



CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Intervention by the Acting U.S. Permanent Observer
on the Situation in Ukraine
Council of Europe, Committee of Ministers
April 2, 2014

The United States of America remains unwavering in its support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. We condemn the Russian Federation's occupation of Crimea, and efforts to undermine the territorial integrity of Ukraine and its legitimate government. As we have throughout this crisis, we stand with the people of Ukraine.

The United States is clear in its position: Russia must pull back its forces to their pre-crisis positions and numbers and establish direct dialogue with Ukraine.

A diplomatic resolution and de-escalation of the situation is imperative. Any decision on the future of Ukraine must be made by the Ukrainians. We continue to encourage Russia to accept Ukraine's offer of a direct dialogue.

As Secretary Kerry recently stated, the United States considers Russia's military actions in Crimea to be both illegal and illegitimate. Russia's actions over the past several weeks have placed it at odds with the rule of law, international agreements, and caused its isolation from the global community. Last week in the United Nations General Assembly, one hundred countries from all regions of the world stood up in support of the fundamental principles of the U.N. Charter -- including Ukraine's sovereignty, unity, and territorial integrity -- and against Russia's actions in Ukraine.

On behalf of my government, I am very pleased to congratulate the Council of Europe and this Committee for the measured, thoughtful approach it has been taking with regard to this, the most serious international crisis to face Europe in decades. We welcome the steps the Council of Europe has taken to date to bring to bear its technical expertise and good offices to help resolve this conflict. And we welcome the steps announced by the Secretary General today.

We look forward to seeing the International Advisory Panel getting down to work, so the world can be confident it knows the truth of what happened on those violent days in November, December, and February.

And while we applaud all your actions and all the legal and convention-based tools you can bring to bear, we will continue to urge this Committee to speak out forcefully to declare that in the year 2014, 100 years after Europe and the world were cast into 30 years of the most catastrophic violence in the history of mankind, it is intolerable for one member state to physically violate the territory of another member state, and then to claim to annex portions of it under the guise of a phony so-called referendum that pretty much everyone in the world rejects.

Mr. Chairman, in this challenging period, we applaud the Ukrainian government and armed forces for continuing to take a restrained and de-escalatory approach to the crisis and for forging ahead with constitutional reforms and preparations for democratic elections. The United States has stood and will continue to stand with the people of Ukraine as they strive to secure a stable, peaceful, and unified democracy.

Yesterday, the U.S. Congress approved legislation authorizing \$1 billion in loan guarantees to Ukraine. This includes \$50 million to improve democratic governance, rule of law, to fight against corruption, and to support fair elections and bolster civil society.

We will continue our economic support for Ukraine, and to the extent that it continues to be necessary, will impose further costs on Russia for its actions.