

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. _____

Condemning illegal Russian aggression in Ukraine.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. WARNER, Mr. KAINE, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. INHOFE, and Mr. KIRK) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on _____

RESOLUTION

Condemning illegal Russian aggression in Ukraine.

Whereas the recent unprovoked Russian military occupation of the Crimea region of Ukraine, and further military threats against additional Ukrainian territory, are an affront to international norms and agreements and a threat to global peace and security;

Whereas, under President Vladimir Putin, the Russian Federation has a history of bullying neighboring countries in an attempt to rebuild Russian dominance on its borders—often under the guise of protecting Russian citizens—including forcibly seizing the South Ossetia and Abkhazia regions of the independent country of Georgia in 2008;

Whereas the Russian Federation continues to illegally occupy South Ossetia and Abkhazia and has erected fences along administrative boundary lines and permanent military bases in violation of the cease fire agreement negotiated with the European Union;

Whereas, during 2013, then-President of Ukraine Viktor Yanukovich faced similar Russian coercion to not sign a long-negotiated Association Agreement with the European Union, including threats to gas contracts, the supply of which Russia turned off in 2006 and 2009;

Whereas, in November 2013, President Yanukovich abruptly canceled plans to sign the Association Agreement, saying Ukraine could not afford to sacrifice trade with Russia as a result;

Whereas, for three ensuing months, hundreds of thousands of protesters in Ukraine endured cold and government harassment and violence to protest the decision and demand closer ties to the West;

Whereas, on February 20, 2014, Ukrainian security forces, including heavily armed snipers, fired on demonstrators in Kiev, leaving dozens dead and the people of Ukraine reeling from the most lethal day of violence since the Soviet era, and many of Yanukovich's political allies, including the mayor of the Kiev, resigned from his governing Party of Regions to protest the bloodshed;

Whereas, on February 22, 2014, the Ukrainian parliament found then-President Yanukovich unable to fulfill his duties, exercised its constitutional powers to remove him from office, and set an election for May 25, 2014, to select his replacement;

Whereas, amid Ukraine's economic hardships, President Yanukovich amassed a lavish secret estate that included a private zoo, exotic gardens, numerous automobiles, and a tall ship;

Whereas, on February 27, 2014, heavily armed soldiers without identification or insignia began securing key facilities in the Crimea, including its regional parliament and two airports, and in the ensuing days encircled Ukrainian military facilities and gained effective control of the region;

Whereas the military forces are clearly Russian troops, and on March 1, 2014, President Putin sought and received rubber stamp parliamentary approval to use military force against greater Ukraine, having argued that the Government of the Russian Federation acted because of the "threat of violence from ultranationalists";

Whereas there has been no evidence of serious threats to Russian citizens in Crimea or elsewhere in Ukraine, and the Russian Federation's military invasion has been widely condemned internationally;

Whereas the Russian Federation, as a signatory to the 1994 Budapest Memorandum, reaffirmed its commitment to Ukraine, to respect the independence and sovereignty and the existing borders of Ukraine, to refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of Ukraine, to refrain from economic coercion to subordinate Ukraine to Russia's interests, and to consult in the event a situation arises that raises a question concerning these commitments;

Whereas, in 1997, the Russian Federation and Ukraine signed a friendship treaty, during which time Russian

President Boris Yeltsin said in Kiev, “We respect and honor the territorial integrity of Ukraine.”;

Whereas the Russian Federation, as a participating state in the Final Act of the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe in 1975 (Helsinki Final Act), committed to respect the sovereign equality and individuality of other participating states, including the right of every state to territorial integrity and to freedom and political independence, to refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, to regard as inviolable all one another’s frontiers as well as the frontiers of all states in Europe, and to refrain from making each other’s territory the object of military occupation;

Whereas, under United Nations Charter Article 2, all members shall settle international disputes by peaceful means in a manner that international peace and security are not endangered and refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state;

Whereas President Putin himself wrote in 2013, “Under current international law, force is permitted only in self-defense or by the decision of the Security Council. Anything else is unacceptable under the United Nations Charter and would constitute an act of aggression.”;

Whereas the North Atlantic Council stated that Russian military action against Ukraine is a breach of international law and contravenes the principles of the NATO-Russia Council and the Partnership for Peace and that Russia must respect its obligations under the United Nations Charter and principles of the Organization for Security

and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), on which peace and stability in Europe rest;

Whereas leaders of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States and the presidents of the European Council and the European Commission condemned the Russian Federation's clear violation of Ukrainian sovereignty and territorial integrity, in contravention of the Russian Federation's obligations under the United Nations Charter and its 1997 basing agreement with Ukraine; and

Whereas the Russian Federation is in clear violation of its international obligations and commitments under the United Nations Charter, the Helsinki Final Act, the Budapest Memorandum of 1994, and the Russian Federation's 1997 military basing agreement with Ukraine: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) condemns the unprovoked and illegal Rus-
3 sian military seizure of the Ukrainian Crimea and
4 demands the immediate withdrawal of Russian
5 forces except as specifically allowed for by treaty;

6 (2) demands the immediate release of besieged
7 Ukrainian security forces in Crimea, who have
8 shown remarkable restraint under threat;

9 (3) calls for the immediate acceptance of a
10 credible international observer mission in Crimea
11 and other parts of the Ukraine;

1 (4) calls on the Government of the Russian
2 Federation to seriously engage with the Government
3 of Ukraine in a political dialogue on a political and
4 diplomatic path that respects Ukrainian sovereignty
5 and the Crimea's complex historic and ethnic make-
6 up;

7 (5) warns that failure to do so or any additional
8 military action against other areas of Ukraine will
9 lead to swift and significant consequences in the
10 Russian Federation's relations with the United
11 States and those nations who share our views;

12 (6) abhors President of the Russian Federation
13 Vladimir Putin's manipulation of the Twenty Second
14 Winter Olympics in Sochi to present an image of
15 peace and brotherhood while secretly planning for
16 the invasion of a sovereign neighboring country;

17 (7) urges the President to use all available eco-
18 nomic and political tools, including asset freezes,
19 cancellation of trade agreements, visa bans, denial of
20 access to the United States banking system of key
21 Russian officials and anyone involved in the illegal
22 seizure of Crimea, sanctions against Russian state-
23 owned enterprises responsible for economic coercion
24 against the Government of Ukraine, and Russian ex-

1 clusion where reasonable from international diplo-
2 matic and economic bodies and forums;

3 (8) encourages governments in Europe to take
4 similar actions to make it clear to the Russian Fed-
5 eration that violating the territorial integrity of sov-
6 ereign nations will have swift and significant con-
7 sequences;

8 (9) supports timely economic and political as-
9 sistance to Ukraine, including loan guarantees
10 matched with requirements of international financial
11 institutions regarding Ukrainian economic reforms
12 and transparency, to strengthen the Ukrainian econ-
13 omy;

14 (10) supports assisting Ukraine and United
15 States allies in the region in gaining energy security
16 in order to alleviate their vulnerability to the Rus-
17 sian Federation's threats and manipulations; and

18 (11) expresses its continuing support for demo-
19 cratic allies who regularly face aggression on their
20 borders from the Government of the Russian Fed-
21 eration.