The UCCA welcomes Ambassador Kurt Volker’s statement on July 25th, where he explained that the United States is considering sending defense weapons to Ukraine to help the nation defend itself against Russian aggression. The UCCA has repeatedly called for the United States to provide lethal defensive assistance to Ukraine, and the newly-appointed US Special Representative’s recent remarks give us hope that the United States will seriously take into consideration stepping up our efforts to address the continuing national security threats Russia poses not just to Ukraine, but to the stabilizing transnational, trans-Atlantic security framework that first emerged after the Second World War.
UCCA respectfully invites the community to attend an historic Conference and Banquet to Commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Ukrainian World Congress (UWC) - the international coordinating body for Ukrainian communities in the diaspora representing the interests of over 20 million Ukrainians. As New York City was the venue for the First World Congress of Free Ukrainians in 1967, and is historically connected to the development of the UWC, which unites Ukrainian communities around the world to further the interests of Ukraine and the Ukrainian people, New York City will host a celebratory event on Saturday, September 16, 2017 at the Princeton Club of New York.

A full-day conference, entitled, UWC AT 50 AND BEYOND: THE NORTH AMERICAN VECTOR, will feature policy-makers, scholars and civil society representatives from the US, Canada and Ukraine to discuss the historical significance of the UWC, and the integral role the organized Ukrainian diaspora has played to assist Ukraine over the five decades since the inception of the UWC. The Conference will be followed by a Commemorative Banquet during which special guest speakers will highlight the accomplishments of the UWC and focus on a common vision for our future.

For more information or to RSVP, please contact the UCCA National Office.

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Over the past few months, the ideological battleground that is social media has seen an increasing number of attacks targeting Ukraine. A vast majority of these messages are automated by Russian networks, simply repeating older messages in order to weaken the overwhelming support of Ukraine by the West. The most disturbing messages, however, are those that can be sourced to voices featured in the U.S. media, or worse yet, the U.S. government.

As with its 2008 and 2014 invasions of Georgia and Ukraine, respectively, Russia repeatedly deflects criticism, by the tried and true tactic of “whataboutism”. Designed to delude both domestic and foreign audiences, this Cold War technique has been re-deployed by Russia to divide the American and Ukrainian people through false rumors and innuendo. Currently, Russia’s state outlet RT heavily promotes the fanciful story that the revelation of surreptitious contact with agents of the Russian government should be treated no differently than the open, mutual support of the Ukrainian and United States governments.

The false accusation, leveled by Russian propagandists, accusing the Ukrainian government of attempting to harm its strategic ally, the United States, would be laughable had it not been picked up by several U.S. media outlets, so-called political experts, and government officials. Unfortunately, continued public statements by those ignorant of the facts can have a lasting effect on the flourishing U.S.-Ukraine relationship.

Today’s statement by the President of the United States repeating such allegations only serves to harm this strategic alliance. While this administration has made strides in advancing U.S.-Ukraine cooperation, such statements pain our community, coming only days after Russia’s bloodiest attempted advance in 2017 took the lives of 17 Ukrainian heroes, and left dozens more injured.

The UCCA maintains its long-held belief that the security of the United States lies in the expansion of democracy and mutual security guarantees best demonstrated in the history of U.S.-Ukraine relations. To combat “whataboutism” originating in Russia, we urge our fellow supporters of Ukraine to set the record straight whenever possible.

To obtain a fact sheet clarifying the special relationship between the US and Ukraine and how to set the record straight, please contact the UCCA National Office.

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Celebrate Ukrainian World Congress’ 50th Anniversary With Us!

Thanks to the work of the UCCA and the New Ukrainian Wave Branches of Passaic, N.J. and the UCCA Hartford, CT Branch, a two day trip was planned to Washington, DC. 50 people took part in the June 10-11 trip from Passaic, Jersey City, Irvington, NJ and Hartford, CT - members of UCCA and its constituent organizations: New Ukrainian Wave and the Organization of the Defense of Lemko Western Ukraine. The participants had the opportunity to explore the historic sites of Washington, beginning with the lighting of candles for the innocent victims at the Holodomor Memorial, and ending with honoring Ukraine’s great Bard, Taras Shevchenko. This long-awaited trip was not only enjoyable but useful for its participants, as it also strengthened the cooperation of our Ukrainian American organizations.

The organizers of the excursion, UCCA members Marie Duplak, Myron Kolinsky, and Halyna Semenyak, would like to thank UNIS Director Michael Sawkiw, Jr. for his assistance in conducting the two-day tour in Washington, DC. Thank you!

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Passaic and Hartford Branches Travel to Washington, DC

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