



КОНГРЕС УКРАЇНЦІВ КАНАДИ

UKRAINIAN CANADIAN CONGRESS

CONGRÈS DES UKRAINIENS-CANADIENS

March 22, 2022

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, PC, MP  
Prime Minister of Canada  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau:

**Re: Extraordinary NATO Summit March 24**

In anticipation of the Extraordinary NATO Summit that will take place on March 24, I write on behalf of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) and the community we have the honour of representing, to express our despair at the failure of the Government of Canada and its allies to stop the war crimes Russia is committing against the people of Ukraine.

These war crimes are evident for the world to see. Rocket and air attacks on Ukrainian cities are growing in their brutality and viciousness. Some four million Ukrainian civilians have been forced to leave Ukraine in the four weeks since Russia launched its full-out assault on Ukrainian civilians. Russia's war against Ukraine has provoked the gravest humanitarian crisis facing Europe since WWII.

Canadians and the international community are horrified by the brutality that international leaders continue to tolerate.

It is Canada's moral duty to argue forcefully at the NATO Summit for:

1. The implementation of a no-fly zone over Ukraine; or
2. The immediate provision to Ukraine of all necessary military materiel to defend Ukraine's skies and defend against Russian air bombardment, cruise missile and artillery attacks; and
3. A full trade embargo on Russia – including on Russian energy – and the prohibition on the docking of any Russian ships in allied ports.

The legislatures of three NATO allies (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania) have called for the international community to establish a no-fly zone over Ukraine. Poland intends to submit a proposal for a NATO peacekeeping mission to Ukraine. Canada remains silent.

More troubling are Canada's public statements that a no-fly zone is a red line that cannot be crossed. Instead of drawing red lines for itself, it is time that Canada and the international community turned the tables and began drawing red lines for Russia.

Signalling to Russia what we are *not* prepared to do has emboldened further Russian aggression. Put simply, telegraphing weakness to Russia's dictator – who respects only strength – makes the possibility of Russia escalating its war against Ukraine to other states far more, not less, likely. Emboldening Russia also directly undermines the security of Canadians.

Last week, the United States announced \$800 million in security assistance to Ukraine. The United Kingdom announced the provision of anti-aircraft missiles to Ukraine. Canada has not provided any additional lethal assistance to Ukraine since March 3.

We are mindful of the fact that Canada has comparatively small stocks of weapons. However, Canada could procure weapons from other NATO allies and provide them to Ukraine. Canada can also extend to Ukraine the status of an associated government under the *Defence Production Act*, which would allow Canada to purchase arms directly for Ukraine.

Canada's implementation of sanctions since Russia's invasion is commendable. However, European allies continue to fund Russia's war machine through the purchase of Russian energy. The Extraordinary NATO Summit is an opportunity for Canada to forcefully argue for the immediate end to this practice and for the implementation of a full trade embargo on Russia by all NATO allies.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine on February 24 has changed the world. The policy assumptions under which Canada and the NATO alliance operated before February 24 are no longer valid. New solutions and new approaches must be found.

With proper assistance from Canada and allies, the Ukrainian people – fighting valiantly to defend their homeland – will defeat Russia. But that assistance must be robust and immediate.

Слава Україні! Героям Слава!

Yours very truly,  
**UKRAINIAN CANADIAN CONGRESS**



Alexandra Chyczij, National President