



AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF UKRAINIAN ORGANISATIONS  
СОЮЗ УКРАЇНСЬКИХ ОРГАНІЗАЦІЙ АВСТРАЛІЇ

Representing 22 Peak Ukrainian Organisations in Australia  
Member of Ukrainian World Congress

Hon. Julie Bishop MP  
Minister for Foreign Affairs  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

April 13, 2014

Dear Minister

Following the armed seizure in the last 24 hours of Ukrainian Government facilities in the Donetsk province of Ukraine by forces backed by the Russian Federation, I write to urge successive action by the Australian Government.

The intervention in Donetsk mirrors the illegal invasion previously undertaken in Crimea by the Russian Federation, including the use of disguised troops. We also see steps toward running another rigged referendum.

A difference in this situation is that no excuse or pretext such as the protection of Russian-speaking people is even being provided, as there has been virtually no inter-community violence in Ukraine since the ascension of the new interim, pro-democracy Government.

Rather, combined with the presence of thousands of formal Russian Federation troops on Ukraine's eastern border, this is blatant territorial annexation by Vladimir Putin to restore some neo-Soviet state including parts of Ukraine. Inasmuch, it is the imposition of totalitarian will against all principles of international stability and peace.

A key response to totalitarian action is action by democratic nations. To that end, I urge the Australian Government to work with its allies for the **urgent dispatch of UN peacekeeping and OSCE observer missions to eastern Ukraine.**

I also urge the Australian Government, together with allies, to commit to having its own **official observers at the May 25 elections in Ukraine** to reinforce democratic processes, and to ensure an open, transparent election and non-interference by Vladimir Putin.

As events in Ukraine may further unfold, I appreciate that Australia as Chair of the G20 will need to make serious decisions about the participation of President Putin in G20 deliberations in Australia later this year. If Mr Putin cannot be expected to respect the territorial integrity of his neighbouring countries, he certainly cannot be expected to respect economic cooperation agreements – no less be allowed to benefit from them.

Thank you again for the consistent action that your Government has shown in relation to Crimea. It is now appropriate to act with resolve in terms of Donetsk and eastern Ukraine.

Yours truly,

*signed*

STEFAN ROMANIW OAM  
President, Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organisations