraine is 10,000 kilometers from here, but the situation in Crimea affects us all. The UK and Brazil have strong interest in the rule of law and respect for territorial integrity. There is still time to reduce tension and create a dialogue between the legitimate government of Ukraine and Russia, but that time is running out.

On Sunday, the population of Crimea will have to make an impossible choice: vote for to be taken by Russia or independence – without any assurance that Russia would show more respect for the sovereignty of an independent Crimea which has territorial integrity an independent Ukraine.

The vote whatever the outcome, it is both illegal as unconstitutional. And there is no doubt about that. The terms of the Ukrainian Constitution leave no room for misunderstanding: a vote can only be convened at the request of three million citizens; a referendum must be strictly Ukrainian; and it can only be called by the Ukrainian Parliament. None of these conditions has been fulfilled. The vote will be illegitimate.

These issues should be resolved in free and fair referendums – as will be seen in Scotland later this year – but the Sunday referendum in the Crimea will be neither free nor fair.

During the past two decades, we have sought to set aside the tension and lack of trust resulting from the Cold War, recognizing the strong and positive contribution that Russia offers to the international community – and the prosperity of all peoples.

A network of international agreements and institutions was established both to help prevent a recurrence of bitter clashes of the past and to resolve disputes peacefully. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Council of Europe, of which Russia is an integral member, exist to help States to deal with self-determination issues and defend the rights of minorities. And the president of the OSCE (electoral Health model) declared that the referendum would be illegal. The organization will not send observers to the vote.

It's still not too late for Russia to use these institutions to engage seriously in diplomacy and find a peaceful solution.

We continue to urge President Putin so that he use his authority for the good of Crimea, Ukraine, Europe and Russia, and put an end to this crisis.

Sunday's referendum will have no legal effect or moral strength, or will be recognized by the international community with regard to territorial integrity. The focus should be on diplomatic efforts to reduce tensions. There is still room for dialogue instead of confrontation. But not long ago. "

Crimea referendum should not convince anyone, says William Hague

16 March 2014

23 РОЗДІЛ. 15-16 БЕРЕЗНЯ 2014 РОКУ, СУБОТА-НЕДІЛЯ

Foreign Secretary says Crimea referendum should not convince anyone, UK will not recognise outcome.

Arriving in Brussels for the meeting of EU Foreign Ministers tomorrow, Foreign Secretary William Hague said:

I condemn the fact that this referendum has taken place, in breach of the Ukrainian constitution and in defiance of calls by the international community for restraint.

Nothing in the way that the referendum has been conducted should convince anyone that it is a legitimate exercise.

The referendum has taken place at ten days' notice, without a proper campaign or public debate, with the political leaders of the country being unable to visit Crimea, and in the presence of many thousands of troops from a foreign country. It is a mockery of proper democratic practice.

The UK does not recognise the referendum or its outcome, in common with the majority of the international community. At the meeting of EU Foreign Ministers tomorrow we believe measures must be adopted that send a strong signal to Russia that this challenge to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine will bring economic and political consequences.

Furthermore, any attempt by the Russian Federation to use the referendum as an excuse to annex the Crimea, or to take further action on Ukrainian territory, would be unacceptable.

I call on Russia to enter into dialogue with Ukraine and with the international community to resolve this crisis through diplomacy and in accordance with international law, not to exacerbate it further through unilateral and provocative actions.

ІТАЛІЯ

Ukraine: Mogherini, still possible to halt the crisis. Russia will not annex Crimea

2014-03-16

Minister for Foreign Affairs Federica Mogherini expressed deep concern over the consequences of the referendum for the secession of Crimea. "Italy, along with its European partners, considers the referendum on the secession of Crimea illegitimate, and supports the resolution discussed yesterday in the United Nations Security Council", Minister Mogherini stated from Brussels, where she had arrived to participate in meetings preparatory to tomorrow's EU Foreign Affairs Council

The referendum, Mogherini underscored, "runs counter to both Ukraine legislation as well as international law, and for that reason its outcome will not be recognised. Tomorrow in the Foreign Affairs Council we will decide how to apply the sanctions on Ukraine and Russian citizens already outlined by the European Council on 6 March, if tensions do not show signs of lessening".

According to Mogherini a diplomatic solution is still possible. "There is still a chance to halt the crisis. All diplomatic channels remain open, including efforts toward an OSCE mission to Ukraine", she explained – on the condition, however that Moscow takes a step.

"Russia must not annex Crimea. It is our hope that the Russian Federation puts an immediate stop to all military activity on Ukraine soil, abstains from any further provocation and respects the full sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine. Russia must remain a partner to the EU and avoid international isolation", the minister asserted.

"The channel by which the crisis could be resolved remains that of dialogue, diplomacy and compliance with international law. Tomorrow, my EU colleagues and I will also be working on measures by which to support and assist the Kiev authorities in ensuring that the rights of minorities and autonomous regions are fully respected", announced Mogherini who, before the Council, will take part in an EU ministerial meeting with Ukraine foreign minister Andrei Dehtchitsa.

"We will be preparing the terrain for an association agreement between the EU and Ukraine that the EU heads of state and government will sign on Friday", she concluded.

КАНАДА

Baird Concerned by Violence, Provocations in Eastern Ukraine

March 15, 2014

Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird today issued the following statement:

“We remain extremely concerned about the ongoing crisis in Ukraine, including the recent acts of provocation and violence carried out by pro-Russia groups in the eastern parts of the country. We send our condolences to the families and friends of those killed and wounded.

“Such violence is completely deplorable and does not form the basis of a pretext for further violations of Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity. Canada renews its condemnation of Russia’s illegal military intervention on the Crimean peninsula and its continued provocations along the Ukrainian border.

“Canada commends the United States for proposing a resolution today at the United Nations Security Council, which Canada proudly co-sponsored, on the need for all countries to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine. President Putin continues to isolate the Russian Federation with such actions, and it is telling that only one member of the Security Council—the Russian Federation—voted against this resolution.”

Baird spoke today with Poland’s foreign minister, Radosaw Sikorski. The ministers agreed on the need for close coordination in the days ahead to ensure that Poland, Canada and all our European and transatlantic partners maintain our solidarity with the government and the people of Ukraine in support of their aspirations for a country that is free, whole and democratic.

Statement by the Prime Minister of Canada on the results of the Crimean "referendum"

Ottawa, Ontario 16 March 2014

Prime Minister Stephen Harper today issued the following statement on the results of the Crimean “referendum”:

“The so-called referendum held today was conducted with Crimea under illegal military occupation. Its results are a reflection of nothing more than Russian military control.

“This “referendum” is illegitimate, it has no legal effect, and we do not recognize its outcome. As a result of Russia’s refusal to seek a path of de-escalation, we are working with our G-7 partners and other allies to coordinate additional sanctions against those responsible.

“Any solution to this crisis must respect the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine as well as the constitution of Ukraine. Mr. Putin’s reckless and unilateral actions will lead only to Russia’s further economic and political isolation from the international community.”

Canada Concerned by Intimidation of Ukrainian Greek Catholic Clergy in Crimea

March 16, 2014

Andrew Bennett, Canada’s Ambassador for Religious Freedom, today issued the following statement:

“Canada is concerned by reports of intimidation of Ukrainian Greek Catholic clergy in Crimea, including reports of armed men kidnapping and then releasing up to three priests.

“It is essential that all Ukrainians, regardless of their church or faith, be allowed to contribute to Ukraine’s democratic development without fear of violence.

“On behalf of all Canadians who value freedom of religion and adherence to the rule of law, we call for an end to such practices of intimidation and for those responsible to be brought to justice.

“Canada continues to support the important and peaceful role played by the clergy and other

members of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church as well as other religious leaders in Ukraine. “We stand with the people of Ukraine during this difficult transition as they seek to build a peaceful, democratic and prosperous future in which the right to religious freedom is fully enjoyed by all.”

ФРАНЦІЯ

З заявами Постійного представника Франції при ООН на засіданні РБ ООН від 15 березня 2014 року можна ознайомитися у розділі РБ ООН.

Ukraine – Point de presse conjoint de M. François Hollande, président de la République, et de M. Matteo Renzi, président du Conseil italien – Propos de M. Hollande (Paris, 15 mars 2014)

(...) Pour l’Ukraine, en ce qui nous concerne, nous considérons que le «référendum» ou la consultation n’a aucune valeur légale en Crimée et que tout doit être fait pour que l’on retrouve la voie de la négociation dans le respect de l’intégrité territoriale de l’Ukraine. (...)

Q – Sur le dossier ukrainien, Moscou ne semble pas s’orienter vers la désescalade voulue par l’Union européenne, dans ces conditions, craignez-vous l’un et l’autre que le référendum de dimanche en Crimée ne soit qu’un prélude d’une déstabilisation totale de l’Ukraine? Monsieur le Président, confirmez-vous l’annulation de la réunion franco-russe de mardi à Moscou? Ne pensez-vous pas qu’il conviendrait de suspendre le contrat MISTRAL afin de faire pression sur la Russie?

R – Je vous remercie pour toutes vos questions. Il y a une pseudo-consultation de la population en Crimée parce qu’elle n’est pas conforme au droit interne ukrainien et au droit international. Il ne peut pas y avoir une consultation organisée sur une partie du territoire, sans que le gouvernement du pays en question ait été associé à l’organisation de ce scrutin. Or tel est exactement le cas. C’est pourquoi, la France, comme l’Union européenne, ne reconnaîtra pas la validité de cette pseudo-consultation. Lundi, il y a une réunion des ministres des affaires étrangères. Il y avait eu une échelle de sanctions qui avait été définie par le Conseil européen. Nous y étions. Il y aura donc usage – s’il n’y a pas désescalade lundi – de ces sanctions qui, je le rappelle, portent sur les visas et sur les avoirs financiers d’un certain nombre de personnalités. Je souhaite qu’il y ait désescalade, et qu’il y ait un groupe de contact qui puisse trouver des solutions dans le cadre de l’intégrité territoriale de l’Ukraine et de la reconnaissance, aussi, des liens qui existent entre la Russie et l’Ukraine. C’est pourquoi le groupe de contact doit être maintenant, si je puis dire, au contact. Mais encore faut-il être deux pour qu’il y ait le contact... Quant au déplacement qui était prévu depuis longtemps, puisque c’est dans le cadre des relations bilatérales entre la France et la Russie, pour décider de ce déplacement, j’attendrai lundi pour connaître exactement ce que sera la position russe après la pseudo-consultation en Crimée. Quant aux autres sanctions, celles notamment liées à la coopération militaire, c’est le troisième niveau de la sanction. Nous en sommes au premier. (...) (Source: site Internet de la présidence de la République)

Ukraine – Déclaration de M. Laurent Fabius, ministre des affaires étrangères (Paris, 16 mars 2014)

Le referendum qui s’est tenu aujourd’hui en Crimée est illégal et contraire à la Constitution ukrainienne. Il est d’autant plus illégitime qu’il s’est déroulé sous la menace des forces d’occupation russe. La Russie a des responsabilités particulières sur la scène internationale, en tant que membre permanent du conseil de sécurité. Elle doit reconnaître et respecter la souveraineté et l’intégrité territoriale de l’Ukraine. La France appelle la Fédération de Russie à prendre immédiatement des mesures qui permettent d’éviter une escalade inutile et dangereuse

en Ukraine.

ОСНОВНІ МІЖНАРОДНІ ОРГАНІЗАЦІЇ

ООН

РБ ООН

Засідання РБ ООН від 15 березня 2014 року

**United Nations S/PV.7138
Security Council
Sixty-ninth year
7138th meeting
Saturday, 15 March 2014, 11 a.m.
New York
Provisional**

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

Agenda

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

The meeting was called to order at 11.10 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

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

The President (*spoke in French*): In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representatives of Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Malta, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey and Ukraine to participate in this meeting.

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

Members of the Council have before them document S/2014/189, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by Albania, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece,

Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

I shall now give the floor to the member of the Council who wishes to make a statement before the voting.

Mr. Churkin (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): Many times, we have put forth in this Chamber the essence of the Russian position regarding the cause and development of the internal crisis in Ukraine. That general context is important to understanding our view of the draft resolution submitted by the United States (S/2014/189) for the Council's vote today.

It is a secret to no one that the Russian Federation will vote against the draft resolution. We cannot go along with its basic assumption, which is to declare illegal the planned referendum of 16 March whereby the people of the Crimean republic will themselves determine their future.

The philosophy of the sponsors of the draft resolution runs counter to one of basic principles of international law, the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, enshrined in Article 1 of the Charter of the United Nations. That principle is confirmed in the 1970 Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, and in a number of other decisions of the General Assembly, as well as the Helsinki Final Act of 1975.

We do not dispute the principle of the territorial integrity of States. It is indeed very important. It is also understandable that the enjoyment of the right to self-determination involving separation from an existing State is an extraordinary measure, applied when further coexistence within a single State becomes impossible. Moreover, as practice has demonstrated, in the majority of cases, the realization of peoples' right to self-determination is achieved without the agreement of the central authorities of the State.

With respect to Crimea, that case resulted from a legal vacuum generated by an unconstitutional armed coup d'état carried out in Kyiv by radical nationalists in February, as well as by their direct threats to impose their order throughout Ukraine.

It should also be noted that generally agreed principles of international law are closely interlinked and that each should be considered in the light of the others, the relevant political context and historic specificities. The political, legal and historic backdrop of the events of today in Ukraine is extremely complicated. In that context, it is useful to recall that up until 1954, Crimea formed part of the Russian Federation. It was given to Ukraine in violation of the norms of that time under Soviet law and without taking into account the views of the people of Crimea, who nevertheless remained within a single State – the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

When the Soviet Union fell, Crimea automatically became part of Ukraine. The view of the people of Crimea was once again ignored. After the fall of the Soviet Union, for more than 20 years Crimea attempted to exercise its right to self-determination.

In January 1991, a referendum was conducted in Crimea, resulting in the adoption of a law in Ukraine regarding the establishment of autonomous Crimea. In September 1991, the High Council of Crimea adopted a declaration on State sovereignty. In 1992, the constitution of Crimea was adopted, declaring Crimea an independent state within Ukraine. However, in 1995, through a decision of the Ukrainian authorities and the President of Ukraine, the constitution was annulled, without the agreement of the Crimean people.

We set out a number of other arguments in favour of the legality of the Crimean referendum at the Council meeting on 13 March (see S/PV.7134).

In conclusion, we wish to confirm that we will respect the will of the Crimean people during the referendum of 16 March.

The President (*spoke in French*): I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Argentina, Australia, Chad, Chile, France, Jordan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Nigeria, Republic of

Korea, Rwanda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America

Against:

Russian Federation

Abstention:

China

The President (*spoke in French*): There were 13 votes in favour, 1 vote against and 1 abstention. The draft resolution has not been adopted, owing to the negative vote of a permanent member of the Council.

I shall now give the floor to those members of the Council who wish to make statements after the voting.

Ms. Power (United States of America): The United States deeply appreciates the support from our colleagues around the table and from the many States that have called for a peaceful end to the crisis in Ukraine. This is, however, a sad and remarkable moment. It is the seventh time that the Security Council has convened to discuss the urgent crisis in Ukraine. The Council is meeting on Ukraine because it is the job of this body to stand up for peace and to defend those in danger.

We have heard a lot, each time that the Security Council has met, about the echoes and relevance of history. We have heard, for example, about the pleas of the brave democrats of Hungary in 1956 and about the dark chill that dashed the dreams of Czechs in 1968. We still have the time and the collective power to ensure that the past does not become prologue. But history has lessons, for those of us who are willing to listen. Unfortunately, not everyone was willing to listen today.

Under the Charter of the United Nations, the Russian Federation has the power to veto a Security Council draft resolution. But it does not have the power to veto the truth. As we know, the word “truth” – or “pravda” has a prominent place in the story of modern Russia. From the days of Lenin and Trotsky until the fall of the Berlin Wall, Pravda was the name of the house newspaper of the Soviet communist regime. But throughout that period, one could search in vain to find “pravda” in pravda.

Today one again searches in vain to find truth in the Russian position on Crimea, on Ukraine or on the proposed Security Council resolution (S/2014/189) considered and vetoed a few moments ago. The truth is that the draft resolution should not have been controversial. It was grounded in principles that provide the foundation for international stability and law, Article 2 of the Charter of the United Nations, the prohibition of the use of force to acquire territory and respect for the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of Member States. Those are principles that Russia agrees with and defends vigorously, all around the world; except, it seems, in circumstances that involve Russia.

The draft resolution broke no new legal or normative ground. It simply called on all parties to do what they had previously pledged through internationally binding agreements to do. It recalled specifically the 1975 Helsinki Final Act and the 1994 Budapest Memorandum, in which Russia and other signatories reaffirmed their commitments themselves to respect Ukraine’s territorial integrity and to refrain from aggressive military action toward that country.

The draft resolution called on the Government of Ukraine to do what it had promised it would do: to protect the rights of all Ukrainians, including those belonging to minority groups.

Finally, the draft resolution noted that the planned Crimean referendum, scheduled for tomorrow, has no legal validity and will have no legal effect on the status of Crimea.

From the beginning of the crisis, the Russian position has been at odds not only with the law, but also with the facts. Russia claimed that the rights of people inside Ukraine were under attack, but that claim had validity only in the parts of Ukraine where Russia and Russian military forces were exercising undue influence. Russia denied that it was intervening militarily, but Russian troops have helped to surround and occupy public buildings, shut down airports, obstruct transit points and prevent the entry into Ukraine of international observers and human rights monitors.

Russian leadership has disclaimed any intention of trying to annex Crimea, then reversed itself and concocted a rationale for justifying just such an illegal act.

Russia claims that its intentions are peaceful, but Russian officials have shown little interest in United Nations, European and American efforts at diplomacy, including Secretary of State Kerry's efforts yesterday in London. Russia has refused Ukraine's outstretched hand while, as we speak, Russian armed forces are massing across Ukraine's eastern border. Two days ago, in this very Chamber, Ukraine's Prime Minister appealed to Russia to embrace peace (see S/PV.7134). Instead, Russia has rejected a draft resolution that had peace at its heart and law flowing through its veins.

The United States offered the draft resolution in a spirit of reconciliation, in the desire for peace, in keeping with the rule of law, in recognition of the facts and in fulfilment of the obligation of the Council to promote and preserve stability among nations. At the moment of decision, only one hand was raised to oppose those principles. Russia – isolated, alone and wrong – blocked the draft resolution's adoption, just as it has blocked Ukrainian ships and international observers. Russia put itself outside the international norms that we have painstakingly developed to serve as the bedrock foundation for peaceful relations between States.

The reason only one country voted against the draft resolution today is that the world believes that international borders are more than mere suggestions. The world believes that people within those internationally recognized borders have the right to chart their own future, free from intimidation. The world believes that the lawless pursuit of one's ambitions serves none of us.

Russia has used its veto as an accomplice to unlawful military incursion. That very veto was given nearly 70 years ago to countries that had led an epic fight against aggression. But in so doing, Russia cannot change the fact that moving forward in blatant defiance of the international rules of the road will have consequences, nor can it change Crimea's status. Crimea is part of Ukraine today. It will be part of Ukraine tomorrow. It will be part of Ukraine next week. It will be part of Ukraine unless and until its status is changed in accordance with Ukrainian and international law.

Russia prevented the adoption of a resolution today, but it cannot change the aspirations and destiny of the Ukrainian people, and it cannot deny the truth, displayed today, that there is overwhelming international opposition to its dangerous actions.

Mr. Araud (France) (*spoke in French*): It is with a sense of disbelief that we find ourselves here today – disbelief at the situation that developed before our eyes with the Russian Federation's determination to annex Crimea.

Nothing is lacking from those things that we hoped were relegated to the vaults of history: the military manoeuvres at the borders, the henchman who yesterday was no one and today has suddenly been designated President of the Crimea, the occupation denied against all evidence, the torrents of propaganda, and now the charade of a referendum that is not only illegal, rushed and without electoral campaigns but is reduced to a choice between two ways of saying yes. Crimeans will not even be able to express their will.

The violation of international law is so obvious at this point that one almost feels pity at seeing Russian diplomacy – so formalistic, so finicky in its respect for proprieties and its invocation of texts – struggling to find a legal basis for the coup. One day, they brandish an alleged letter from the Head of State who is on the run, and only an unsigned version of that letter is released, disappearing as quickly as it appeared. The next day, they recall the issue of Kosovo. Finally, after what was probably a feverish search through the archives, they even exhume a decolonization case from 1976: the question of Mayotte. They are trying so hard to use all available means in Moscow that they do not want to see that in the latter example, Russia having taken the opposite position from the one it is taking today, that shaky comparison – even if one accepts it – proves that Russia was wrong in 1976 or is wrong now, in 2014. It must choose.

I think, however, that my Russian colleague and I will find common ground in a key sentence from the speech of the Soviet Permanent Representative in 1976 on the question of Mayotte, who said:

“Any attempt aimed at the partial or total disruption of the national unity and the integrity territory of a country is incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.” (*S/PV.1888, p. 8*).

In reality, nothing will come of those pathetic efforts – certainly not the basis for any legal reasoning. The vetoing of a text that is nothing more than a reminder of the basic principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations is clear proof of that. The headlines can be simple: Russia has vetoed the Charter of the United Nations.

In desperation, therefore, Moscow invokes the pretext of protecting Russians who are supposedly threatened in Crimea. I am sure that neighbouring countries that host Russian minorities appreciate this right to interfere that Russia has suddenly claimed for itself. But again, they are out of luck. There has been no violence, as confirmed by journalists and noted by the High Commissioner on National Minorities of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and no trace, as confirmed by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, of the hundreds of thousands of refugees that were predicted. Where have they gone? Do not worry; they never existed.

The supposed right does not exist, and there is no violence taking place. We therefore look to history. Crimea was Russian from 1783 to 1954. What does that mean? Will we take out our history books to review our borders or challenge or defend them? What date will we go back to? After all, Crimea was Russian for 170 years but a vassal of Turkey for three centuries. We know only too well that anything can be justified by history, particularly the unjustifiable.

Out of all of this – their confused flurry of activity, the speeches that are denied as soon as they are given and the arguments that are forgotten as soon as they are made – only force remains. Basically, it is simple: the Russian veto today is telling us that might is right.

Well, no. Force cannot override the law. That would be too serious and too dangerous for every Member State. Our duty is to raise the fragile barrier of law against the brutal nature of international relations, which has led us into two world wars and has cost, as of this very moment, thousands of innocent lives in Syria and elsewhere. To accept the annexation of Crimea would be to give up everything that we are trying to build in this Organization. It would make a mockery of the Charter of the United Nations. It would once again make the sword the supreme arbiter of disputes.

The vast majority of Member States will prove, by their refusal to recognize the annexation of the Crimea, that they know that the territorial integrity of one of them is the guarantor of the territorial integrity of all. There are minorities all over the world. What would become of us if they became the pretext for any kind of adventure to be undertaken by an ambitious and enterprising neighbour? What will be the next Crimea? The annexation goes beyond Ukraine. It affects us all.

The veto should be a defeat for Russia alone. It should not take us with it. We must remain steadfast in our commitment to the principles it embodies, which are at the heart of the Charter of the United Nations, are our best defence against the return of a past in which Russian aggression against Ukraine emerges.

Sir Mark Lyall Grant (United Kingdom): The draft resolution (S/2014/189) was designed to prevent a further escalation of the crisis in Ukraine. It invited Council members to uphold the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of a United Nations State Member and to reaffirm core United Nations principles. It was about sending a clear signal that holding a referendum in Crimea would take us further away from a diplomatic solution. The resounding message from today’s vote is that Russia stands isolated in the Council and in the international community. Russia alone backs the referendum. Russia alone is prepared to violate international law, disregard the Charter of the United Nations and tear up its bilateral treaties. That message will be heard well beyond the walls of the Chamber.

The position of the international community is clear. If the referendum is held tomorrow, it will have no validity, no credibility and no recognition.

We trust that Russia will take notice of its isolation. On Thursday, we heard a clear message

from the Prime Minister of Ukraine that Ukraine was willing to engage in dialogue with Russia to address its stated concerns (see S/PV.7134). The ball is now firmly in Russia's court. If Russia fails to respond to Ukraine's outstretched hand and instead continues with its military adventurism or seeks to take advantage of the illegal referendum, it will lead to further escalation of tension in the region and further consequences for Russia.

We ask Russia to hear the collective voice of the international community today to rethink its actions and to take the decision to work with Ukraine and with the rest of the world to find a peaceful solution.

Ms. Murmokaitė (Lithuania): My delegation is profoundly troubled by Russia's veto of the draft resolution (S/2014/189) on the illegality of the referendum in Crimea, and we are worried about its consequences for the future of peace and security in the region and internationally.

On 31 May 1997 in a ceremony at the monument of the Liberator Soldier in Kiev, the late President of Russia, Boris Yeltsin, during his historic visit to Ukraine solemnly declared, "Ukraine is an independent country, and we will hold this promise sacred". Russia "does not lay claim on any part of Ukraine or on any of its cities".

And yet, in defiance to the Budapest Memorandum, whereby the Russian Federation reaffirmed its obligation to refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of Ukraine, contrary to the Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation, and Partnership between Ukraine and the Russian Federation of 1997, which affirms that both countries agree to respect each other's territorial integrity and confirm the viability of the borders existing between them, and in violation of the obligations and commitments undertaken by Russia during its accession to key regional and international organizations, Ukraine is about to be carved up. While the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Council of Europe and individual world leaders have been trying hard in the past few weeks to get Russia to engage with Ukrainian authorities in order to avoid a veritable crisis over Crimea, and while the Ukrainian authorities repeated their readiness to accept international monitors and mediation efforts, Russian troops and equipment were being amassed in Crimea, accompanied by aggressive anti-Ukrainian propaganda and hurried anti-constitutional acts by the Crimean Parliament to prepare the ground for an illegal referendum and eventual annexation of Crimea by Russia. Tomorrow a farce of a referendum will be held, in flagrant violation of the Ukraine and Crimean Constitutions and international law.

The historical inhabitants of the peninsula, the Crimean Tartars, who see their future in and with Ukraine, said they would boycott this illegal happening. All others who care for the sovereignty and indivisibility of the country, including Crimea's Ukrainians, will be left voiceless by this hastily concocted plebiscite, because the "yes" option to Crimea's future in Ukraine is simply not on the ballot.

Our Russian colleague has spoken about self-determination and the independence of Crimea. Let me quote the self-proclaimed Prime Minister of Crimea, Aksyonov: "No, we will not have independence", he said to the press, "Crimea should join Russia", and it may happen in the next week or so. It is in that context that the Council has voted for a draft resolution condemning the illegal referendum in Crimea, saying yes to the non-use of force in relations between the States; yes to the sovereignty, territorial integrity, inviolability and political independence of Ukraine, and by way of extension, of any sovereign State. My country's yes to the draft resolution is a yes to non-aggression, to a nation's free choice of its destiny and its alliances, to democracy, to the rule of law and to the internationally accepted rules of behaviour based on the norms and principles of international law.

Today's veto is not business as usual. By vetoing the draft resolution, built on the core tenants of the Charter of the United Nations, which clearly states that

"All members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity of political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent for the Purposes of the United Nations"

and that

“The parties to any dispute, the continuance of which is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security, shall, first of all, seek a solution by negotiation, enquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement, resort to regional agencies or arrangements or other peaceful means of their own choice”.

The Russian Federation is challenging the very principles on which this Organization, the United Nations, is built and which supported the international system for the past seven decades. We deplore this veto. The world cannot allow a repetition of 1956, 1968 or 2008 in Europe. We call on all Member States and regional and international organizations not to recognize the results of the referendum in Crimea and not to recognize any alteration of the status of Crimea carried out in clear and obvious violation of the Constitution of Ukraine, a United Nations founding Member.

We call on Russia to disown the illegal referendum in Crimea. International observers, monitors and mediators have been invited by the Ukrainian Government and must be allowed to do their job. We also urge Russia to reaffirm its treaty obligations vis-à-vis Ukraine, including respect for its sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence, and to withdraw without delay its armed forces to the areas of their permanent stations. Only political dialogue and full respect of the Charter of the United Nations and international law can put an end to the crisis and prevent further bloodshed.

Mr. Gasana (Rwanda): Rwanda wishes to explain its vote on the text of the draft resolution (S/2014/189) before us. It is unfortunate that we have come to this today, as the situation could have been avoided. Voting for the text before us was a hard decision we had to make, and that is so because we are not convinced that the timing of the draft resolution was productive to the objective and purpose of the Security Council. It is hinged on the timing of the planned referendum in Crimea, which may not resolve the entire crisis. More cynical is the objective being stated in these corridors and in some capitals to isolate each other, including important stakeholders, in our search for a peaceful solution to the crisis in Ukraine. There is no need to isolate; however, there is a need for a real and frank dialogue. That is why we are in the Chamber, all of us, as a United Nations.

The situation in Ukraine has rapidly unfolded. We are concerned that the rhetoric of, and pressure from, many actors have blinded us from carefully analysing the situation and understanding the root causes, thereby preventing us from finding a suitable solution and, in the process, de-escalating the crisis. Why, then, did we vote in favour? The draft resolution contains important principles on which we all agree: respect for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of countries and the need for a de-escalation of the crisis. Most important to us is the fact that the draft text calls for a Ukrainian inclusive political dialogue.

We believe that the crisis in Ukraine can be settled primarily by a more vigorous campaign geared towards winning the hearts of all Ukrainians and ensuring the protection of all. To date, we have not seen such steps. There has not been intercommunal dialogue. It is time for Ukrainians to listen to their hearts. It is time to see statesmen on all sides helping their communities to identify that silver thread that has kept them together as a united and prosperous nation for all these years.

In that regard, we appeal to all conflicting blocs in Ukraine to pause a little, close their ears to all aggravating rhetoric and give intercommunal talks a chance. If there is a need for credible mediators, the United Nations should rise to playing that role.

Once again, we invite both sides to consider the mutual interests of the people of Ukraine and to uphold their commitment to bilateral and multilateral agreements. We call on the international community to fulfil its obligation, to ensure no further deterioration and to respect the principles of peace and security.

Finally, this situation is not a win or a loss to any of us. Also, it should not be seen as bringing dishonour to any of us. But let it be a lesson to us all to truly commit and constructively work towards finding a sustainable solution to the process.

Mr. Liu Jieyi (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): The current situation in Ukraine is highly complex

and sensitive and has regional and international repercussions. The international community should together engage in pushing through a political solution to the crisis in Ukraine so as to truly maintain peace and stability in the region. What we are seeing Ukraine today is the result of a complex intertwinement of historical and contemporary factors. The situation in Ukraine, which seems to be accidental, has elements of the inevitable, and therefore calls for a comprehensive and balanced solution.

China always respects the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all States. Those are long-standing and fundamental elements of China's foreign policy. At the same time, we note that foreign interference is also a significant factor, giving rise to violent clashes on the streets of Ukraine and resulting in the crisis in the country.

The failure to implement the 21 February agreement has further exacerbated the turmoil in Ukraine, with serious social and economic consequences for the country. We condemn and oppose all extreme and violent acts.

The key to resolving the crisis in Ukraine is to act within the framework of law and order, seeking an early solution to the differences through dialogue and negotiations, with due respect for the legitimate rights and interests of all those in the various communities and regions. All parties should move forward in the overall aim of maintaining regional peace and stability and of protecting the fundamental interests of all the communities in Ukraine in order to keep calm, exercise restraint and prevent a further escalation of the tension, while resolutely seeking a political solution so as to find a specific way out as soon as possible.

China has been calling for constructive efforts and the good offices of the international community to de-escalate the situation in Ukraine. We note the new developments and proposals in that regard. Drafting a resolution at this juncture will only lead to confrontation and further complicate the situation. It is not in line with the common interests of both the people of Ukraine and the international community. On the basis of the above, we could only abstain in the voting on the draft resolution (S/2014/189).

China holds a fair and impartial position on the issue of Ukraine. We will continue to mediate and to promote dialogue so as to play a greater constructive role in seeking a political solution to the crisis in Ukraine. To that end, we would like to make three proposals.

The first proposal is the establishment as soon as possible of an international coordination mechanism, comprising all the parties concerned, in order to explore means for the political settlement of the Ukrainian crisis. Secondly, in the meanwhile, all parties should refrain from taking any action that may further escalate the situation. Thirdly, international financial institutions should start to examine how to help to maintain the economic and financial stability of Ukraine.

Mr. Errázuriz (Chile) (*spoke in Spanish*): The delegation of Chile voted in favour of the draft resolution (S/2014/189) because we believe that it is the appropriate response of the Council to the current crisis in Ukraine. Given that situation, at stake here are fundamental principles of international law, such as abstaining from the threat or use of force and respecting the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

For its part, the Budapest Memorandum requires that the signatory parties observe the independence, sovereignty and current borders of Ukraine and refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of Ukraine.

The holding of a referendum on the status of Crimea is inconsistent with the Constitution of Ukraine, a unified State of which Crimea is an integral part. It is therefore fundamental that the rule of law be observed in Ukraine nationally and internationally.

It is for the people of Ukraine alone to determine their future in a democratic and inclusive process that guarantees the rule of law, human rights, fundamental freedoms and respect for the rights of minorities. The crisis must be resolved peacefully and through dialogue, in accordance with the norms of international law.

Chile regrets that the United Nations organ that has the primary responsibility for the

maintenance of international peace and security has not been able to adopt a draft resolution. Today, owing to the use of the veto, the Council has not fulfilled its obligation.

Mrs. Perceval (Argentina): The delegation of Argentina believes that there is not much sense in making declarations about future events and hypothetical consequences. However, we voted for the draft resolution contained in document S/2014/189 because it reasserts the primacy of the principle of territorial integrity. We did so in the hope that the draft resolution could contribute to promoting constructive dialogue in Ukraine and a search for solutions through peaceful means and which includes all political and social actors who today disagree.

We trust that all the parties in Ukraine will refrain from unilateral action that could hamper dialogue or obviate opportunities for a peaceful and negotiated solution. We believe that it is for the Ukrainians to manage their internal affairs and to interpret those actions.

It is not for the Security Council to define this situation. Our responsibility is to maintain international peace and security. We therefore hope that all countries will respect the principle of non-interference in internal affairs and uphold their commitment to act strictly in compliance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations, with the goal of achieving a peaceful solution in the country.

Mr. Quinlan (Australia): Australia is seriously disturbed that the draft resolution contained in document S/2014/189 before us was vetoed. Its purpose was to reaffirm the fundamental principles and norms governing relations between States in the post-1945 world – obligations that form the core of the Charter of the United Nations – respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all States, the obligation to refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, the illegality of the acquisition of territory through the threat or use of force and the obligation to settle disputes by peaceful means.

As the body mandated under the United Nations Charter with the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, the Security Council has a primordial responsibility to uphold those obligations. As Council members, we do so on behalf of all Member States. The draft resolution directly and carefully reflects those fundamental norms. There is nothing in it that any State Member of the United Nations could reasonably oppose. Russia's decision to veto the resolution is therefore profoundly unsettling.

The referendum to be held tomorrow in Crimea is dangerous and destabilizing. It is unauthorized and invalid. The international community will not recognize the result nor any action taking on the basis of it.

With or without a resolution, the message from Council members and the wider international community has been overwhelming. The de-escalation of the current crisis is imperative. Russia must pull back its forces to their bases and decrease their numbers to agreed levels. It must allow international observers access to Crimea. It must demonstrate its respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, including by desisting from any recognition of or action on the basis of the results of the Crimean referendum. It must engage in direct dialogue with Ukraine, as Ukraine has repeatedly requested, either bilaterally or through a diplomatic mechanism such as a contact group.

Russia can be under no misapprehension about the action the international community is demanding it take. Should it fail to respond, there will be consequences. The international community will demand it.

Mr. Oh Joon (Republic of Korea): The Republic of Korea voted in favour of the draft resolution contained in document S/2014/189, as we firmly believe that the unity and territorial integrity of Ukraine should be fully respected and that the future of Ukraine should be decided by the Ukrainians themselves without any intervention or influence by outside forces. We think that the draft resolution clearly embodies those principles.

It is regrettable that the draft resolution was not adopted by the Security Council today. Still, we very much hope that today's failure will not close the window on a peaceful and diplomatic solution to the crisis.

Mrs. Ogwu (Nigeria): Nigeria voted in favour of the draft resolution contained in document S/2014/189 because it reflects the principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, which obliges all States to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any Member State. The United Nations Charter also obliges States to settle their disputes by peaceful means. All throughout the crisis in Ukraine, Nigeria has consistently and unequivocally called on all concerned to abide by those principles in the interests of international peace and security.

The draft resolution, which is not a country-specific draft resolution but one that underscores universally agreed principles and the sanctity of international law, also mentions the Budapest Memorandum of 1994, which provides a framework within which the crisis could be peacefully resolved. We have consistently called for dialogue, mediation, restraint and an end to hostile rhetoric. Therefore, Nigeria is fundamentally opposed to the threat or use of force in settling international disputes. The lessons of history are not far-fetched, and we remain vigilant that the mistakes of history not be repeated by those alive today.

Nigeria has consistently advocated for mediation and the pacific settlement of disputes, including territorial disputes. Our willing submission to the rule of the International Court of Justice in our dispute with the Republic of Cameroon should serve as a beacon and an inspiration to law-abiding nations.

Nigeria is vehemently opposed to unilateral secession or forceful excision of territory designed to alter the configuration of States in their internationally recognized boundaries. Standing on that fundamental principle, Nigeria is opposed to any unilateral declaration by a component part of a State that will alter the configuration of the State to which it appropriately belongs.

It is therefore needless to restate that the impending referendum in Crimea is not in consonance with the Constitution of Ukraine. The consequences of any defiance are better imagined than described.

Mr. Cherif (Chad) (*spoke in French*): Since the beginning of the Ukrainian crisis, Chad has consistently expressed its commitment to the territorial integrity and unity of Ukraine, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. The intangibility of borders and territorial integrity of States is a sacred principle set forth in the Constitutive Act of the African Union. Chad's vote in favour of the draft resolution contained in document S/2014/189 reflects that commitment.

Chad takes note with great concern the persistence of the escalation of the crisis in Ukraine, which is taking place despite the repeated appeals of the international community, and particularly the Security Council, for restraint and calm. We believe that it is still possible for the parties to open the way towards national reconciliation and maintaining Ukraine's unity by engaging in inclusive dialogue among the various components with respect for diversity, human rights and in particular the rights of minorities.

Chad reiterates its call for respect for territorial integrity, the non-use of force and the peaceful settlement of disputes, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

Also, we would like to once again call for calm and restraint. We believe that the solution to the crisis can only be a political and negotiated one.

Prince Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al-Husseini (Jordan) (*spoke in Arabic*): Jordan has voted in favour of the draft resolution contained in document S/2014/189 out of its respect for Ukraine's sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence and non-interference in its internal affairs. Moreover, it calls for adherence to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, especially Article 1, and to the use of peaceful means to settle disputes.

Jordan confirms the importance of upholding the territorial integrity of Ukraine and subjecting all its territories, including Crimea, to Ukrainian sovereignty, in accordance with the principles of international law and relevant international resolutions, including the 1994 Budapest Memorandum and the 1997 Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership.

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

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Luxembourg deeply regrets that the draft resolution (S/2104/189), proposed by the United States of America, on the situation in Ukraine was not adopted because of the vote against it by Russia, a permanent member of the Council.

Luxembourg voted in favour of the draft resolution and is also a sponsor of the text, as did many United Nations States Members. Why? Because the draft resolution was based on principles and dialogue.

First, with regard to the principles, the draft resolution was intended to recall the purposes and principles of the United Nations, as set out in particular in Article 2 of the Charter. The draft resolution was intended to reaffirm the Security Council's support for the sovereignty, independence, unity and the territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders. The Security Council should be unanimous in upholding those principles. The Charter of the United Nations states that in discharging its duties the Security Council "shall act in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations". Today, the Russian veto prevented the Security Council from complying with that provision.

With regard to dialogue, in accordance with Chapter VI of the Charter of the United Nations, the draft resolution under consideration by the Council this morning was intended to urge all parties to seek a peaceful settlement immediately through direct political dialogue, to exercise restraint, to refrain from any unilateral action and any inflammatory rhetoric that might increase tension and to engage fully in international mediation efforts. However, the referendum organized for tomorrow in Crimea is intended to change the status of the Ukrainian territory against the will of Ukraine. If the referendum were to take place, it would constitute a unilateral act that could very seriously destabilize Ukraine and the entire the region.

Pursuant to the Charter of the United Nations, Member States have conferred upon the Security Council the primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security. Today, the Russian veto prevented the Security Council from assuming that responsibility in the interest of peace and security in Ukraine and Europe.

The referendum organized for tomorrow in Crimea runs contrary to Ukraine's Constitution, which stipulates that the territory of Ukraine is indivisible and inviolable. The referendum is also contrary to the Constitution of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. The international community can in no way recognize its outcome.

The referendum of 16 March is part of a vicious cycle. The decision taken on 1 March by the Council of the Russian Federation to authorize the use of the Russian armed forces on Ukrainian territory, and the subsequent actions undertaken, constitute a flagrant violation of international law. Those actions violate the commitments Russia entered into with regard to Ukraine within the framework of the Budapest Memorandum of 1994 and the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership Agreement between Russia and Ukraine, signed in 1997. Had it been adopted, the draft resolution would have helped to put an end to that vicious cycle and the nationalist escalation that accompanies it.

Today's vote is a failure – a failure for the Security Council and the United Nations, but also, and above all, a failure for Russia.

Would it be naive to hope that, despite that failure, we can still find a peaceful solution to the crisis that Russia is imposing on Ukraine and the international community? For its part, Luxembourg will not abandon that hope. Even if diplomatic efforts have not yet borne fruit, they must continue to achieve a solution that respects the political independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Ukraine, in the interest of peace, stability and prosperity in Europe.

I resume my functions as President of the Council.

I give the floor to the representative of Ukraine.

Mr. Sergeyev (Ukraine): I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the members of the Security Council for their overwhelming support of the draft resolution contained in document S/2104/189, as well as for their support in trying to resolve the crisis by diplomatic and political means.

I would like to thank all the sponsors of the draft resolution for their support. In this difficult

time for my country, we really need their support, and I want to assure them that it is highly appreciated by the people of Ukraine.

I would like to particularly thank the Member States who are the guarantors of the Budapest Memorandum who supported Ukraine – the United States, the United Kingdom, France and China – and who several times spoke in favour of territorial integrity. It is awful that the other one, the fifth guarantor, the Russian Federation, violated its own obligations.

All the appeals by the united membership to the wisdom of the Russian leadership were not successful. I received a call 40 minutes ago as we were discussing the crisis in Crimea, Ukraine. Members noticed that somebody called me. Russian troops entered the mainland from the south, from Crimea. Now we are facing a new development and we are to face an even more dangerous stance of the Russian Federation.

I appeal to all Council members to find the means and measures in the Security Council and the United Nations, as well as at the bilateral level, to do the utmost possible to stop the aggressor, the Russian delegation, present in the Chamber.

For us it is no surprise that Russia has vetoed today's draft resolution. For that permanent member of the Council, it has become the custom to veto any measure aimed at maintaining international peace and security.

We remember the vetoes of draft resolutions on peacekeeping missions in Syria, which brought about thousands and thousands of deaths. I am confident that when Council members gather together next week with Ambassador Tanin to speak about the reform of the Security Council, the issue of the right of the veto will be discussed. Two cases, Syria and Crimea, will certainly be considered as examples of the behaviour of a permanent member of the Council when peace is needed. *(spoke in Russian)*

The representative of the Russian Federation has stated many times in this Chamber that Russia's right of the veto was gained through the blood of the Second World War. I would like to recall that it was the collective bloodshed of Ukrainians, Belarusians and Georgians. To manipulate the issue of the bloodshed is absolutely unacceptable. Moreover, it is a manipulation of the right of the veto before the new blood on one's hands. Previously it was Georgian blood – now it is Ukrainian. I believe that such chaos should end now.

Today I take an optimistic view of the situation. Why so? Because I am convinced that the statement made by the Russian representative expressed not the voice of the Russian Federation, but rather the voice of the Soviet Union. The genuine voice of Russia today can be heard on the streets and squares of Moscow, St. Petersburg, Samara and Yekaterinburg, where thousands and thousands of people have gone to express their support and desire to protect Ukraine and its territorial integrity. That represents the democratic future of Russia and the basis on which we will build our fraternal ties.

Today the question of how to stop the aggressor concerns all of us. It involves the loss of the entire system of values established over the years through the untiring efforts of Member States towards a collective security system and non-proliferation. *(spoke in English)*

I am confident that today the entire United Nations family demonstrated its unity. Tragic and dramatic events in Ukraine have united all of us. We must demonstrate that we are capable of protecting the United Nations system and the global security system through a new approach. I am absolutely confident that we will be able to do that.

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

Mr. Churkin (Russian Federation) *(spoke in Russian)*: Some colleagues today have achieved high levels of rhetoric. I must mention that the Ukrainian colleague nevertheless went far beyond anything permissible. If one is to speak of blood, indeed the blood is not on our hands but on the hands of his friends the nationalist radicals – the blood of those Ukrainians who were shot by snipers on days in February of this year – whose ideological fathers he defended not very long ago in the halls of the United Nations, stating that Nazi Ukrainian henchmen did not kill anyone and that those were falsehoods made up by the Soviet Union.

With regard to other statements, I must note that something has caught my attention. Colleagues that have taken the floor discussed poorly developed arguments, on the whole – it was not the argumentation put forward by my delegation, but distorted images or elements of our position. I will not comment on everything heard today – all of the highly unacceptable comments. I will, however, make a few comments.

The French colleague did not notice the smallest hint of violence in Ukraine. It is possible that he was unaware of what occurred on Saturday in Kharkiv, where two citizens were killed by fighters from other regions of Ukraine. In fact, the violence had to be noted as it took place during this month in Kyiv and in other regions of the country. There is a continuing threat of violence and a continuing threat of it spreading to other regions of Ukraine. Yet the violence has not occurred in Crimea, due to measures taken there.

The Permanent Representative of the United States blamed Russia for illegally pursuing its ambitions. That does not apply to us; it is a phrase taken from the foreign policy arsenal of the United States. Ms. Power spoke of truth. The world would be very interested to know if Washington, D.C., would in fact tell the truth about its role in the development of the crisis in Ukraine. Finally, Ms. Power spoke of dreams and aspirations. But why has she negated the right of the people of Crimea to express their will tomorrow during the referendum?

To conclude, one of our colleagues said that Kyiv had extended a hand to Moscow and that we had refused to reciprocate. But the problem is not with Moscow; it has to do with the fact that Kyiv should have been the one to extend a hand to its people and regions, instead of intimidating them with repression and banning the use of the Russian language. Why, for instance, was the constitutional assembly not convened, and in reality, in the course of the constitutional process, it was not proved that the ideology and practice of radical nationalism did not prevail in Kyiv?

It is unfortunate that much time has been lost. Nevertheless, we would appeal to all to put an end to the confrontation and to begin constructive cooperation with a view to a long-term settlement of the situation in Ukraine, in the interests of all of the people, including those in the eastern and south-eastern regions.

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

The meeting rose at 12.15 p.m.

ОБСЕ

Арсеній Яценюк: Уряд звернувся до ОБСЕ щодо термінового направлення до України моніторингової місії

(ППУ України у Відні)

16 березня 2014, 19:00

Уряд звернувся до Організації з безпеки і співробітництва в Європі щодо термінового направлення до України моніторингової місії. Про це повідомив Прем'єр-міністр України Арсеній Яценюк в неділю, 16 березня, під час засідання Кабінету міністрів.

За словами Глави Уряду, представникові України про ОБСЕ «дана чітка вказівка проголосувати за мандат щодо міжнародних спостерігачів від ОБСЕ і щоб такий мандат розповсюджувався на східну й південну Україну, в тому числі Крим».

«Сподіваюсь, зараз на позачерговому засіданні ОБСЕ це рішення буде прийнято», – додав Арсеній Яценюк.

Він також підкреслив, що зараз на території Автономної Республіки Крим «під режисурою Російської Федерації проходить циркове видовище – так званий референдум» «До режисури також задіяно 21 тисяча військовослужбовців, які під автоматними дулами переконують про доцільність проведення так званого референдуму».

Глава Уряду нагадав, що на Раді Безпеки ООН в Нью-Йорку «була чітко сформульована

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позиція: фактично всі члени Ради Безпеки ООН підтримали територіальну цілісність і суверенітет України: «Єдина країна, яка проголосувала проти цієї резолюції – це Російська Федерація. Всі інші країни підтримали територіальну цілісність».

«Мова йде про те, що Росія сьогодні залишилась в повній ізоляції. Весь світ демонстративно засуджує Росію за військову агресію без будь-яких причин проти української держави», – наголосив Арсеній Яценюк.

Chairperson-in-Office calls on all sides to commit to resolving the situation regarding Ukraine through dialogue, with peaceful means and with respect of international law

BERN 16 March 2014

BERN, March 16, 2014 – In the light of the unlawful referendum on the status of Crimea, Swiss Foreign Minister and Chairperson-in-Office of the OSCE, Didier Burkhalter, discussed over the weekend, at the highest political levels, the situation regarding Ukraine and possible solutions.

He confirmed that countries were still ready to solve the crisis by diplomatic means and asked all sides to refrain from rushing into decisions and unilateral actions that could have wide-ranging consequences. He called on OSCE participating States to commit to resolving the situation through dialogue, with peaceful means and with respect of international law, and not to allow a damaging dynamic to develop further.

The CiO urged participating States to act responsibly and work with full speed in the spirit of cooperation towards consensus on a monitoring mission and its rapid deployment, leading to an enhanced presence of the OSCE in Ukraine.