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**UCC Briefing Note to Mr. Jagmeet Singh, MP
Leader of the New Democratic Party of Canada**

**Deterring a further Russian invasion of Ukraine
UCC Policy Recommendations**

February 3, 2022

The Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) recommends that Canada and allies take the following steps to deter a further Russian invasion of Ukraine:

1. *Substantially increase the provision of defensive weapons to Ukraine – most importantly anti-tank, anti-artillery, naval and air defense systems.*
2. *Increase the provision of real-time satellite imagery and intelligence to Ukraine on Russian military movements.*
3. *Ensure that the Nord Stream II pipeline never becomes operational. Should this pipeline connecting Russia and Germany become operational, a significant deterrent to a further Russian invasion of Ukraine will be removed.*
4. *Significantly increase sectoral economic sanctions, especially in the oil and gas sectors, against Russia. Remove Russia from the SWIFT international payments system. Increase personal sanctions against Russian officials responsible for waging aggressive war against Ukraine.*

Russia invaded Ukraine in 2014, illegally occupying the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and parts of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. Over 13,000 people have been killed, over 30,000 wounded and 1.5 million internally displaced due to Russia's war against Ukraine.

There was no robust response from the international community to this egregious violation of international law.

In February-April 2021, Russia significantly escalated attacks on Ukrainian positions on the frontline in Donetsk and Luhansk, which were coupled Russian troop and materiel movements, raising grave concern about among NATO and G7 allies about a possible Russian invasion.

There was no substantive response by NATO or the G7 to the Russian escalation in spring 2021.

In November 2021, Russia once more intensified troop and materiel movements near Ukraine's borders.

The series of discussions held this week between the United States, NATO and the OSCE and Russia, predictably, yielded no concrete results nor commitments from Russia to de-escalate its aggression against Ukraine.

Protecting Ukraine's security and sovereignty is in the national interest of Canada and our NATO allies. Countering Russia's escalating aggression against Ukraine is key to securing peace in Europe.

The UCC welcomes the extension and expansion of Operation UNIFIER, Canada's military training mission in Ukraine, and the announcement of economic assistance to Ukraine in the form of a loan of up to \$120 million, announced at the end of January 2022.

The position of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) is that Canada and allies must respond forcefully to Russia's recent escalation before, not after, a possible further Russian invasion into Ukraine.

The Russian regime has shown time and again that it reads restraint as weakness and that it responds only to strength. The most effective way to deter a further Russian invasion of Ukraine is to take proactive, rather than reactive, steps.

UCC Policy Recommendations

The UCC recommends that Canada and allies take the following steps to deter and raise the costs of a further Russian invasion of Ukraine:

1. Substantially increase the provision of defensive weapons to Ukraine – most importantly anti-tank, anti-artillery, naval and air defense systems.

The Government of Canada can facilitate the provision of defensive weapons to the Ukrainian Armed Forces, for example through the Canadian Commercial Corporation, which would assist Ukraine in defending its sovereignty and also support Canada's arms industry. The Government of Canada can also provide surplus arms to Ukraine as soon as possible.

One of the goals of Russia's regime is to pressure Ukraine's partners and supporters into stopping the provision of defensive equipment, weapons and training. Russia is doing this in order to ensure that further invasion will meet less resistance from Ukraine's military and lower the costs of invasion.

Ukraine's defensive capabilities in both the sea and air need to be enhanced in order to deter Russian aggression in these domains. Enhancing Ukraine's naval and air capabilities before, rather than after, a further Russian invasion, would go far in deterring that invasion and could save tens of thousands of Ukrainian lives.

2. Increase the provision of real-time satellite imagery and intelligence to Ukraine on Russian military movements.

As Russia prepares a further invasion, satellite imagery and intelligence from Canada and allies provided to Ukraine would enhance Ukraine's ability to defend itself, understand better from which geographic sectors a potential further invasion is likely to come, and would raise the costs to Russia of a further invasion.

3. Ensure that the Nord Stream II pipeline never becomes operational. Should this pipeline connecting Russia and Germany become operational, a significant deterrent to a further Russian invasion of Ukraine will be removed.

The Nord Stream 2 pipeline has now been physically completed. It has not, however, been certified by the German regulator nor operationalized by the Government of Germany. Should Nord Stream 2 become operational, it will have the practical effect of rendering the Ukrainian gas transit system (on which Russia currently relies to ship natural gas to European Union states) redundant and would remove a significant practical deterrent from a further Russian invasion of Ukraine.

With Nord Stream 2 operational, Russia could carry out aviation strikes and aerial bombardment of Ukrainian territory without heed to damaging the pipelines on which it currently relies.

4. Significantly increase sectoral economic sanctions, especially in the oil and gas sectors, against Russia. Remove Russia from the SWIFT international payments system. Increase personal sanctions against Russian officials responsible for waging aggressive war against Ukraine.

No significant Canadian sanctions against Russia have been implemented since March 2019, when 114 individuals and 15 entities were sanctioned for aggressive actions against Ukraine. In the intervening 32 months since March 2019, both the United States and the European Union have expanded sanctions against Russian officials and entities much more broadly than has Canada.

To deter a further Russian invasion of Ukraine, Canada and allies need to significantly strengthen two types of sanctions against Russia – economic sanctions (most importantly in the oil and gas sectors) and personal sanctions. The implementation of stronger economic sanctions against Russia will have two effects: it will deprive the Russian state of revenue with which to continue to wage war, and it will reinforce the message to the Russian government that the West is resolute in countering Russian aggression. War must be demonstrated to the Kremlin to be more expensive than peace.

Personal sanctions must also be broadened against Russian officials responsible for waging aggressive war against Ukraine and the egregious human rights violations of Ukrainian citizens.