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MEDIA RELEASE

AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF UKRAINIAN ORGANISATIONS CHAIRMAN MEETS WITH SENIOR CHURCH, POLITICAL AND CIVIC LEADERS IN UKRAINE

Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organisations (AFUO) Chairman and General Secretary of the Ukrainian World Congress (UWC) Stefan Romaniw participated in range of meeting with Church leaders, Ukraine's political leaders and community organisations during his visit to Ukraine between June 6 -18, 2014.

Many of the meetings were held as part of a UWC delegation which included UWC Congress President Eugene Czolij, UWC General Secretary, and AFUO Chairman, President of Ukrainian Canadian Congress Paul Grod. Ukrainian World Youth Congress President Myrolav Hochak and Deputy Director of the UWC Office in Ukraine Maryna Yaroshevych

Among them were meetings with Patriarch Filaret of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church Kyivan Patriarchate, Patriarch Sviatoslav (Shevchuk) of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, high ranking state officials of Ukraine – , Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk, Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada Olexandr Turchynov, the Vice Prime Minister and Ministers of the Cabinet of Ministers, the Secretary of the National Security and Defense Council, the Mayor of the City of Kyiv, the Deputy Governor of the National Bank of Ukraine, and representatives of the media and civil society in Ukraine.

At the reception on teh occasiion of the inuguration of President Poroshenko, Mr Romaniw had the oportunity to offer the President a personal congratulatory message on behalf of the Ukrainian community in Australia .

AFUO Chairman was also invited to the Verchovna Rada Prayer Breakfast “New Ukraine: Into the future with God.” where over 70 leaders of church, political life and civic society attended

Many of the meetings were related to the Ukrainian World Congress (UWC) delegation which met to discuss a range of issues including the current situation in Ukraine to articulate UWC activities in support of Ukraine and a roadmap for future cooperation. UWC afford its support for Ukraine's leadership and its readiness to assist Ukraine in protecting its territorial integrity, achieving peace as soon as possible, democratization, Euro-integration and future growth.

There was an emphasis on the need to strengthen efforts to communicate to the international community the fact that Russia’s aggression against Ukraine is a global issue that threatens peace and stability throughout the world. To put an end to the gross violation by Russia of its international commitments, primarily those specified in the 1994 Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances signed upon Ukraine relinquishing its nuclear arsenal, it is imperative for the signatories of the Memorandum, particularly the United States and Great Britain, and other countries, to help equip Ukraine to defend its territory.

Apart from these issues matters relating to Australian -Ukraine relations were also raised, namely the strong support of the Australian Government for Ukraine, humanitarian aid being provided by the Australian - Ukrainian community, trade and strengthening bilateral relations

The issue of President Putin being a persona non grata to the G20 to be held in Australia in September this was also raised . Information was provided to explain the actions being taken by the AFUO in this regard.

Mr Romaniw also visited the training grounds of the National Guard and The Battalion Donbas, examined the expenditure the use funds raised in Australia to assist the families of Nebesna Sotnia, humanitarian aid being afforded to those on the front line in the form of first aid kits, training and other equipment

We have a very effective coordinated process which delivers the needs requested by those on the front line a timely and productive way .

"Whilst there are many requests for support the AFUO will continue to maintain that support has to be coordinated must respond to the needs and through those directly engaged on the ground, Mr Romaniw said

"I am more than satisfied that we have found a reliable and effective

The AFUO Chairman also met with the Her Excellency Jean Dunn Ambassador of Australia to Ukraine. A range of issues were discussed among them ongoing support from the Australian Government for Ukraine at this time, the strengthening of sanctions against the Putin administration, building stronger relations.

A meeting was also held with the newly appointed Honorary Consul of Australia in Kyiv Mr Yaroslav Shpylenko during a visit to the Consulate

On one hand there is real sense of trepidation because of Russian aggression in the East of Ukraine, the bloodshed this is causing, the daily remembrance of those who gave up their lives - starting with the Divine Hundred - Nebesna Sotnia .

On the other hand there is sense of we have to act now to drive security, economic , civic reform issues Whilst Government has indicated it wants to act , civic society and the nation as a whole want to see words put into action

Over 30 meetings, visits and interviews were held during this visit
These are listed further.

Further information Stefan Romaniw 0419 531 255

AFUO Chairman's meetings and activities

List of meetings and interviews

1. Patriarch Filaret of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church Kyivan Patriarchate;
2. Patriarch Sviatoslav (Shevchuk) of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church;
3. Reception to mark Inauguration of newly President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko
4. Participated in Ukrainian Parliament Prayer Breakfast
5. Prime Minister of Ukraine Arseniy Yatseniuk;
6. Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine Olexandr Turchynov;
7. Vice Prime Minister of Ukraine Oleksandr Sych;
8. Minister of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine Ostap Semerak;
9. Minister of Economic Development and Trade Pavlo Sheremeta;
10. Minister of Education and Science Serhiy Kvit;
11. Minister of Culture Yevhen Nischuk;
12. Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs Andrii Deshchytzia and Deputy Minister Danylo Lubkivsky
13. Secretary of the National Security and Defense Council Andriy Parubiy;
14. Deputy Governor of the National Bank of Ukraine Mykola Udovychenko;
15. Mayor of the City of Kyiv Vitali Klitschko;
16. Ambassador of Australia to Ukraine Jean Dunn;
17. Coordinator for International Relations for Ukraine Crisis Media Centre Vasyl Myroshnychenko and Gennadij Kurochok
18. Leader of the Third Ukrainian Republic Yuriy Lutsenko;
19. Representatives of the Reform Group in the Cabinet of Ministers
20. Josef Zissels Head of Jewish Board of Deputies -Ukraine Vice President Ethnic Communities in Ukraine
21. Svitlana Zalishchuk - Chesno and New Citizen NGO
22. Yaroslav Shpylenko Honorary Consul of Australian in Kyiv
23. Oles Yanchuk CEO Dovzenko Studio
24. Mychajlo Vyshyvaniuk Former Head of President's Administration -Ivan Frankivsk
25. Vasyl Ilishchuk and Andriy Cherniuk - Gold gate Production
26. Leadership of Army SOS - Support for humanitarian aid to national guard
27. Ulana and Marko Supun - Coordinators of Humanitarian Aid
28. Ihor Zhovkva - Adviser to Deputy PM - O Sych
29. Visited training camp of National Guard - Battalion Donbass
30. Addressed Forum - Nasha Sprava - National Security
31. Sviatoslav Yarush - Initiator and coordinator - Euromaidan Press Centre
32. Meeting with Members of Verchovna Rada Oleh Medunytzia and Volodymyr Shulha

33. Interviews on National Radio -Irena Tkachenko , National TV Valentin Shcherbachev, Interview UGCC media representative Oksana Klymonchuk
34. Meetings with representatives of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions
35. Meeting with Former Ukraine Ambassador to Australia Valyntyn Adomaitis
36. Mychajlo Ratushnyj President UVKR