

Global Scotland – Edition 11 – March 2022

SNP Foreign Affairs and Defence Newsletter

War in Europe: Putin Leaves Russia Isolated

President Putin launched an unprovoked attack on Ukraine in February after months of tensions finally boiled over. The needless assault on a sovereign country which has seen substantial civilian casualties has been widely condemned around the world.

The SNP has been resolute in its support of Ukraine and has been pushing the UK Government to go much further in its sanctions over Russia. It has also pressed for the UK to follow the EU's footsteps and waive visas for those fleeing the conflict.

Meanwhile, the Scottish Government has committed £4 million in humanitarian aid, especially in providing medical supplies.

See more [here](#) and [here](#).

SNP MP's Mission to Kyiv

SNP MPs travelled to Kyiv at the beginning of February for discussions with Ukrainian parliamentarians and officials to hear their views of what was happening on the ground and how they can help.

Alyn Smith MP (SNP Foreign Affairs Spokesperson), Stewart McDonald MP (SNP Defence Spokesperson), and Dave Doogan MP (SNP Member of Defence Select Committee) met with the Ukraine Deputy Foreign Minister Mykola Tochytskyi, MPs including Lesia Vasylenko and Kira Rudik, as well as Deputy Defence Minister Hanna Maliar alongside officials from the Ukrainian Ministry of Defence, during the three day visit.

See more [here](#) and [here](#)

Russia Sanctions Weak & Insufficient

In response to Putin's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine, the West has implemented some of the toughest sanctions against Russia. Yet the UK has failed to match the EU and US in the level of sanctions imposed, hamstrung by ineffective regulations and reluctance of successive UK administrations to tackle money laundering in the city of London.

The SNP has backed all sanctions measures that have come to the house but have urged the UK to go further by freezing and seizing assets of Russia's corrupt elite, close sanction loopholes and implement the same measures against Belarus.

Read more [here](#).

Defence Firms “Vital” for Scotland

The SNP have been speaking with Defence companies based in Scotland to reassure them of their "vital" importance for Scotland's economy and security. Speaking to 'The Times', Defence Spokesperson Stewart McDonald MP said: "An independent Scotland will be a key player in protecting our North Atlantic neighbourhood, and a thriving domestic defence sector... will play a vital role in supporting that posture." Meanwhile, Dave Doogan MP, SNP Defence Procurement Spokesperson also reiterated their importance to Scotland in 'The Courier'

Read more [here](#) and [here](#)

SNP Committed to Peace in Balkans

Tensions remain high in Bosnia & Herzegovina (BiH) as Bosnian Serb leader, Milorad Dodik, continues to stir up unrest and discontent in the country. Alyn Smith MP, SNP Foreign Affairs spokesperson, spoke with N1's Ika Ferrer Gotic where they discussed the ongoing tensions and what more the West can do to support peace in BiH.

See more [here](#) and [here](#).

Oxfam & Amnesty Briefings with SNP

Alyn Smith MP hosted a virtual briefing alongside Oxfam for SNP members and staff with an update on the humanitarian situation in Yemen, which continues to suffer one of the world's worst humanitarian crises.

The SNP also met with Amnesty International to discuss the NGO's latest report on Israel-Palestine.

See more [here](#) and [here](#).

Meeting with Joint Expeditionary Force

SNP Defence spokesperson Stewart McDonald MP and other opposition defence spokespersons were invited by Ben Wallace MP to meet with national defence ministers of the Joint Expeditionary Force (JEF).

A productive discussion was had which allowed the spokespersons to hear first-hand the threat of Russian aggression facing these nations.

See more [here](#).

Why an Independent Scotland Should Join NATO

Recent events have demonstrated now more than ever the importance of an independent Scotland joining NATO. Writing in 'The Scotsman', Stewart McDonald MP outlined how joining NATO would secure Scotland's sovereign borders as well as develop our ties with nations which share our values. He added: "I am pro-Nato because I am pro-peace... In a complex and increasingly unpredictable world, the key to our security lies in multilateralism, international co-operation and public support for our democratic institutions."

Read it [here](#).

SNP Delegates Hold Productive Discussions with MPs and MEPs

UK delegates to the EU-UK Parliamentary Partnership Assembly held their first meeting together, with SNP Delegates Dr Philippa Whitford MP and Alyn Smith MP representing the party. Both MPs also met with MEPs from various groups of the European Parliament in productive preliminary discussions. There is a joint willingness to make the assembly work, with Alyn and Philippa expressing their hope that Scotland has as close and productive relationship with Europe as possible.

See more [here](#) and [here](#).

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