



FSC Security Dialogue on Vienna Document, U.S. Right of Reply to Russian Federation

As delivered by Ambassador James S. Gilmore

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Thank you Mr. Chairman,

I would like to reaffirm Canada's statement that NATO is a defensive Alliance and has no malicious intention toward the territorial integrity of any state, including the Russian Federation and its territory. NATO defends against Russian aggression. It is Russia that changed its cooperative posture of previous years.

As far as the Open Skies Treaty, which is handled in a different forum-- the Open Skies Consultative Commission--the reason for U.S. withdrawal is because of continued Russian violations, including the Kaliningrad sublimit; not allowing an observation flight segment over the TSENTR exercise, in which China participated; and the exclusion zone along the Russian Georgian border, using the treaty to claim that the two occupied regions of Georgia are independent countries, which quite frankly do not exist. Not to mention the use of the treaty by Russia to observe key infrastructure in the United States, which is not what the treaty is intended for. This has led the United States to conclude that the treaty is no longer in our best interest.

My Russian colleague also continuously mentions NATO's policy of Russian containment. Well, I ask what is Russia being contained from? Does Russia want to break out? When we look at the actual invasion of Crimea, the militarization of the Crimean Peninsula, its behavior within Eastern Ukraine, its behavior in Georgia -- all of these to challenge the sovereignty of states within the OSCE region. These are the things to which NATO is responding, and quite frankly in a low-key and conservative way.

Take the DEFENDER exercise, for example. It was well notified, well explained and, in fact, it was only downsized, not for the purpose of evading any Vienna Document notification, but because of the corona virus.

So, what are we to think? I reiterate my statement today in light of the history of Russia post-World War II, with its behavior toward Eastern Europe, and toward countries that are sovereign today, and whose sovereignty the OSCE intends to

maintain -- we recognize the sovereignty of Ukraine, we recognize the sovereignty of Georgia. This is what is under attack right now, and which goes to the foundation of European security. This is the problem, and the real need -- why we need Vienna Document modernization.

If all parties agree that we should adhere to the principles of the OSCE and the Helsinki Final Act, that we should have peace and security in Europe so that we can get about the business of building a better future for all the people of Europe, including the Russian people, then why not begin to engage in this discussion? Address the legitimate concerns and move forward, which is the discussion that Ukrainian Chairmanship is advancing today on the Vienna Document.

Thank you very much Mr. Chairman