



news release

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QUELLET RELEASES TEXT OF LETTER TO THE UKRAINIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today released the text of a letter to Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko concerning the situation in Crimea. A copy of the letter follows.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

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His Excellency Anatoliy Zlenko
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Kiev, Ukraine

Excellency,

Thank you for your letter of May 20, 1994, setting out Ukraine's position on recent developments in Crimea, and in particular, the Crimean parliament's decision on the May 1992 constitution.

Canada strongly supports Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. We have underlined our continuing commitment to Ukraine many times since December 1991, most recently during my visit to Kiev.

A stable and secure Ukraine is essential to European stability and a key factor in global security. It is imperative that all parties with interests in Crimea act with the greatest prudence and moderation, to find a negotiated solution and avoid any worsening of the current crisis.

Your statements and those of President Kravchuk, confirming that Ukraine does not intend to use force, have been most helpful. We are also reassured by Russia's position that this is fundamentally a matter for Ukraine to resolve.

Yours sincerely,

André Ouellet