

We share President Obama's view of what is at stake in Ukraine but we believe that the situation requires the United States to do more. The President said the following in Tallinn:

And yet, as we gather here today, we know that this vision is threatened by Russia's aggression against Ukraine. It is a brazen assault on the territorial integrity of Ukraine -- a sovereign and independent European nation. It challenges that most basic of principles of our international system -- that borders cannot be redrawn at the barrel of a gun; that nations have the right to determine their own future. It undermines an international order where the rights of peoples and nations are upheld and can't simply be taken away by brute force. This is what's at stake in Ukraine. This is why we stand with the people of Ukraine today.

In light of this, Russia must be prevented from using military force and the threat of military force to force further changes in Ukraine. We appreciate the fact that a ceasefire is in place. However, we remain skeptical that the Russians and their separatist puppets will maintain the ceasefire in the long run, or that they will agree to a political settlement that preserves Ukraine's territorial and political integrity. To deter the Russians from resuming the fighting or demanding that Kiev agree to unacceptable terms for a settlement requires more than sanctions and other direct actions by the United States and its NATO allies. It also requires training and equipping Ukrainian military forces so that they can stalemate the separatists supported and augmented with clandestine Russian forces. President Obama should now make clear to Putin the United States' determination to do this. This would encourage Putin to maintain the ceasefire and to not resume the escalation because Russia knows it cannot outbid the US in sophisticated armaments.

Therefore:

- Ukraine should be provided with the lethal military assistance it needs to stand up to the overwhelming military strength of Russia. Otherwise Putin will achieve his objectives by military means.
- The United States should provide Ukraine with the same level of sophistication in defensive weapons to match the level of the opposing forces. In poker terms, the U.S. will “meet but not raise”.
- Ukrainian personnel should be trained outside Ukraine, for instance in Romania, so that U.S. military personnel would not be exposed and NATO forces would not be in Ukraine.

CONFIDENTIAL