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**1. [Obama Says No Easy Answers for Crimean Crisis \(03-26-2014\)](#)**

By Merle David Kellerhals Jr.  
Staff Writer

Washington — President Obama told European youth that no one can know what future events in Ukraine and the Crimean region may bring, but eventually the voices for human dignity, opportunity, individual rights and the rule of law will triumph.

“The situation in Ukraine, like crises in many parts of the world, does not have easy answers nor a military solution,” Obama said.

Speaking in Brussels March 26 following the U.S.-EU Summit, Obama said that the United States and Europe must not assume that the democratic progress won on the continent and advanced around the world is secure. “The contest of ideas continues,” he said.

“Russia’s leadership is challenging truths that only a few weeks ago seemed self-evident, that in the 21st century, the borders of Europe cannot be redrawn with force, that international law matters, that people and nations can make their own decisions about their future,” Obama said.

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The EU and the United States have rejected a Crimean referendum held March 16 to break away from Ukraine and seek Russian annexation, saying the referendum violated the Ukrainian Constitution, international norms and Russia's own international obligations.

Russia's violation of international law and its assault on Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity must be condemned, Obama said. "At this moment, we must meet the challenge to our ideals, to our very international order, with strength and international peace and security," he added.

In the past two weeks, the United States, Europe and global allies presented a united front in supporting those ideals and in support of the Ukrainian people. European nations and the United States have worked to isolate Russia politically and economically, suspended it from the Group of Eight advanced economies and implemented reduced bilateral relations.

Sanctions were imposed. However, Obama warned that if Russia stays on its current course, the isolation and sanctions will deepen, affecting more of Russia's economy.

Earlier, while meeting at The Hague, Netherlands, the G7 major economies — the United States, Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan — scrapped plans to attend the G8 summit (the G8 is the G7 plus Russia) set for Sochi, Russia, and will meet instead in Brussels.

The speech came as Obama held a meeting with NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen and pledged extensive new measures to bolster NATO forces in Europe, its allies and partners. Obama also reaffirmed that the American commitment to come to the defense of NATO allies is absolute.

The president is at the midpoint of a weeklong, four-nation trip that began in the Netherlands with the third Nuclear Security Summit at The Hague and will conclude with meetings in Saudi Arabia. He met earlier in the day with Belgian King Philippe and Prime Minister Elio Di Rupo during a visit and wreath-laying ceremony at the World War I Flanders Field American Cemetery and Memorial in northwest Belgium.

Obama travels next to Rome for an audience with Pope Francis and extensive meetings with Italian officials.

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## **2. U.S., British Defense Leaders Discuss Ukraine, NATO (03-26-2014)**

By Jim Garamone  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, March 26, 2014 – U.S. and United Kingdom defense leaders today reiterated that there must be consequences for Russia following President Vladimir Putin's forced annexation of Crimea from Ukraine.

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel hosted British Defense Secretary Philip Hammond at the Pentagon. The two discussed a range of subjects, but the main focus was Ukraine, Hagel said at a news conference with Hammond after their meeting.

"I thanked Secretary Hammond for the U.K.'s steadfast support of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity and for the U.K.'s important contributions to NATO," Hagel said. "We

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reaffirmed the strong commitment of both our countries to NATO's collective defenses, as President Obama has emphasized throughout his trip to Europe.”

Economic and diplomatic sanctions that have been imposed against Russia by the European Union and the United States will further isolate Russia, Hagel noted. “As the leaders of both our countries and the other G-7 nations affirmed this week in the Netherlands, we will continue to coordinate closely on future actions and sanctions we may take against Russia,” he added.

Hammond said Russia’s action was completely unacceptable, and he called the Russian occupation of Crimea “illegal annexation of a sovereign territory.”

The United Kingdom stands with the United States and the rest of NATO in opposing the Russian action and supports “wide-ranging economic and diplomatic sanctions to force President Putin to stop his bullying behavior,” Hammond said.

“The Russian government should be in no doubt that should there be further acts of aggression, there will be further consequences for Russia,” he added.

Hammond confirmed that in addition to the offer of Royal Air Force Typhoon combat jets to bolster the Baltic air policing mission, the United Kingdom is working with its allies and partners to scope options for additional measures of reassurance to Eastern European and Baltic allies.

Hammond stated that evidence suggests that the Russian agenda is being run by Putin personally. “Other Russian players, including Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu, may express views, but it's a moot point, and we cannot know, we do not know, to what extent all of those people are really inside the inner circle in which President Putin is planning this exercise,” the British leader said.

The situation in Ukraine demonstrates the continued need for NATO, Hagel said. “The essential character and commitment of this alliance, of its 28 members to one another, remains unchanged, but we will look for new ways to collaborate and improve the alliance’s capabilities and readiness,” the secretary said. “That means we will make continued necessary investments in defense.”

The two men and their staffs also discussed the progress of the campaign in Afghanistan.

Both countries are grappling with budget constraints, and both leaders look on this as an opportunity to explore new areas of cooperation. Hammond said the United States and United Kingdom could work together in nuclear deterrence, special operations forces, intelligence, unmanned aerial vehicles, surveillance aircraft and carrier strike regeneration.

Biographies:

[Chuck Hagel](#)

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### **3. Asst. Secretary Countryman on Eliminating Syrian Chemical Weapons (03-26-2014)**

*Remarks by Thomas M. Countryman, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Washington, DC*

## **Efforts of the United Nations and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to Accomplish the Elimination of Syrian Chemical Weapons**

Chairman Menendez, Ranking Member Corker, and Members of the Committee; thank you for the opportunity to testify today about international efforts to support the United Nations (UN) and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in the complete and verifiable elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons program. While we have made important progress in the past months toward the elimination of Syria's chemicals weapons program, considerable work remains to be done to ensure the Asad regime can never again use these terrible weapons against its own people, or threaten our regional and international partners with them.

Just last year, the regime did not even publicly acknowledge that it possessed chemical weapons, despite having used them on multiple occasions, including in attacks that killed over 1,400 people. Today, OPCW inspectors on the ground in Syria, with UN support, have conducted full inspections of Syria's declared chemical weapons-related sites, and have verified the functional destruction of the chemical weapons production, mixing, and filling equipment at those sites. In addition, as of today, more than 49 percent of Syria's declared chemical weapons materials slated for destruction outside of Syria have been removed, including all of Syria's declared sulfur mustard agent, and the OPCW has verified the destruction in Syria of 93 percent of Syria's declared isopropanol, a binary component of the nerve agent sarin. But that's not good enough. Syria has yet to remove 65 percent of its most dangerous (Priority 1) declared chemicals. We must continue to work with the international community to maintain pressure on the Asad regime to remove all of these chemicals as urgently as possible.

The international community has established a firm legal framework, through UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2118 and decisions of the OPCW Executive Council, to ensure that this immense undertaking is completed in a transparent, expeditious, and verifiable manner, with a target for destroying all of Syria's declared chemicals by June 30 of this year.

The progress made in the past months has been achieved by diplomacy backed by a willingness to use military force. It remains critically important, as this process continues, that members of the international community continue to monitor closely the Syrian regime's compliance with its Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)-related obligations. Syria's obligations are clear, and we will continue to underscore the importance of the Asad regime's continued cooperation. The Security Council decided in UNSCR 2118 to impose Chapter VII measures in the event of non-compliance with the resolution.

While we have made progress, the task before us remains considerable. After months of Syrian foot dragging, we have made clear to the Asad regime that the internationally agreed upon schedule for chemical weapons destruction is simply not up for negotiation; the regime has all the equipment that it needs and has run out of excuses. We remain focused on underscoring the need for Syria to move forward rapidly with transporting chemical weapons materials to the port of Latakia for removal, consistent with its responsibilities under the CWC and UNSCR 2118. The next few weeks are critical in the removal effort, and we and the rest of the world are watching. We have, of course, also been in contact with Syrian opposition leaders, updating them throughout this process, and confirming their commitment that they will not interfere with the activities of the international elimination effort.

With the continuing support of the international community, and the dedicated commitment of the OPCW-UN Joint Mission, we believe the Syrians are capable of completing the removal effort by

late April. The international community continues to work toward the June 30 target date for the complete elimination of the program. While Syrian delays have placed that timeline in some danger, we continue to believe they remain achievable.

The path ahead is not an easy one. Syria has missed several intermediate target dates, including most recently the target date for the destruction of chemical weapons production facilities. The regime must meet all chemical weapons destruction obligations, including for the physical destruction of chemical weapons production facilities, consistent with the CWC. The OPCW is currently advising Syria on an appropriate facilities destruction plan. It is essential that Syria accept its recommendations, and submit a revised facilities destruction plan for consideration by the OPCW Executive Council at its next scheduled meeting.

The United States and the international community have provided extensive assistance to the international effort to eliminate the Syrian chemical weapons program. There are no more excuses on the part of the Assad regime for not meeting the agreed timeline. We continue to encourage all countries to make whatever contribution they can to this important undertaking – whether that contribution is financial, technical, or in-kind – to enable the OPCW and UN to complete their missions. The United States has led by example in providing tens of millions of dollars in assistance to the OPCW-UN Joint Mission, including the provision of containers, trucks, forklifts and other materials necessary for the safe transportation of chemical weapons materials in Syria. The State Department's Nonproliferation and Disarmament Fund has provided eight million dollars in financial and in-kind assistance to the OPCW inspection team, including armored vehicles, training, protective equipment, and medical countermeasures. Most significantly, the United States is also contributing unique capabilities to the elimination effort through the Department of Defense's provision of a U.S. vessel, the Motor Vessel (M/V) Cape Ray, equipped with deployable hydrolysis technology to neutralize at sea Syria's highest priority chemical weapons materials (sulfur mustard agent and the sarin precursor chemical, DF).

While U.S. contributions to the elimination efforts are significant, this is ultimately a mission that reflects a remarkable international division of labor. Many of our international partners are participating and providing financial and in-kind assistance that is critical to the effort's success: Danish and Norwegian ships (with Finnish and British support) are removing chemical weapons materials from the Syrian port of Latakia. Russia and China are assisting with security in Syrian territorial waters for the port loading operations. Italy has agreed to provide a port

to allow transloading operations from the Danish cargo ship to the Cape Ray. The United Kingdom has agreed to destroy nerve agent precursor chemicals through commercial incineration. Germany has agreed to destroy the by-product resulting from neutralization of the sulfur mustard agent aboard the M/V Cape Ray as an in-kind contribution. Countries like Japan, Canada, the European Union and many other states have made generous financial contributions. Companies in the United States and Finland have been awarded contracts from the OPCW for the destruction of the remaining materials.

As the removal and elimination process continues, we will also continue to fully support the OPCW's verification and inspection efforts, to ensure the accuracy and completeness of Syria's declaration. We have never taken the Assad regime at its word, and will continue to press for a robust verification regime to ensure the absence of undeclared materials and facilities. We approach this process with our eyes wide open, and will insist on international verification.

The path ahead will not be smooth, given the unprecedented scope and timeline for the mission. But we remain resolute in addressing these challenges, given the high stakes for the Syrian people, the

region, and the world. Thank you again for the opportunity to discuss this important issue with you. I look forward to your questions and to consulting with you closely as we continue our efforts to verifiably eliminate Syria's chemical weapons program.

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[Remarks by John Kerry, Secretary of States with OPCW Director-General Ahmet Uzumcu](#)

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#### **4. Obama Commends Increased Commitment to Reducing Nuclear Material (03-25-2014)**

By Sonya Weakley  
Staff Writer

Washington — In remarks at the end of the Nuclear Security Summit in The Hague, Netherlands, President Obama commended several participating countries for taking concrete steps to reduce the chances of excess nuclear material falling into the hands of terrorists.

Nearly 60 world leaders gathered at the March 24–25 summit, which was aimed at building international cooperation to reduce the amount of dangerous nuclear material in the world and improve the security of all nuclear material and radioactive sources.

Obama convened the first summit in 2010 in Washington, citing the need for “a serious and sustained global effort to deal with one of the greatest threats to international security, and that’s the specter of nuclear terrorism.” A second summit was held in Seoul in 2012. The next will be held in the United States in 2016.

At the 2014 meeting, 35 countries agreed to allow teams of international experts to evaluate their security measures and to incorporate international nuclear-security guidelines into law, according to a statement issued after the meeting.

Obama commended Belgium and Italy for completing the removal of excess highly enriched uranium and plutonium. He also announced that Japan would work with the United States “to eliminate hundreds of kilograms of weapons-usable nuclear material from one of their experimental reactors. That’s enough for dozens of nuclear weapons,” he said.

He added that 12 countries and two dozen nuclear facilities around the world have rid themselves entirely of highly enriched uranium and plutonium. Dozens of nations have boosted security at their nuclear storage sites or set up countersmuggling teams.

He also emphasized the commitments of the United States, including strengthening cybersecurity at nuclear power plants, producing medical isotopes to treat illnesses, such as cancer, without relying on weapons-usable material, and installing more radiation-detecting equipment at ports and transit sites to combat nuclear smuggling.

In comments regarding Europe’s concern about economic sanctions against Russia in response to its conflict with Ukraine, Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte said the objective is to “make sure we design these sanctions in such a way that they will have maximum impact on the Russian economy and not on the European, the Canadian, the Japanese or the American economy.”

He added that “the European Union and the U.S. — and yesterday we saw alignment within the G7 — we’re working very closely together.”

While the United States believes Russia’s actions are a problem, “they don’t pose the Number 1 national security threat to the United States,” Obama said. “I continue to be much more concerned ... with the prospect of a nuclear weapon going off in Manhattan, which ... is why the United States, showing its continued international leadership, has organized this forum over the last several years.”

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## **5. Ukraine-U.S. Joint Statement at Nuclear Security Summit (03-25-2014)**

*Following is the text of a joint statement issued March 25, 2014, at the third Nuclear Security Summit in The Hague.*

### **Joint Statement by the United States and Ukraine**

On the occasion of the third Nuclear Security Summit in The Hague, the United States and Ukraine today reaffirm their strategic partnership and emphasize the important role of nuclear nonproliferation in that relationship. The United States values its 20-year partnership with Ukraine on these issues. Our nonproliferation partnership dates from Ukraine’s 1994 decision to remove all nuclear weapons from its territory and to accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as a non-nuclear-weapon state. In the 1994 Budapest Memorandum, the United States, the Russian Federation, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland welcomed these Ukrainian actions, and they reaffirmed their commitment to Ukraine to respect the independence, sovereignty, and existing borders of Ukraine. The United States government reaffirms that commitment today to the new Ukrainian government and the people of Ukraine, including in Crimea. The United States government condemns Russia’s failure to abide by its commitments under the Budapest Memorandum with its unilateral military actions in Ukraine. Russia’s actions undermine the foundation of the global security architecture and endanger European peace and security. Ukraine and the United States emphasize that they will not recognize Russia’s illegal attempt to annex Crimea. Crimea is an integral part of Ukraine. The United States will continue to help Ukraine affirm its sovereignty and territorial integrity. As the people of Ukraine work to restore unity, peace, and security to their country, the United States will stand by their side.

The United States and Ukraine reiterate their commitment to upholding their nuclear nonproliferation commitments. The United States recognizes the importance of the 2012 removal of all highly enriched uranium from Ukraine. This removal again highlighted Ukraine’s leadership in nuclear security and nonproliferation, as we collectively work together to secure the world’s vulnerable nuclear material. As part of its support for this effort, the United States committed in 2010 to work with Ukraine to construct a Neutron Source Facility at the Kharkiv Institute for Physics and Technology. This month construction of the Neutron Source Facility was completed. The facility, equipped with the most up-to-date technology to operate at the highest safety

standards, provides Ukraine with new research capabilities and the ability to produce industrial and medical isotopes for the benefit of the Ukrainian people.

This state of the art facility is representative of the modern, European state the Government of Ukraine is committed to building. To build on this important cooperation, the United States will continue to provide technical support for the Neutron Source Facility as Ukraine completes the necessary final equipment installation, testing, and start-up to make the facility fully operational as soon as practical.

This successful effort reflects broad U.S.-Ukrainian cooperation on nuclear security and nonproliferation. Our countries recently extended the U.S.-Ukraine Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR) Umbrella Agreement and the U.S.-Ukraine Agreement Concerning Operational Safety Enhancements, Risk Reduction Measures, and Nuclear Safety Regulation for Civilian Nuclear Facilities in Ukraine.

The United States and Ukraine intend to continue to partner to prevent nuclear proliferation by improving Ukraine's ability to detect nuclear materials on its borders, to provide physical protection at sites with nuclear or radioactive materials, and to maintain an adequate export control system in order to help realize the goals of the Nuclear Security Summits.

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## **6. U.S. Official on G7 Meeting in The Hague (03-24-2014)**

*Background press briefing by a senior administration official on the G7 Meeting*

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: So I'll just give a readout of the meeting and go through some of the key points in the statement, and take a couple of questions.

So, first of all, the President hosted the meeting and led the discussion. He kicked it off with opening comments about the seriousness of the situation in Ukraine, the challenge to the international community, and the need for a strong and unified response. All of the leaders spoke during the course of the meeting and then the President summarized the way forward at the conclusion of the meeting. And there was agreement on The Hague Declaration, which is a very strong joint statement that hits all of the key elements that we were seeking to get out of this G7 meeting.

I'll just go through what we believe the key points of that statement are. First of all, there's a very clear statement that what Russia has done is a violation of the principles on which the entire international system is built. And this was a key part of the discussion, that the challenge in Ukraine goes beyond simply the violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity; it goes to the heart of the principles of international law upon which the international system is founded.

In that vein, there was a condemnation of the illegal referendum held in Crimea and a reaffirmation that neither the referendum, nor the annexation of Crimea are recognized by the G7 countries, who, of course, represent countries in Europe, North America and Asia.

Furthermore, there was a strong statement from the G7 that Russia's actions will have significant consequences. We've already imposed a cost on Russia in the sanctions that we've issued in coordination with Europe, Canada, and Japan as well. But, importantly, going forward, the G7 made clear that they have a variety of sanctions that can be carried out against Russia and individuals and entities responsible for what's taking place in Ukraine. But importantly, the G7 made clear that

they're ready to intensify actions, including coordinated sectoral sanctions that will have an increasingly significant impact on the Russian economy if Russia continues to escalate the situation.

So this reference to sectoral sanctions tracks very much the executive order that the President issued several days ago, signaling our willingness to sanction sectors of the Russian economy. This would obviously have a significant impact on the Russian economy going forward and gives the international community a very powerful tool to hold Russia accountable and to impose costs on Russia if they do not reverse course.

There was a point taken to make clear that there is a diplomatic avenue open to Russia to deescalate the situation, that part of that must mean that Russia engages in discussions with the government of Ukraine, and that the international community stands ready to provide mediation and monitoring associated with the de-escalation. In that vein, there was a reference to the monitors from the OSCE that are already in Ukraine that provide one constructive avenue for monitoring both against any violation of the rights of the citizens of Ukraine and also any mediation effort.

Furthermore, in addition to the economic measures referenced, a clear statement of Russia's political isolation was issued by the leaders. They made clear that they will not be participating in the Sochi summit, that they are suspending the G7's participation in the G8 with Russia until Russia changes course and there is an environment in which the G8 could have a meaningful discussion. In short, Russia is suspended from the G8 pending its current activities in Ukraine, and the necessity is now on Russia to deescalate to avoid this continued isolation from the international community.

So in place of the G8 in Sochi in June, the G7 will be meeting in Brussels to discuss the broad agenda that would have been discussed otherwise at the G8. They'll obviously continue to focus on the situation in Ukraine. Furthermore, they cancelled the foreign ministerial that was scheduled for April in Moscow.

In addition, a decision was taken that the G7 energy ministers should meet in the coming weeks to strengthen the collective energy security of the G7. And this provides a forum to discuss ways, for instance, to diversify energy supply for Europe as we consider potential sectoral sanctions, including on the energy sector in Russia.

At the same time, there was broad support for the government and people of Ukraine. The reform agenda announced by the Ukrainian government was welcomed, and the G7 expressed its support for the IMF taking a central role in providing a robust package of economic support for the government of Ukraine and integrating the economy of Ukraine in the multilateral system. With that IMF support, the countries also made clear that that would unlock additional assistance from individual nations, from the World Bank, from other financial institutions including the EU and, again, bilateral sources as well.

So to step back and summarize: clear political isolation of Russia in terms of suspending participation in the G8; determination to hold the G7 in Brussels in June; a clear reference to sectoral sanctions as a step that the G7 could take to intensify its pressure on Russia going forward, particularly if the situation continues to escalate; and a clear expression of support for the Ukrainian government and the Ukrainian people, with an IMF package at the center of that and individual contributions from nations to supplement that. And of course, the United States is working on our own package of support as a part of that effort.

The only other thing I'd mention is that there was also a discussion around NATO and the need to continue to provide reassurance and support for Eastern European allies in particular. This is

something that the President will be discussing in Brussels with the Secretary General. We stand prepared to provide additional support to Eastern European allies as we already have with Baltic air policing and additional aviation deployments to Poland. We're prepared to build out on that effort and we are discussing with NATO allies how they might also come with us and provide additional support.

And I'll take a couple of questions here. Julie.

Q: When you talk about the sectoral sanctions, what kind of concerns did some of the European countries like Germany have, especially when you were talking about energy sector? And then, what do you guys make of Lavrov's meeting with his Ukrainian counterpart today?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Well, on the sectoral sanctions, I think there's agreement on what the most important sectors are to focus on. Energy is one of them; finance and banking is another; the arms sector is another. And the leaders did discuss that moving to sectoral sanctions would bring economic consequences for the global economy and for some of the individual countries. And everybody recognizes that there is a cost associated with those actions.

However, number one, the cost is far greater for the Russians who stand much more to lose from isolation from the global economy. And we've, of course, already seen that impact on their market. And, secondly, there's a cost of inaction -- that if we fail to take steps in response to Russian escalation, ultimately that's going to carry with it grave costs for the international system as a whole. So putting these sectoral sanctions on the table sends a message to Russia to refrain from any escalation, particularly, for instance, going into Eastern or Southern Ukraine and to provide a framework for de-escalation.

With respect to Foreign Minister Lavrov, look, it's important that they do engage the Ukrainian government directly. So we see that as a necessary step. The question is whether that engagement leads to de-escalation. The Ukrainian government has been quite reasonable in saying that they are open to constitutional reform that could include discussion of autonomy, for instance, for regions like Crimea. So we encourage that type of bilateral dialogue. Secretary Kerry encouraged it when he met with Foreign Minister Lavrov, but we'll have to see whether it leads to anything substantive.

Q: It sounds like the G7 is implying that if he doesn't do anything else, if Russia doesn't do anything else, but does sort of -- keeps Crimea, doesn't pull back either -- then there's no sectoral sanctions. Is that the way we're supposed to read this?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Well, Chuck, it depends on -- there are a lot of different ways this could go. Clearly, escalating by going into Eastern and Southern Ukraine would be the most likely trigger for these types of sectoral sanctions, and it's meant to deliver that message. But at the same time, we've seen Russia escalate in other ways to try to destabilize the situation inside of Ukraine, to try to stir up, for instance, instability in parts of Ukraine. There are steps that they could take to escalate the situation in terms of violence in Crimea even. So while I would identify that as the most immediate source of concern for escalation, I don't want to suggest it's the only source of concern.

And I would also say that we've already taken steps based on what they've done in Crimea that go beyond individuals that go to a bank. And we're prepared to continue to look at additional steps in coordination with our G7 partners as well, based on what's already happened.

So, again, I would say that, yes, Eastern and Southern Ukraine is the clearest trigger for these sectoral sanctions. But it's on the table. And the key principle in the statement is further escalation

will bring further costs. But the type of status quo that we're currently in has already brought significant sanctions, and we reserve the right to move ahead with sanctions if we don't see a --

Q: I guess that's what I'm trying to understand. So status quo could still mean more in sanctions? Could they mean sectoral sanctions?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Status quo could mean more sanctions. Well, it depends on how that status quo evolves, to be completely candid with you. Again, to what extent is Russia seeking a de-escalation? To what extent are they engaged in acts that attempt to destabilize the Ukrainian government? We'll have to assess all that going forward and calibrate our actions against that. So, again, clearly the biggest hammer that can drop is sectoral sanctions. The clearest trigger for those is Eastern and Southern Ukraine. But I don't want to suggest that we're taking off the table the sanctions that we have already in place in our executive order. We'll have to calibrate it on how events transpire.

Q: If this is such a clear violation of international law, and as you said earlier today, the whole international system as we know it is at stake just over Crimea, not over anything else, why not use the sectoral sanctions now to register that condemnation in a much more tangible way to Russia?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Well, Major, I think it's already been tangible. The people we've sanctioned are very close to President Putin, who have significant resources. The bank that we've sanctioned, the additional sanctions that we -- the sanctions that the Europeans have also imposed for what's happened in Crimea has had an impact on the Russian market, on the Russian economy, on Russia's own economic forecast. So we believe we've imposed a cost and we're going to continue to impose a cost for what they've done in Crimea. They've been suspended from the G8. They've been isolated politically as well as economically.

So we believe that they're already facing a cost. What this gives us the ability to do is to ramp up that cost to calibrate it based on what the Russians do going forward. And again, these would be significant actions that would have an impact -- a far-reaching impact on Russia. We want to make sure that we are using those prudently. Again, the clearest trigger is Eastern and Southern Ukraine, but we're going to have to monitor the situation as it evolves on a daily basis.

Q: Ben, you just said that sectoral sanctions are the biggest hammer that could drop. Does that mean that's the maximum penalty for doing anything in Ukraine in terms of incursions?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Well, I think in terms of -- I think you can't go beyond -- I mean, you can't go bigger, frankly, than starting to designate and get at the -- I mean, these aren't just sectors; these are basically the significant elements of the Russian economy. If you look at energy, if you look at banking, if you look at -- we identified engineering; arms, of course, and defense. So I think that that would impose a far-reaching consequence on the Russian economy.

Look, we have not said that we believe that military action, for instance, would be the right course for the West to take inside of Ukraine. We're focused on affecting Russia's calculus through these economic and political measures. And again, I think that if you moved in these sectoral sanctions you would see a far-reaching impact on the Russian economy. You've already seen a very consequential impact from what we've already done in terms of their markets going down significantly; in terms of their economic forecast from their own ministries revising downward; in terms of their currency. So we're seeing an impact, and we can calibrate that impact based on how events transpire in the coming days.

Q: Can you explain the language in the kicking out of Russia? You said that the G7 leaders are suspending themselves from the G8 as opposed to Russia being suspended. Was there any

consideration to a different suspension language? Or is that just the way that you have to phrase something like this?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: So basically the G8 is the entity that includes Russia; the G7 is the entity that doesn't. So the G7 countries are removing themselves from the G8, and we're going forward with the summit without Russia. You should see that as Russia being suspended from participation in the G8 pending the de-escalation and resolution of this crisis.

Q: Ben, can you give us any color about the leaders and what they said? And was there any disagreement at all about any of these issues?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: There really wasn't much disagreement. I think that, really, the tone was seeking to figure out the best way of solving this problem. And so there was discussion, again, of the future of the G7. There was discussion of how can we implement this IMF reform package in a way that helps Ukraine get on its feet as soon as possible, supplemented by additional assistance. There was discussion of what types of sanctions would have the most impact. And there was a discussion, as I said earlier, of what consequences there might be from those types of sectoral sanctions on different countries and different economies.

But again, I think the common thread was everybody was seized with the fact that it was worth taking those steps, as difficult as some of them may be, because the cost of inaction is far greater given the threat to the international system. And again, there are ways to mitigate some of these costs, and having an energy ministerial is directly tied to looking at energy security, looking at diversification. You saw another license from the Department of Energy today. We can work with Europe, we can work with Ukraine, on dealing with issues associated with energy security. So you can take into account some of those costs that we might foresee going forward.

So it was more about what is the best forward than resolving disagreements. And again, I think that everybody was seized with the urgency of the situation. The focus was entirely on Ukraine with the exception of some discussion of NATO reassurance for Eastern European allies in particular.

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## **[7. Obama Orders Sanctions on More Russian Officials over Crimea \(03-20-2014\)](#)**

By Merle David Kellerhals Jr.  
Staff Writer

Washington — President Obama says the United States, working closely with European allies, is imposing more sanctions on senior Russian officials and others for their involvement in the Crimean crisis in Ukraine.

“Over the last several days, we've continued to be deeply concerned by events in Ukraine,” Obama said at a March 20 White House press briefing. “We've seen an illegal referendum in Crimea, an

illegitimate move by the Russians to annex Crimea, and dangerous risks of escalation, including threats to Ukrainian personnel in Crimea and threats to southern and eastern Ukraine as well.”

“We’re taking these steps as part of our response to what Russia has already done in Crimea,” Obama said. “At the same time, the world is watching with grave concern as Russia has positioned its military in a way that could lead to further incursions.”

The United States expanded sanctions that target 20 individuals inside and outside the government, and a private Russian bank, Bank Rossiya, because of their involvement or direct support in the Crimean crisis. The latest round of penalties follows the first set of sanctions levied March 17 against 11 high-ranking Russian and Crimean officials.

In a March 16 referendum that was illegal under the Ukrainian Constitution, Crimean officials reported overwhelming approval of breaking away from Ukraine and joining Russia. Russian President Vladimir Putin is completing annexation of the Crimean Peninsula despite objections from Ukraine, the European community and the United States.

“We’ve been working closely with our European partners to develop more severe actions that could be taken if Russia continues to escalate the situation,” Obama said.

Obama warned Russia that he has signed a new executive order that gives the United States the authority to impose greater penalties not just on individual Russian officials but also on key sectors of the Russian economy. Obama acknowledged that additional sanctions would have a significant negative impact on the Russian economy, and also could be disruptive to the global economy.

“However, Russia must know that further escalation will only isolate it further from the international community,” Obama said.

The president also reinforced a message Vice President Biden delivered to Polish and Baltic leaders over the past two days of America’s unwavering support for the NATO alliance. Obama said the 28 members of the alliance are bound to one another by an “Article 5 commitment to defend one another, and by a set of shared values.”

The United States has already announced increased support for Eastern European allies, and will continue to strengthen NATO’s collective defense, Obama said. “We will step up our cooperation with Europe on economic and energy issues as well,” he added.

Related Articles:

[U.S. Treasury Dept. Issues Sanctions Related to Ukraine Situation](#)

[Senior U.S. Officials on New Crimea-Related Sanctions](#) (03-20-2014)

[Hagel Gets Assurances About Russian Troops on Ukraine Border](#) (03-20-2014)

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## **[8. Kerry, Slovak Prime Minister on Situation in Ukraine \(03-20-2014\)](#)**

*Remarks by Secretary of State John Kerry and Slovak Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Miroslav Lajcak*

SECRETARY KERRY: Fabulous. Thank you. Good morning, everybody. It’s my pleasure to welcome Miroslav Lajcak, the foreign minister of Slovakia here, and to wish him happy birthday.

FOREIGN MINISTER LAJCAK: Thank you.

SECRETARY KERRY: He's a ripe old – say his age. I'm not going to burn him. But he's much younger than I am. So I'm very jealous.

Slovakia is a very trusted partner of the United States and a NATO member. And they have been strong on the subject of Ukraine, they have stood with us and the rest of the world in speaking out against the illegal annexation of Crimea, the unconstitutional – contrary to the constitution of Ukraine, contrary to international law, and Slovakia, obviously, feels this very powerfully for historical reasons. They have been an important partner in terms of evolution of democracy and their market and their engagement within Europe – a trusted EU partner as well. And we're very, very happy to welcome them.

They've also been on the front lines with us in Afghanistan and elsewhere, so we're grateful for the friendship. We're grateful for their strength as a small but strong nation, and a proud nation that's willing to stand up and be counted as we stand up for the international order that has been in place since World War II. We need to live by that order, and I think Slovakia understands full well, given its history, how important this moment is. Welcome.

FOREIGN MINISTER LAJCAK: Thank you very much. Good morning ladies and gentlemen. It's really a pleasure and honor for me to be in Washington, D.C. today and to have the chance to meet with Secretary Kerry and to discuss a wide range of issues – Ukraine, obviously, being the focus of our attention. For Slovakia, Ukraine is extremely important. It's our neighbor. We have many contacts with Ukraine – people to people, political, energy, and other contacts. Therefore we are very sensitive to everything that is happening there. International law has been violated. This is not acceptable, and we must (inaudible) and we are being very active in our national capacity, as part of the Visegrad 4, but also as members of the European Union and NATO, so this will be – very much the main subject of our discussions.

But there are other issues – EU, NATO, Afghanistan, Western Balkans, Eastern Partnership, and also our bilateral relations which are excellent and we are very happy about.

Thank you very much.

SECRETARY KERRY: Thanks, Miroslav. Thank you.

QUESTION: Mr. Secretary, what if Russia invades eastern Ukraine?

SECRETARY KERRY: We're going to be – have a chance to talk about all of this in the next couple of days as we go to Europe for the meetings in The Hague, and we'll have a lot of chance to share some thoughts with all of you about it. And I will be, I think, meeting on the side of that with the foreign minister of Russia. So hopefully – we'll see where we are at that point in time. I think the White House will have an announcement later today.

Thanks.

FOREIGN MINISTER LAJCAK: Thank you.

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## **9. Joint Statement on Global Initiative to Enhance Nuclear Security (03-20-2014)**

*The text of the following statement was released by the Governments of the United States of America, Russia, Spain, Republic of Korea, the Netherlands, Australia, and the Kingdom of Morocco on the occasion of the contributions of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT) to enhancing nuclear security.*

### **Joint Statement on the Contributions of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT) to Enhancing Nuclear Security**

The Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT) has made valuable contributions in strengthening global capacity to prevent, detect, and respond to nuclear terrorism. To date, the 85 partner nations have completed more than 60 activities under the auspices of the GICNT aimed at building partners' capabilities in this area. We, the Co-Chairs of the GICNT (Russia and the United States), the past and present Implementation and Assessment Group (IAG) Coordinators (Spain and Republic of Korea), and leaders of the three IAG Working Groups (the Kingdom of Morocco, the Netherlands and Australia) wish to inform the states in attendance at the 2014 Netherlands Nuclear Security Summit of the activities of the GICNT since the Nuclear Security Summit hosted by the Republic of Korea in Seoul in March 2012.

Over 250 representatives of GICNT partner nations and representatives from all four GICNT official observers (the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the European Union (EU), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)) participated in the eighth GICNT Plenary Meeting, hosted by Mexico in Mexico City on May 24, 2013. This robust participation demonstrates the vital importance that GICNT partner nations place on enhancing nuclear security and underscores their desire to work cooperatively to further this goal. At the Plenary meeting, GICNT partners recognized the valuable contribution of the IAG mechanism created at the June 2010 GICNT Plenary meeting in Abu Dhabi. The U.S. and Russian Co-Chairs further recognized the contributions of Spain in serving as the IAG Coordinator for three years, including organizing and chairing the Implementation and Assessment Group meetings in Arona and Ispra, Italy, in October 2012 and in Madrid, Spain, in February 2013. Through its leadership, Spain brought strong focus and coordination to GICNT activities. At the 2013 Plenary, the Republic of Korea was endorsed as the new IAG Coordinator.

The collaborative efforts fostered by the GICNT are especially significant in light of the 2010 Washington Nuclear Security Summit, the 2012 Seoul Nuclear Security Summit, and the 2014 The Hague Nuclear Security Summit. Already, GICNT collaboration has produced important results that complement the Nuclear Security Summit process and help advance critical elements addressed in the Summit:

The Nuclear Detection Working Group (NDWG), chaired by the Netherlands, is finalizing the Developing a Nuclear Detection Architecture series of documents following the publication of Volume I, Model Guidelines Document for Nuclear Detection Architectures, in 2009. Volume II in the series, Guidelines for Awareness, Training, and Exercises, and Volume III, Guidelines for Planning and Organization, focused on issues inherent to successful implementation and enhancement of nuclear detection architectures. Ukraine hosted a meeting of the NDWG in Lviv in November 2012 to further the development of the third document in the series. Volumes II and III in the foundational series were approved at the May 2013 GICNT Plenary meeting. At a workshop hosted by Greece in Athens in October 2013, the NDWG continued work on Volume IV, Guidelines for Detection Within a State's Interior, the final best practices guide in the series. Also

during the Athens workshop, the NDWG began efforts to develop a tabletop exercise “playbook,” a compendium of detection-related exercise scenarios available to all GICNT partner nations.

The United Kingdom hosted the GICNT’s 2nd Symposium on Enhanced Detection of Special Nuclear Material in November 2012, to take stock of current advancements in detection technologies, drawing widely on the experiences of other GICNT partner nations.

In September 2012, Russia conducted an exercise on nuclear detection, “Guardian 2012.” During the exercise, Russia used a realistic scenario and real time activity to demonstrate the different aspects of Russia’s national system for detecting nuclear threats, thereby further raising awareness of best practices for the practical implementation of basic principles of nuclear detection architectures in the framework of the GICNT.

In February 2014, Mexico hosted a field training exercise under the auspices of the NDWG, during which the participants had the opportunity to observe implementation of a radiation detection alarm adjudication process and interagency communications protocol in response to realistic nuclear detection scenarios at the Port of Manzanillo. This exercise highlighted national best practices in detection systems and in coordination of a domestic interagency response to a nuclear terrorism event.

The Nuclear Forensics Working Group (NFWG), chaired by Australia, completed a document entitled, Nuclear Forensics Fundamentals for Policy Makers and Decision Makers, which was endorsed at the GICNT Plenary Meeting in May 2013. This document is intended to raise policy maker and decision maker awareness of nuclear forensics as a tool to enhance nuclear material security and to prevent illicit uses of nuclear and other radioactive material. In May 2012, Australia hosted “Iron Koala,” a nuclear forensics seminar and tabletop exercise, which examined the importance of information sharing partnerships, both nationally and internationally, to effectively respond to cases related to nuclear smuggling. This exercise identified an interest amongst GICNT partners in further study of the topic of information sharing in the nuclear forensics field. Thus the working group has commenced development of a document seeking to frame the issues related to sharing nuclear forensics information in the response to and investigation of a nuclear terrorism-related event, currently titled Sharing Nuclear Forensics Information: Benefits, Resources, and Challenges.

Also under the auspices of the NFWG, the United Kingdom hosted in January 2014 the “Nuclear Forensics Workshop and Exercise – Exploring the Nuclear Forensics Chain of Custody: Guidance on the Development of Legally Compliant Nuclear Forensics Capabilities and Systems.” The workshop incorporated a tabletop exercise “Blue Beagle” that demonstrated the British system for control and use of forensics evidence from a crime scene through its development and presentation as evidence in a courtroom and to its disposal. The workshop and exercise presented best practices for investigating a crime scene contaminated with radioactive material and showcased the critical steps needed to successfully introduce the evidence into legal proceedings.

Additionally, awareness-building information modules based on the GICNT Global Initiative Information Portal (GIIP) are in development. Currently, the NFWG is testing a National Nuclear Forensics Library module that provides policy-makers an outline of the national nuclear forensics library concept and identifies key resources for partner nations interested in further information on this subject.

The Response and Mitigation Working Group (RMWG), chaired by the Kingdom of Morocco, is working collaboratively to develop the Response and Mitigation Framework Document, a collection

of key considerations that a country with limited capabilities should consider when initializing its national nuclear/radiological emergency response system. This document includes substantial input from the Moroccan experience in setting up its response capabilities. The Framework Document is intended as a living document, meant to be routinely updated and improved through follow-on practical activities and further input from partner nations. In its capacity as RMWG Chair, Morocco continues to work on an action plan for future activities aimed at strengthening GICNT partner capabilities in responding to a nuclear terrorism event. Morocco continues to work on an action plan for future RMWG activities aimed at strengthening GICNT partner capabilities in responding to a nuclear terrorism incident.

Under the auspices of the RMWG, Canada hosted the RADEX exercise in May 2012 in Toronto, to provide an overview of Canada's emergency management and national security authorities and demonstrate its response to a terrorist attack. Spain and Morocco jointly hosted the REMEX-2013 exercise, in Madrid, Spain, in April 2013. This exercise helped to test the national capabilities of both countries and their cooperation on responding to and mitigating simultaneous terrorist attacks involving radioactive substances.

In October 2012, the RMWG and NWFG met jointly in Ispra, Italy, to address the intersections of the two working groups in responding to nuclear and radiological events. Based on the success of this joint activity, in February 2014, the NWFG and RMWG jointly held a workshop incorporating the tabletop exercise "Tiger Reef" focused on interagency coordination and training that highlighted best practices and key resources for integrating cross-disciplinary training into national response frameworks. "Tiger Reef" was hosted by Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur and was supported by Australia, New Zealand and Malaysia.

Looking to the future, the GICNT Co-Chairs, the IAG Coordinator and the Working Group Leaders remain committed to working with GICNT partner nations to pursue focused efforts and activities that foster nuclear security collaboration and advance nuclear security goals. Moving forward, the GICNT leadership will seek to engage partner nations in practical exercises and workshops that enable them to prepare for and practice responding to nuclear security events. Such activities will focus on encouraging interagency, regional, and international cooperation and communication, in accordance with the proposals for GICNT work endorsed by the partners at the 2013 Plenary meeting in Mexico City. By enhancing partner nations' capacity to prevent, detect, and respond to nuclear terrorism, GICNT will continue to strengthen nuclear security capabilities globally through efforts that complement and support the objectives of the Nuclear Security Summit.

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