



A message from Ukraine: Stop using weapons supplies and political blackmail to incite Ukraine to war with Russia!

25 Jan.—Even Kiev government officials today, trying to calm the Ukrainian population, began to say that they lack evidence of a Russian intention to “invade” Ukraine. Yet, from the British Foreign Office claiming that Russia wants to overthrow the Ukrainian government to President Biden telling the press he thinks Russia will soon “move in” on Ukraine, the drums of war are deafening.

Within the din of propaganda about a Russian threat, one refrain is that the people of Ukraine must be allowed to “write their future” and choose membership in the NATO military alliance if they wish. Politicians in the West treat it as self-evident that Ukrainians would want to do that. But the “NATO” ambition is far from universal in Ukraine, and it would behoove outsiders to listen to other voices from inside the country.

Economist Dr Natalia Vitrenko, former MP and Presidential candidate, is known to AAS readers for her fight against the wrecking of Ukraine’s economy by International Monetary Fund and European Union rules. In the 2000s she also led thousands of people into the streets in a mobilisation against NATO’s presence in Ukraine. In a 13 January video titled “Ukrainian Tragedy: The Rape of Sovereignty”, she and fellow Progressive Socialist Party of Ukraine leader Volodymyr Marchenko reported on the PSPU’s 25-year political fight against NATO. Cooperation with NATO destroys sovereignty, they said, reducing Ukraine to the status of potential trigger on a nuclear World War III.

On 19 January the PSPU issued Vitrenko’s open letter under the headline shown at the top of this page. It was addressed to President Biden, UK PM Johnson, PM of Canada Trudeau, President Duda of Poland, and NATO General Secretary Stoltenberg, all of whom have announced the dispatch of new weapons and/or special forces personnel to Ukraine.

Below are excerpts from the statement, translated for the AAS. The full text in Russian and English is online at www.vitrenko.org/48980.

The Progressive Socialist Party of Ukraine, expressing deep concern over the socioeconomic catastrophe in Ukraine, considers it unacceptable and dangerous, for both the citizens of Ukraine and the entire world community, to use political blackmail in inciting Ukraine to war with Russia....

Since 2014, to our deep regret, fratricidal warfare has been under way in Ukraine, with more than 15,000 innocent civilians already killed. In violation of international law and Article 17 of the Constitution of Ukraine, the Armed Forces of our state have been dragged into this conflict. In our view, the reason for this situation in Ukraine is not only the rewriting of history, making heroes out of the Organisation of Ukrainian Nationalists and Ukrainian Insurgent Army (OUN-UPA) collaborationists who abetted Hitler, but also the implementation, unacceptable for a civilised nation, of a state policy based on the ideology of Ukrainian “integral” nationalism (fascism) [which preaches ethnic purity]. This has given rise to ethnic and religious hatred and discrimination against “non-indigenous” ethnic groups, which lawfully enough led to a split within our country. ...

The split in society and deceiving of our population have been intensified by the policy forced upon our country of

seeking to join the EU and NATO. In 1991 Ukraine’s sovereignty was recognised by the world community on the basis of the norms and principles set forth in the Declaration on the State Sovereignty of Ukraine, which was twice affirmed by our people in nationwide referendums (17 March and 1 December 1991). The legal force of this Declaration still has precedence. That means that the world community not only recognised, but is obliged to defend the sovereignty of Ukraine as a neutral, non-bloc state....

It is quite clear that as long as our country maintained its non-bloc status, we had peace and tranquillity. The policies of joining the EU and NATO, however, and of Ukrainian “integral” nationalism (fascism), have led not only to a socioeconomic catastrophe and the loss of state sovereignty, but also to our people’s transformation into cannon fodder in the West’s geopolitical struggle against Russia and China.

The PSPU categorically opposes that policy, which is forcing the Ukrainian regime to provoke a full-scale armed conflict with the Russian Federation.

We have drawn these conclusions not only from the aggressive rhetoric of your countries’ officials and the NATO leadership, and not only from the bellicose propaganda of the Ukrainian regime and all its mass media, but also from the continuous supply of lethal weapons to Ukraine, construction of (essentially foreign) military bases on our territory, and the dispatch here of one after another unit of special forces, instructors and advisers from your countries....

It is clear that you want a military conflict, but you want it to be done by somebody other than yourselves.... We are categorically opposed to this in general and, inclusively, to its being done through Ukraine and at the expense of the people of Ukraine.

We draw your attention to the fact that delivering weapons to Ukraine today, in the current blistering-hot conflict situation, is a violation of the UN Charter, the Minsk accord on the peaceful settlement of the conflict in the Donbass (an agreement affirmed by the UN Security Council!), and international humanitarian law—in particular, the international Arms Trade Treaty (April 2013). Beyond any question, your countries’ supplying weapons to Ukraine is harming peace and security and provoking an intensification of the armed conflict and a growth in tension. This is expressly forbidden by that Treaty.

We also draw your attention to the International Code of Conduct on Arms Transfers, drafted in 2000 by Nobel Peace Prize laureates.... The Code calls for not supplying weapons in instances of a Nazi regime [one advocating “national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence”] or if it may lead to “a significant number of displaced persons or refugees”.

Peace and accord will be established in Ukraine not by weapons deliveries, but by implementing the Minsk agreements, recognising that Ukrainian “integral” nationalism is a criminal ideology, and the de-Nazification and democratisation of our country. The governments of your countries and of Ukraine are obliged to realise that war and incitement to war are not the main values of world civilisation. Those values are peace, life, and the mental and physical health of people.