

1. Security Policy: The Russian Black Sea Fleet in Ukraine

21.04.10. In the course of their meeting in Kharkiv, the President of Ukraine, Viktor Yanukovich, and the President of the Russian Federation, Dmytro Medvedev, signed an Agreement on stationing of the Russian Black Sea Fleet in Ukraine.

Comment: *The signed agreement stipulates that the term of the Russian Black Sea Fleet stationing in the Crimea will be prolonged by 25 years. The parties also agreed on the possibility of further prolongation of the Fleet's stationing for another five years.*

The final decision on the prolongation of the term must be made by the Parliaments of the two countries. Under provisions of the signed Agreement (between Ukraine and Russia, on the stationing of the Russian Fleet), it will come into effect only after it has been ratified by the Parliaments of the two countries and due domestic procedures have been carried out.

According to the original Agreement between Ukraine and the Russian Federation, the term of the Russian Fleet's stationing in the Ukrainian territory was to have expired in May 2017. Under Article XVII of the Ukrainian Constitution, no foreign military bases may be established in the Ukrainian territory. At the same time, according to Paragraph 14 of the Closing Provisions of the Ukrainian Constitution, already existing military bases may be used for temporary stationing of foreign military units under lease regulated by international agreements signed by Ukraine and ratified by its Supreme Council.

2. Security Policy: International Security Forum in Lviv

15-16.04.10. The International Security Forum "From Ukrainian Security to European Security. Challenges of the 21st Century" was held in Lviv.

Comment: *The Forum was initiated by leading Ukrainian statesmen, scientists and public figures on the 4th of December, 2009. The event was sponsored by the Foreign and Security Policy Council partnered by the Razumkov Centre, the International Centre for Prospective Studies and the Western Analytical Group.*

In the course of the forum, participants considered military-political aspects of security in Central and Eastern Europe. The position of the DSPC was set forth in the briefing given by the Chairman of the DSPC Board, Yevgen Shelest. Over its two days, the forum was attended by 38 representatives of 20 countries as well as 120 Ukrainian participants and 160 attendees from Lviv. The forum organizers decided to make it an annual event. It should be noted that there were few public agents among forum participants. Besides, one must realize that re-orientation towards neutrality and security independence entails changes of all components and foundations in the security and defence domain. See Annex to IAR DN 16/2010 for Resolution of the International Security Forum.

3. Personnel Policy: Resignation of the First Deputy Defence Minister

The Cabinet of Ministers passed Resolution № 922-r of 19.04.10 sanctioning the resignation of the First Deputy Defence Minister, Valerii Ivaschenko.

Comment: *Valerii Volodymyrovych Ivaschenko was born in 1956 in Zaporizhia. During 1978-1993 – an active duty officer on commanding and engineer positions at the space launching sites "Baikonur" and "Plesetsk". From 1993 till 1995 – Armaments HQ of the Defence Ministry. In 1995-1996 – Chief of Cell, Administration Management Centre of the Strategic Nuclear Forces in the Defence Ministry. 1996-2007 – working in various government agencies such as the Cabinet of Ministers, the National Security and Defence Council and the Presidential Secretariat. From October 2007 till June 2009 – Deputy Defence Minister. In June 2009 appointed First Deputy Defence Minister. From June 2009 till February 2010 – Acting Defence Minister of Ukraine.*

4. Combat Training: Flight Safety

A three-days' meeting of senior officials of Flight Safety Services of the CIS Defence Ministries started at the Specialized Airmen Combat Training Centre in Mykolaiv.

Comment: *The aim of the meeting is to develop common views and approaches to providing flight safety for CIS Armed Forces aviation and preventing air incidents. Almost forty representatives from Ukraine, Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Armenia and Tajikistan arrived to take part in the event. The meeting was officially opened by the Ukrainian Air Force Commander, Colonel-General I.Rusnak. In addition to theoretical classes, there will also be some practical exercises both in classrooms and on simulators of the Specialized Airmen Combat Training Centre.*

5. Peacekeeping: Closure of the Base Camp in Kosovo

The Ukrainian peacekeeping contingent operating as part of the Battle Group "East" (KFOR) closed its base camp "Breza" situated in the settlement of Brezovitsa, Shtrptse Municipality, in the south-eastern part of Kosovo.

Comment: *All personnel and equipment of special units of the national peacekeeping contingents stationed at "Breza" were re-deployed to the US Base "Bondsteel". Over 120 servicemen and 30 pieces of equipment were moved to the new base. The Ukrainian contingent's base camp "Breza" was an outpost of peacekeeping forces in Shtrptse Municipality for 11 years.*

Under orders issued by the Battle Group "East" Command, the Ukrainian peacekeeping contingent will continue to provide peace and stability in Shtrptse Municipality by sending out patrols from "Bondsteel" base.

6. International Cooperation: Military Cooperation with the Republics of Kazakhstan and Brazil

19.04.10. A meeting between the Defence Minister of Ukraine, M.Yezhel, and the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Ukraine, Amangeldy Zhumabaiev, was held in Kiev on the 19th of

April and another meeting with the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Brazil in Ukraine, Antonio Fernando Cruz-de-Mello, on the 20th of April.

Comment: *In the course of the meeting with the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Ukraine, Amangeldy Zhumbabaiev, the parties discussed prospective areas of development of the bilateral military and military-technical cooperation. At the end of the meeting, the parties agreed upon the first-priority actions that need to be taken in preparation for the visit of the Kazakh Defence Minister, Adilbek Jaksybekov, to Ukraine.*

In the course of the meeting with the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Brazil in Ukraine, Antonio Fernando Cruz-de-Mello, the parties discussed development of military and military-technical cooperation between Ukraine and Brazil. Other issues under discussion included preparations for the signing of the bilateral Agreement on cooperation, prospective areas for development of military and military-technical cooperation. In this context, the parties came to an arrangement to form joint expert teams that will identify prospective projects for military-technical cooperation.

7. International Cooperation: the US Navy Frigate “John Leslie Hall” in Ukraine

20.04.10. The US Navy frigate “John Leslie Hall” made an unofficial call at the Sevastopol port.

Comment: *The chief aim of the visit was recreation of the frigate crew. In the course of the visit, a protocol meeting was held between the Ukrainian Navy commander, Vice Admiral V.Maksymov, and the frigate Captain. Three Ukrainian officers are taking their practical training course on board the US frigate. Besides, in the framework of the visit programme, the US ship crew conducted a joint mini-exercise, outside the Ukrainian territorial waters, with a helicopter Ka-27 from the Saky Naval Aviation Brigade. There will also be scheduled flights of a US deck-based helicopter SH-60B.*

8. International Cooperation: a Defence Minister’s Meeting with the KAVA President

20.04.10. A meeting was held in Kiev between the Defence Minister, Mykhailo Yezhel, and the President of the Kiev Association of Military Attachés, the Defence Attaché at the Embassy of the Austrian Republic in Ukraine, Colonel Thomas Rapatz.

Comment: *In the course of the meeting, Colonel Thomas Rapatz advised that his tenure as the Defence Attaché at the Embassy of the Austrian Republic in Ukraine would expire in Summer and, therefore, an election of a new KAVA President was to be held shortly.*

9. International Cooperation: Completion of the Operation “Northern Falcon 2010”

The joint Ukrainian-Danish fuel transfer operation (by a Ukrainian Air Force aircraft Il-76MD) “Northern Falcon 2010” in Greenland is nearing its end.

Comment: *As of 23 April, the total amount of aircraft gasoline transferred to the polar station “Nord” exceeded 500 000 litres. In addition, some 44 tons of cargo were transferred including motor cars and 39 passengers. The total flying time accumulated by the two Ukrainian crews during the 16 shifts they spent in the sky since the beginning of the operation amounts to 80 hours.*

10. The Ukrainian Armed Forces and the Society: Changes in Provision of Pensions to Servicemen

The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine entrusted main relevant agencies with the task to study the possibility of replacing the long-service pension for servicemen with the retirement pension on favourable terms which will be assigned only after servicemen have reached their pensionable age.

Comment: *In addition, the Ukrainian Prime Minister M.Azarov stated at the Government’s meeting that the Cabinet intended to eliminate the disproportion between servicemen pensions. According to him, over 9 000 retired servicemen today are not getting the pension premium they are entitled to.*

Under the current legislation, a serviceman is entitled to a pension after 20 years of service. The new bill stipulates that military personnel should be entitled to a pension after they’ve reached the age of 55 (for men) or 50 (for women) provided they have 20 or more years of service by the day of retirement.

11. The Ukrainian Armed Forces and the Society: Servicemen Exchange between Ukraine and Belarus

According to a communication of the Press Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ukrainian military personnel will participate in the military parade commemorating the 65th anniversary of the victory in the Great Patriotic War to be conducted on the 9th of May in the city of Minsk (Belarus).

Comment: *In the course of a phone conversation between the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Kostiantyn Gryshchenko, and his opposite number in Belarus, Sergii Martynov, the parties finalized parameters of implementation of the earlier agreement between the Presidents of Ukraine and Belarus on participation of Ukrainian servicemen in the parade commemorating the 65th anniversary of the Great Victory in Minsk and participation of a Belorussian unit in the parade conducted on the 9th of May in Kiev. Besides, the Ministers discussed a wide range of topical issues pertaining to bilateral relations including preparations for the visit of the Ukrainian President, Viktor Yanukovich, to Belarus.*

12. The Ukrainian Armed Forces and the Society: a Meeting between the Chairman of the DSPC Board and the Ukrainian Defence Minister

22.04.10. A meeting was held in Kiev between the Ukrainian Defence Minister, M.Yezhel, and the Chairman of the DSPC Board, Ye.Shelest.

Comment: *In the course of the meeting, the Defence Minister gave a positive assessment of the Centre’s activity. The parties discussed prospective areas of further cooperation between the Defence Ministry and the DSPC aimed at enhancement of the UAF prestige with the public. Other issues under discussion included implementation of joint projects and programmes in the military and military-political domains. Arrangements were made regarding further development of cooperation with non-government organizations.*

RESOLUTION OF THE LVIV SECURITY FORUM

We, participants of the Lviv Security Forum, having discussed the situation developing in the security environment of Ukraine, Central and Eastern Europe and Europe as a whole,

state that there is strategic instability in Central and Eastern Europe and the Black Sea region which engenders a source of actual and potential threats and challenges to national security of individual countries in Central and Eastern Europe, the Black Sea region and Europe as a whole;

note increasing danger to individuals, societies, and states in Central and Eastern Europe, the Black Sea region and the international community as a whole brought about by corruption, organized transborder crime, increasingly aggravated piracy, transborder trafficking of weapons and narcotics, illegal migration and human trafficking, cyber threats and other new challenges, development of international terrorism;

fully support efforts of the USA, Russia and other countries aimed at reduction of the nuclear threat, creation of the climate of the global international trust and stability;

recognize Ukraine's contribution to ensuring the regional and global security, its leading role in non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and their components;

welcome endeavours of expert communities in different countries to develop a productive and constructive dialogue in order to make a quality contribution to the climate of international trust, global and regional security and stability;

propose to establish a standing expert club in Ukraine to discuss issues of European security and work out propositions to heads of state and government as well as international organizations;

Recommend to heads of state and government of Ukraine, OSCE member states and other interested countries the following:

intensify activities to improve legal foundation of European security, in particular that of Central and Eastern Europe and the Black Sea region, utilizing, among other tools, the potential of the Budapest Memorandum of 1994;

focus efforts on transformation of existing state authorities and local government agencies into modern public institutions based on European principles and democratic standards, having ensured their drastic modernization as a basis for securing all aspects of the national security of Ukraine as an important contributor to the regional and European security;

establish close and effective partner cooperation to neutralize, by joint effort, actual and potential challenges and threats to security and stability engendered, first and foremost, by organized crime and corruption, international terrorism and cyber crime, using tools of existing international organizations such as EU, OSCE, NATO, EC, to name but a few; we also note here the importance of establishment of effective constructive cooperation with such countries as China;

introduce not only symmetric and non-discriminative legal, contracting and practical support to transparency of energy markets, but also an impartial tool-assisted control of physical parameters of energy resources flows;

develop actively international military partnership and military-technical cooperation to build trust and strengthen the global and regional military security as a key component of joint multinational efforts to provide security along with other legal and institutional measures in the political, economic, environmental and humanitarian domains.