



STATEMENT

Conservative statement on Russia's military buildup on Ukraine's border and in Crimea

April 9, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ottawa, ON – The Hon. Michael Chong, Conservative Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs, and James Bezan, Conservative Shadow Minister for National Defence, issued the following statement denouncing Russia's military buildup and reaffirming support for Ukraine:

"Conservatives condemn in the strongest possible terms Russia's reinforcement of its illegal military presence in Ukraine's territory of Crimea. Russian tanks have been moving across the Kerch Strait Bridge, adding to Russia's military footprint in the peninsula.

"Conservatives are also concerned about Russia's military buildup on Ukraine's eastern border, a move that threatens the stability of Eastern Europe and the NATO alliance.

"Conservatives call on the Trudeau government to counter Russia's threatening moves by increasing support to Ukraine through the supply of military defensive aid and reoffering the use of RADARSAT imaging to assist in the identification of Russian troop movements and equipment.

"From the beginning, Conservatives have supported Ukraine. We were one of the first to recognize Ukraine's independence after the collapse of the Soviet Union. We condemned Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea and occupation of the Donbas. We implemented sanctions against individuals involved in the illegitimate referendum and established Operation UNIFIER, a Canadian-led military training mission in Ukraine.

"Conservatives stand shoulder to shoulder with the people of Ukraine in their fight for freedom, sovereignty, and territorial integrity."

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