



UKRAINIAN CONGRESS COMMITTEE OF AMERICA – ILLINOIS BRANCH
2247 West Chicago Avenue Chicago, IL 60622
847-989-6634, uccaillinois@yahoo.com, www.uccaillinois.org

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
Assessing Ukraine/NATO Relations
on the Eve of the Chicago NATO Summit
Chicago, May 19, 2012

May 17, 2012

PRESS RELEASE

An international conference, “Assessing Ukraine/NATO Relations on the Eve of the Chicago NATO Summit,” will take place in Chicago at Sts. Volodymyr and Olha Conference Center, May 19, 2012.

The conference is an international advocacy forum tasked with assessing Ukraine’s relationship to NATO’s stated goal of strengthened security in the Euro-Atlantic area and a Europe that is whole, free, and at peace. It will bring together experts of the highest order to discuss the complex paradigm of consolidating the independence of Ukraine, its sovereignty and national security through integration into Euro-Atlantic structures, the EU and NATO, while, simultaneously, supporting fundamental change in Ukrainian government policy towards one that respects democratic governance, rule of law, and human rights. Presentations will be made by internationally eminent experts on the policies of the Ukrainian government, and the roles of the EU, US, Canada, and Russia in supporting or undermining these ends.

The distinguished speakers at the conference represent a **Who’s Who** of experts on Ukraine and NATO including from Kyiv, EU, Washington, D.C., London, and Ottawa.

Among the distinguished speakers are: Ian Brzezinski, senior fellow in the Atlantic Council’s International Security Program; John Herbst, former United States Ambassador to Ukraine and current Director of the National Defense University Center for Complex Operations; Jan Pieklo, Director, Polish Ukrainian Cooperation Foundation (PAUCI); Ihor Kozak, former officer with the Canadian Forces who served in diplomatic missions on behalf of Canada, the US, EU, UN, and NATO; Serhiy Kvit, PhD, President of National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy; James Sherr, Senior Fellow, Russian and Eurasia Program, Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House); Stephen Larrabee, PhD, Distinguished Chair in European Security at the RAND Corporation; Lubomyr Luciuk, PhD, Professor of Political Geography at the Royal Military College of Canada; Valentyn Nalyvaichenko, past Director, Security Service of Ukraine and former Member of the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine; Volodymyr S. Ohryzko, PhD, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine; Amanda Paul, Policy Analyst and Program Executive at the European Policy Centre; Andrew Robinson, former Ambassador of Canada to Ukraine and currently a Distinguished Senior Fellow, Paterson School of International Affairs, Carleton University; Oleksandr Sushko, PhD, Research Director at the Institute for Euro-Atlantic Co-operation, Damon Wilson, Executive Vice President of the Atlantic Council; Walter Zaryckyj, PhD, Executive Director, Center for US-Ukrainian Relations.

Special Guest: The Honorable Bob Dechert, Member of Parliament of Canada; Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs; Member, Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development; Member, Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Friendship Group.

The international conference “Assessing Ukraine/NATO Relations on the Eve of the Chicago NATO Summit” is being convened under the auspices of the Ukrainian World Congress (UWC), International Conference in Support of Ukraine (ICSU), Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), and Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC). It is co-organized by the U.S. and Canada Divisions of the ICSU, in cooperation with the Center for US-Ukrainian Relations, and is hosted by the Illinois Division of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America.

“Assessing Ukraine/NATO Relations on the Eve of the Chicago NATO Summit” represents a concerted effort by the organized Ukrainian Diaspora as a whole, to draw the attention of the Chicago NATO Summit, and Ukraine’s President Viktor Yanukovich, who will be attending the Summit, to the fact that Ukraine’s democratic future and national security are in real jeopardy. The deteriorating political situation in Ukraine together with the Russian government’s efforts to undermine Ukraine’s Euro-Atlantic integration pose a direct and immediate threat to Ukraine’s security and vital national interests, as well as to Europe’s security, peace and stability.

The conference organizers will call on President Yanukovich to reverse his current course towards one of democracy, national security, and economic prosperity and will call on NATO and the EU to support democratic forces in Ukraine and to oppose overt and covert efforts by the Russian regime to reimpose its hegemony on Ukraine.

FOR THE ENTIRE PROGRAM AND SPEAKERS BIOS CLICK ON: www.UCCAillinois.org

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MEDIA CONTACTS:

Marta Farion

Cell: 773-490-9797

E: martafarion.org@gmail.com

Paul Bandriwsky

Cell: 773-848-6886

E: pbandriwsky@yahoo.com