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UCCA BULLETIN



June 2017 ... Our 77th Year of Service to the Community

UCCA SENDS LETTER TO PRESIDENT TRUMP URGING MEETING WITH UKRAINE'S PRESIDENT

On May 9th, the UCCA sent a letter to President Trump, which reads:

The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), the representative organization of over one million Americans of Ukrainian descent, respectfully requests that you invite the President of Ukraine, Petro Poroshenko, to meet with you in Washington, DC prior to your meeting with President Vladimir Putin.

A meeting in Washington, DC between you, Mr. President, and Ukraine's President would be a critical sign of support for peace in the region, as U.S. support for Ukraine now is imperative to its survival. Russia's unrelenting hybrid warfare in Ukraine is destabilizing the international world order. The massive build-up of Russian troops along Ukraine's eastern border and recent escalating attacks in the eastern regions of Luhansk and Donetsk are continuously 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. Without U.S. support and a commitment to peace, the crisis in Ukraine is only 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. President, to affirm the United States' commitment to Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity by inviting President Poroshenko to meet with you in Washington and highlighting these security concerns:

- Condemning Russia's invasion of Ukraine (both Crimea and Eastern Ukraine) and its continued use of hybrid warfare, and calling for the immediate cessation of Russian hostility towards Ukraine;
- Bolstering U.S. financial support for Ukraine by supporting a 21st century "Marshall Plan" aimed at stabilizing and strengthening trans-Atlantic and regional security and providing necessary military support for Ukraine;
- Supporting a UN peacekeeping mission (both civilian and military) to Eastern Ukraine to monitor the situation on the ground and deter provocations that may lead to further Russian intervention; and,
- Expanding economic sanctions to include not only individuals within Putin's inner circle, but major sectors of Russia's economy.

The UCCA hopes that you will meet with President Poroshenko and affirm the steadfast commitment of the United States to Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

UNIS ACTION ITEM

The Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS) is calling upon all friends of Ukraine to contact the White House and request that President Trump invite President Poroshenko to Washington, DC. Ideally, the visit of President Poroshenko should be held before President Trump eventually meets with President Putin.

Please find below a sample letter and instructions on how to contact the White House. It is important that the White House hears our concerns and requests.

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

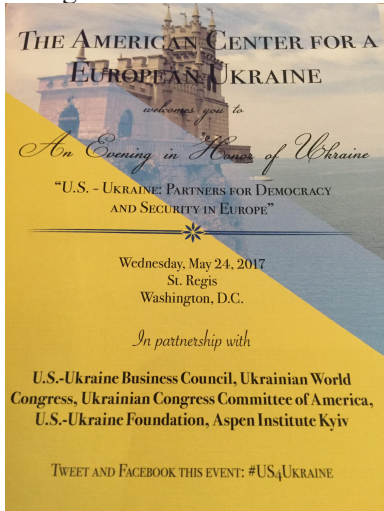
As an American of Ukrainian descent, I was proud to watch the people of Ukraine dedicate themselves to democratic values during the Revolution of Dignity several years ago. Unfortunately, since that time, Ukraine has withstood the onslaught of Russian aggression waged upon its borders in the form of cyberattacks, outright invasion of sovereign territory, and an unrelenting informational disinformation campaign.

The United States, as a strategic partner of Ukraine, ought to acknowledge Ukraine's recent sacrifices by inviting President Petro Poroshenko to Washington, DC before your eventual meeting with Vladimir Putin. Such an acknowledgment would send strong signals to the Ukrainian people about the values of partnership with democratic nations such as ours. Ukraine needs the assistance of the United States to transcend that country into a viable nation within the community of democracies. A visit by President Poroshenko would manifest such a resolve. Sincerely,

You may submit your letter online at:
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/submit-questions-and-comments>

GALA DINNER PROMOTING UKRAINE HELD IN WASHINGTON,

The American Center for a European Ukraine held a gala evening in honor of Ukraine on Wednesday, May 24th at the St. Regis Hotel in Washington, DC. Ukrainian Congress Committee of America was one of the original co-sponsors of the gala evening, which included award presentations to Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) and Rep. Brendan Boyle (D-PA) for their support of Ukrainian issues. Other speakers lauded Ukraine's achievements in numerous commercial sectors, most notably IT and agribusiness.



UWC PRESIDENT HOLDS MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON, DC

On Wednesday, May 24th Eugene Czolij, President of the Ukrainian World Congress, held meetings in Washington, DC with various government and NGO officials. Meetings were held with the ambassadors of Poland and Ukraine to the United States, the director of the Office of Eastern European Affairs at the US State Department, government officials regarding the Global Magnitsky Act, and a representative from PEN America, which has initiated an effort to #FreeSantsov. All meetings were arranged and attended by Michael Sawkiw, Jr., UCCA Executive Vice President.



L to R: M. Sawkiw, Jr., Jorgan Andrews - Director, Office of Eastern European Affairs, U.S. Department of State; and E. Czolij; E. Czolij, Poland's Ambassador to the U.S. Piotr Wilczek and M. Sawkiw.

UCCA MET WITH JOSEF ZISSELS

In town to attend the 15th Plenary Assembly of the World Jewish Congress, Josef Zissels, head of the Euro-Asian Jewish Congress, Soviet human rights activist, dissident and political prisoner, found time to meet with Ukrainian activists in New York City on May 2nd.



Thanks to Adrian Karatnycky of the Ukrainian Jewish Encounter who hosted the evening, we were able to discuss numerous issues important to Ukraine and our Ukrainian community, including: Ukraine's current pace of reforms, EU integration and Ukrainian-Jewish relations. to name a few.

LUNCHEON WITH AMB. CHALY

On Saturday, May 20, New York City's East Village was once again teeming with Ukrainian culture as the 41st annual St George Ukrainian Festival took over the intersection of Taras Shevchenko Place and East 7th Street. For the first time in recent memory, Ukraine's sitting Ambassador to the U.S. visited the festival to deliver remarks. Ambassador Valery Chaly took the microphone to applause as he thanked the festival goers and students for celebrating Ukrainian culture in America. Following his remarks, the students of St. George Academy presented the Ambassador with bread and salt and thanked him for attending their festival.



The Consulate General of Ukraine in New York worked with UCCA to prepare an intimate luncheon for the Ambassador following his appearance at the festival. Gathering at the Ukrainian National Home, the assembly of community leaders included the chairmen of Ukrainian Credit Unions, the leadership of the Ukrainian Museum, Ukrainian National Women's League of America, Bishop Paul Chomnycky, and members of the UCCA's Executive Board and National Council.