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Український Конгресовий Комітет Америки  
UKRAINIAN CONGRESS COMMITTEE OF AMERICA



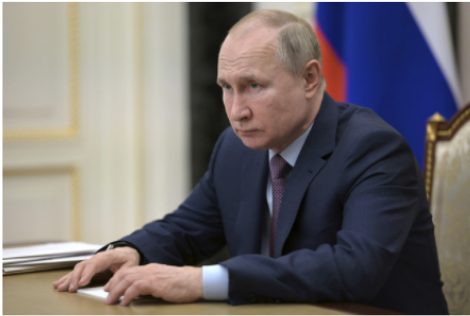
Following an historic election, during an [unprecedented year not only for the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America \(UCCA\)](#), but also for our entire global hromada, UCCA welcomed the incoming 117th United States Congress and newly elected presidential administration [on behalf of the Ukrainian American community](#). In addition to proposing that the United States and Ukraine move toward specific goals in the next decade, was the reminder that for the incoming government to retreat from current sanctions against the Russian Federation and its proxies, or from continued military, political and economic support of Ukraine by the United States, would entail terrifying consequences for Ukraine, our European partners and the global geo-political security structure.

As UCCA made known just last week, the head of the [Wilson Center's Kennan Institute](#), was being considered for appointment as the new Russia director on the White House National Security Council (NSC). Earlier today, [it was reported that](#) following [UCCA's open letter to President Biden](#), Matthew Rojansky is no longer under consideration to join the Biden National Security Council.

## FOREIGN POLICY

**Biden won't bring on board controversial Russia expert**

Matthew Rojansky was being considered for the position of Russia director on the NSC. But his possible appointment drew a wave of criticism from Russia hawks.



to Rojansky's potential appointment, further jeopardizing his prospects. Ukraine is a key ally that has been at war with Russia, both on the ground and in cyberspace, since 2014, and is currently pushing the U.S. for more support as it fends off the biggest Russian military buildup on its border in nearly a decade. The country also has influential — and vocal — allies in Washington.

In a [letter to Biden](#) dated April 12, the president and vice president of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America called Rojansky's work "a source of much anxiety," and alleged that Rojansky viewed Ukraine as "expendable to secure closer U.S.-Russia relations."

"On behalf of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, which has promoted U.S. national interests and democratic values, and sought to advance the sovereignty and security of Ukraine for more than 80 years, we emphatically request that you reject Mr. Rojansky's appointment," they wrote.

In a [recent article in Politico](#), UCCA was specifically recognized for its leadership on behalf of the Ukrainian American community in this matter. Along with the statements of Bill Browder and Garry Kasparov, UCCA's "emphatic request" to reject Mr. Rojansky's appointment came from "the largest Ukrainian-American organization in the country":

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**1** Ukrainian authorities estimate that up to **40,000** troops are stationed near **Voronezh**, where a staging area has been established, equipped with a long-range communications complex and a field hospital.

**2** Another **40,000** troops are estimated to be deployed in **Crimea**.

**3** According to a May 2020 report by the Ukrainian government, 40,100 Ukrainian troops, including regular and National Guard units, are deployed in the Donbas, around the so-called "line of contact."

**4** Large quantities of military equipment were seen in the **Rostov** region. It's unclear if they were being positioned in Rostov, or in transit to Crimea or other locations.

**5** Independent open-source intelligence revealed that the 56th Air Assault Brigade is being deployed in **Feodosia**. The Russian Defense Ministry earlier had announced the brigade would be relocated to Crimea before the end of 2021.

**6** The Russian Defense Ministry announced the **Black Sea Fleet** would be reinforced with 15 ships, including landing craft, armed corvettes, and support ships.



C. Coelho | Sources: Media reports, Janes, CIT, Russian Defense Ministry, Ukrainian government.

UCCA appeals to all of its members to be active participants in American political life, to help us continue the United States' history of actively supporting and engaging with Ukraine in areas of military assistance. Thanks to the civic engagement of our community, this past week saw

The Senate Ukraine Caucus [penned a letter to President Biden](#) requesting the Administration provide “critical material assistance to Ukraine in the short term,” as well as to provide robust defensive military and economic assistance for Ukraine in the President’s budget request. The Congressional Ukraine Caucus [also released a statement](#) “strongly condemning Russia’s illegal war in and on Ukraine” and calling for “increased sanctions and putting an end to Nord Stream 2.”

These developments follow weeks of nearly daily statements of support for Ukraine:

- Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III [spoke by phone](#) with Ukrainian Minister of Defence Andrii Taran, reaffirming unwavering U.S. support for Ukraine’s sovereignty, territorial integrity, and Euro-Atlantic aspirations;
- National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan [spoke by phone](#) with Head of Presidential Office Andriy Yermak of Ukraine, affirming “the United States’ unwavering support for Ukraine’s sovereignty, territorial integrity, and Euro-Atlantic aspirations”;
- President Biden [spoke to President Volodymyr Zelenskyy](#) of Ukraine and “affirmed the United States’ unwavering support for Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity in the face of Russia’s ongoing aggression in the Donbas and Crimea”;
- Secretary Antony J. Blinken [met in person with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba](#) on the sidelines of the NATO Foreign Ministers Meeting in Brussels in which he reiterated publicly that “the United States stands firmly behind the sovereignty and the territorial integrity of Ukraine... at a time when we’re seeing unfortunately Russia take very provocative action when it comes to Ukraine. We’re now seeing the largest concentration of Russian forces on Ukraine’s border since 2014, and that is of deep concern not only to Ukraine, but to the United States, and indeed to many of our allies and partners.”
- Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken met with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg to [discuss the immediate need for Russia to cease its aggressive military buildup](#) along Ukraine’s borders and in occupied Crimea. The Secretary and Secretary General agreed it was essential for NATO to continue delivering support for Ukraine;
- NATO ministers in Brussels [addressed Russia’s military buildup in and around Ukraine](#). The Allies fully support Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity, and [called on Russia to de-escalate immediately](#), stop a pattern of aggressive provocations, and respect its international commitments;
- President Biden [addressed the nation from the White House](#) in which he affirmed “U.S. support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of

Finally, the United States recently imposed a range of sanctions against Russia. Critically, several segments of the sanction package include actions the UCCA had for advocated in the past – [increased Crimea sanctions and preventing U.S. banks from dealing with Russian sovereign debt](#).

And in [a letter to Congress dated April 15](#), the White House declared “a national emergency with respect to the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States posed by specified harmful foreign activities of the Government of the Russian Federation.”

Earlier this year we marked seven years since the start of Russia’s war against Ukraine, and the over 13,000 deaths and over 30,000 wounded that has come as a result of this invasion. Over one and a half million Ukrainians have fled their homes, while tens of thousands remain hostages in Donbas’ Russian-occupied territories. For this reason, UCCA has renewed our call for elected leaders to stand with Ukraine against [Russia’s increasing military aggression](#).

Please make every effort in your community and individually to contact your elected representatives in this regard, and ask to go on the record and publicly state their support of Ukraine through the following measures:

1. Putting Russia on notice that [harsh economic and financial sanctions](#) would immediately be imposed in case of an attack on Ukraine.
2. Suspending the development of the [NordStream 2 gas pipeline](#).
3. Building the capacity of Ukraine’s Armed Forces to preserve the country’s territorial integrity by continuing to provide defensive weapons to Ukraine and suggesting that [Ukraine receive a Membership Action Plan from NATO](#).

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The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) is a non-profit, non-partisan community-based organization that has represented the interests of Ukrainians in the United States since 1940.

Український конгресовий комітет Америки (УККА) є неприбутковою, безпартійною громадською організацією, яка представляє інтереси українців у Сполучених Штатах Америки з 1940 року.



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