

УКРАЇНА VS РОСІЙСЬКА ФЕДЕРАЦІЯ

РФ

Президент РФ

Телефонний розговор с Президентом Финляндии Саули Ниинистё

28 февраля 2014 года, 22:10

По инициативе финляндской стороны состоялся телефонный разговор Владимира Путина с Президентом Финляндской Республики Саули Ниинистё. Обсуждены актуальные вопросы двустороннего сотрудничества в различных областях и планы контактов на перспективу. По просьбе Президента Финляндии Владимир Путин дал развёрнутые оценки кризисной ситуации на Украине.

Телефонные разговоры с Дэвидом Кэмероном, Ангелой Меркель и Херманом Ван Ромпёем

28 февраля 2014 года, 20:15

Состоялись телефонные разговоры Владимира Путина с Премьер-министром Великобритании Дэвидом Кэмероном, Федеральным канцлером Германии Ангелой Меркель и Председателем Европейского совета Херманом Ван Ромпёем.

Обстоятельно обсуждено последнее развитие кризиса на Украине. Подчёркнута крайняя важность недопущения дальнейшей эскалации насилия и необходимости скорейшей нормализации обстановки. Условлено продолжить личные контакты на этот счёт, а также активизировать взаимодействие по линии внешнеполитических ведомств.

МЗС РФ

СООБЩЕНИЕ ДЛЯ СМИ

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

406-28-02-2014

28 февраля по инициативе американской стороны состоялся телефонный разговор Министра иностранных дел Российской Федерации С.В.Лаврова с Государственным секретарем США Дж.Керри.

С российской стороны была вновь акцентирована настоятельная необходимость возвращения ситуации в Киеве в правовое поле, выполнения соглашения от 21 февраля, включая прежде всего пресечение действий радикал-экстремистов и продвижение национального согласия на основе реального учета интересов всех политических сил и всех регионов Украины.

Главы внешнеполитических ведомств России и США выразили общее мнение о необходимости продолжения прямых переговоров между сторонами сирийского конфликта в Женеве.

Рассматривались также вопросы ближневосточного урегулирования и некоторые актуальные вопросы двусторонней повестки дня.

СООБЩЕНИЕ ДЛЯ СМИ

О встрече в МИД России с советником-посланником Посольства Украины в Российской Федерации

404-28-02-2014

28 февраля в МИД России состоялась встреча с советником-посланником Посольства Украины в Российской Федерации Р.М.Нимчинским, которому была передана ответная нота Министерству иностранных дел Украины относительно предложения Украинской Стороны в связи с событиями в Автономной Республике Крым провести безотлагательные двусторонние консультации согласно Статье 7 Договора о дружбе, сотрудничестве и партнерстве между Российской Федерацией и Украиной от 31 мая 1997 года.

В ноте МИД России подчеркивается, что Российская Сторона рассматривает события, происходящие в Автономной Республике Крым, как следствие внутривнутриполитических процессов последнего времени на Украине, и в этом контексте не видит необходимости в проведении предлагаемых Украинской Стороной безотлагательных двусторонних консультаций.

Украинской Стороне была также передана ответная нота МИД России относительно передвижений бронетехники Черноморского флота Российской Федерации в Крыму, связанных с необходимостью обеспечения охраны мест дислокации Черноморского флота на территории Украины, что происходит в полном соответствии с базовыми российско-украинскими соглашениями по Черноморскому флоту.

СООБЩЕНИЕ ДЛЯ СМИ

О выдаче российских паспортов бойцам отряда «Беркут»

407-28-02-2014

Генеральному консульству Российской Федерации в Симферополе поручено срочно предпринять все необходимые меры для начала выдачи российских паспортов бойцам отряда «Беркут».

УКРАЇНА

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

У П'ЯТНИЦЮ, 28 ЛЮТОГО 2014 РОКУ, ВІДБУЛОСЯ ПЛЕНАРНЕ ЗАСІДАННЯ ВЕРХОВНОЇ РАДИ УКРАЇНИ СЬОМОГО СКЛИКАННЯ.

Голова Верховної Ради України Олександр Турчинов, відкривши пленарне засідання, запропонував до розгляду оновлений порядок денний, до якого включено проект постанови про Звернення Верховної Ради України до країн-гарантів відповідно до Меморандуму про гарантії безпеки у зв'язку з приєднанням України до договору про нерозповсюдження ядерної зброї.

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Народні депутати висловилися щодо запропонованого порядку денного.

Народний депутат О.Ляшко звернув увагу на необхідність негайно приймати рішення по захисту територіальної цілісності України з огляду на події, що відбуваються в Криму. За його словами, в Криму відбувається відкрита інтервенція з боку Росії. Він ініціював негайне проведення засідання РНБО, підтримав прийняття Звернення Верховної Ради до країн-гарантів.

<...>

О.Турчинов запропонував розпочати пленарне засідання з розгляду найбільшій проблеми, яка стосується продовження ескалації напруги ситуації в Криму. Він зазначив, що незважаючи на звернення і заяви до ескалації цього конфлікту безпосередньо стають причетні військові Збройних Сил Російської Федерації, які незважаючи на попередження

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української сторони, зі зброєю пересуваються Автономною Республікою Крим в напрямку, який не узгоджується з українською стороною. "Сьогодні вночі терористи з автоматичною зброєю, це професійні військові, спробували взяти під контроль аеропорти Криму. На 11 годину я призначив засідання Ради національної безпеки і оборони саме з цього питання", – повідомив він і сказав, що за ініціативою народних депутатів розроблена постанова.

О.Турчинов зачитав текст Звернення Верховної Ради до країн-гарантів відповідно до Меморандуму про гарантії безпеки у зв'язку з приєднанням України до договору про нерозповсюдження ядерної зброї.

Згідно із текстом, "в обмін на ядерне роззброєння України (добровільне знищення понад 2000 стратегічних ядерних боєзарядів, які Україна успадкувала від СРСР, та приєднання України до Договору про нерозповсюдження ядерної зброї як держави, що не володіє ядерною зброєю), Україна в Меморандумі про гарантії безпеки у зв'язку з приєднанням України до Договору про нерозповсюдження ядерної зброї (Будапештському меморандумі) від 1994 року отримала гарантії своєї безпеки.

Російська Федерація, Сполучене Королівство Великої Британії та Північної Ірландії і Сполучені Штати Америки у Будапештському меморандумі підтвердили Україні свої зобов'язання поважати незалежність і суверенітет та існуючі кордони України.

Також держави-гаранти підтвердили свої зобов'язання утримуватися від загрози силою чи її використання проти територіальної цілісності чи політичної незалежності України, і що ніяка їхня зброя ніколи не буде використовуватися проти України".

О.Турчинов зазначив, що держави-гаранти у Будапештському меморандумі також зобов'язались проводити консультації у випадку виникнення ситуації, внаслідок якої постає питання стосовно їх зобов'язань.

"У цьому зв'язку Верховна Рада України висловлює занепокоєння останніми подіями в Автономній Республіці Крим, у т.ч. інформацією про можливе зовнішнє втручання, що стало б прямим порушенням зобов'язань за Меморандумом", – повідомив він.

У Зверненні Верховна Рада "вимагає від Російської Федерації припинити кроки, які мають ознаки зазіхань на державний суверенітет і територіальну цілісність України, у тому числі відмовитися від підтримки сепаратизму в Україні у будь-якій формі. Зі свого боку, Верховна Рада України наголошує, що всі громадянські права громадян України російської національності, гарантовані Конституцією України та міжнародними зобов'язаннями України, в тому числі, мовні, є і будуть надалі повністю і неухильно дотримані в Україні".

Верховна Рада "вимагає від усіх держав-гарантів відповідно до Будапештського меморандуму практичними діями підтвердити закріплені в Меморандумі зобов'язання згідно з принципами Заключного акта НБСЄ поважати незалежність і суверенітет та існуючі кордони України, підтвердити зобов'язання утримуватися від загрози силою чи її використання проти територіальної цілісності чи політичної незалежності України, і що ніяка їхня зброя ніколи не буде використовуватися проти України і закликає сторони-підписанти Меморандуму провести негайні консультації з Україною для зняття напруги та відновлення атмосфери взаємної довіри".

Верховна Рада також звертається до Ради Безпеки Організації Об'єднаних Націй з пропозицією скликати засідання для розгляду зазначених проблем в контексті заяви Ради Безпеки ООН від 20 липня 1993 року.

Народні депутати під час обговорення висловили низку зауважень і пропозицій і з урахуванням деяких з них 230 голосами прийняли Звернення Верховної Ради за основу.

Головуючий надав слово представникам депутатських фракцій, які обговорили ситуацію в Криму.

Голова Комітету з питань національної безпеки і оборони В.Литвин поінформував про засідання Комітету, яке відбулося вранці. Він повідомив, що Комітет пропонує для стабілізації ситуації в Криму "зробити все, насамперед, новопризначеним керівникам

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сектору безпеки і оборони і Кабінету Міністрів, щоб навести елементарний порядок у країні для того, щоб люди не боялися за свої життя".

В.Литвин також запропонував сформувати повноцінну депутатську делегацію, щоб ця делегація виїхала в Крим і вступила в контакт з депутатами Держдуми Ради Федерації Росії.

У інших виступах зазначалося, що необхідно не допустити жодного конфлікту, жодної провокації, пропонували виключати мікрофон, коли лунатимуть провокаційні заклики.

Народний депутат Н.Шуфрич щодо голосування за постанову "Про Звернення Верховної Ради.." зазначив, що такі рішення спочатку варто було б обговорити керівникам фракцій. Він висловив впевненість у тому, що ніхто не залишить Україну наодинці у цій ситуації. "Люди не заперечують єдності України, люди сигналізують, що їм потрібна допомога. Давайте спокійно з взаємною увагою ставитися один до одного. Тоді ми вирішимо всі питання і з гідністю вийдемо з цієї складної ситуації", – наголосив він.

Народний депутат В.Пинзеник зазначив, що парламент може і повинен врегулювати ситуацію, яка склалася в країні. Він висловив переконання, що народні депутати здатні приймати рішення понад 300 голосами.

Народний депутат О.Кузьмук підтримав колег, які засудили безглузді виступи у сесійній залі і запропонував уряду зробити виїзне засідання в Крим, вивчивши ситуацію на місці.

О.Турчинов повідомив, що до нього підходили народні депутати, які не встигли проголосувати за постанову "Про Звернення Верховної Ради". Він запропонував попереднє голосування за постанову вважати прийняттям її за основу, а зараз проголосувати постанову в цілому.

Верховна Рада 246 голосами прийняла проект постанови в цілому.

Комітет з питань національної безпеки і оборони заслухав 28 лютого 2014 р. інформацію щодо ситуації в Автономній Республіці Крим та м. Севастополь.

Члени Комітету під час засідання в п'ятницю заслухали інформацію Служби безпеки України, Служби зовнішньої розвідки, Міністерства оборони, Державної прикордонної служби, Міністерства внутрішніх справ та Головного управління розвідки Міністерства оборони.

Комітет одноголосно ухвалив рішення всім органам державної влади та органам місцевого самоврядування України вжити вичерпних заходів для загальної нормалізації ситуації в державі.

Народні депутати рекомендують Верховній Раді вжити заходів щодо недопущення прийняття рішень та виступів з її трибуни, які можуть дестабілізувати ситуацію в Автономній Республіці Крим і м. Севастополь та в державі в цілому та прийняти звернення Верховної Ради України до Глав держав і Урядів країн-гарантів безпеки України за Будапештським меморандумом щодо виконання ними своїх зобов'язань у зв'язку із ситуацією в Автономній Республіці Крим та м. Севастополь.

Комітет також пропонує доповнити склад робочої групи, яка опрацьовує питання щодо ситуації в Автономній Республіці Крим та м. Севастополь, відповідно до протокольного доручення Верховної Ради, прийнятого на засіданні 24 лютого 2014 року, представниками усіх депутатських фракцій і груп та народними депутатами, які обрані або проживають в Автономній Республіці Крим та м. Севастополь.

Члени Комітету пропонують сформувати та направити делегацію Верховної Ради України до Автономної Республіки Крим та м. Севастополь для ведення переговорів з представниками органів місцевої влади усіх рівнів, громадських організацій та депутатами Ради Федерації та Державної думи Російської Федерації, які там перебувають.

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Україна збереже свою територію і захистить незалежність. Про це заявив Голова Верховної Ради України, виконувач обов'язків Президента України Олександр Турчинов у п'ятницю 28 лютого 2014 року під час брифінгу.

Російська Федерація, заявив він, "розпочала неприховану агресію проти нашої країни". "Під виглядом військових навчань вони ввели війська в Автономну Республіку Крим, і не тільки захопили Парламент і Кабінет Міністрів Криму, вони пробують брати під контроль цивільні об'єкти, комунікації, пробують блокувати місця розташування українських військових", – зазначив О.Турчинов.

"Вони провокують нас на військовий конфлікт. За даними нашої розвідки, вони відпрацьовують сценарій, який повністю аналогічний абхазькому, коли, спровокувавши конфлікт, вони почали анексію території", – наголосив керівник Парламенту.

При цьому він підкреслив, що українські військові виконують свої обов'язки, але не піддаються на провокацію, не йдуть на військовий конфлікт, розуміючи високу небезпеку, на яку наражається цивільне населення Криму.

"Я особисто звертаюся до Президента Путіна з вимогою негайно припинити провокацію і відкликати військових з автономної Республіки Крим, працювати виключно в межах підписаних угод, – заявив О.Турчинов. – Я нагадую Президенту Путіну, що разом із США та Великобританією Російська Федерація є також гарантом недоторканності, цілісності території України. Цей Меморандум був підписаний у 1994 році, коли Україна в односторонньому порядку відмовилася від ядерної зброї".

О.Турчинов поінформував, що за зверненням Верховної Ради та за його особистим зверненням зараз відбувається засідання Ради Безпеки ООН, додавши, що "весь цивілізований світ підтримує Україну".

Голова Верховної Ради також заявив, що РНБО відпрацювала план нормалізації ситуації на півострові Крим.

"Ми вимагаємо припинити провокацію, вимагаємо нормалізувати ситуацію. Ми впевнені у тому, що Україна збереже свою територію, Україна захистить незалежність, і будь-які спроби анексії, вторгнення будуть мати дуже серйозні наслідки", – заявив О.Турчинов.

Керівник Парламенту також висловив вдячність українським військовим, які зараз знаходяться на півострові Крим: "Я підтримую їх, дякую за те, що вони гідно виконують свої обов'язки".

О.Турчинов також заспокоїв цивільне населення Автономної Республіки, "яке не підтримує сепаратистські гасла провокаторів і завербованих агентів": "Ситуація на півострові найближчим часом повинна бути нормалізована".

(Прес-служба Апарату Верховної Ради України)

КМ України

Арсеній Яценюк зустрівся з міністрами закордонних справ країн Вишеградської четвірки

ДЕПАРТАМЕНТ ІНФОРМАЦІЇ ТА КОМУНІКАЦІЙ З ГРОМАДСЬКІСТЮ
СЕКРЕТАРІАТУ КМУ

28.02.2014,15:27

У п'ятницю, 28 лютого, Прем'єр-міністр України Арсеній Яценюк провів зустріч із міністрами закордонних справ країн Вишеградської четвірки.

Сторони обговорили політичну ситуацію в Україні. Арсеній Яценюк наголосив, що наша держава переживає складні й відповідальні часи, проте новий Уряд контролює ситуацію та зробить усе можливе для зняття напруги в країні.

Представники Вишеградської четвірки висловили готовність допомогти новому українському Уряду в подоланні фінансової кризи в державі.

9 РОЗДІЛ. 28 ЛЮТОГО 2014 РОКУ, П'ЯТНИЦЯ

Сторони також обговорили розвиток подій в АР Крим. Глави МЗС країни Вишеградської четвірки висловили стурбованість подіями на півострові.

Арсеній Яценюк наголосив: «Моя позиція, як Прем'єр-міністра України, знайти вирішення питання виключно політичним шляхом».

По завершенні зустрічі міністри закордонних справ країн Вишеградської четвірки відлетіли до Донецька, аби висловити підтримку єдності України.

До складу делегації Євросоюзу, зокрема, увійшли Голова Представництва ЄС в Україні Ян Томбінські, Міністр закордонних справ Чеської Республіки Любомір Зоралек, Віце-прем'єр-міністр, Міністр закордонних справ та європейських справ Словацької Республіки Мірослав Лайчак, Надзвичайний і Повноважний Посол Словацької Республіки в Україні Юрей Сівачек, Міністр закордонних справ Угорщини Янош Мартоні, Надзвичайний і Повноважний Посол Угорщини в Україні Міхаль Баер, Заступник Міністра закордонних справ Республіки Польща Катажина Пелчинська-Наленч, Надзвичайний і Повноважний Посол Республіки Польща в Україні Генрик Літвін.

Арсеній Яценюк зустрівся з главою МЗС Канади та президентом Конгресу українців Канади

ДЕПАРТАМЕНТ ІНФОРМАЦІЇ ТА КОМУНІКАЦІЙ З ГРОМАДСЬКІСТЮ
СЕКРЕТАРІАТУ КМУ
28.02.2014,21:03

У п'ятницю, 28 лютого, Прем'єр-міністр України Арсеній Яценюк зустрівся з Міністром закордонних справ Канади Джоном Бейрдом.

Глава МЗС зазначив, що Канада висловлює підтримку Україні та новому Уряду. Сторони обговорили ситуацію в Україні, зокрема в АР Крим. Джон Бейрд висловив підтримку виключно політичному виходу з ситуації в Криму.

Глава МЗС Канади зазначив, що готовий підтримати Україну в подальшій співпраці з Міжнародним валютним фондом.

У зустрічі також взяв участь президент Конгресу українців Канади Павло Грод. Він привітав народ України та висловив підтримку новим трансформаціям в Україні.

Прем'єр-міністр Латвії в листі Арсенієві Яценюку висловила підтримку Україні та її євроінтеграційним прагненням

ДЕПАРТАМЕНТ ІНФОРМАЦІЇ ТА КОМУНІКАЦІЙ З ГРОМАДСЬКІСТЮ
СЕКРЕТАРІАТУ КМУ
28.02.2014,21:11

У п'ятницю, 28 лютого, Прем'єр-міністр України Арсеній Яценюк зустрівся з міністром закордонних справ Республіки Латвія Едгарсом Рінкевичсом. У ході зустрічі Едгарс Рінкевичс передав Арсенієві Яценюку листа від Прем'єр-міністра Латвії Лаймдоти Страуюми.

У Листі Прем'єр-міністр Латвії висловила сподівання, що в нелегкий для України час Уряд зробить важливі кроки для побудови сильної, процвітаючої, єдиної та демократичної держави.

Лаймдота Страуюма зазначила, що Латвія й надалі підтримуватиме Україну та її прагнення ближчої інтеграції з Європейським союзом.

Прем'єр-міністр Латвії висловила впевненість в тому, що взаємовигідна співпраця між Україною та Латвією продовжуватиме міцніти.

МЗС України

З листом Постійного представника України при ООН від 28 лютого 2014 року на ім'я Голови Ради Безпеки ООН у зв'язку з погіршенням ситуації в Автономній Республіці Крим, Україна, можна ознайомитися нижче у стенограмі засідання РБ ООН від 28 лютого 2014 року.

В.о. Міністра закордонних справ України Андрій Дешиця провів зустріч з делегацією МЗС країн-учасниць Вишеградської четвірки (В-4).

28 лютого 2014, 11:00

У складі делегації В-4 до Києва прибули Міністр закордонних справ Угорщини Я.Мартоні (голоує у В-4), Віце-прем'єр-міністр, Міністр закордонних справ та європейських питань Словацької Республіки М.Лайчак, Міністр закордонних справ Чеської Республіки Л.Заоралек, а також Віце-міністр закордонних справ Республіки Польща К.Пелчинська-Наленч. У зустрічі взяв також участь Глава Представництва ЄС в Україні Я.Томбінський. Керівник зовнішньополітичного відомства України А.Дешиця висловив вдячність країнам Вишеградської групи за незмінну підтримку демократичних процесів в Україні, яка була особливо відчутною протягом останніх трьох місяців. У цьому сенсі Глава вітчизняного МЗС окремо відзначив відчутну гуманітарну допомогу з боку В-4 постраждалим громадянам України під час масових акцій протесту.

В.о. Міністра А.Дешиця детально ознайомив глав зовнішньополітичних відомств країн Вишеградської четвірки з першочерговими кроками нового керівництва України, спрямованими на політичну та економічну стабілізацію у державі. Він закликав своїх європейських партнерів забезпечити максимальне сприяння у цьому процесі.

Зі свого боку керівники дипломатичних відомств країн Вишеградської групи заявили про одностайну підтримку територіальній цілісності та суверенітету України. Було також висловлено готовність вжити конкретних кроків для отримання Україною макроекономічної допомоги від міжнародних інституцій.

Глава МЗС України А.Дешиця окреслив основні зовнішньополітичні пріоритети України. У цьому контексті в.о. Міністра наголосив на готовності українського Уряду у найкоротші терміни підписати Угоду про асоціацію з Євросоюзом та завершити процес лібералізації візового режиму для українських громадян. Було також наголошено на важливості відновлення повноцінного діалогу з Російською Федерацією.

В центрі уваги зустрічі перебували також питання активізації практичної взаємодії між Україною та державами В-4, зокрема, щодо виділення стипендій українським студентам для навчання в університетах Польщі, Словаччини, Угорщини та Чехії, підтримки громадянського суспільства у нашій державі.

В.о. Міністра закордонних справ України Андрій Дешиця провів телефонну розмову з керівником МЗС Туреччини Ахметом Давутоглу

28 лютого 2014, 11:30

Співрозмовники обговорили сучасне внутрішньополітичне становище в Україні та на кордонах нашої держави, а також розвиток ситуації в Автономній Республіці Крим. В.о. Міністра запросив А.Давутоглу здійснити візит в Україну. Домовлено продовжити діалог з цих питань 1 березня 2014 р. в Києві.

9 РОЗДІЛ. 28 ЛЮТОГО 2014 РОКУ, П'ЯТНИЦЯ

В.о. Міністра закордонних справ України Андрій Дешиця зустрівся з представниками іноземного дипломатичного корпусу в Україні
28 лютого 2014, 15:30

Під час зустрічі керівник МЗС ознайомив іноземних дипломатів з внутрішньополітичною ситуацією в Україні та окреслив ключові пріоритети нового Уряду в галузі зовнішньої політики.

Зокрема, А.Дешиця наголосив, що першочерговим завданням за нинішніх обставин є захист незалежності, суверенітету та територіальної цілісності України. На порядку денному діяльності керівництва держави є також якнайшвидше підписання Угоди про асоціацію з ЄС, включно із створенням поглибленої та всеосяжної зони вільної торгівлі, запровадження безвізового режиму поїздок громадян України до країн Євросоюзу, розвиток взаємовигідних добросусідських відносин з Російською Федерацією та іншими стратегічними партнерами.

Дуаен дипломатичного корпусу, Посол Республіки Білорусь в Україні Валентин Величко привітав в.о. Міністра з призначенням та побажав успіхів на новій високій посаді.

В.о. Міністра закордонних справ України Андрій Дешиця провів телефонну розмову з Віце-прем'єр-міністром, главою МЗС Республіки Молдова Наталією Герман
28 лютого 2014, 16:00

Співрозмовники обговорили ключові питання двостороннього співробітництва між Україною та Республікою Молдова. Окрема увага була приділена необхідності активізації зусиль з метою вирішення низки актуальних питань, що знаходяться на порядку денному українсько-молдовських відносин.

Андрій Дешиця та Наталія Герман обмінялися також думками щодо подальших кроків з придністровського врегулювання.

В.о. Міністра закордонних справ України Андрій Дешиця провів зустріч з канадською делегацією на чолі з Міністром закордонних справ Джоном Бейрдом
28 лютого 2014, 16:30

Сторони обговорили внутрішньополітичну ситуацію в Україні, зокрема розвиток останніх подій в АР Крим. Окрему увагу було приділено питанням допомоги, яку Канада може надати Україні для стабілізації ситуації в економічній і фінансовій сферах. Під час зустрічі канадська сторона висловила свою готовність співпрацювати з новим Урядом України, а також чітку позицію щодо підтримки територіальної цілісності України, непорушності її кордонів і європейського майбутнього нашої держави.

В.о. Міністра закордонних справ України Андрій Дешиця провів переговори з Міністром закордонних справ Латвійської Республіки Едгарсом Рінкевичсем
28 лютого 2014, 18:00

Переговори відбулися у рамках візиту латвійського гостя в Україну.

Глави зовнішньополітичних відомств України та Латвії обговорили першочергові питання порядку денного двосторонніх відносин, зокрема, розвиток політичного діалогу, поглиблення торговельно-економічної та інвестиційної співпраці, активізацію співробітництва у транспортно-транзитній сфері.

9 РОЗДІЛ. 28 ЛЮТОГО 2014 РОКУ, П'ЯТНИЦЯ

Особливу увагу було приділено внутрішньополітичному розвитку в Україні та ситуації в АРК.

В.о. Міністра А.Дешиця поінформував свого колегу про формування Уряду України та Програму його дій, ознайомив із першочерговими кроками на шляху стабілізації української економіки та у рамках європейської інтеграції України.

Україна ініціює проведення найближчим часом у Києві позачергового засідання Глав зовнішньополітичних відомств СНД

28 лютого 2014, 19:50

У зв'язку із ситуацією, що склалася в окремих регіонах України, в тому числі АР Крим, в.о. Міністра закордонних справ України Андрій Дешиця, як головуєчий в Раді міністрів закордонних справ СНД, ініціює проведення найближчим часом у Києві позачергового засідання глав зовнішньополітичних відомств СНД.

МЗС України висловило протест у зв'язку з діями російської сторони

28 лютого 2014, 20:10

28 лютого 2014 р. російській стороні передано ноту Міністерства закордонних справ України, в якій висловлено протест у зв'язку з порушенням повітряного простору України та недотриманням Угоди про статус та умови перебування Чорноморського флоту Російської Федерації на території України від 28 травня 1997 року.

Окремо було наголошено на тому, що Україна не зверталася до Росії з жодними пропозиціями чи проханнями щодо застосування військових формувань Чорноморського флоту Російської Федерації, тимчасово дислокованих на території України, для забезпечення громадського порядку, запровадження будь-яких антитерористичних чи інших силових заходів.

МЗС України підтвердило свої вимоги щодо невідкладного повернення військовослужбовців, бойової та військової техніки Чорноморського флоту Російської Федерації до місць їхньої дислокації.

Коментар Представництва України при ЄС щодо ситуації в Криму (28 лютого 2014 року)

(Представництво України при ЄС)

28 лютого 2014, 21:58

У зв'язку з небезпечною ескалацією напруженості у Криму (Україна), яка веде до реальної загрози суверенітету та територіальної цілісності України, Представник України при ЄС К.Слісєєв звернувся з листом до Високого Представника ЄС у закордонних справах К.Ештон з пропозицією скликати надзвичайне засідання Ради Міністрів ЄС у закордонних справах для вжиття невідкладних заходів з метою припинення військової агресії РФ проти України.

К.Слісєєв також ініціював внесення зазначеного питання до порядку денного засідання Комітету у закордонних справах Європейського Парламенту, запланованого на 3-4 березня ц.р. у Брюсселі.

Крім того, тривають інтенсивні консультації Представництва з Військовим Комітетом ЄС та послами провідних країн ЄС при Політико-безпековому комітеті ЄС.

28 лютого ц.р. зазначена тема стала також предметом телефонної бесіди між Президентом Європейської Комісії Ж.М.Баррозу та Прем'єр-міністром України А.Яценюком та між

9 РОЗДІЛ. 28 ЛЮТОГО 2014 РОКУ, П'ЯТНИЦЯ

Президентом Європейської Ради Х.Ван Ромпеєм та Президентом Російської Федерації В.Путіним. Очікується, що вона стане однією з ключових тем під час візиту Високого Представника ЄС у закордонних справах К.Ештон до Києва 3 березня ц.р.

Посол України в Італії Євген Перелигін звернувся до відомих італійських політиків та парламентарів

(Посольство України в Італії)

28 лютого 2014, 18:00

У зв'язку із зверненням Верховної Ради України від 28 лютого 2014 року до держав-гарантів відповідно до Меморандуму про гарантії безпеки у зв'язку з приєднанням України до Договору про нерозповсюдження ядерної зброї, Посол України в Італії Євген Перелигін звернувся до відомих політичних діячів, зокрема колишнього Прем'єр-міністра Італії та Президента Європейської Комісії Романо Проді, Голови Радикальної партії Італії, экс-міністра закордонних справ Емми Боніно з проханням використати свій політичний авторитет та вплив з метою якомога скорішого мирного врегулювання ситуації в Автономній Республіці Крим та проведення відповідних консультацій.

Посол України також звернувся до депутатів італійського парламенту та членів Європейського Парламенту від Італії з проханням підтвердити суверенітет та територіальну цілісність України.

КРАЇНИ-ЧЛЕНИ ГРУПИ "G-7"

США

Excerpts on Ukraine from Remarks by Secretary of State John Kerry and Colombian Foreign Minister Maria Holguin

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

February 28, 2014

Treaty Room

Washington, D.C

QUESTION: Thank you. There's already a Russian military presence within Ukraine via their existing military bases. So technically, it wouldn't violate territorial integrity for them to choose to use them, particularly in places where there is instability like we're seeing in Crimea.

Today Viktor Yanukovich went public, said – he called on Russia not to be a bystander, warned that there could be uprisings, particularly in eastern Ukraine. I'm wondering if you feel that you have assurances that Russia is being transparent about its role in Ukraine and how it intends to use its military.

SECRETARY KERRY: Well, let me begin by saying that we as the United States totally support the Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty, and we expect other nations to do the same. It is accurate, as you've just said, that Russia has a base agreement in Ukraine, by which they have right of access and rules that regulate their presence.

I talked this morning with Foreign Minister Lavrov about the reports we are getting about Russian presence and what it may be choosing to do. And we raised the issue of the airports, raised the issue of armored vehicles, raised the issue of personnel in various places. And while we were told that they are not engaging in any violation of sovereignty and do not intend to, I nevertheless made it clear that that could be misinterpreted at this moment, and that there are enough tensions that it is important for everybody to be extremely careful not to inflame the situation and not to send the wrong messages.

He reaffirmed to me that President Putin is committed and that as a matter of policy they do not intend to violate the sovereignty of Ukraine, but that there are obviously interests in Crimea, which were reflected in their local Rada yesterday where people feel a strong attachment to and affinity for Russia, obviously. This is the tension that exists within Ukraine itself. There's an east-west tension right within Ukraine. And I emphasized to him our desire to diffuse these tensions, to work very constructively, to bring Ukraine together, keep it – to keep the respect for its sovereignty and its territorial integrity. And he reiterated their intention not to violate it. Now at the same time as we were talking, former President Yanukovich was holding a press conference and he articulated during that that he did not want to ask Russia for assistance and that he asked for the respect for the territorial integrity of Ukraine.

So we are continuing this dialogue. We will continue this dialogue. We believe – National Security Advisor Rice has made it very clear and I made it clear – that intervention would, in our judgment, be a very grave mistake. It would be completely contrary to Russian policies as stated now with respect to Libya, Syria, other places. And any acts – the question is whether or not what is happening now might be crossing a line in any way, and we're going to be very careful in making our judgments about that. I think that we would overwhelmingly stress today that we urge all parties – all parties – that includes the new interim technical government and rightists and oppositionists and others, anybody in the street who is armed – we urge all parties to avoid any steps that could be misinterpreted or lead to miscalculation or do anything other than to work to bring peace and stability and a peaceful transition within the governing process of Ukraine.

And we are pledged to work with Russia and with the EU and others and especially with the new interim technical government in an effort to try to affect a very peaceful process. I did talk with Foreign Minister Lavrov about the urgency of focusing on the economy. And he indicated that they have indicated – Russia – that they are prepared to engage and be involved in helping to deal with the economic transition that needs to take place at this point – the economic help that needs to be presented at this point.

The primary focus of everybody should be on the creation of a stable transitioning process that allows Ukrainians to be able to make their choice in a free and fair election while we all work to help stabilize the economy. That's in Russia's interest, in the United States' interest, in the world's interest. And that's what we're working towards. And we do not want to get caught up in the historical or the more current tensions over association agreements or NATO or other kinds of things. There's a place for that down the road if the – if Ukrainians want to have that debate but we do not believe that that should be part of what is happening now. Now is the time for transition and for respect for the pluralism and diversity and democracy that the people of Ukraine want.

Statement by President Obama on Ukraine

THE WHITE HOUSE, Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 28, 2014

James S. Brady Press Briefing Room

5:05 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Good afternoon, everybody.

Over the last several days, the United States has been responding to events as they unfold in Ukraine. Throughout this crisis, we have been very clear about one fundamental principle: The Ukrainian people deserve the opportunity to determine their own future. Together with our European allies, we have urged an end to the violence and encouraged Ukrainians to pursue a course in which they stabilize their country, forge a broad-based government and move to elections this spring.

I also spoke several days ago with President Putin, and my administration has been in daily communication with Russian officials, and we've made clear that they can be part of an

international community's effort to support the stability and success of a united Ukraine going forward, which is not only in the interest of The people of Ukraine and the international community, but also in Russia's interest.

However, we are now deeply concerned by reports of military movements taken by the Russian Federation inside of Ukraine. Russia has a historic relationship with Ukraine, including cultural and economic ties, and a military facility in Crimea, but any violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity would be deeply destabilizing, which is not in the interest of Ukraine, Russia, or Europe.

It would represent a profound interference in matters that must be determined by the Ukrainian people. It would be a clear violence of Russia's commitment to respect the independence and sovereignty and borders of Ukraine, and of international laws. And just days after the world came to Russia for the Olympic Games, it would invite the condemnation of nations around the world. And indeed, the United States will stand with the international community in affirming that there will be costs for any military intervention in Ukraine.

The events of the past several months remind us of how difficult democracy can be in a country with deep divisions. But the Ukrainian people have also reminded us that human beings have a universal right to determine their own future.

Right now, the situation remains very fluid. Vice President Biden just spoke with Prime Minister – the Prime Minister of Ukraine to assure him that in this difficult moment the United States supports his government's efforts and stands for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and democratic future of Ukraine. I also commend the Ukrainian government's restraint and its commitment to uphold its international obligations.

We will continue to coordinate closely with our European allies. We will continue to communicate directly with the Russian government. And we will continue to keep all of you in the press corps and the American people informed as events develop.

Thanks very much.

END

5:09 P.M. EST

**Remarks by Ambassador Samantha Power, U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations, at a Security Council Stakeout on Ukraine
February 28, 2014**

Good afternoon everybody. We've just come from an emergency meeting and consultations of the Security Council on Ukraine.

It is important that the Council came together today on this subject because this is a critical moment for the future of Ukraine and the Ukrainian people. The United States stands with the Ukrainian people in determining their own destiny, their own government, their own future. We are gravely disturbed by reports of Russian military deployments into the Crimea. The United States calls upon Russia to pull back the military forces that are being built up in the region, to stand down, and to allow the Ukrainian people the opportunity to pursue their own government, create their own destiny and to do so freely without intimidation or fear. We call upon all states to respect the sovereignty of Ukraine. As various political actors begin making decisions about what role they will play in shaping that future, the international community has an opportunity and a responsibility to stand firmly with the people of Ukraine and, in doing so, to prevent unnecessary violence. Given the present turbulence, it is useful for the Council to reiterate certain principles, including the unity and territorial integrity of Ukraine, the need for peaceful dialogue and the prevention of further violence, and the fact that Ukraine's future can only be determined by the Ukrainian people.

In recent days, the world has borne witness to the overwhelming support that Ukraine's new government has received from all major parties within the country. At the same time, we

recognize that this newly formed government will require international assistance as it tries to correct the economic failures and political inequities of the past administration. A key to doing this, and to Ukraine's stability and economic security, depends on it having healthy relations with all of its neighbors, including Russia and the European Union.

The United States stands with the Ukrainian people at this remarkable moment and welcomes the formation of the new government; we are pleased that the cabinet is both inclusive and representative and we congratulate the members of the Rada and the Ukrainian people on their historic achievement.

The new government needs to continue its outreach to minority groups in order to help calm the situation and affirm its commitment to protecting minority rights. Clearly this is a message that needs especially to be heard in the Crimea, where we have seen actions and heard rhetoric that could threaten Ukraine's unity and stability. To underline this point, let me be clear that the United States would condemn any move to undermine Ukraine's sovereignty or territorial integrity, which we expect all states to respect. The best way for the people of Crimea to achieve their goals is to work peacefully within the established political system. To this end, the United States calls for an urgent international mediation mission to the Crimea to begin to deescalate the situation, and facilitate productive and peaceful political dialogue among all Ukrainian parties.

We encourage all Ukrainians to pursue their aspirations through peaceful dialogue and nonviolent political activity in combination [with] the new government's efforts – with appropriate international assistance – to bring about economic recovery and renewed hope for the future.

Thank you and I'd be happy to take a couple questions.

Reporter: So, who should be involved in this international mediation mission? And has the US communicated directly to Russia its concerns about – that it's gravely disturbed by this report and that it wants Russia will pull back?

Ambassador Power: First, let me say that the President of the United States will be speaking on the issue of Ukraine later today. So you'll hear directly from him. In terms of the mediation mission that we think is urgently needed, I think what's important is that it be seen as independent, credible. Obviously the Secretary General has dispatched an envoy, Robert Serry, to Ukraine. He remains in Ukraine; he's a former ambassador to Ukraine, as many of you know. The OSCE has historic connections, obviously, to many, many parts of Ukraine and to the Ukrainian people. What we think is important, again, is that there is a mission at a time when the crisis seems to be escalating rather than deescalating. And we think that mission be carried in service of the territorial integrity, sovereignty, and unity of Ukraine.

Reporter: Can I ask you how you would describe the Russian military movements in Crimea? Do these count as an act of aggression?

Ambassador Power: I'm not going to characterize the movements – again, you'll be hearing from the president of the United States shortly – beyond to reiterate the point I've already made, which is that we are deeply concerned by these reports, deeply concerned by what we see as facts on the ground. And we urge Russia to join us in helping Ukraine get on – back on a path to a brighter future.

Readout of the Vice President's Call with Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk

THE WHITE HOUSE, Office of the Vice President

February 28, 2014

Vice President Biden spoke with Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk earlier today to reaffirm the United States' strong support for the new government and our commitment to the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and democratic future of Ukraine. The Vice President further commended the government for its continued restraint. The Prime Minister emphasized to the

Vice President that the new government would uphold its international obligations and serve all the people of Ukraine.

Ukraine in the White House Daily Press Briefing

February 28, 2014

Q Thanks. On Ukraine, Secretary Kerry said today that the U.S. is watching to see if Russian activity in Crimea might be “crossing a line in any way,” but that the administration would also be very careful in making judgments about that. Can you say what the U.S. is prepared to do if Russia does cross that line?

MR. CARNEY: Well, again, we are watching to see, as the Secretary said, whether or not Russia is doing anything that might be crossing the line in any way. We strongly support Ukraine’s territorial integrity and sovereignty, and we expect other nations to do the same. Reports of Russian intervention in Crimea are of deep concern to the United States, and as Secretary Kerry said and Ambassador Rice has said, intervention would be a grave mistake. These reports are also inconsistent with Russia’s previous statements to the United States that Russia will respect the territorial integrity of Ukraine, and they are inconsistent with the obligation Russia reaffirmed in the Budapest Memorandum. We call on Russia to respect its international obligations made under the U.N. Charter to refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state. We urge all parties to avoid steps that could be misinterpreted or lead to a miscalculation at this delicate time.

Q So would the line be military intervention or some type of use of force over there?

MR. CARNEY: We’ve made clear that the United States supports the territorial integrity of Ukraine and the sovereignty of Ukraine. And we have made clear to Russia that we believe it would be a grave mistake to intervene in any way. We’ve obviously had and will continue to have direct communications with Russian government officials. The President spoke with President Putin about Ukraine. Secretary Kerry had another conversation with Foreign Minister Lavrov earlier today about this issue. And we are conveying very clearly our views, views shared by our European partners and allies, that Ukraine’s territorial integrity must be respected.

Q It seems as though the situation there may be headed to a place where it’s going to get worse before it gets better. I mean, what is the level of concern here that the situation there will get worse before it gets better?

MR. CARNEY: Well, we are concerned about the situation in Ukraine at several levels. We commend the parliament for the actions that it has taken to install a government and to get to work addressing the serious economic situation in Ukraine. We are going to work with our partners and allies and multilateral organizations to look at ways that we can be of assistance to Ukraine. And we have made clear in our conversations, including the Vice President’s recent conversation with the new Prime Minister of Ukraine, both our commitment to assist Ukraine, but also our expectation that Ukraine, as it tries to fulfill the aspirations of its people, that the Ukrainian government take steps to ensure that the rights of all citizens are respected, and that, as planned, early elections take place.

So we are engaging not just with other partners and allies in the region, not just with the Russian government, but with Ukraine and with Ukrainian leaders themselves on all the issues that confront that country at this time. There’s no question that it’s a fluid situation, and some of the reports that I mentioned are of concern. And it would be a grave mistake to intervene and to in any way violate the territorial integrity of a sovereign state like Ukraine.

Mark.

Q Thank you, Jay. I’m sure you saw the reports and the photographs today of men in uniform patrolling airports in Crimea. Does the United States know who these soldiers are? Are they Russians?

MR. CARNEY: I think I would refer you to what I just said about the reports of Russian intervention. Other reports about things and developments in Ukraine are matters that we're looking into, that we're seeking clarification on, we're discussing with Ukrainian leaders as well as Russian leaders and others. So I don't have – I can't go through with you each report and what the bottom-line truth behind each report is.

What I can tell you is that we're concerned about reports or suggestions that there might be intervention by an outside state, and we have conveyed that. And we would point to assurances by the Russian government that they respect the territorial integrity of Ukraine.

So this is something that we are engaging with at the highest levels across the region.

Q And when you talk about those assurances of respecting Ukraine's territorial integrity, when the President spoke directly with Putin a week ago, did the Russian President give assurances that he would respect Ukraine's territorial integrity?

MR. CARNEY: At the time of that conversation, as we read out, the President and Russian President Putin agreed that there needed to be a de-escalation of violence in Ukraine. And I would point you to the more detailed readout that we gave.

As a general matter, in the communications that we've had with Russian government officials, including Secretary Kerry with Foreign Minister Lavrov, this has been one of the topics of conversation. And we have conveyed our concern about the need to maintain Ukraine's territorial integrity, and have received assurances. But I don't have a further characterization of those conversations.

Q You were just talking about expressions of these concerns that you have for potential Russian involvement in Ukraine. What options does the United States have available should we reach that point?

MR. CARNEY: Well, I'm not going to speculate for you, Jim. What I would tell you is that this is a matter that we're very focused on – the President, Secretary of State, Ambassador Rice and others, Secretary Hagel. And we are engaging with Ukrainian leaders, with Russian leaders and with others in the region to ensure that Ukraine is able to move forward in keeping with the aspirations of its people, that Ukraine's territorial integrity is respected, that its sovereignty is respected by other nations.

So I'm not going to speculate about what we might do if something might happen. We're going to focus on the kinds of communications we're having right now, and focus on the international effort to assist Ukraine.

Q And as you know, Yanukovich has accused the United States of meddling in Ukraine's affairs, even as the U.S. is saying to Russia, don't meddle in what's happening in Ukraine. Does the White House have a response to what Mr. Yanukovich is saying?

MR. CARNEY: Well, I would simply say that we have made clear that Mr. Yanukovich lost legitimacy as the leader of Ukraine and abdicated his responsibilities. Not long after signing an agreement with the opposition, he fled the capital of the country in an orderly fashion, packed his belongings and left.

And I think it's also important to note that the Ukrainian parliament acting responsibly to fill that vacuum elected a new government after Mr. Yanukovich fled the scene. And I think it's also worth remembering that security forces under Mr. Yanukovich's control used snipers in downtown Kyiv to kill dozens of Ukrainians. I think that goes to the lost legitimacy.

So again, he abdicated his responsibilities, he left and packed up his belongings. Until this recent press conference, his whereabouts were not known. And the Ukrainian parliament, which includes members from parties that represent all of Ukrainian society, has taken action through votes with substantial majorities, including votes from members of Mr. Yanukovich's party, to fill that vacuum and to stabilize the situation in Ukraine and to move forward with a plan to have early elections. And that is all, in our view, appropriate and positive amidst a situation that's obviously quite fluid. **Q** Back to Ukraine. Ukraine has made a request to the IMF for about \$15 billion to stabilize the country and so forth. Can you give us a little update on where people are on that, where the U.S. is on negotiating that?

MR. CARNEY: Well, I can tell you that we welcome the news that the IMF will send a team to Ukraine in the coming days. And for our part, we are considering a range of options, including loan guarantees, to support Ukraine economically. The next step is for the new government to resume talks with the IMF. And as the government engages the IMF, we will also begin taking steps, in coordination with multilateral and bilateral partners and the new government, which could complement, as I mentioned earlier, an IMF package.

So I don't have a specific reaction to the beginning of negotiations and discussions between the Ukrainian government and the IMF except that we support efforts to assist Ukraine as it enacts reforms and stabilizes its economy. And we will be considering a range of options available to the United States to act in support in a complementary way of any IMF assistance.

Q Ukraine has had previous IMF loans. Back in 2008, there was some trouble – they balked at some of the conditions of the loan. Does that cloud the talks this time around?

MR. CARNEY: I would have to refer you to the State Department and Treasury and the IMF. I don't have the history, the back history on that.

Jared.

Q Thank you. In regards to Crimea, or in regards to Russia and Ukraine, what would be intervening? How would you define intervention, I guess?

MR. CARNEY: Well, there have been some reports that suggest intervention, and we're concerned about those and we're seeking clarification. We're watching closely to see, as Secretary Kerry said, whether Russia might be "crossing the line in any way," the intervention line, if you will. So I'm not going to speculate or frame it beyond the reports and the concern that we're expressing. It's very clear what our position is, which is that Ukrainian territorial integrity needs to be respected, Ukrainian sovereignty needs to be respected, and it would be a grave mistake to intervene.

So it is our view that maintaining the independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine is in the interest of the Ukrainian people and the interest of nations in the region, including Russia. And we are going to work with all partners to assist the Ukrainian government as it steps forward to deal with its economic challenges, and to move forward towards early elections that would provide another future government in Ukraine that reflects the will of all the Ukrainian people, that respects the rights of all the Ukrainian people, including minorities. And we're going to continue to watch the situation very closely when it comes to matters of potential intervention.

Q How do you get to the answer of whether Russia was behind the seizures? Are you guys asking the Russians, hey, was this you? I mean, you may not have an answer to that.

MR. CARNEY: Well, I'm not going to get into the ways that we monitor or all the conversations that we have around situations like this, except to say that we're watching it very closely.

Q And would this be crossing the line if it ended up being Russians or Russian security forces?

MR. CARNEY: Again, I'm not going to get into the individual reports and what our assessment is about what happened. And I think there's been a lot of, even in the reports themselves, contradictory information about some of the events, including the ones that have been raised here.

So I'm not in a position to evaluate each report and evaluate who is responsible and what actually happened. We obviously as a government, and working with partners and allies, and communicating directly with Ukrainian leaders, as well as Russians leaders and others, finding as much – getting as much information as we can about these reports.

Q Do you know how long it will take to try and get an answer behind the –

MR. CARNEY: I don't have anything more for you on it.

Peter.

Q Jay, does the President believe that the Russians are being aggressive vis-à-vis Crimea and Ukraine? Without using the word "intervention," are they being aggressive?

MR. CARNEY: So it's a different word. I think that we are concerned about reports of Russian intervention or Russian aggression. So I would –

Q So who would check intervention or aggression if it took place, the U.S. unilaterally? NATO allies? Who do we rely on to check that if they – if we do believe they crossed that line?

MR. CARNEY: We evaluate this, monitor this, engage in diplomatic discussions about this in a variety of ways – both as the United States in partnership with our allies in the region, and in direct communications with the Ukrainian government and Russian government officials.

Q Can you give us an update on the President's consultations with NATO allies on the issue of Ukraine?

MR. CARNEY: I don't have any presidential conversations to update you on. I noted the Secretary of State and the conversation he had with Foreign Minister Lavrov. I note that Vice President Biden had a conversation with the new Prime Minister, which I think we read out, of Ukraine. And obviously there are communications happening in real-time regarding this very fluid situation.

Q So, Jay, back to Ukraine. It seems that you're suggesting, when you refer to reports, deep concern for reports of Russian intervention, you're not just talking about news reports that we – the United States government through its other means has credible reports that the Russians have engaged in some kind of activity.

MR. CARNEY: Jon, I'm referring at this briefing to news reports, because there have been a variety of reports, some of them conflicting, some of them inconclusive about –

Q But you also mentioned the U.S. government and our ability to –

MR. CARNEY: Well, I was asked how we verify those reports or test – or find out what has actually happened in these individual circumstances. There have been a lot of reports about activity involving military personnel or apparently military personnel. So I'm sort of referring to those reports and to our concern about them, and to the fact that we're watching very closely to see if Russia is acting in any way that would cross the line when it comes to intervention in the affairs of a sovereign state.

Q Can you explain what our national interest is in the territorial integrity of Ukraine? I mean, take a region like Crimea, which was part of Russia until 1950, and then of course many years part of Ukraine but under the Soviet Union. Why is it in the American national interest that Ukraine remain exactly as its borders are now? I'm just asking –

MR. CARNEY: Because as a general principle we support the territorial integrity of states recognized under the U.N. Charter. And we call on Russia to respect its international obligations under the U.N. Charter to refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state. We're referring to general principles here that guide the conduct of nations in the international community.

So maintaining or recognizing Ukraine's territorial integrity, recognizing its sovereignty is something that nations have done, including Russia. Russia is party to agreements that recognize, including the Budapest Memorandum from I think the mid-1990s, that recognize Ukraine's independence and territorial integrity. And we call on nations to uphold their obligations under those agreements and under the U.N. charter.

Q When you talk about an intervention line, which I assume is something like a red line, it does raise the question of, well, then what? I mean, how much of – how important a national interest is this? What are we going to do if –

MR. CARNEY: Again, Jon, I'm not going to speculate about what happens if this happens. What I'm going to focus on and what we're focused on is what is happening and what we can do to assist the Ukrainian people as they deal with the current circumstances that the country is in, both economically and politically, and to call on nations to respect Ukraine's territorial integrity, to respect Ukraine's independence, to respect the right of the Ukrainian people to decide for themselves whether they want to, for example, integrate further with Europe; and to respect the fact that Ukraine has and will always have deep, historical and cultural ties to Russia, for example; and to integrate further with Europe and to maintain those deep ties that are both achievable and should be achievable. They're not contradictory.

And Ukraine's responsibility to respect the freedoms and liberties and civil rights of all of its citizens is a part of the bargain, if you will. So we are making all those points in this circumstance.

And in the meantime, when it comes to what-ifs, we're focused on making clear our views about the responsibilities of other states not to intervene, and our concern about any reports that suggest there might have intervention.

Q Should U.S. taxpayers be prepared to support transition in Ukraine? I understand there's support from the IMF. Should we be prepared with an aid package?

MR. CARNEY: Again, we're considering our – I'm sorry, considering. Did I say that? (Laughter.) It's Friday – just made up a word. But we are considering our options.

Q It's good.

MR. CARNEY: It's pretty good. I kind of sounded legit, right? We're considering all of our options. We haven't made determinations about ways that we can assist either unilaterally or bilaterally to complement an IMF program of assistance. We're encouraged by the fact that IMF officials will be traveling to Ukraine and that those conversations will take place. We think that's important. But at this point, we haven't made any decisions about additional assistance that the United States might provide.

Q I know you are rooted to the talking points presented on Ukraine, but I want to try one more time on this. You often tell us to evaluate not just words but actions of governments, of this administration, of political opponents. There have been a lot of words exchanged between the Secretary of State and Lavrov all this week, and there were words exchanged between the President and Vladimir Putin last week. In the main, would you say the actions on the ground in Ukraine had been consistent with Russian cooperation and consistent with the words expressed in this administration or not?

MR. CARNEY: Well, Major, again, you're – we've had very blunt and direct conversations with our Russian counterparts on this matter, and we've had a lot of conversations with other counterparts across the region, including –

Q If you look at Secretary Kerry's words today, he appears to be frustrated; that what we're communicating is not getting through, and there is more concern of things being misinterpreted and actions being taken that could be misconstrued and that could turn this into a much more volatile situation than it already is.

MR. CARNEY: Well, the second part is definitely true. We are concerned about actions that might be taken that could be misunderstood and that could lead to very problematic consequences. And that's why we're calling on all parties to be cautious in how they deal with this situation, and we're making clear our views that Ukrainian territorial integrity has to be respected.

So when it comes to reports about potential intervention, we're concerned about them, and we're making clear that intervention would be a grave mistake. And we're watching very closely, as Secretary Kerry said, to see whether or not Russia is crossing the line. But this is certainly a challenging situation and one that we're watching closely.

Q You said that it would be a grave mistake for Russia to cross the line with regard to intervention in Crimea. Is there a reality, a political reality that there would not be a political consequence for Russia to cross that line, given their size and their significance as a country?

MR. CARNEY: Victoria, that's another way of asking me what would or wouldn't happen if that grave mistake were committed. And I think I'm not going to speculate except to point to our concern, to point to our strongly held view that it would be a grave mistake to intervene and to point to the fact that we would not be alone in holding that view.

But beyond that, I'm not going to speculate about what might happen if actions were taken that cross that line.

Q There's supposed to be a U.N. Security Council meeting on Ukraine. Given that Russia is on the U.N. Security Council, do you hold out any hope for any kind of resolution condemning what's going on?

MR. CARNEY: Well, I'm not aware of what specific action, if any, the Security Council is contemplating. I would refer you to our representation at the United Nations for Ambassador Power's view on that action.

Ukraine in the State Department Daily Press Briefing

February 28, 2014

QUESTION: All right. So other than Secretary Kerry's call to Foreign Minister Lavrov, have there been any other Ukraine-related conversations at senior level – not – aside from the Vice President's call last night to the new prime minister? Has the Secretary spoken to any Ukrainian officials himself, or is he taking – basically going to deal with the Russians on this one?

MS. PSAKI: I don't have any additional calls to read out for you beyond his call with Foreign Minister Lavrov, which he spoke about this morning, and the call that Vice President Biden had with the interim Ukrainian prime minister. But this, of course, is an issue that is being closely watched and looked at and discussed internally in the Administration.

QUESTION: Okay. And then just to – I want to make sure that I'm accurate on this. Is it – the Secretary has spoken to Lavrov now today, yesterday – did he – about – specifically about Ukraine –

MS. PSAKI: Correct.

QUESTION: – and about what Russia may or may not be doing there. Are those the only two calls that he's had on this, I mean this week, in terms of post-Yanukovich fleeing?

MS. PSAKI: Those are the two calls he's had this week, yes.

QUESTION: Okay. He hasn't spoken with Lavrov another time since –

MS. PSAKI: He spoke with him also on Sunday, which I think you were aware of because we did a readout of that, and Saturday. Mm-hmm.

QUESTION: So he's spoken to him four times in six days?

MS. PSAKI: That's right. And let me just add that in addition to speaking about Ukraine, which they – he talked about this morning at the press avail, they also talked about Syria and they talked about Middle East peace, given the recent visit of President Abbas.

QUESTION: Sorry. Today?

MS. PSAKI: Mm-hmm.

QUESTION: They talked about Syria and Middle East peace?

MS. PSAKI: Yes, mm-hmm.

QUESTION: Why so many calls on this subject? Is this the level of the concern that you're feeling within this Administration that Moscow could have a – could try to have a heavy hand in what's going on in Ukraine?

MS. PSAKI: Well, this is an issue we're clearly very closely engaged with. He – Secretary Kerry called Foreign Minister Lavrov this morning to discuss reports of Russian military activities in Crimea, and he stressed, as he mentioned this morning, that the United States has concerns that all parties avoid any steps that could inflame tensions. And he made very clear during that call that any intervention in Ukraine would be a grave mistake.

So this is an issue that not only are we all talking about in here every day, given, of course, its prevalence in the news, but it's an issue the United States Government is watching closely. We're certainly concerned about the reports. Our focus remains on encouraging Ukraine to take positive steps forward regarding economic reforms, regarding elections. But also, we're closely watching what's happening on the ground.

QUESTION: So talking about reports – sorry. Do you have any independent confirmation yourselves within the Administration that there is yet any Russian intervention in Moscow? It's a little confusing about what's actually –

QUESTION: In Moscow?

QUESTION: Sorry, in Crimea.

MS. PSAKI: Sure.

QUESTION: Excuse me. Thank you. It's a little confusing to work out exactly what seems to be happening on the ground.

MS. PSAKI: Sure.

QUESTION: Do you have more details?

MS. PSAKI: I don't have anything – any more details to share with you. We're concerned about the same reports that you have seen, and obviously, we're closely watching this internally as well.

QUESTION: So nothing – no independent knowledge of any Russian intervention in Crimea?

MS. PSAKI: I don't have any independent information to share with you.

QUESTION: Okay. And I just wanted to ask – sorry, on –

QUESTION: On Ukraine?

MS. PSAKI: Oh, go ahead.

QUESTION: Still on Ukraine.

MS. PSAKI: Mm-hmm.

QUESTION: – still on Ukraine, whether you'd seen the press conference by Viktor Yanukovich and what your reaction was to his contention that he remains president of Ukraine.

MS. PSAKI: Sure. Well, we certainly saw the reports. We are in the same place we have been in, which is that we don't – we believe that Yanukovich has lost his legitimacy as he abdicated his responsibilities. As you know, he left Ukraine – or left Kyiv, and he has left a vacuum of leadership. So we continue to believe that he's lost legitimacy and our focus remains on the path forward.

QUESTION: The Secretary, in his comments, said that Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov had assured him that the United – that Russia had not and had no intention of violating Ukraine's sovereignty.

MS. PSAKI: Mm-hmm.

QUESTION: His next sentence began, "Nevertheless, I made the following points to him."

MS. PSAKI: Sure.

QUESTION: Do you doubt Foreign Minister Lavrov's statement?

MS. PSAKI: Well, Arshad, I think the Secretary said yesterday during his avail that, of course, we take the Russians for what they're conveying. But in an almost any conflict or international event you also want to verify words with actions, and so we're watching closely to ensure that their actions back up their words.

QUESTION: Well, do you believe – when he started out, he acknowledged that there is a basing agreement between the governments of Ukraine and Russia that gives the Russians certain rights of access.

MS. PSAKI: Mm-hmm.

QUESTION: Do you believe that what has been reported thus far, including the alleged transit of 10 Russian military helicopters, the surrounding of a border post by Russian – a Ukrainian border post by Russian soldiers – do you believe that those might fall within Russia's rights under that agreement? Is that conceivable? It may be. I don't know. I'm asking you.

MS. PSAKI: Sure. Look, I'm not in a position to give an analysis of that. But clearly, some of the reporting on all of those issues you mentioned is of concern, and that's why we're looking at it closely and discussing what it does mean. We know there's a base there. But obviously, some – the question is whether these activities have extended beyond, as the Secretary said this morning.

QUESTION: So that would imply, then, that you don't think to date Russia has violated its nonintervention promise.

MS. PSAKI: I'm just not giving an analysis of that. Obviously, we're looking at it –

QUESTION: Right.

MS. PSAKI: – and if we weren't – if we didn't have concerns about that question –

QUESTION: I understand.

MS. PSAKI: – we wouldn't be looking at it.

QUESTION: But you're looking at it to determine if they have, or you – or they might – they have already, or that you're looking at it in terms of what they do in the future?

MS. PSAKI: Well, both. We're –

QUESTION: In other – okay.

MS. PSAKI: There have been reports. I don't have any –

QUESTION: So you have not yet made a determination, then, on whether what happened – was reported to have happened today violates their promise?

MS. PSAKI: Well, I don't want to be too cute here. But obviously, there are ongoing discussions. We have seen reports. I don't have any independent confirmation of all of those reports to share with you.

QUESTION: Okay.

MS. PSAKI: So we're looking at it. But it means we're looking at, of course, the last 24 hours, but also events in the future, which is what the Secretary conveyed to the foreign minister today.

QUESTION: Okay. And then you said in one of your answers, I think to Arshad, that in any international crisis or international event it's important that actions back up words, right?

MS. PSAKI: Mm-hmm.

QUESTION: So in that line, when U.S. officials like the Secretary, like Ambassador Rice, yourself, your colleague at the White House, say that it would be a grave mistake for Russia to – for any – for Russia to intervene, what does that mean, really? I mean, other than calling it a grave mistake and a bad thing, what kind of consequence, if any, does it draw?

MS. PSAKI: Well, I'm not going to outline what consequences would be. Obviously, I think the international community would look closely at any intervention by the Russians or anyone else. But I'm not going to stand here and outline consequences from the podium.

QUESTION: Okay. What does that mean, "the international community would look closely at"?

MS. PSAKI: Would not look –

QUESTION: If you're trying to warn the Russians away from doing something –

MS. PSAKI: Mm-hmm.

QUESTION: – that you think would be bad, and the best you can say as –

MS. PSAKI: Well, I think the –

QUESTION: – that if they do it, as a consequence, that the international community is going to look closely at it.

MS. PSAKI: Matt, the Secretary said two days ago that there would be consequences. But again –

QUESTION: Okay.

MS. PSAKI: – that's obviously not our goal or our preferred path, so –

QUESTION: Okay. Well, fair enough.

MS. PSAKI: – we're trying to work in a different direction.

QUESTION: Do you believe that there could be – that you could get – when you say the international community, I'm presuming you're meaning the United Nations, but you do realize that any attempt to punish Russia at the UN Security Council is not going anywhere, right?

MS. PSAKI: I understand what you're saying, Matt. But again, I'm not going to go too much farther than to say that obviously there are a number of countries who are watching closely what happens in Ukraine, who feel strongly that territorial integrity is an important component we need to preserve moving forward.

QUESTION: And do you include Russia in that?

MS. PSAKI: Well, they have stated that, so let's see if their actions back that up.

Did you have another –

QUESTION: Yes.

MS. PSAKI: Sure.

QUESTION: On Ukraine.

MS. PSAKI: Mm-hmm.

QUESTION: I don't know if you will have seen this, because I think it's just come out –

MS. PSAKI: Sure.

QUESTION: – but Ukraine has filed an extradition – a request for the extradition of Yanukovich from Russia. Do you have any comment on that?

MS. PSAKI: I have not seen it, but I think it's unlikely we would have a specific comment on that.

QUESTION: And are you aware of plans to hold a closed-door Security Council meeting to discuss Ukraine today?

MS. PSAKI: We don't, obviously, confirm or discuss internal meetings that are happening –

QUESTION: How is that internal if it's between the five permanent members of the UN Security Council?

MS. PSAKI: Oh, I'm sorry. I thought you were asking about an internal National –

QUESTION: No, Security Council – not a National Security; the UN Security Council.

MS. PSAKI: I don't have any details on that. I would point you to the UN. I can check and see if that's something they've announced.

QUESTION: Could you tell us on the –

QUESTION: Do you know, though, if you support that?

MS. PSAKI: If we supported –

QUESTION: Well, the Ukrainians asked for there to be a meeting.

MS. PSAKI: Mm-hmm.

QUESTION: Do you know if the United States was in favor of having this meeting at the UN?

MS. PSAKI: I'd point you to our mission in New York on that.

Go ahead.

QUESTION: Could you clarify to us the legal aspects of this thing? Do you recognize the current Government of Ukraine? Did you do that?

MS. PSAKI: We don't recognize governments, as you know. Obviously, our focus –

QUESTION: Are you – who do you –

MS. PSAKI: Let me answer your question, Said.

QUESTION: Okay.

MS. PSAKI: We don't recognize governments. Our – as I just said earlier, the fact that Yanukovich left Kyiv, he left –

QUESTION: Right.

MS. PSAKI: – his people with a leadership void, in our view means he's lost his legitimacy. So I – beyond that, our focus here is on working with the interim government. They're going to hold elections. They called for elections in May. And we're focused on the path forward.

QUESTION: So the implicit or even the explicit in what you say, that by losing his legitimacy, you recognize the current government as the legitimate government –

MS. PSAKI: Again, we –

QUESTION: – and therefore, you might support –

MS. PSAKI: We don't recognize governments. We are working with a range of officials and leaders in Ukraine.

QUESTION: And just quickly going back to the question that –

MS. PSAKI: Sure.

QUESTION: – Matt posed about the grave consequences and so on, also in the undertone in what the Secretary said the other day, is he basically saying that Russia is vulnerable to that kind of a situation as well?

MS. PSAKI: I'm not going to go farther than I've gone or the Secretary has gone.

QUESTION: Okay. And finally –

MS. PSAKI: Do we have any more on Ukraine?

QUESTION: – on the Crimean airport situation –

MS. PSAKI: Mm-hmm.

QUESTION: – you have no information on who's really controlling the –

MS. PSAKI: I don't have any more details for you.

Ukraine?

QUESTION: Yeah.

MS. PSAKI: Sure, go ahead.

QUESTION: The former U.S. Ambassador to Russia, Michael McFaul –

MS. PSAKI: Mm-hmm.

QUESTION: – apparently couldn't wait to start commenting on affairs as a private citizen, and he described himself as highly concerned by what's going on, and he said that the Russians refer to what's going on in Ukraine as the Ukraine virus, and they fear that it will spread to Russia. Do you share that view?

MS. PSAKI: Well, I'm not going to comment on the comments of a private citizen, Arshad, but I will say, broadly speaking, every country we view differently. Every country has unique circumstances. Obviously, the people of Ukraine have spoken and have called for a path forward, and that's what we're supporting.

Ukraine? Any more on Ukraine? Okay.

QUESTION: You mentioned the context of the Secretary talk with Lavrov, the touch with – to be in touch with Russia.

MS. PSAKI: Mm-hmm.

QUESTION: In the same time, you said you are working with the interim government.

MS. PSAKI: Mm-hmm.

QUESTION: Another partner of this process – I assume it's EU – what kind of contacts you have with EU?

MS. PSAKI: With the EU about Ukraine?

QUESTION: Yes.

MS. PSAKI: Very close contacts. I think that the EU has announced plans for EU High Representative Ashton to head to Ukraine sometime next week. Obviously, we're closely engaged on the ground. We have officials engaged, I think it's fair to say, with the EU probably every day on these issues, and we're closely coordinating with them on everything from economic assistance to calls to encourage a reduction in violence and tensions.

QUESTION: Are there any plans for Assistant Secretary Nuland to go back to Kyiv in the coming days?

MS. PSAKI: I don't have any plans to announce for you. Obviously, I think everybody's looking at what the next appropriate steps might be.

QUESTION: Syria?

MS. PSAKI: Sure.

QUESTION: Yeah. You mentioned that the Secretary, in his conversation with Foreign Minister Lavrov, spoke about Syria. So you don't see that the Ukraine situation is really complicating your efforts or your collaborative efforts with Russia on Syria, do you?

MS. PSAKI: No, we don't.

ВЕЛИКОБРИТАНІЯ

PM call with President Putin: February 2014

28 February 2014

The Prime Minister called President Putin to discuss the situation in Ukraine.

Following the call, a Downing Street spokesperson said:

The Prime Minister called President Putin today to discuss the situation in Ukraine, particularly the escalating tensions in Crimea.

9 РОЗДІЛ. 28 ЛЮТОГО 2014 РОКУ, П'ЯТНИЦЯ

The Prime Minister emphasised that all countries should respect the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine. President Putin agreed, stressing that Russian military exercises in the area had been planned before the current situation in Ukraine.

The 2 leaders discussed how the international community could support Ukraine on the path to stability. They agreed that the free and fair elections that the interim government has pledged to hold are the best way to secure a positive future for Ukraine in which all Ukrainian people are represented. A future that would not involve forcing the Ukrainian people to make a choice between Europe and Russia.

They agreed the international community should also consider how to help the interim government tackle the economic situation.

They plan to keep in touch on the issue.

Press briefing: morning 28 February 2014

28 February 2014

The Prime Minister's Deputy Spokesperson (DPMS) answered questions on the Queen, Ukraine, Northern Ireland, Harriet Harman, European reform, legal highs and badgers.

Ukraine

When asked about the Ukraine's claim that the 1994 Budapest Memorandum should be upheld, the DPMS reiterated the Prime Minister's comments from earlier in the week where he said every country should respect the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine. She added that Russia, who also made this commitment, must keep its word. The DPMS said that the PM remained concerned about the situation in Ukraine, and was in touch with other leaders to ensure the international community worked together to ensure stability.

ІТАЛІЯ

Italy-Greece 2014 – Support for two EU presidencies in tripartite declaration on Ukraine

02/28/2014

Minister Federica Mogherini from 'maximum support to the joint statement issued today by the foreign ministers of France, Germany and Poland on the Ukrainian crisis. "Today there 'was the joint statement of the foreign ministers of Poland, Germany and France – said the minister at a press conference with fellow greek Evangelos Venizelos – The strongly support". Greece and Italy are the two countries holding the EU Presidency in 2014.

Promote dialogue and safeguard national integrity

We support the statement – said the head of the Farnesina – "especially when he speaks of the formation of a transitional government and when it refers to the need 'to meet the challenges in an inclusive way, involving all parties, without exception. We are very concerned about tensions and we must do all we can to reduce them, promoting peaceful dialogue. We reiterate the importance of protecting sovereignty 'and integrity' national. It serves a European action that supports dialogue between all parties, including Russia. "

Territorial dismemberment worst case scenario

The Minister added that "the territorial dismemberment of Ukraine would be the worst case scenario, we try to avoid. There is no alternative to inclusive dialogue is the only way, and I can say that from the conversations I have had in recent days with fellow US, EU and Russia, everyone thinks so. "

Note the joint Poland-Germany-France

In a joint statement, the foreign ministers of France, Laurent Fabius, Germany, Frank-Walter Steinmeyer, and Poland, Radoslaw Sikorski, they said "very concerned about the unstable situation in the Crimea", stressing that "we must do everything possible to reduce tension in the

region and promote peaceful discussion between the parties involved. " "We reaffirm our support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country", they added the three, who last week had traveled to Kiev for groped mediation.

Coordination with Athens to overcome 'austerity'

In the second half of 2014 Italy will assume the rotating presidency of the EU after Greece and and 'therefore essential to coordinate the policies of the two Mediterranean countries to "overcome this moment of' austerity 'and focus on growth and investment" the Minister said at the press conference. "During our presidency we want to suggest is not a revision of the parameters established years ago, but we want to say to all EU countries to be more 'flexible interpretation of those parameters."

"Italy and Greece 'Southern Europe', we are Europeans and just"

The next European elections are very important, perhaps still not 'been included in Italy,' cause "the vote of the citizens will change 'EU policies" said the Foreign Minister. "From them – he observed – depends on the majority that there will be 'in the European Parliament. I hope that we can soon see the difference it can' do this vote." For Mogherini, one of the changes must be the end of the definition of countries like Italy and Greece as "countries of southern Europe. Enough geographical definitions. We are European countries and just. Also on this speech and 'voters."

КАНАДА

Standing With the People of Ukraine

This op-ed was originally published in the Ukrainian-language *Dzerkalo Nedeli (Weekly Mirror)* on February 28, 2014.

Within weeks of the protests starting in November 2013, I personally walked around Kyiv's Independence Square to speak directly to the Ukrainian people. Armed with nothing more than a scarf, I saw first-hand the peaceful nature in which the Ukrainian people had gathered to voice their strong opposition to corruption and cronyism, and the desire of the Ukrainian people for the respect of the basic principles of democracy—freedom, human rights and the rule of law.

What started as a popular protest against repudiating an agreement with the European Union has turned into a much broader call for the values of freedom and democracy.

If one seeks to place blame for the savagery and indiscriminate violence, they need to look no further than the abusive opulence of the presidential palace.

As a leader of a nation, Mr. [Viktor] Yanukovich held the solemn duty to not just protect the freedoms of his people, but also the safety of the people. The bloodshed in Independence Square and throughout Kyiv proved spectacularly that he failed the people of Ukraine.

Like Canadians, Ukrainians hold plethora backgrounds and beliefs. However, the common denominator that unites them is their country, their sovereignty, their flag.

The tears shed across Ukraine were for all Ukrainians. Those tears, and the lives lost, must not be in vain.

Ukrainians from every corner of their country have their future in their hands. They want to prove to the world that their unity cannot be shaken by repression, that their freedom will not be dismantled with violence and that their aspirations for a nation built on the fundamentals of democracy will not be curbed by intimidation.

For all that Ukraine has gone through in the past few months, Canadians have stood by you. They did so because they saw the passion in your eyes, the intimidation you felt and the peaceful way you called for change. Ukrainians of every socio-economic background, age and gender filled that square—and your message was united.

As I land in Kyiv again, I am reminded of those people. And while the landscape of Ukraine has changed dramatically since my last visit, the people have not. If anything, your passion should be invigorated, your desire to build a better future for Ukraine stronger than ever before.

The famous Ukrainian poet Taras Shevchenko once wrote:

“We were not cunning, you and I. We walked a true path; there is not a grain of untruth behind us.”

The road to democracy is one that is filled with many cracks and obstacles. But as Ukrainians will discover, the end of the road is worth the long journey travelled, worth the trials, worth the tears. And those lives lost over the past month will be the foundation upon which you have built your future, and they will never be forgotten.

Shevchenko went on to write, in the famous poem entitled “It Makes No Difference to Me”:

“When Ukraine is lulled to sleep by wicked men, only to awaken her later, robbed and in flames ... to this I will not be indifferent.”

Canada has never been indifferent. Canada will never be indifferent. Our country will continue to stand with you in your time of difficulty, and we will walk with you step-by-step in your journey to democracy.

John Baird

Canada’s Foreign Affairs Minister

Baird Promotes Territorial Integrity and National Unity in Ukraine

February 28, 2014

Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird today wrapped up a successful mission to Ukraine, where he and the Canadian delegation of parliamentarians and representatives of the Ukrainian community met with key members of the new government.

Baird met with acting president Oleksander Turchynov, Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk, acting foreign minister Andriy Deschytsya, Ukrainian Democratic Alliance for Reform leader Vitali Klitschko, All-Ukrainian Union Svoboda leader Oleh Tyahnybok, Chair of the Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Group Volodymyr Polochaninov, former prime minister Yulia Tymoshenko, as well as other opposition and civil society members.

He also met with the major organizers of Maidan civil society, representatives from Ukraine’s religious communities including Crimean Tatars, and visited the medical centre at St. Michael’s Monastery, where he announced increased financial support for providing medical care to injured protesters.

Members of the Canadian delegation walked through the Maidan and paid their respects to the fallen protesters who died for the cause of democracy. “Their sacrifice in the defence of their democracy and freedom has brought change to this country,” said Baird. “They will not be forgotten.”

Baird congratulated the new government and emphasized the need to honour the 1994 Budapest Declaration’s commitment to Ukraine’s territorial sovereignty and national unity at this critical time. He also reiterated Canada’s support for Ukraine and its efforts to rebuild the country, including through the International Monetary

Fund, following the instability and violence of the last 100 days. Many of his meetings featured discussions on ways to reduce corruption, combat money laundering and manage the financial transition.

“Canada remains committed to working in concert with our allies to develop a plan to assist Ukraine’s economic and democratic future,” said Baird.

The Canadian delegation consisted of Ted Opitz, Member of Parliament for Etobicoke Centre; James Bezan, Member of Parliament for Selkirk—Interlake; Senator Raynell Andreychuk; Victor Hetmanczuk, President and CEO, Canada-Ukraine Foundation; Paul Grod, President, Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC); Taras Zalusky, Executive Director, UCC; and Krystina Waler, board member, Ukrainian Canadian Professionals and Business Association.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper speaks with German Chancellor Angela Merkel

Ottawa, Ontario
28 February 2014

Prime Minister Stephen Harper spoke today with Angela Merkel, Chancellor of Germany, about the situation in Ukraine.

The leaders exchanged views on the developments that have been taking shape over the past days, including the appointment of a transitional government and its need to unify the country.

The Prime Minister and Chancellor agreed that they would continue to work to support Ukraine's transition. Prime Minister Harper noted that a Canadian delegation was currently on the ground in Kyiv. The leaders also discussed financial support, including a role for the IMF, that could be provided with appropriate conditions.

The two leaders agreed to continue to stay in touch on these issues.

НІМЕЧЧИНА

Joint declaration by the Foreign Ministers of Poland, Germany and France on the situation in Ukraine

28.02.2014

We take note of the formation of a transitional government in Ukraine supported by a broad majority of votes in the Ukrainian parliament. This transitional government will have to face immense challenges in order to improve the standards of living of the citizens of Ukraine which can be only achieved through the implementation of the transition and modernization reforms, including fight with corruption, and respect for democratic values. We are ready to support Ukraine in these efforts.

We remain convinced that political stability and reforms in Ukraine require a broad consensus supported by all relevant stakeholders without exception. In particular, a lasting accommodation of the existing diversity in Ukrainian society necessitates reaching out to Eastern and Southern regions and engaging with all legitimate interests, including minority rights especially regarding language issues.

The situation facing Ukraine can only be addressed in a sustainable fashion, if all major political forces unite and pursue a common agenda.

We are deeply concerned with the tensions in Crimea. Everything must be done to decrease the tension in the eastern region and promote peaceful discussions among relevant parties. We restate our support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country.

We appeal to all parties in Ukraine to refrain from actions that could challenge this.

Laurent Fabius, Foreign Minister of the French Republic

Radosław Sikorski, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Poland

Frank-Walter Steinmeier, Foreign Minister of the Federal Republic of Germany

Stabilising Ukraine's economy

Feb 28, 2014

In a telephone conversation Chancellor Angela Merkel has congratulated Arseniy Yatsenyuk on his election as Ukrainian Prime Minister. She expressed her respect for the task he has taken on.

The first priority must be to restore economic and political stability in the country.

Germany will support Ukraine in its efforts to stabilise the situation, continued the Chancellor.

Territorial integrity of Ukraine

The Chancellor and the Prime Minister also discussed internal developments in Ukraine in their telephone conversation, with a special focus on the situation in Crimea. They agreed that the territorial integrity of Ukraine must be upheld.

In earlier talks with the Chancellor, the Russian President Vladimir Putin also declared his commitment to ensuring the territorial integrity of Ukraine.

Difficult economic situation

Ukraine will be working with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to stabilise the country, declared deputy government spokesperson Christiane Wirtz in Berlin.

The interim Ukrainian government had made it clear just how difficult the country's economic situation is. According to the interim President Olexander Turchynov the country is "on the brink of insolvency".

ФРАНЦІЯ

28/02/2014 – Paris – Point de presse

Ukraine – Déclaration conjointe des ministres français, allemand et polonais des affaires étrangères (28 février 2014)

Nous prenons acte de la formation d'un gouvernement de transition en Ukraine soutenu par une large majorité des voix au parlement ukrainien. Ce gouvernement de transition devra faire face à d'immenses défis afin d'améliorer le niveau de vie des citoyens de l'Ukraine, qui ne peut être atteint que grâce à la mise en oeuvre de la transition et des réformes de modernisation, y compris en matière de lutte contre la corruption et de respect des valeurs démocratiques. Nous sommes prêts à soutenir l'Ukraine dans ces efforts.

Nous avons la conviction que la stabilité politique et les réformes en Ukraine nécessitent un large consensus soutenu par toutes les parties prenantes sans exception. En particulier, la prise en considération de la diversité de la société ukrainienne exige de tendre la main aux régions de l'Est et du Sud en tenant compte de l'ensemble de leurs intérêts légitimes, y compris concernant les droits des minorités, en particulier s'agissant des questions linguistiques.

La situation que connaît l'Ukraine ne peut être traitée d'une façon durable que si toutes les forces politiques s'unissent et poursuivent un objectif commun.

Nous sommes très préoccupés par la situation instable en Crimée. Tout doit être fait pour réduire la tension dans la région orientale et promouvoir des discussions pacifiques entre les parties concernées. Nous réaffirmons notre soutien à la souveraineté et à l'intégrité territoriale du pays. Nous lançons un appel à toutes les parties en Ukraine afin qu'elles s'abstiennent de toute action qui pourrait les remettre en cause.

Q – Le parlement ukrainien a demandé que le conseil de sécurité des Nations unies se réunisse. Est-ce que la France va le proposer ?

R – Le conseil de sécurité peut se saisir à tout moment de situations internationales qui le préoccupent et dont il souhaite débattre. À ma connaissance, la situation en Ukraine n'est pas aujourd'hui inscrite à son ordre du jour. Nous sommes par ailleurs en contact régulier avec les autorités russes et M. Laurent Fabius s'entretient en ce moment même au téléphone avec son homologue russe, Sergueï Lavrov.

Q – Est-ce qu'il y a des avoirs de Ianoukovitch en France? La France va-t-elle les geler ?

R – Nous n'avons pas reçu de demande de gel d'avoirs de la part des autorités de transition ukrainiennes.

La déclaration faites par le ministère des Affaires étrangères porte-parole sur l'Ukraine (Paris, le 28 Février, 2014)

Q. Les tensions sont de plus en plus en Crimée où le drapeau russe a été soulevé au siège du gouvernement. Quelle est la réaction de la France aux derniers événements et les déclarations russes ce matin? Y a-t-il des initiatives diplomatiques pour calmer la situation, par exemple, les discussions entre les 5 membres permanents du Conseil de sécurité?

A. Comme M. Laurent Fabius a indiqué à plusieurs reprises, la France est très attachée à l'unité de l'Ukraine. L'évolution de la situation en Crimée est troublante et nous appelons à des efforts pour apaiser les tensions.

Les autorités françaises sont en contact permanent avec les autorités russes et ukrainiennes ainsi qu'avec leurs partenaires de l'Union européenne.

ОСНОВНІ МІЖНАРОДНІ ОРГАНІЗАЦІЇ.

ООН

РБ ООН

Лист постійного представника України при ООН Посла Ю.Сергєєва Голові Ради Безпеки ООН від 28 лютого 2014 року.

**United Nations
S/2014/136
Security Council
Distr.: General
28 February 2014
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*1424922***

Letter dated 28 February 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Due to the deterioration of the situation in the Autonomous Republic of the Crimea, Ukraine, which threatens the territorial integrity of Ukraine, and upon the relevant instruction of my Government, I have the honour to request an urgent meeting of the Security Council in accordance with Articles 34 and 35 of the Charter of the United Nations. I also have the honour to request that, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, a representative of the Government of Ukraine be allowed to participate in the meeting and to make a statement.

**(Signed) Yuriy Sergeyev
Ambassador
Permanent Representative**

Засідання РБ ООН від 28 лютого 2014 року (закрите).

**United Nations
S/PV.7123**

Security Council
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1424976

Official communiqué of the 7123rd (closed) meeting of the Security Council Held in private at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 28 February 2014, at 3 p.m.

In accordance with rule 55 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the following communiqué was issued through the Secretary-General in place of a verbatim record: "At its 7123rd meeting, held in private on 28 February 2014, the Security Council considered the item entitled '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 invited the representative of Ukraine to participate in the meeting in accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure. "The President invited Mr. Oscar Fernández-Taranco, Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, to participate in the meeting in accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure. "The Security Council heard a briefing by Mr. Fernández-Taranco. "The Security Council heard a statement by the representative of Ukraine."

EC

EUROPEAN COUNCIL
THE PRESIDENT
Brussels, 28 February 2014
EUCO 52/14 PRESSE 110 PR PCE 45

Statement by the spokesperson of President of the European Council Herman Van Rompuy on a phone conversation with President of Russia Vladimir Putin

The spokesperson of Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council, issued the following statement today: "President Herman Van Rompuy had a phone conversation this afternoon with the President of Russia, Vladimir Putin. The main topic was Ukraine. The Presidents discussed the financial and security situation in the country."

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
STATEMENT

Brussels, 28 February 2014

President Barroso's phone call with the Prime-Minister of Ukraine Arseniy Yatseniuk

President Barroso spoke today on the phone with Prime-Minister Yatseniuk. He wished him resolve and determination in tackling the important challenges that Ukraine currently faces, in particular the political and social stabilisation and the inclusiveness of future reforms. President Barroso expressed the EU's readiness to support democratic reforms in the country and informed of the internal work underway on options to assist Ukraine's economic modernisation.

In this respect and following-up on previous visits, High-Representative/Vice-President Ashton will travel to Ukraine next week for political contacts. In parallel a mission from the European Commission will also travel to Kiev to conduct an assessment of the needs.

Both President Barroso and Prime-Minister Yatseniuk concurred on the need to address the current tensions in Crimea through political dialogue in the framework of the country's unity and territorial integrity.

ПАРЕ

Monitoring Committee supports the national unity of Ukraine

28/02/2014

The Monitoring Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), meeting in Malta on 27 and 28 February 2014, expresses its strong support for the territorial integrity and national unity of Ukraine following the recent change of power in the country. It therefore calls upon all political forces in the country, and in particular those represented in the parliament, to refrain from any action or rhetoric that could undermine national unity or give rise to separatist sentiments. In this respect, it calls on all member States of the Council of Europe to strictly respect the principles of territorial integrity and national sovereignty and not to incite or give support to any separatist or secessionist actions or movements. Any calls for or threats of military intervention run counter to international law and are therefore completely unacceptable.

The re-enactment of the 2004 Constitution, on the basis of the agreement signed by all political forces, has resulted in a welcome redistribution of powers between the President and parliament. However, the committee recalls that on several occasions the Assembly has expressed concern about some provisions in the 2004 Constitution, especially the provisions that undermined the independence of the judiciary. The committee therefore considers that the Verkhovna Rada, as a matter of priority and urgency, should adopt a revised constitution that is fully in line with European standards. The assessments in recent years by the Venice Commission of the different draft amendments to the Constitution could provide an appropriate basis for such constitutional amendments.

The committee notes that the Verkhovna Rada, as the main legitimate democratic power in Ukraine, has strived to ensure that its decisions, and especially the establishment of a new government, have taken place within the legal boundaries established by the 2004 Constitution. At the same time the committee regrets that some of the decisions of the Verkhovna Rada, such as repealing the law on languages, have been contentious and undermined the unity of the country. It calls upon the Rada and the newly-appointed government to refrain from any decisions that could divide Ukrainian society and to make it clear in all of its action and rhetoric that the rights of all groups in Ukraine will be fully respected and ensured. In this respect, it calls upon the Rada to adopt a new law on languages that is fully in line with the Venice Commission recommendations and the requirements of the Framework Convention and Charter on Minority Languages.

It is crucial to ensure and strengthen the democratic legitimacy of the governing structures in Ukraine. The committee therefore supports the early presidential elections, called for May 2014. The presidential elections should be followed by early parliamentary elections to ensure that the Rada has full legitimacy as the representative of all the citizens of Ukraine. The legislative elections should take place as soon as a new election code has been agreed upon. The committee recommends that the Verkhovna Rada consider adopting the draft unified election code of the Kliuchkovsky working group, which was drafted with the participation of all political forces and in close co-operation with the Venice Commission. Doing this could ensure legislative elections in the shortest possible time.

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A full investigation into all human rights violations in the context of the Euromaidan protests, irrespective of who committed them, is needed more than ever. The advisory panel proposed by the Council of Europe could help ensure that these investigations take place impartially and transparently. Care should be taken that such investigations do not result in politically-motivated prosecutions and retribution. The extraordinary events of the last month have led to an increase of armed groups in Ukrainian society. Their continued existence could in the long run undermine the democratic functioning of the State and lead to an increase in tension. A comprehensive strategy for the decommissioning of all armed civil groups in Ukraine should therefore be developed by the Ukrainian authorities. The committee is convinced of the crucial role that the Council of Europe and its Assembly can play in developments in Ukraine, especially with regard to the adoption of a new constitutional framework and a new unified election code. Given the central role played by the Verkhovna Rada, which is the statutory counterpart of the Assembly, the committee requests that its co-rapporteurs on Ukraine visit the country as soon possible and as often as necessary to ensure a continuation of the constructive dialogue with the authorities and all political forces in Ukraine. In addition the committee has decided to request an urgent debate on the recent developments in Ukraine at the April part-session of the Assembly.