

25 July 2014

OPEN LETTER

**The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States**

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

**Re: Urgent need to designate Ukraine as a Major Non-NATO Ally of the United States
and provide military aid to Ukraine**

Over the past months, the international community has witnessed Russia's brazen violations of international law with its illegal annexation of Crimea, persistent support of violent terrorist activities in Eastern Ukraine, and assistance for the shootdown of Malaysian Airlines Flight MH17 and subsequent obstruction at gunpoint of the investigation at the crash site.

On 1 July 2014, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) adopted a resolution condemning "*the clear, gross and uncorrected violation of the Helsinki principles by the Russian Federation with respect to Ukraine, including the particularly egregious violation of that country's sovereignty and territorial integrity*".

Notwithstanding such severe condemnation by the OSCE and the fact that Russia's defiant aggression against Ukraine jeopardizes world peace as demonstrated by the recent downing of flight MH17 that killed 298 people from various countries, the European community continues to deny effective military assistance to Ukraine. Even more astounding is the fact that some countries are helping arm Russia – the aggressor state. For instance, France reiterated its commitment to sell French-built Mistral class amphibious assault carriers to the Russian Navy.

Therefore, the Ukrainian World Congress urges you to take the necessary measures to:

- 1) designate Ukraine as a Major Non-NATO Ally of the United States; and
- 2) urgently provide military aid to Ukraine

in order to help Ukraine remove the menace to the international community posed by Russia-backed terrorists in Eastern Ukraine.

By designating Ukraine as a Major Non-NATO Ally of the United States and providing military aid to Ukraine, the United States will also give effect to the 1994 Budapest *Memorandum on Security Assurances in connection with Ukraine's accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons*, whereby in exchange for its nuclear disarmament, Ukraine received numerous security assurances, including the following:

1. The United States of America, the Russian Federation, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, reaffirm their commitment to Ukraine, in accordance with the principles of the CSCE Final Act, to respect the Independence and Sovereignty and the existing borders of Ukraine.
2. The United States of America, the Russian Federation, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, reaffirm their obligation to refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of Ukraine, and that none of their weapons will ever be used against Ukraine except in self-defense or otherwise in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.
3. The United States of America, the Russian Federation, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, reaffirm their commitment to Ukraine, in accordance with the principles of the CSCE Final Act, to refrain from economic coercion designed to subordinate to their own interest the exercise by Ukraine of the rights inherent in its sovereignty and thus to secure advantages of any kind.

It is imperative that the United States take a leadership role regarding Russia's relentless aggression against Ukraine to ensure that the international community does not favor financial interests over the promotion of the rule of law among nations, and that peace, security and stability are restored in that part of the world.

Sincerely,

UKRAINIAN WORLD CONGRESS



Eugene Czolij
President

c.c. His Excellency Petro Poroshenko, President of Ukraine
Ms. Tamara Olexy, President of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America

The Ukrainian World Congress (UWC) is the international coordinating body for Ukrainian communities in the diaspora representing the interests of over 20 million Ukrainians. The UWC has member organizations in 33 countries and ties with Ukrainians in 14 additional countries. Founded in 1967, the UWC was recognized in 2003 by the United Nations Economic and Social Council as a non-governmental organization (NGO) with special consultative status.