

**UKRAINIAN MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION
OF NORTH AMERICA**

NATIONAL OFFICE



**УКРАЇНСЬКЕ ЛІКАРСЬКЕ
ТОВАРИСТВО
ПІВНІЧНОЇ АМЕРИКИ**

ГОЛОВНА УПРАВА

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Dear President Biden, Senators Schumer and McConnell, Representatives McCarthy and Jeffries,

On behalf of The Ukrainian Medical Association of North America (UMANA), I want to thank you for your tremendous support of Ukraine, politically and militarily. Part of UMANA's mission is to care for the health of Ukrainians, throughout the world. Obviously, the unlawful Russian invasion of Ukraine has had catastrophic negative impact on the health of Ukrainians, encompassing both morbidity and mortality. In addition to being UMANA President, I am a grandfather of a five-year-old. Being a grandparent comes with a responsibility of instilling values, moral principles, and safety guidelines in your descendants. These values, of course, include "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." A safety guideline would include, "Look both ways before you cross the street." There is a new principle that may need to be added to what we teach our five-year-olds: "No matter what else happens, get nuclear weapons! If you do not, you, your loved ones, and your culture will be under threat of extermination." This rule would only need to be added if Ukraine is unable to win the war, of course.

With all your wisdom and experience, you understand my point. For the sake of other people who might read this letter, I'll state the obvious:

In 1994 Ukraine had the third largest nuclear arsenal in the world. Ukraine was pressured by the USA, the UK, the UN, and Russia to surrender its nuclear arsenal in the name of peace. Ukraine agreed. Many promises were given to Ukraine, but the best known was the "Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances" which stated: "Taking into account the commitment of Ukraine to eliminate all nuclear weapons from its territory...The United States of America, the Russian Federation, and the United Kingdom..., reaffirm their commitment to Ukraine..., to respect the Independence and Sovereignty and the existing borders of Ukraine."

Had Ukraine retained its nuclear arsenal, it would likely not have been invaded by Russia. Now it is time for the US to "hold up its end of the bargain." The US is helping, but in the eyes of many, always helping a little too late. The US has correctly identified the problem: "Russia must lose this war," and "We want to see *Russia weakened* to the degree that it can't do the kinds of things that it has done in invading Ukraine." However, the US falls short of implementing the solution: "Weaponize Ukraine maximally, certainly to include ATACMS missiles." With ATACMS, Ukraine could destroy the Russian missile bases that are terrorizing and murdering Ukrainian civilians daily. To a skeptical observer it could seem that the strategy is designed in a way that Ukraine will ultimately fatigue and compromise, signing a peace treaty in which Ukraine surrenders Crimea and Donbas. Is this because of Putin's nuclear sabre-rattling? When I was a child, the US faced a nuclear showdown with the Kremlin, the Cuban Missile Crisis. It was only President Kennedy's willingness to "call the bluff" that led the Kremlin to back down. Only "calling the bluff" will prevent Putin from continuing his march into the Baltics, Moldova, Poland, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, etc. It is, in fact, a bluff. Putin does not want to die. Photos of Putin at meetings, keeping a distance of 30 feet from his ministers is evidence that he is terrified of COVID or assassination. Furthermore, he has family that he cares for. The "assured mutual destruction" of nuclear war would be the greatest risk he could impose on the lives he cherishes.

We would hate to think that the blueprint for tyrannical governments is the following:

- 1) Obtain or develop nuclear weapons.
- 2) Make sure that neighboring countries do not have nuclear weapons.
- 3) Invade the neighboring country, committing war crimes, genocide, and terrorism.
- 4) Sabre-rattle and intimidate all other countries.
- 5) Watch the invaded country surrender.
- 6) Repeat 1 through 5.

Tyrannical governments are watching.

History is watching.

What will we teach our five-year olds?

Respectfully,

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