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UCCA BULLETIN



June 2016 ... Our 76th Year of Service to the Community

COMMUNITY LEADERS MEET UKRAINE'S PRIME MINISTER, VOLODYMYR GROYSMAN

On June 17th leaders of the Ukrainian American community had the opportunity to meet with Ukraine's Prime Minister at the Ukrainian Museum during his brief visit to New York City. Following a few words of welcome by Marianna Zajac, President of the Ukrainian National Women's League of America, Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman thanked the community for their concern for and support of Ukraine. He noted that this year Ukraine will mark its 25th anniversary of independence, and stressed that "the time has come to demonstrate new principles and approaches and a new pro-Ukrainian policy within Ukraine – this is our joint task." Although there are many challenges facing Ukraine today, he outlined the government's top priorities, which include: fostering macroeconomic stability, improving governance, effectively fighting corruption, creating a favorable business climate and ensuring national security and defense.



Following the Prime Minister's remarks, UCCA President, Tamara Olexy, concluded the program by thanking him for taking time to meet with leaders of the Ukrainian American Community. During her remarks, she stated, "Ukrainians have sacrificed dearly and continue to sacrifice their lives to defend a free and independent Ukraine... let us make sure that they did not die in vain! Society has entrusted its elected officials to make the necessary changes need to reform government structures that will finally work for the people and represent their interests. Having endured decades of promises, we sincerely hope that the current problems facing Ukraine, will be addressed head on and we ask that you, as leader of Ukraine's current government implement the reforms needed to finally work in the interests of its people." Concluding, she stated "The hromada "will continue doing its utmost to support Ukraine's reform efforts, continue to press for targeted sanctions against the Russian Federation until they abide by the Minsk agreement and withdraw from Crimea, and will continue to work to strengthen the bilateral and strategic partnership between our two nations. We pledge to continue our efforts to do all that is in our power to secure Ukraine's right to determine her own destiny."

UCCA PREPARES POSITION PAPER FOR U.S. PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

In preparation for meetings with both the Republican and Democratic National Platform Committees, as well as with senior policy advisors for the Trump and Clinton campaigns (see following page), the UCCA prepared a policy paper on the "*Position of the Ukrainian American community regarding United States relations with Ukraine.*"

The statement begins with the preamble "Ukrainian-Americans are united in their support for the independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine. As Americans, we believe that a democratic and independent Ukraine is in the national security interests of the United States and consistent with our traditions of support for individual freedom and self-determination."

A brief background follows, highlighting that in the context of U.S. geo-strategic interests, the current situation in Ukraine cannot be understood without recognizing its far-reaching consequences for the world's security dynamics, and underscoring that Russia's aggression toward Ukraine constitutes a fundamental challenge to the post-war order in Europe and jeopardizes every member of the international community.

The position paper then provides several recommendations for the U.S. government, including, but not limited to: an explicit commitment to Ukraine's sovereignty, independence and self-determination; rejecting any form of recognition of Russian rule over Crimea by explicitly rooting U.S. Crimea policy in the non-recognition doctrine; demanding the immediate withdrawal of covert and overt Russian forces and equipment from Ukraine and compliance with cease-fire agreements; expanding direct military assistance, including defensive arms and additional military training programs; maintaining and strengthening targeted economic sanctions against the Russian Federation until it fully complies with its international obligations; ramping up its counter-narrative to the Russian propaganda operation.

The UCCA paper also provides additional measures the U.S. should take to assist Ukraine.

Should you like a copy of the UCCA's position paper, please contact the UCCA National Office.

SYMPOSIUM: “COMMEMORATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MODERN UKRAINIAN STATE”

On September 17th, a special forum to mark the 25th anniversary of Ukraine’s renewed independence will be held at the Princeton Club in New York City. This full-day conference, entitled, “Commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the Modern Ukrainian State” will bring together key government and non-government representatives, as well as renowned scholars to discuss the historical significance of Ukraine as well as to delve into the country’s prospects for achieving mature nation Statehood — becoming a full fledged member of the Euro-Atlantic Community.

The conference will feature four panel discussions and three highlight presentations dedicated to taking a fresh, critical look at Ukraine’s Distant Past and Recent Past as well as carefully divining the nation’s Near Future and Further Future. A veritable who’s who from American, European and Ukrainian academic circles/Policy Shaping Institutions, including James Sherr, Janusz Bugajski, David Kramer, Ariel Cohen, Alexander Motyl, Paul Roderick Gregory, Yuri Shapoval, Volodymyr Vyatrovych and Refat Chubarov will participate in/address the forum. In total, over two dozen featured speakers will address the conference proceedings.

The full-day conference/forum will conclude with an evening gala banquet where senior government officials from the United States and Ukraine will reflect upon Ukraine’s 25 years of independence.

The sponsoring organizations encourage/invite the Ukrainian-American community to actively participate in the forum and attend the evening banquet. For additional information or to register for the event, please contact the UCCA National Office at (212)228-6840 or by email to ucca@ucca.org.

The “Commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the Modern Ukrainian State” Conference is supported by: Center for U.S.-Ukrainian Relations; Organization for the Defense of Four Freedoms for Ukraine; PLAST Ukrainian Scouting Organization; Shevchenko Scientific Society; Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences; Ukrainian American Bar Association; Ukrainian American Youth Association; Ukrainian Congress Committee of America; Ukrainian Engineers Society; Ukrainian Free University Foundation; Ukrainian Medical Association of North America; Ukrainian Museum of New York; Ukrainian National Association; Ukrainian National Women’s League of America.

UCCA MEETS WITH SAM CLOVIS, SENIOR POLICY ADVISOR FOR THE TRUMP CAMPAIGN

On June 1st, UCCA Executive Board members, Tamara Olexy, Andrij Futey, Roksolana Lozynskyy, Michael Sawkiw and Andrij Dobriansky, met with Sam Clovis, Senior Policy Advisor for the Trump Campaign in Washington, DC.



During the hour and a half meeting, UCCA addressed various concerns of the Ukrainian American community, including Presidential Candidate Trump’s position on Ukraine.

CEEC MEETS WITH SECRETARY ALBRIGHT, FOREIGN POLICY ADVISOR FOR THE CLINTON CAMPAIGN

On June 21st, the Central/East European Coalition (CEEC) met with former Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, who currently serves as a foreign policy adviser to Hillary Clinton.



Issues discussed included the war in Eastern Ukraine; Crimea; continued acts of Russian aggression; the upcoming NATO Summit and its Open Door Policy; the Visa Waiver program; and, U.S. global leadership.