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April 30, 2021

The Honorable Antony J. Blinken
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On behalf of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), the representative organization of the 1.5 million Americans of Ukrainian descent, we welcome the official announcement of your upcoming trip to Kyiv, Ukraine to meet with Ukrainian officials. Meetings between you and Ukraine's leadership are critical to the future of peace in the region, as U.S support for Ukraine now is imperative to its survival.

Russia's unrelenting aggressive behavior vis-à-vis Ukraine is dangerously destabilizing the international legal system. The massive build-up of Russian troops along Ukraine's eastern border and escalating provocations by Russian-sponsored groups within Ukraine, specifically in the eastern regions of Luhansk and Donetsk, are threatening Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty. The U.S. must take definitive action to help stabilize the transnational, trans-Atlantic security framework, which clearly serves our national interests as Americans, or the crisis in Ukraine is likely to escalate.

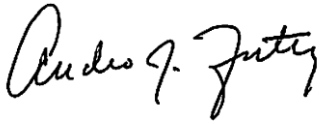
As the bastion of democracy in the free world, the United States must take the lead in promoting international norms and consolidating geo-political stability. Therefore, the UCCA urges you, Mr. Secretary, to affirm the United States' commitment to Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity during your meetings in Ukraine by:

- Condemning Russia's invasion of sovereign Ukrainian territory and its continued use of aggression, calling for the cessation of Russian hostility towards Ukraine and the withdrawal of Russian forces from occupied territories in Ukraine, including the Crimean Peninsula;
- Accelerating Ukraine's full integration into Western structures by granting Ukraine's immediate ascension into NATO through a Membership Action Plan (MAP);
- Bolstering U.S. financial support for Ukraine by supporting a 21st century Marshall Plan aimed at stabilizing and strengthening trans-Atlantic and regional security;
- Implementing a comprehensive sanctions regime to stop the NordStream2 political pipeline;
- Holding joint NATO exercises in Ukraine and continuing defensive exercises in NATO ally countries;
- and,
- Expanding economic sanctions to include major sectors of Russia's economy.

The UCCA hopes that your meetings with Ukrainian officials will affirm the steadfast commitment of the United States to Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The Ukrainian American community looks forward to a productive and dynamic dialogue with you in the years to come. As such, we respectfully request an opportunity to meet (virtually) with you upon your return from Ukraine to address these and other matters of immediate concern. For expediency in the State Department's future contact with our community, please feel free to communicate with the UCCA's Washington, DC public affairs bureau by e-mail at: unis.sawkiw@gmail.com.

On behalf of the UCCA Executive Board,



Andrew Futey
President



Michael Sawkiw, Jr.
Executive Vice President