

To the committee,

efforts to hold Russia to account, including by addressing mis- and dis- information in Australian public debate and the region:

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OSCEPA(2019) INTERNATIONAL ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSION: Ukraine “
Presidential Election, 31 March 2019. (p10)

PACE(2019) Election observation report: Observation of the presidential election in Ukraine (31 March and 21 April 2019). Doc. 14896. (s42)

whether support is appropriately coordinated on a whole-of-government and whether the support is timely, coordinated and comprehensive and whole-of-country basis:

It is a complicated affair so I shall address a key point among the grievances of the people of Donbas. The removal of Russian as an official state language turned the conflict into a holy war and gave justification for Russian military intervention. Discussion regarding the return of Russian as an official state language could promote de-escalation. The proposal to install U.S.A. made missile batteries close to the Russian border was a provocation and perceived as an act of war. a moratorium on military buildup and demilitarization along the Russian border could promote de-escalation. Australia has an obligation to participate in the deconfliction of the region. Attempts to seize control of the key strategic naval base - Sevastopol- were non-negotiable and would never succeed without a hot war. It is a war with no clear winners and the clear losers are the Ukrainian people. Some symbolic concessions would go a long way to de-escalate the conflict.

Ideally a multinational task force should be deployed to de-escalate the conflict as the result of multilateral high-level negotiations. Such an action is feasible as demonstrated by the protection afforded to Israeli authorities in their ongoing massacre of Palestinian civilians. It's just not desirable within the geopolitical theater or for achieving geopolitical goals. Ideally as a responsible member of the international community we should be pushing for de-escalation of conflict and multilateral solutions. We end up with the absurd situation in which the way to help Ukraine is to kill lots of Ukrainians. Bombs for Peace is not a sustainable long term solution. Now Russia would lose the political support of the P.R.C. if a fair compromise was offered and refused. Similarly they would be strongly encouraged to participate in such dialogue by the P.R.C. . Managing Russia means calculating the political will of the P.R.C. that has taken an absolute position in support of international law. Such a resolution to the conflict would also necessitate Ukrainian authorities requesting assistance from the U.N. strengthening the implementation of their legal and anti-corruption framework that the P.R.C. could only support because unlike the Ukrainian legal system, the P.R.C. obeys the principle of legal certainty especially in international forums. The only question remaining is the political will of the Ukrainian establishment for the end of the conflict.

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