

ПРОМАДА №81



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August 2024

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SPECIAL FOR HROMADA

Vitaliy Portnykov | NOTES FOR JULY

THE GHOSTLY IMAGE OF NEGOTIATIONS



Please support Vitaliy Portnykov's new project on the YouTube channel, where you will find his streams in English. Spread it among your friends who do not speak Ukrainian, so that more people in the world get acquainted with the events taking place in Ukraine.

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If, in the early months of the war, there was the legendary "Ghost of Kyiv," now there is the specter of negotiations. Throughout this time, Ukrainian society has been probed about its attitude towards possible negotiations with the Russian Federation. There have been several high-profile surveys, plans, and forecasts. For example, as the sensational column by former British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, proposing to trade territories for EU and NATO membership. However, it all started with an article from "Dzerkalo Tyzhnia". The results of the survey conducted by the Razumkov Sociological Center at the request of this publication were perceived by both Ukrainian and international media as a kind of sensation.

Now, 44% of Ukrainians are ready for peace negotiations with the neighboring state. Only 35% are not ready for such talks. "Dzerkalo Tyzhnia" also notes that the number of those willing to negotiate increases from west to south of the country. In the west, only 35% of respondents consider negotiations with Russia possible. In the south, it is as high as 60%. This could mean that the majority of Ukrainians are beginning to lean towards a peaceful resolution of the Russian-Ukrainian war.

However, if we look closely at the results of this survey, we will also notice that the overwhelming majority of participants are not ready for any real concessions that Russian leader Vladimir Putin demands. These participants were residents of the so-called rear Ukraine, as the survey was not conducted among military personnel. They are not ready to make concessions even as a result of peace negotiations, let alone as a condition for their

commencement.

83% of Ukrainians do not consider it possible to agree to the recognition of the Russian status of the four occupied regions of Ukraine – Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson, and Zaporizhzhia. Putin also demands that Ukrainian troops withdraw from these regions' territories, which are currently controlled by the legitimate Ukrainian government. 77% do not consider it possible to lift Western sanctions against Russia. 58% do not agree to the possibility of enshrining Ukraine's neutral, non-aligned, and non-nuclear status in the constitution. This is, of course, less than the number of people who are not ready for any territorial concessions to Russia, but still quite significant. 66% of Ukrainians believe in the possibility of defeating Russia on the battlefield despite of this inclination towards negotiations.

82% are confident that this is possible if the West provides sufficient armament to Ukraine. 76% consider it necessary to strengthen their own military-industrial complex and mobilization. This also indicates a certain contradiction in the positions of those who participated in the survey. My colleagues note that there are now both the opinions typically expressed by sociologists, which align with the general political and public mainstream, and those expressed in private settings – only to close friends and relatives. Not because they fear repercussions from the state, but because they do not want to be perceived as citizens ready to compromise national interests and Ukraine's territories, even before themselves. The existence of both public and private perceptions of reality was perfectly demonstrated by another aspect of this survey, which

found that only 46% of Ukrainians believe there is nothing wrong with being a so-called "draft dodger." Only 29% hold the opposite view. Interestingly, a large number of people who believe there is nothing wrong with dodging the draft are among young people and, conditionally, among the generation of their parents. Many older people with Soviet experience hold quite the opposite view, likely based on Soviet narratives of shame associated with the unwillingness to serve in the Armed Forces. This viewpoint was not widely held during the post-Soviet period and now influences societal perceptions and views on the status of draft dodgers.

However, I would not overestimate the significance of this public opinion for one simple reason. Of course, President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky might orient himself towards it, as he is already making numerous attempts to initiate a negotiation process between Ukraine and Russian State. Despite that, such an initiation must be done in a way that Ukraine does not make the concessions Putin demands. For real negotiations to occur, two participants are needed – there must be genuine interest in negotiations, not ultimatums from the Kremlin. Not to mention that in Ukraine, we deal with society, while in Russia, we deal with propaganda slaves.

Therefore, Putin and his entourage have much more room for maneuver than the Ukrainian authorities. The Ukrainian authorities, being an electoral state, must consider their future political and life prospects. This means they must exclude decisions that would entail serious responsibility in the future. Thus, we might ask our-



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selves whether the Russian Federation is interested in any negotiations with Ukraine at all. Do we realize that even the conditions Putin sets for Ukraine as a start for negotiations are not a beginning? They are a tool to destabilize our country, making it easier to occupy new Ukrainian territories. It is essential to understand that Putin is not interested in a peaceful end to the war through negotiations with Ukraine. He seeks an end that would put an end to the existence of the Ukrainian state.

The opinions of the Ukrainian government and Ukrainian society on the negotiation process, and even the West's perception of this process, do not bother Vladimir Putin at all. As long as the Russian leader can hope for further economic cooperation with the countries of the "global south" and the assistance of the People's Republic of China in rearming its army and restoring the military-industrial complex of

the Russian Federation. This is exactly what is happening now, as we all know.

Consequently, one can ask the Ukrainian society whether it desires negotiations with Russia. However, it is necessary understand that neither Ukrainian society nor the government influences the negotiation process, as it has been throughout the entire 10-year conflict between Russia and Ukraine. The only person capable of ending the war through negotiations is Vladimir Putin. As we already know, he has no interest in this because he is confident that time is his great ally. Sooner or later, Russia's political goals will be achieved, the Ukrainian state will be liquidated, its citizens expelled or exterminated, and the territories Putin considers "historical Russia" will be settled by residents of the Russian Federation.

I wished that every Ukrainian – both those who believe that the time for ne-

gotiations has come and those who believe that negotiations are not in time – had an accurate understanding of this reality. Because in Russia, no one perceives the Ukrainian state as a subject for negotiations, but rather as an object for destruction.

"So, what to do in such a situation?" someone might ask, still hoping for a negotiation process with the Russian Federation. Understand the dilemma – either Ukraine manages to stop Russian aggression, or the Ukrainian state will disappear from the political map of the world, and most of its residents will be expelled beyond Ukraine's borders. This is the reality, which is hard to reflect in any sociological survey. There is no other reality for Ukrainian citizens today, and perhaps there won't be in the foreseeable future.

This is not a question of territories or negotiations. It is a matter of the people's survival.

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SPECIAL FOR HROMADA

Oles Doniy

“PEACE NEGOTIATIONS” AS PART OF A HYBRID WAR



There are a lot of rumors about “peace negotiations” that have been spreading between Ukrainians and, in general, the world mass during the last month. Well-known “experts,” bloggers and journalists are confidently trying to convince their audience. They claim to have some kind of secret knowledge. On the basis of this knowledge, they are absolutely sure that the war is about to end this fall, or by the end of the year at the latest.

In reality, however, the war will unfortunately not end either this autumn or this year. Well, let's try to figure it out why there is an increasing flood of various “peace initiatives,” negotiation voyages, and why, in fact, all this informational noise is largely in the interests of the Kremlin.

The world is facing a new Russian special operation aimed at several objectives: a) to destroy the unity of the West, b) to demoralize Ukrainian society, c) to influence the course of the elections in the USA. This does not mean that everyone who participated in the discussions and made some new proposals on this matter are agents of Russian influence. The majority have been used of the quiet with Russia only initiating this informational noise and then successfully manipulating it.

Here is the objective reality:

1. Putin's official “peace” plan. Satanic, unacceptable, but official;
2. Sudden change in the rhetoric of the highest authorities in Ukraine regarding the possibility of negotiations with Russia in the presence of a “third-party arbitrator” similar to the “grain deal”;
3. “Leak of information” about visits of Russian high-ranking officials to

the USA and supposedly “leak of information” with Russian proposals for “pacification”;

4. A wave of “expert opinions” analyzing these “leaks” and beginning to influence public opinion on the possibility of negotiations on some temporary interim basis and “freeze”;

5. Visit of Hungarian Prime Minister Orbán (suspected of pro-Russian stance) to Kyiv, Moscow, and Beijing;

6. The appearance of China as a “negotiator,” including the sudden visit of Minister Kuleba to China;

7. “Fight for Trump” (articles by Boris Johnson and David Urban, and Mike Pompeo).

Chronologically, it appears that Putin initiated this informational campaign with his speech on July 14. At a meeting with representatives of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he announced that supposedly Russia is ready for a ceasefire and “peace negotiations,” outlining additional conditions for Ukraine's actual capitulation: Ukraine's renunciation of four regions (Kherson, Zaporizhzhia, Donetsk, Luhansk), refusal to join NATO, abandonment of a full-fledged army (“demilitarization”), and the always mythical “denazification,” which in reality, according to the concept of the “Russian world,” means the renunciation of the Ukrainian language, culture, and history.

Western experts and politicians clearly indicated that such statements a day before the international conference initiated by Ukraine in Switzerland were aimed at undermining it. US Vice President Kamala Harris clearly stated that Putin's “peace” proposal on June 14 was not a call for negotiations but a call for Ukraine's “capitulation.” However, it was after this statement by Putin that the massive informational campaign about the supposed likelihood of the war ending or “freezing” began.

Orbán's visited Moscow, so his statements were essentially not a surprise for Ukrainians, as the position of the Hungarian Prime Minister has consistently given reasonable grounds to suspect him of pro-Russian stance.

However, Boris Johnson's article, the former British Prime Minister, in the Daily Mail was a certain blow to a part of the Ukrainian public and caused a wave of sharp criticism. In Ukraine, only a few passages were noticed, which were reduced to attempts to make a hard “compromise” with Russia, particularly “trading” Ukraine's NATO and EU membership for the abandonment of the 1991 borders. In reality, Johnson's article was written from absolutely pro-Ukrainian positions; the former Prime Minister started a “fight for Trump” and in a rather flattering manner suggests that the prospective candidate for the US presidency from the Republican Party supports Ukraine, including militarily. However, hearing from such a high-ranking former official that options are being considered not only for returning to the 1991 borders but, for example, a demarcation line to the pre-full-scale invasion, was received with dismay.

The outrage of Ukrainians is understandable because Boris Johnson was associated with the “hawks” in Western politics, those who are ready to advocate for all the wishes and needs of Ukraine. Therefore, the correlation of the position is perceived so painfully.

Part of Ukrainian society welcomed the information about the possibility of freezing the war along the current line with relief. Due to significant losses, great fatigue, and the absence of any realistic positive prospects. At the same time, there is no desire to give up, so this part of society subconsciously dreams of an “imposed peace.” These subconscious desires sound roughly like this: “We are heroically fighting, but Western allies are reducing arms supplies, twisting our arms to sit at the negotiating table. If these allies provided us with adequate weapons, we would have already reached the 1991 borders, and Russia would have surrendered, but now we reluctantly sign a temporary “truce” along the front line under Western pressure. Well, of course, to gather strength and eventually win.” Few dare to express this thought, but in reality, many think so, at least the recently published sociology

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from the authoritative Kyiv International Institute of Sociology (KIIS) showed that as of May 2024, already 32% of Ukrainians are ready for Ukraine to give up some of its territories to achieve peace and preserve independence as soon as possible, and the trend is increasing.

Therefore, the information leak about the negotiations fell on partially fertile ground in the country.

In fact, Putin does not need any peace; he benefits from a protracted war. It feeds him and, paradoxically, Russia, while Ukraine, on the contrary, is exhausted.

What is all this noise about?

First: to split the Western coalition. There are already breaches in the Western coalition (Hungary, Slovakia). However, in the Kremlin, they apparently understand that such outright playing along as from Orbán cannot be expected from most Western politicians. So, what can be done: create

discord, not allow the development of a common coordinated position. If you throw in a dozen "peace initiatives" that differ from the Ukrainian position and only compete among themselves on what exactly "compromise" to make with Russia, then the Kremlin will face not united resistance but a divided cluster.

Second: to disorient Ukrainian society. Part of Ukrainians dreams of peace even at the cost of territorial losses. The informational campaign about "freezing the war by the end of the year" gives them such hopes. When winter reveals that all these hopes were in vain and reality turns back to a protracted war, it could be a colossal blow to the psychological state of many.

Third: to influence the American elections. Ukraine is already on the agenda of the elections in the United States of America. Republican candidate Donald Trump announced that he could end this war in a day. Infor-

mation that "peace negotiations" are possible is only a matter of agreeing on what concessions Ukraine should make, is supposed, according to the organizers of the campaign, to reach the American voter.

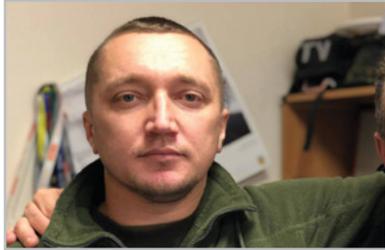
In this situation, information is provided that it turns out that peace in the distant Eastern Europe for Americans can indeed be achieved. Just Ukraine will refuse to join NATO (where it is not particularly awaited) and give up four regions, for example...

"Peace negotiations" are not necessarily a path to peace. "Peace negotiations" can be part of hybrid warfare. Even talks about possible reconciliation with Putin's Russia on one or another of Putin's conditions are already a blow to Ukraine. Ukraine and its allies must firmly stand on their own terms, regardless of any Russian informational special operations.

SPECIAL FOR HROMADA

MYKHAILO UKHMAN | NEWS FROM THE FRONTLINE

THOSE WHO DEFEND UKRAINE



Mykhailo Ukhman – a film producer, war journalist, writer, makes documentaries and feature films about the Ukrainian Insurgent Army and the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

The war of the Ukrainian people against the Moscow occupiers has been going on for more than a decade. Nevertheless, many Ukrainians realized the threat to themselves only after the full-scale Russian invasion in 2022.

Here I would like to talk about Ukrainian soldiers who have been at war since 2014.

In the first photo is **Vyacheslav Hilka**, known by the pseudonym **Uran**.

Before the start of the Russian-Ukrainian war in 2014, Slavunya, as his friends call him, served in the military, and later worked in a mine. When the fighting began, he resigned and went to fight against the Moscovites. Initially, he fought in the 56th brigade of the Armed Forces of Ukraine as a tank operator. Later, he fought in the 57th brigade, defending the village of Pisky near Donetsk for several years. Today, he is a company commander in the 59th brigade of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. Vyacheslav's military path filled with fierce battles, victorious exits, and the loss of friends.

Uran is extraordinarily daring. There were times when he would take a gun and a few grenades, secretly penetrate enemy trenches, and destroy the enemies. He did not like staying in one place, always saying: "I came to destroy for my country so that they wouldn't kill us."

With the start of the full-scale Russian invasion, Vyacheslav fought in the Luhansk and Donetsk regions. He got surrounded but, with God's help, managed to escape and lead his unit out, destroying a large number of invaders in the process.

Unfortunately, it is only in movies



Vyacheslav Hilka, known by the pseudonym Uran

that you can defeat the enemy without losses. During one battle, a tank shell exploded near Uran, tearing off part of his leg. Slavik did not panic; he managed to apply a tourniquet to his leg and stop the bleeding. Later, his comrades evacuated him from the firing zone.

Uran was treated for several months. His injury was severe, and he could have easily left the army due to health reasons. However, remember his motto: "I came to destroy so that they wouldn't kill us." Vyacheslav Hilka returned to the front with an artificial joint in his leg. Initially, he commanded a platoon and later, after training, became a company commander.

What the future holds for Uran is known only to God. However, we know for sure that our country, our army, and our victory are built on people like Vyacheslav.

Andriy Syvolap aka Syvash

Our other hero is Andriy Syvolap, known by the pseudonym Syvash. With the start of the Russo-Ukrainian war in 2014, Andriy went to defend Ukraine. He fought in the National Guard of Ukraine, liberating towns and villages in the Donetsk region from Moscow invaders and their supporter-separatists who betrayed their country and sided with Moscow.

In one battle, a mine exploded near Andriy. He sustained severe injuries and a concussion. It seemed that not only the war but also his life might end there. However, Andriy had a very strong guardian angel. After some time, Syvash recovered and returned to the front. For several years, Andriy fought against the Moscow aggressor near the Donetsk airport as part of the 57th brigade of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. With the start of the full-scale Russian invasion, Andriy began fighting in the 56th brigade of the Armed



Andriy Syvolap aka Syvash

Forces of Ukraine.

Andriy is greatly loved by his friends and comrades. He is tall and has a very kind heart. He always supports, helps, and teaches. Andriy easily fires from any machine gun or grenade launcher. He knows how to disassemble and

repair any weapon. He is not afraid of cold or heat and is always ready to move forward.

In the summer of 2022, Andriy mastered working with drones. With the help of these "birds," he adjusted our artillery, dropped various surprises on

the heads of the invaders, and carried out other tasks that cannot yet be disclosed. A universal soldier who does not spare himself and burns with a desire for revenge against the Russian occupiers.

During one mission, when Andriy was conducting reconnaissance, an enemy mine exploded near him. Andriy survived, although he did not even realize what awaited him. The doctors wanted to amputate part of his leg, but Andriy did not allow it. One operation, then another, and a tenth... Only recently, after another surgical intervention, did the doctors tell Andriy that everything would now be fine. He would be able to walk.

Andriy constantly calls his comrades on the front line and misses that he cannot fight. However, even on the hospital bed, Andriy does not waste time. He bought a simulator and is learning to fly FPV drones so that after returning to the front, he can continue to destroy the Moscovites.

Syvash could have been discharged due to his injury and stayed with his beloved wife and daughters, who love their father very much. He could have left the country, but he did not do this, unlike other Ukrainians who left their homeland in trouble. Andriy is a Cossack; he is the pride and glory of our country. He is the resilience and future of Ukraine.

It is only thanks to heroes like Slavuta and Syvash that we are still fighting for Ukraine's freedom.

Photos from the Front by Mykhailo Ukhman



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CHILDREN'S CENTER DIM ANHELA: A PLACE WHERE ORPHANED CHILDREN FIND MOMENTS OF HAPPINESS AND COUNTLESS SMILES

Lisa Hots

"Children's Village Dim Anhela (House of Angel) is a place where orphans become happy," says Vitaliy Saban, director and founder of the You Angel Foundation. Dim Anhela is a cozy place for children who have lost their parental warmth. Founded by the You-Angel charity Foundation, Dim Anhela not only rehabilitates but also gives children the most important things – love and support. Here, children find themselves in a family atmosphere, find friends, and receive all the necessary help for full development. This wonderful place is located in the picturesque village of Hoshiv in the Ivano-Frankivsk region.

Idea of creation

The idea of creating Dim Anhela came from the need to provide orphans and children who lost their parents due to the war with not just a shelter, but a real home. After many years of experience working with state institutions where children often felt separated from family comfort, Dim Anhela was created.

According to the words of Vitaliy Saban: "For a long time, we visited orphans in state institutional facilities, invested a lot of funds in supporting these institutions – opening computer and training classes, sensory and rehabilitation rooms, spending a lot of money on medicines, hygiene, and food. In the summer, we took children on excursions and organized summer vacations at private estates we rented. We communicated a lot with these children and realized that the work we were doing was more beneficial to the state institution and its administration, but not enough for the children. Children from institutions want more warmth, affection, and sincere conversation with an adult who understands and supports them. It is difficult for volunteers to implement this in a state institution, and for a child to open up. Everything is 'by the Statute' here: if told to sit, the child sits; if told to stand, they stand; if told to smile, they smile; if told to recite a pre-learned poem for guests, they recite it... We understood that our efforts had minimal effect for these children."



This prompted the You Angel Foundation to create a place where every child could find their new family.

Stages of the construction process

"The construction of the village for children began with a global question: Either we do something global, or the foundation will cease to exist," says Vitaliy Saban. Dim Anhela was created from scratch. The construction of the center went through several important stages.

First, goal was to find a good place. And we found such a place – calm,

remote from city noise, and among nature. It turned out to be a plot of land in the village of Hoshiv in the Ivano-Frankivsk region. And when the owners of this plot learning about the goal and future plans, decided to donate it to the You Angel foundation.

Then there was painstaking work on designing the center itself, it had to be as similar to a family home as possible – cozy and warm, without reminding children of the state walls of an orphanage or children's home. Together with the architect the team created what now makes children happy. Here they feel



at home.

Children who live in Dim Anhela
Children from different parts of

Ukraine, mostly from Ivano-Frankivsk region, have found refuge in the Dim Anhela. Although, at the beginning of

the full-scale invasion we had orphans from Luhansk, Donetsk, and Kharkiv. Yes, the foundation focuses on orphans and children who have been removed from their families by social services due to their parents' failure to fulfill their responsibilities. That is, children who are deprived of parental care, so they are taken care of by the state. Unfortunately, there are much more of these children than full orphans.

As for the selection criteria, they do not exist. Kids just have to behave, be active, and have no bad habits – these are the only rules.

And children at the center change, for the better, of course. The tutors who come with them cannot explain why. Perhaps this is a factor in the preference for informal education at Dim Anhela: financial literacy, basic cooking skills, and self-care lessons. In addition, the village has an api-house – sleeping on beehives – where children receive apitherapy, which is very calming and they like it. There is also an open-air recreation and rehabilitation pool with heated water, and a healing Carpathian tea from wild herbs. As for health, the center has exercise equipment, a bicycle park, and regular hiking trips. The house also have a modern library.

If necessary, orphans receive high-quality medical care, as the foundation cooperates with private medical clinics. A psychologist and art therapist also work with them.

Camps Organized by the Charity

The camps organized by Dim Anhela are real oases of joy and relaxation for children, and this is a small tradition of the foundation. They include a lot of excursions, workshops, trainings, outdoor activities, picnics, meetings with interesting people, swimming in the river and pool, and, of course, lots of delicious and healthy food.

Such camps usually last for 7 days, but this is enough for children to get the most out of positive emotions, new knowledge, and skills. Each shift/camp is attended by 20-25 children accompanied by an adult educator and a medical worker from the institution from which the child came.

"Last summer we managed to hold six such camps, this year we have difficulties with funding, so we have only two camps planned. If we manage to find the funds, we would like to hold at least three more," says the director and founder of the foundation.

Accommodation is organized in such a way that every child feels comfortable and protected. Children also enjoy outdoor activities, meet new friends,

and discover the world through the prism of kindness and care.

Five tranches totaling \$20,000 is the amount of assistance provided by the NGO Hromada to the You Angel Foundation for 2022-2024 years!

As you know, Hromada has always actively and willingly supported children's organizations for a good cause. And, of course, for the speedy victory of Ukraine over the Muscovites. Therefore, it becomes clear that Hromada could not ignore such an extremely important project as Dim Anhela.

Currently, You Angel Foundation is one of the largest projects funded by the non-profit organization Hromada since its inception. Therefore, we decided to talk to Vitaliy, the director and founder of the You Angel Foundation, about how we helped the center to develop.

"Thanks to the NGO Hromada, we were able to solve the issue of lighting inside the building. When we started our cooperation, the Dim Anhela was still completely "bare" inside. Much needed to be done to start receiving children. And then the war broke out, and other priorities emerged. It was not easy, but thanks to the support of our friends and partners, including new friends who became representatives of the Californian diaspora, we managed to launch Dim Anhela during the martial law period. Also, at the expense of the non-profit organization Hromada we purchased household appliances, beds, high-quality sunbeds used for the recreation and rehabilitation near pool, and summer camps for children. By the way, we have managed to support more than 100 children over the years. In addition, in 2023, we received a generator sent from them to supply electricity during blackouts," Vitaliy Saban said.

Future plans

I understand that when there is a war in the country, it is very difficult to plan something in advance, but this is not about heroes of this article. According to Vitaliy, the director and founder of the foundation, the locals were delighted with their work. Therefore, the foundation received another hectare of land adjacent to Dim Anhela as a gift. This indicates further development of the project.

"We want to build a mini-football field and a tennis court so that children can develop and pay more attention to their physical development rather than bad habits. We also plan to build a greenhouse to teach children how to grow vegetables, take care of them and har-



vest them, and cook high-quality food for themselves from their own grown products – a kind of occupational therapy. I would like to organize a petting zoo, so that children can also try to take care of animals and interact with them. There should also be a pond for sport fishing. It would also be nice to have our own minibus for short trips, trips to doctors, educational institutions and shopping," – the words of the director and founder of the You Angel foundation.

Community support and involvement

As our interlocutor notes, the local community reacts very positively to the project. After all, in their experience, the construction of an ordinary school takes a long time, but here, a whole village for orphans, located in the middle of the forest and built on a limited budget, and already working. Ev-

everything was made extremely quickly.

"We always say that money is not the most important thing in the charity. What is important is to have a high-quality human resource, and then the funds will be found. People who live the idea are extremely important to us. You can tell your friends and family about us, spread information about our work, projects, and our words through social media. In the end, many people come to our campus, roll up their sleeves, and physically work with us. We have no paid employees in the foundation, everything is based on ideological volunteers and their work. Also, the local community tries to help us both financially and with their garden and labor in the town. Someone helps us with our apiary, someone comes and repair something, plant trees, brings cookies and toys," says Vitaliy Saban.

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Liudmyla Kinal, DDS

KINAL DENTAL

5519 Mission Road, Suite A
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kinaldds@gmail.com

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REVOLUTIONARY CHANGES AND EVOLUTIONARY SHIFTS

Nadia Banchik

After the elections to the European Parliament, the centrist majority slightly increased, but the representation of the far-right and far-left also grew. In European countries, there is a trend towards a gradual, not very sharp, expansion of the political spectrum on both flanks.

A revolutionary jolt hits the United States: an assassination attempt on Trump and Biden's withdrawal from the race.

Ukrainian-American citizens find themselves at a crossroads. As American citizens, they now have a crucial task: not only to decide on the choice of president but also to try to calculate the optimal majority in Congress for the country. However, from the perspective of Ukraine's interests in the USA, the most important task is to strengthen bipartisan support for Ukraine in its war against Russia in an extremely turbulent world.

The attempt on Trump

On July 13, at a Republican campaign rally in Butler, near Pittsburgh (Pennsylvania), shortly after Trump took the stage, gunshots were suddenly heard. A bullet grazed the main presidential candidate, miraculously not hitting his head but only injuring his ear. One rally participant was killed, and two others were injured.

The shooter turned out to be a 20-year-old young man, Thomas Matthew Crooks. He was an ordinary American working as a dietary aide in a nursing home. He was a registered Republican but had once donated \$15 to a left-wing organization. He was not an illegal immigrant, nor a member of any oppressed minority. Most likely, he had no ties to foreign intelligence services (the CIA had warned that Iranian intelligence was preparing an attempt on Trump to avenge the 2020 killing of the commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, General Soleimani). He had no record of law violations. He took his father's rifle, climbed onto the roof of a house 500 meters from the stage. He was noticed by people in the crowd two minutes before the shot, but Secret Service agents did not manage to stop him and shot him only after he had fired.

The assassination attempt on one of

the presidential candidates seemed to momentarily cool the passions of an extremely tense and emotional campaign in both political camps. Trump himself, who had previously ignored any ethical boundaries, in an unusually long speech at the Republican Party convention in Milwaukee (Wisconsin), called on Americans to unite and tried to assure that he would be a president for all residents of the USA, not just half of them. However, his balanced tone lasted only for half the speech. By the end, he returned to his usual attacks on political opponents.

President Biden also called for unity and lowering the heat of political battles in his speech immediately after the attempt on his political rival.

The vice-presidential candidate is a "dark horse"

The failed assassination attempt further united the Republican Party around Trump, with even Nikki Haley publicly supporting him. At the Republican Party convention Trump was officially nominated as the party's candidate.

Only after the official nomination did Trump reveal his running mate. It was J.D. Vance, a congressman from Ohio. A self-made man from a working-class background, he graduated from Yale Law School; his wife is of Indian descent.

Politically, Vance is the darkest horse. An ultraconservative, he initially criticized Trump harshly during his political rise in 2015-2016, even calling him "an American Hitler" at one point. However, around 2018-2019, he suddenly became a fervent supporter of the then-president and has since been almost his shadow.

Regarding Ukraine, Vance has repeatedly expressed indifference and voted against the Congress-approved bill for military-financial support for Ukraine's fight against Russian aggression during the notorious delay.

What can we expect from such a person, who has already proven that he can turn his views like a weather-vane in the wind, as soon as he sees some benefit? How would Vance have acted in a situation similar to January 6, 2021 (and quite likely by the end of the current campaign!) when Trump pressured then Vice President Mike Pence to violate the Constitution to maintain

his presidency at any cost? Pence, who had been Trump's shadow until that moment, decisively defended the Constitution at the last moment. How would Vance have acted in his place? It is unknown. And how will he act in other complex situations? Also, unknown.

The calculation was likely that Vance could attract "blue-collar" workers, the middle class, and the Indian community – social groups split almost evenly between Trump and Biden – and to some extent, this may happen. However, Vance is unlikely to significantly expand Trump's base. This base could potentially expand at the expense of those undecided voters and perhaps some who would vote for Biden but not Kamala Harris, as she holds more leftist views than Biden. However, these voters, especially in swing states, are not extreme conservatives; they are mostly centrists and closer to classic Republicans. This includes former Nikki Haley voters. Trump's choice of running mate may alienate them rather than attract them.

Democrats get a second wind

Biden's statement of withdrawal from the race in favor of his running mate Kamala Harris sounded like a thunderbolt, although Biden had been openly urged to step down by all leading party figures for several weeks. After a failed debate with Trump at the end of June, it became clear that he could not compete with Trump, not to mention the next four years in the White House if he somehow won.

Of course, the Democratic Party is reaping the fruits of its short-sightedness, as it openly neglected the danger of Biden's old age and did not nominate anyone who could have defeated him in a fair and usual competition by state. Now they had to go against usual norms: hurriedly change the candidate for whom 95% of Democratic voters voted (because there was no other candidate!), develop a procedure to somehow legitimize the process, and face sharp criticism from Republicans (as if everything is fine with them when Trump has practically taken over the entire party!).

The process was developed. By August 7, the party will conduct blitz voting via the internet. However, in less than a week, Harris has already gathered more delegates than needed for

her support at the party convention, which will be held August 19-21 in Chicago. She has been supported by almost all leading Democrats.

Harris has many advantages: she is from a younger generation than Trump; has experience as the Attorney General of California, a senator, and finally as vice president; she is the second attempt after Hillary Clinton to nominate a woman for president; as Vice President, she is known in the world and has met with world leaders (she has participated in Munich Security Conferences several times and only a few weeks ago took part in the Ukrainian Global Peace Forum in Switzerland).

However, Kamala Harris belongs to the more left-wing faction of the Democratic Party and is controversial in many of her beliefs. She is even more insistent than the classic centrist Biden on social security for low-income people, "positive discrimination," green energy, etc. After meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on July 25, she gave a speech in which she criticized Israel more sharply than Biden for causing excessive suffering to the Palestinian civilian population (which supports Hamas by 80%, and there is no solution to this) and demanded the quickest achievement of a truce and the return of Hamas hostages.

Regarding Ukraine, Harris will likely continue Biden's line, possibly with more determination. Her national security adviser, Philip Gordon, is sharply against both China and Russia and sees the axis of evil in the ties between Moscow, Beijing, Tehran, and Pyongyang.

Much will depend on her choice of running mate. Logically, her vice-presidential candidate should expand her electoral base. Harris can now benefit from Trump's mistake with Vance and attract undecided voters to her camp. For this, the Democratic Party's vice-presidential candidate should be a clearly expressed centrist from a swing state. By the way, the part of Haley's former voters who intended to vote for Biden has announced their support for Harris – this is the political action committee formerly named "Haley's Voters for Biden," now "for Harris."

Harris can defeat Trump only if she herself moves towards centrism. She needs to win voters not across America but only in swing states. There will be 4-7 of them, and they tend to lean towards Republicans and not to the left. In these states, most women, non-white populations, and, of course, all those who adhere to Democratic Party

views from centrists to leftists will likely vote for her. This is the traditional core; she does not need to campaign for it. However, this is not enough. Harris needs to expand the circle. Who can enter this circle in swing states? These could include workers and the middle class from the suburbs (the stratum that mostly secured Biden's victory in 2020 but still leans towards Trump, disappointed by the high inflation resulting from the current White House's economic policies).

Given the extremely tense situation in the Middle East, which is unlikely to end by the decisive moment of the American elections, the Israeli issue is gaining extraordinary urgency. And here, too, everything is decided by logical calculation. Palestinian supporters will not vote for Trump under any circumstances, so Harris does not need to campaign for them. However, Israeli supporters are divided. Some Jews and almost all conservative Protestants are traditional Trump voters, the core of his ardent supporters, and Harris should not even try to win them over. However, most American Jews traditionally lean towards the Democratic Party and simultaneously defend Israel. If Harris criticizes Israel too harshly, many of these voters will switch to Trump.

Two possible future projections

Trump and his voters' vision tends to be of a "glorious past": "let's make America great again." The America 2025 project, developed by the conservative Heritage Foundation, envisions a large-scale "purge" of all law enforcement and intelligence agencies – it is easy to guess that Trump will fill them with his supporters. His presidency will put the country, and the Western world with it, in a situation of a broad social experiment to determine the limits to which the democrat-

ic system can withstand a leader with dictatorial whims and unpredictable character.

Harris's vision has been defined to a certain extent – a continuation of Biden's line with some, perhaps, leftward leaning and more determination.

However, none of the candidates for the highest office will determine the course of the United States alone, because the democratic system does not allow it. Trump can appoint the most loyal of his inner circle to key positions, regardless of their professional qualities, and will be forced to fire them after the first inevitable failure. He must constantly balance the professionalism of his staff with their ability to work with him, which, judging by numerous statements by his former staff (take Bolton, for example), is extremely difficult.

If Harris wins, she will have to balance her staff between the extreme left and center wings, which will also be difficult.

No matter who wins, we are in for an era of upheaval and instability. This will affect politics around the world, especially in Europe and the Middle East. Ukraine needs to chart the course of its rather unsteady "ship" in a stormy ocean.

As U.S. citizens, it is imperative that we make sure that our elections to Congress and the Senate at least somewhat balance the swing in the White House (Trump to the right, Harris to the left) by electing as many centrists with policy experience as possible. As Americans of Ukrainian descent, we need to develop a clear and consistent line of communication with all major groups of voters of both candidates and find convincing arguments to engage them in the democratic world's war against dictators.



Kakinuki Law Office PC 垣貫法律事務所 PC

John Kakinuki, Attorney
弁護士 垣貫 ジョン

1050 Northgate Dr, Ste 270
San Rafael, CA 94903, USA

Tel 415-492-2011
Fax 415-492-2012
john@kakinukilaw.com
www.kakinukilaw.com

JULY – SHELLING, BLACKOUTS AND RECORD HEAT

Karina Nikitishina

On July 8, there was one of the largest massive rocket attacks on Kyiv in terms of casualties since the start of the full-scale invasion. The powerful explosions, which shook buildings and the ground beneath them, were felt throughout the city. People, frightened, lay on the ground, covering their heads with their hands. However, Ukrainians have become accustomed to shelling, and the recent fear quickly turned to outrage when it was revealed that the shelling deliberately destroyed and damaged the buildings of Europe's largest children's hospital, Okhmatdyt. Almost 20,000 children are treated at Okhmatdyt annually. The missile completely destroyed the toxicology building and damaged four others; 10 surgical departments, five oncology departments, two somatic departments, intensive care, two resuscitation units, operating units, radiology and radiation therapy departments, and part of the oncohematological laboratory (the only one in Ukraine) were affected. At the time of the attack, three heart surgeries were being performed in the Center for Pediatric Cardiac Surgery. As a result of the shelling, the windows of the Center were shattered, causing contamination of the patients' chest cavities. In an instant, the hospital lost electricity, oxygen, and water, forcing children to be urgently evacuated to other medical facilities. According to the Security Service of Ukraine, Russia deliberately targeted the children's medical facility with an X-101 missile. In response to this tragedy, thousands of concerned Ukrainians united their efforts to rebuild the hospital as quickly as possible, and within just two days, in addition to the 100 million provided by the state, an additional 200 million hryvnias were raised in charitable donations.

However, the lack of electricity and water was not confined to Okhmatdyt. The cause of this was not only the shelling. This summer, electricity is being cut off due to the planned maintenance of nuclear power plant units. Other healthcare facilities have also faced challenges due to the abnormal heat for Ukraine and the energy shortage. According to Ukraine's Chief State Sanitary Doctor, Ihor Kuzin, the Ministry of Health's primary task



is to ensure the autonomy of all medical institutions: equipping facilities with their own boilers, wells, and power generators. Some may wonder, "Why?" All healthcare facilities are critical infrastructure objects; they should not be disconnected from the grid even during blackouts. In reality, no hospital can afford to be without electricity for even a few minutes. There are people connected to medical equipment 24/7 to sustain their lives; urgent surgeries and procedures need to be performed, and so on.

Sensitive medical equipment requires uninterrupted voltage within a certain range – not every generator or storage device can meet this condition. Critical equipment fails when connected to generators whose characteristics have not been thoroughly studied. Some district hospitals not only have a primary generator but also want to install backups to ensure functionality if the first one fails. In total, more than 11,000 generators have been provided to healthcare facilities to ensure their stable operation during prolonged outages or blackouts. In addition to electricity, to make hospitals fully autonomous, local wells need to be installed, which are absent in almost 50% of facilities. The Soviet-era water supply network cannot withstand prolonged power outages, leading to "no light – no water" scenarios in many cities. Overall, out of the 643 healthcare facilities included in the capable network, only 262 are fully autonomous. These numbers do not account for the vast number of private hospitals but show only state institutions capable of functioning independently from centralized electricity and water supplies. However, they still need constant support to maintain this autonomy.

The least of the problems during power outages has been the internet: having experienced a complete blackout, Ukrainians have massively switched to fiber-optic cables. During another outage, it is enough to connect a power bank to the modem to continue working and following the news. Moreover, even if there is no internet, a person can live without it. As mentioned in the first paragraphs, the absence of electricity is not only about the lack of modern and not entirely necessary conveniences but also about the inability to provide medical services to those who need them. The lack of electricity also means an inability to meet basic needs. The abnormal heat has caused a sharp de-

terioration in the health of Ukrainians: strokes, heart attacks, heat strokes, severe dehydration, and mass poisonings have become more frequent. Sweating and insufficient water intake increase the risk of blood clots. Particularly at risk are people with cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, pensioners, and children under five. However, even a healthy person can feel unwell enough to call an ambulance after climbing to the 30th floor with an indoor temperature of +40°C.

People faint not only on the streets but also at home, where it seems possible to hide from the sun. The reason is that without electricity, it is impossible to turn on the air conditioner or fan to cool the air. Immobile people are trapped in their homes: without electricity, they cannot go downstairs because the elevator is not working. They cannot fetch any water from a street pump or buy it from a store. Water supply pumps in high-rise buildings cannot deliver water to higher floors during outages. People need to think in advance even about how to use the toilet: collect enough technical water while there is electricity to flush the toilet later. Generators both save and maim: just a few minutes of walking in the heat near a row of stores is enough to make you dizzy and nauseous from the fumes. Recently, I saw a group of people pouring mineral water on a street dog – animals also suffer from the heat and generator fumes. And even if these animals are stray, passersby try to help them as best they can.

According to the head of the Main Directorate of the State Consumer Service in Kyiv, Oleh Ruban, due to power outages and high air temperatures, three cases of food poisoning are registered weekly in the capital, with the situation in other regions no better. The chance of contracting norovirus or salmonellosis exists everywhere, whether buying something in a supermarket or dining in an expensive restaurant. Dishonest businesses may skimp on fuel and not turn on generators, while honest ones are not immune to generator failure. Moreover, generators do not always start immediately after a power outage; sometimes, it takes several attempts to get them running stably. Therefore, finding "suspicious" looking products is quite easy even in large supermarket chains that have always had a clean reputation, as some products thaw quickly and should not be refrozen. Generators are not always enough to maintain the ope-

ration of all refrigerators and freezers. In small grocery stores, where owners cannot afford a powerful generator, dairy and meat products spoil quickly, forcing employees to discard food that would normally be fit for consumption for more than a month. Businesses suffer significant losses.

"Fundraising for a more powerful generator is open – it's worth preparing for a harsh winter today," reads a notice board near an apartment building in an elite residential complex in Kyiv. Residents here can afford to buy their own generator to supply a 25-story building with corridor lights, working elevators, and running water. At the same time, most Ukrainians cannot even afford this. It is especially difficult for people whose scheduled outages differ from the schedule at home, making it nearly impossible to use electricity during the day. They wake up without power, get ready for work, spend almost the entire workday without power, which is only available for about an hour, and return home in the evening to find no power again. The question arises: when, with such a rhythm of life, can they simply cook food, do laundry, or take a shower? "At three in the morning, when the power finally comes on for an hour and a half, during which time you need to get everything done!" shared several of my colleagues. In the village of Chaika, Kyiv region, acquaintances complained that one day they had only one hour of electricity per day. Some owners of electric and induction stoves shared how to cook without electricity: camping gas stoves and cylinders, which have a high risk of explosion if used incorrectly, have come back into fashion.

It is also worth reminding that power outages are an additional opportunity for Russian disinformation and provocation. For example, recent fakes included new "line-based" power outages and sanitary standards regarding noise levels from generators. In reality, there will be no "line-based" outages, and noise level standards do not apply during emergencies. Provocative posts spread through multimillion-dollar channels on Telegram and Viber groups on Facebook and are also discussed by popular bloggers on other platforms. If you trace where all these news items originate, it turns out that Russian television or their bots on social networks were the first to talk about them to provoke disputes in Ukrainian society. Despite this, Ukrainians remain united, and obstacles make bonds stronger.

UKRAINIAN NEWS

Total enemy combat losses

Протягом 24.02.22 – 31.07.2024

ОРІЄНТОВНІ ВТРАТИ
ПРОТИВНИКА СКЛАЛИ

~578120 +1060

особового складу
personnel

363

літаків
aircraft

326

гелікоптерів
helicopters

8390 +9

танків
tanks

12853 +21

БПЛА оперативно-тактичного рівня
UAV operational-tactical level

16161 +20

бойових броньованих машин
armoured personnel vehicle

2407 +1

крилаті ракети
cruise missiles

16086 +30

артилерійських систем
artillery systems

28

кораблі/катери
warships/boats

1

підводні човни
submarines

1131 +1

РСЗВ
MLRS

21739 +52

автомобільна техніка та цистерни з ПММ
vehicles & fuel tanks

907 +1

засоби ППО
anti-aircraft warfare systems

2697 +1

спеціальна техніка
special equipment

Генеральний штаб Збройних Сил України

According to the General Staff, the total combat losses of the enemy from February 24, 2022 to July 31, 2024 are approximately as follows:

Personnel – 578,120 people were eliminated,
Tanks – 8,390 units,
Armored personnel carriers – 16,161 units,
Artillery systems – 16,086 units,
MLRS – 1,131 units,
Air defense systems – 907 units,
Aircraft – 363 units,
Helicopters – 326 units,
Operational and tactical level UAVs – 12,853 units,
Cruise missiles – 2,407 units,
Ships and boats – 28 units,
Submarines – 1 unit,
Vehicles and tankers – 21,739 units,
Special equipment – 2,697 units.

Military aid for
Ukraine

The United States
USA

The United States announced a \$150 million military aid package for Ukraine. The Ukrainian Armed Forces will receive, among other things, additional air defense interceptors, artillery and other firepower, as well as anti-tank weapons. The package includes:

- Missiles for HAWK air defense systems
- Ammunition for HIMARS
- 155-mm and 105-mm artillery shells
- 81-mm mines
- Tube-launched, optically tracked, wire-guided (TOW) missiles
- Javelin and AT-4 anti-tank systems
- Small arms ammunition and grenades
- Explosive ordnance disposal equipment and supplies
- Military vehicles and spare parts.

Additionally, the U.S. allocated approximately \$22 billion for the purchase of interceptors for PATRIOT and NASAMS air defense systems and their further transfer to Ukraine. The U.S. also allocated a \$225 million aid package, which includes one Patriot battery, ammunition for NASAMS and HIMARS systems, and Stinger anti-aircraft missiles. The package includes:

- 155-mm and 105-mm artillery shells
- Tube-launched, optically tracked, wire-guided (TOW) missiles
- Javelin and AT-4 anti-tank systems
- Small arms ammunition
- Explosive ordnance disposal supplies
- Spare parts, maintenance, and other support equipment.

Moreover, the U.S. allocated \$15 billion for energy and humanitarian aid to Ukraine. The U.S. government transferred new demining equipment worth \$58 million to the State Special Transport Service of Ukraine, including four remote-controlled GCS-100 demining platforms, spare parts, mobile maintenance stations, trucks, trailers, and cranes. Additionally, four armored excavators, vehicles, and personal protective equipment were handed over. The Marine Guard of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine received high-speed Metal Shark boats from the U.S. government, equipped with modern navigation systems, automatic fire extinguishing systems, and video surveillance cameras.

Germany

On July 8, Germany announced a new military aid package, which includes shells for tanks, a previously promised Patriot air defense system, and two new radars. The package also includes:

- Two multifunctional TRML-4D radars
- 9,000 rounds for Gepard anti-aircraft tanks
- 55,000 rounds of 155-mm ammunition
- 30 Vector reconnaissance drones

with spare parts

- 200 drone jammers
- 10 autonomous naval vessels
- Eight Wisent demining machines and one armored evacuation vehicle
- 250 MG5 machine guns
- Three patrol jeeps.

Britain

The new British Defense Secretary John Healy promised to strengthen support for Ukraine and announced a new military aid package. The package includes:

- A quarter million 50-caliber ammunition
- 90 Brimstone anti-tank missiles
- 50 small military boats for river and coastal operations
- 40 demining machines
- 10 AS-90 artillery guns
- 61 bulldozers for creating defensive positions.

Spain

Spain has begun transferring a new batch of military aid to the Ukrainian Armed Forces. It includes 10 Leopard 2A4 battle tanks, excavators and many anti-tank missiles.

"The multimodal transportation of 10 Leopard 2A4 battle tanks to Ukraine has begun, which have been repaired, adjusted and made ready at the Santa Barbara Sistemas plant in Alcalá de Guadaýra, as well as the relevant tests to verify their full performance," the Spanish Ministry of Defense said in a statement.

With the new batch of Leopard 2A4 tanks, Spain has handed over a total of 20 such tanks to Ukraine and plans to prepare or transfer another new set in the second half of 2024.

In May, it became known that Spain plans to transfer arms to Ukraine for a record-breaking 1.1 billion euros. And in June, it was reported that the second batch of missiles for the Patriot from Spain had already arrived in Ukraine.

Norway

Ukraine will receive additional funds from Norway to strengthen its air defense system. This was announced by Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre during the NATO summit in Washington.

According to the politician, the Norwegian government intends to allocate 1 billion kroner (approximately 93 million US dollars) to strengthen Ukraine's air defense system.

The timing of the funds is currently unknown. The prime minister did not specify what kind of weapons they plan to buy.

It has been reported that Norway will provide Ukraine with six F-16 fighter jets. Deliveries will begin this year.

It was also reported that the Norwegian government would provide Ukraine with 1.1 billion kroner (approximately \$100 million) to help repair its energy infrastructure.

Lithuania

The Lithuanian government announced the transfer of a new military aid package to the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

It was indicated that on July 11, anti-drone rifles, 5.56x45 mm ammunition, and cots for the Armed Forces of Ukraine arrived in Ukraine.

The ministry added that Lithuania has provided Ukraine with military support worth about 641 million euros.

"This year, assistance worth approximately 115 million euros was provided. It is important that this dynamic of support continues," the statement said.

Recently, it became known that Lithuanian partners handed over five electronic warfare systems for our military in the Kherson region.

Lithuania has also transferred 1 million euros to restore the Okhmatdyt children's hospital in Kyiv, which was damaged by a Russian missile strike.

Denmark

Denmark will finance the production of a division (18 units) of Bohdan self-propelled artillery systems for Ukraine.

The Danish-funded Bohdan artillery systems are expected to be delivered in the coming months.

Denmark is the first NATO country to invest in arms production in Ukraine.

Canada

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau emphasized that his country is ready to provide the necessary medical support to the victims of the Russian attack on the Okhmatdyt children's hospital in Kyiv, and announced a new, additional package of military support for Ukraine in the amount of 500 million Canadian dollars.

Italy

Italy is ready to increase military assistance to Ukraine to 1.7 billion euros in 2025. Such plans were announced by Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni at the NATO summit in Washington.

This means an increase in Italy's annual support, which amounted to 1.2 billion euros in the first two years of the war.

Italy plans to provide Ukraine with an air defense system and long-range missiles. Earlier, Italy joined the supply of Storm Shadow cruise missiles to Ukraine.

Netherlands

The Dutch government will allocate 300 million euros for ammunition for

F-16 fighter jets that Ukraine will soon receive.

The ministry clarified that the contribution is in addition to the 150 million euros that were allocated for this purpose earlier.

Estonia

Ukraine has received Mistral short-range air defense systems with a stock of interceptor missiles from Estonia.

Mistral is a man-portable air defense system designed to engage targets at low altitudes. Its short-range anti-aircraft guided missiles are equipped with an infrared homing head, which allows it to engage airborne targets with thermal signatures, including aircraft and helicopters.

Estonia will provide Ukraine with military assistance of at least 100 million euros a year as part of a security agreement.

Lithuania

The Defense Resources Agency under the Lithuanian Ministry of Defense will purchase unmanned systems from various manufacturers for a total of about EUR 36 million.

The agency will purchase small-class reconnaissance drones from the Latvian company Edge Autonomy and the Estonian manufacturer Threed Systems, and micro-class drones (quadcopters) from the Lithuanian company Deftools.

Most of the UAVs will be delivered this fall, and the rest – in early 2025.

Recently, our Lithuanian partners handed over five electronic warfare systems for our military in the Kherson sector.

Portugal

In 2024, Portugal will allocate a total of €220 million in aid to Ukraine, and plans to provide the same amount for Ukraine in 2025.

"This year alone, we estimate that we will be able to reach a volume of support of more than 220 million euros, which will be repeated next year, all within the framework of the final settlement to be established at this (NATO) summit," Montenegro said.

Earlier, Portugal allocated 100 million euros for the purchase of shells for Ukraine.

New Zealand

Prime Minister of New Zealand Christopher Laxon announced a new aid package for Ukraine worth almost \$10 million.

In particular, Wellington will allocate \$3.68 million for military aid and another \$6.12 million for humanitarian aid.

The military aid includes \$2.45 million for a coalition of drones led by the United Kingdom and Latvia and \$1.23

million for Ukraine's military medical needs.

NATO

NATO leaders agreed on a financial commitment of 40 billion euros to provide military assistance to Ukraine through 2025.

In addition, the Alliance committed to long-term assistance to the Ukrainian Armed Forces, not just support in 2025, to "ensure a sustainable level of security assistance to Ukraine, taking into account Ukraine's needs, national budgetary procedures and bilateral security agreements that Allies have concluded with Ukraine."

Next year, at a summit in The Hague, the heads of state and government intend to review the contributions of NATO members. It is also possible to revise the amount of aid based on Ukraine's needs at future NATO summits.

It was also reported that Ukraine received more than \$700 million from its partners for humanitarian demining.

EU and Ukraine Sign Over 5 Billion Euros Aid Deal



Economy Minister Yulia Svyrydenko signed a Financial Agreement between Ukraine and the European Union to receive grant aid under the Ukraine Facility program amounting to 5.27 billion euros over the next four years.

On June 27, Ukraine received a tranche of 1.9 billion euros from the European Union under the Ukraine Facility program.

On July 3, Ukraine received 2.2 billion dollars from the IMF after successfully passing the fourth review of the program.

Ukraine Signs Bilateral Security Agreements with Romania, Poland, and Luxembourg

President of Ukraine Volodymyr Ze-



lensky and his Romanian counterpart Klaus Iohannis signed a security cooperation agreement in Washington.

According to the document, Romania, as previously announced, will transfer the Patriot system to Ukraine. Additionally, Bucharest committed to continue supporting Ukraine and facilitate the rapid transit of all necessary equipment through its territory to Ukraine.

"The peculiarity of this agreement is specific points of cooperation to strengthen security in the Black Sea region. Romania will help Ukraine in demining the Black Sea and provide support through EU and NATO instruments," noted the Presidential Office.

The agreement also states that Bucharest, along with partners, will help the F-16 center to train Ukrainian pilots.

Furthermore, the document outlines a 24-hour emergency response mechanism in case of renewed aggression against Ukraine or significant escalation.

President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky and Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk signed a bilateral security agreement in Warsaw.

The document includes commitments from the Polish side to continue supporting Ukraine for the next ten years. It also mentions providing Ukraine with several more military aid packages.

According to the agreement, the parties will consider the possibility of intercepting missiles and drones in Ukrainian airspace heading towards Poland.

The Polish government will also consider transferring an additional squadron of MiG-29 aircraft to Ukraine, consisting of at least 14 fighters.

Participants will continue to cooperate in training the Ukrainian Security and Defense Forces on Polish territory. Ukrainian citizens temporarily residing in Poland and other countries will be able to join the process.

The document also includes points on enhancing cooperation in the defense industry. It mentions, in particular, the placement of production facilities of Polish defense companies in Ukraine.

Separate sections of the agreement

address Ukraine's recovery, modernization of border infrastructure, development of transit potential, and expansion of cooperation in cybersecurity, intelligence, and counter-terrorism.

Luxembourg provided Ukraine with military assistance totaling 74.4 million euros in 2022 and 96 million euros in 2023. This year's planned military aid amounts to 80 million euros.

"Luxembourg will continue to provide military assistance and support to Ukraine at the same pace during the term of this Agreement, subject to parliamentary approval," the agreement states.

The country promised to continue playing a leading role in the IT coalition and, if possible, expand its participation in other coalitions supporting Ukraine.

Luxembourg will support Ukraine by providing intelligence and surveillance (ISR) tools, particularly in the space sector, as well as cyber-electromagnetic capabilities. The country will continue to support the strengthening of information technology infrastructure and the capabilities of Ukraine's Security and Defense Forces.

Luxembourg will also continue to provide long-term support in equipping and training, including instructor training programs and training the Ukrainian Security and Defense Forces in necessary capabilities.

"Luxembourg will support Ukraine in enhancing training capabilities in the cyber sphere, including by providing Ukraine with access to Luxembourg's training facilities, such as the Cyber Range," the agreement states.

Ukraine's Monthly Artillery System Output Tops Europe – Zelensky



The domestic producer of self-propelled artillery systems (SAS) "Bohdana" is currently the leader in Europe in terms of the number of artillery systems produced per month.

On July 15 President Volodymyr Zelensky announced this during a meet-

ing with journalists.

He did not disclose the exact number of SAS units produced in Ukraine but emphasized that it is a "significant amount."

The head of state also added that Ukraine is developing other systems that "will allow us to have greater range."

In April, Zelensky stated that the Ukrainian industry would produce ten self-propelled artillery systems "Bohdana" for the first time.

It was also reported that Denmark will finance the production of a division (18 units) of self-propelled artillery systems "Bohdana" for Ukraine.

Sweden Joined the Drone Coalition for Ukraine



Swedish Defense Minister Paul Jonsson signed an agreement on joining the drone coalition on behalf of Stockholm at the NATO summit in Washington.

According to him, Sweden, together with other countries, will support the Armed Forces of Ukraine with drones through joint purchases.

The minister added that Sweden's participation in the drone coalition brings valuable experience and knowledge to developing Swedish defense potential.

Currently, the Drone Coalition includes 15 countries – Latvia, Ukraine, Australia, Germany, Denmark, Italy, Canada, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, the United Kingdom, France, Sweden, New Zealand, and Estonia.

This month, Ukraine will receive the first drones from the second batch prepared for shipment from Latvia.

The Netherlands will allocate 20 million euros to purchase FPV drones for Ukraine within the Drone Coalition.

Which Countries Voted Against the UN Resolution on Ukraine's Nuclear

Safety



The UN General Assembly adopted the Ukrainian resolution "Safety and Security of Ukraine's Nuclear Facilities, Including the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant" with 99 votes.

Another nine countries voted "against," and 60 abstained.

Apart from Russia, the resolution was not supported by the following countries: Belarus, Burundi, Cuba, Eritrea, North Korea, Mali, Nicaragua, Syria.

Among the 60 abstentions were Armenia, Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Iraq, Iran, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Oman, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, UAE.

The resolution demands that Russia immediately cease its aggression against Ukraine, withdraw its troops, and return the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant to full Ukrainian control.

The resolution also condemns Russia's non-compliance with other UN and IAEA resolutions. Russia is also urged to immediately stop attacks on Ukraine's critical energy infrastructure.

The EU and 21 Other Countries Signed the Ukrainian Contract



The European Union and 21 other states signed the Ukrainian Compact (Ukraine Compact) at the NATO summit, which will coordinate and accelerate their assistance to Ukraine in defense.

The agreement was signed by the leaders of the USA, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France,

Germany, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom, along with the President of the European Council, the President of the European Commission, and the President of Ukraine.

The document outlines the implementation of the goals specified in Ukraine's bilateral agreements. The signatories commit to supporting Ukraine in defense by providing military equipment, finances, and training for Ukrainian military personnel. This includes working through:

- The Ukraine Defense Contact Group,
- The Capability Coalition,
- The Security Support and Training Command for Ukraine,
- The EU Military Assistance Mission to Ukraine.

The agreement also provides for accelerating assistance in building Ukraine's future Defense Forces by 2027, with the prospect of continuation into the 2030s. For this purpose, the Ukraine Defense Contact Group will meet every six months at the ministerial level to review and approve the development roadmap.

In case of a new Russian attack on Ukraine after the end of the current war, the signatory countries are obliged to quickly gather at the highest level to determine the next steps in supporting Ukraine.

Recall that NATO countries promised to support Ukraine on its "irreversible path" to full Euro-Atlantic integration, including membership in the Alliance, as stated in the summit declaration.

The European Union Provided Thousands of Solar Panels to Ukrainian Hospitals

The European Commission has delivered over 5.8 thousand solar panels to Ukraine to meet the needs of Ukrainian hospitals. Their total capacity is about 2 MW.

The Ministry of Energy reported that the energy equipment would be delivered to healthcare facilities in Zhytomyr, Volyn, Khmelnytskyi, Kyiv, and Odesa regions. It is also possible that the number of hospitals receiving equipment will increase in the future.

"FOR CHILDREN OF UKRAINE" A CHARITY EVENING IN SAN FRANCISCO



On Sunday, July 21, 2024, a wonderful charity evening "For the Children of Ukraine" was held at Ukrainian Hall in San Francisco.

The guests of the evening had the opportunity to feel the unity of our hearts around the common goal of helping Ukrainian children who lost

their parents in the Russian-Ukrainian war.

The concert program, which was brought to us from Los Angeles by our guests – the talented **Hanna Koshchik** and **Orest Galitsky**, consisted of two parts; during the break, the guests of the evening had the oppor-

tunity to take part in a charity auction and chat.

The common fundraising goal was achieved!

Together we managed to collect a total of \$7,165, the costs of organizing the event amounted to \$1,222.10, as a result we have **\$5,942.90!**

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We are sincerely grateful to our artists for the created lighthearted atmosphere and excellent performance of Ukrainian and world hits! Special thanks to **Father Petro** and the **administration of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church in San Francisco** for the graciously provided hall, we thank **PodiyaSound** for the impeccable sound and light design of the concert program on a free basis, in the person of **Andriy Shegera**. We also thank **Volodymyr Parubets** for providing free transportation of musical equipment and for help in general. We also thank **Ivan Haid** and **Veronika Shoba** for their active help at the event.

We are grateful to our donors for valuable lots, namely: **Rostyslav Tistyk** for a souvenir set of 8 chevrons of combat units of the Lviv region, **Olena Bilyak** for a three-volume collection of Ukrainian poetry and prose, **Ka-**

teryna Vlasyuk for a backpack encrusted with beads, **Tetyana Soloviy** for an Easter egg decorated with Petrykivsky art.

Also, thanks to **Maryna Anisovych** for the goodies we treated our guests to, they always create a homely atmosphere.

Thank you to all active participants of the auction and guests of our evening! Friends, your zeal and love for Ukraine is inspiring!

Together to Victory!
Glory to Ukraine!
Glory to the Heroes!

P.S.: Funds in the amount of **\$1,000** obtained from the sale of three works embroidered with beads by master Maria Rakus from the Lviv region were already sent to her on July 22 and will support her large family in this difficult time.

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Orest Balytsky D.M.D.
Diplomate, American Board of Endodontics

(707) 763-2170
orbendo17@msn.com
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EVENTS 2024

AUGUST

Ha/Su	Пн/Mo	Вт/Tu	Ср/We	Чт/Th	Пт/Fr	Сб/Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

11 AUGUST BAY AREA UKRAINIAN FEST 2024

St. Michael's Ukrainian Orthodox Church

Where: Sunnyvale Baylands Park, 999 East Caribbean Drive, Sunnyvale, 94089

When: Saturday, 11 AM – 5 PM

Join Us for the 11th Independence Day Picnic! The Biggest Ukrainian Picnic in the Bay Area!

- Live Ukrainian Music

- Entertainment for Kids & Family: Bouncy houses, Pinata, Soccer and Volleyball

- Traditional Ukrainian cuisine: Kovbasa, Varenyky and many other Ukrainian foods.

- Plenty of Parking

Exceptional Raffle sponsored by St. Michael Ukrainian Orthodox Church

We're honored to kick off

Independence Day Festivities on the 33rd Year Anniversary of the Independence of Ukraine!

EARLY BIRD TICKETS ON SALE UNTIL JULY 15th ONLY!

TICKETS GO UP TO \$50.00 AFTER JULY 15TH!

Buy your Tickets Now! Tickets include Lunch, Concert, Vendors and Ukrainian Childrens Village!

Liturgy starts at 11:00! First lunch meal served at 12:30!

The Biggest Ukrainian Picnic in the Bay Area! Live Ukrainian Music, Ukrainian Food, Kids & Family Fun & Best Raffle in the Bay!

Tickets: \$5 to \$45

<https://www.facebook.com/events/778349774419943/>

24 AUGUST UKRAINIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION | LOS ANGELES

Ukrainian Culture Center – UCC

Де: Ukrainian Culture Center, 4315 Melrose Avenue, Los Angeles, CA

Коли: Saturday, 1 PM – 4 PM

You are invited to celebrate Ukrainian Independence Day with us at the Ukrainian Culture Center of LA.

80 years of dedication to Ukraine's culture and Independence presents:

Performances from Anatolii Matviichuk, Anychka, Kobzar Choir, Ridna Shkola, Chervona Kalyna, bandura artists and more.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1179951833044026/>

24 AUGUST

ДЕНЬ НЕЗАЛЕЖНОСТІ УКРАЇНИ

25 AUGUST UKRAINIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY CONCERT | SAN FRANCISCO

Ukrainian American Coordinating Council & St. Michaels Ukrainian Orthodox Church

Де: Spreckles Temple Of Music, Golden Gate Park, Golden Gate Park Segway Tours, Music Concourse Dr, San Francisco, CA 94118

Коли: Thursday, 4 PM – 6 PM

Join Us and Celebrate the 33rd Year Anniversary of Ukraine's Independence!

The 25th annual Ukrainian-American Day Concert with the Golden Gate Park Band. This free outdoor concert

at the Music Concourse Band shell (Spreckels Temple of Music) is to celebrate the 32nd Anniversary of Ukraine's Independence.

Sponsored by the Ukrainian American Coordinating Council in cooperation with the Ukrainian Heritage Club of Northern California, St. Michael's Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, and UNWLA Branch 107 San Jose.

Contact: Maria Tscherepenko at (650) 281-6927.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/408328465574240/>

25 AUGUST BIKE FOR UKRAINE | SAN DIEGO

House of Ukraine & Oleh Kernytsky

Where: Embarcadero Marina Park South

When: Thursday, 7 AM

Celebrate 33 years of Ukraine's independence by participating in 17th Annual Bike The Bay, organized by San Diego Bike Association. It is San Diego's finest annual non-competitive bike ride with gravel loop option. Pedal across the San Diego – Coronado Bay Bridge and around the San Diego Bay. Wear an embroidered Ukrainian shirt, t-shirt with Ukrainian symbols and/or Ukrainian flag. Please register at

<https://www.bikethebay.net/>

<https://www.facebook.com/events/2113555042363308/>

29 AUGUST THMK | SAN FRANCISCO

MoLoKo & THMK

Where: City Nights, 715 Harrison St, San Francisco, CA 94107

When: Thursday, 7 PM

We're preparing for charity concerts in the USA and Canada.

An explosive North American tour from the classics of Ukrainian hip-hop. Several generations have been listening to their albums for almost 30 years. For the first time in 20 years,

Fahot and Fozzey (LIVE performance) in the USA and Canada.

16 cities and 17 concerts – and at each one, we will be collecting donations to help Ukraine. This is the main goal. The charity tour is supported by the Main Intelligence of the Ministry of Defense, and this time we are raising funds for one of the most powerful special units – ‘Artan’.

No matter what, Goodness will always overcome Evil!

Your support and donations are welcome! Join us!

Tickets: \$70 to \$85

https://moloko.ticketleap.com/tmksf/dates/Aug-29-2024_at_0700PM

<https://www.facebook.com/events/469435565658239/>

1 SEPTEMBER UKRAINIAN FESTIVAL 2024 – LAWN PROGRAM | SAN DIEGO

House of Ukraine

Where: House of Ukraine cottage, 667 Pan American Rd W, San Diego, CA

When: Sunday, 11 AM – 5 PM

Treat yourself to potato and cheese varenyky with sour cream and fried onions, kovbasa, salads, sweet treats, watermelon and drinks (11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.).

Enjoy our lawn program (2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.) featuring the Chervona Kalyna Dance Group (Los Angeles), U3Zub, Iaroslava Caracosa, Ridna Shkola students, and more.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/448409024785284/>



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