

## **Global Scotland – Edition 14 – July 2022**

### **SNP Foreign Affairs and Defence Newsletter**

#### **SNP Submission to NATO Strategic Concept Published**

The SNP's Defence Team published their recommendations ahead of NATO's Madrid Summit where members discussed its Strategic Concept. The paper calls on NATO to strengthen frameworks for nuclear non-proliferation, establish a "permanent presence" on the alliance's eastern flank, as well as urging for society-wide resilience to counter hybrid threats.

The paper was warmly received and 'The Scotsman' noted the paper's findings that "...an independent Scotland would be "best served" as a member of both NATO and the European Union."

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

#### **Special Forces Face Further Allegations**

It's high time that the UK's special forces have democratic oversight argues SNP Defence Spokesperson Stewart McDonald MP.

Speaking at Prime Minister's Questions, the Glasgow South MP raised the subject of alleged unlawful killings by members of the UK's special forces in Afghanistan, as revealed by a joint investigation by Panorama and 'The Times'.

He called for the creation of an Australia-style independent inquiry to investigate the claims. Such an inquiry would also address the issues caused by the lack of democratic oversight and ensure justice for the victims.

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

## **Support for Ukraine Must Not Waver**

It is vital that training for Ukrainian soldiers by the UK intensifies ahead of the winter, the SNP argues.

Defence spokesperson Stewart McDonald MP raised the subject of training for Ukrainians at Defence Questions earlier in the month. He noted that the Russian Defence Minister has ordered that attacks on Ukraine should intensify.

Consequently, Mr McDonald sought reassurances from the Secretary of State that the training Ukrainians are receiving from the UK will keep pace with the intensifying Russian attacks and help Ukrainian forces get through the winter.

See more [here](#).

## **UK Not Listening on Northern Ireland**

The SNP have warned that the UK is continuing to undermine its own talks with the EU over its negligent actions over Northern Ireland. Speaking in the House of Commons, SNP Foreign Affairs spokesperson Alyn Smith MP criticised the decision to bring forward legislation on the Northern Ireland protocol which threatens to break international law.

In a separate meeting, he and Richard Thomson MP (SNP Northern Ireland spokesperson) reiterated their support for peace in Northern Ireland and international law to the Irish Foreign Secretary Simon Coveney.

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

## **Crisis in Sri Lanka Worsens**

The SNP have urged the UK to help support Sri Lanka as the country attempts to get to grips with its crippling economic situation.

Alyn Smith MP spoke in the Chamber and called for the UK to contribute towards providing emergency aid, ensure those responsible for the crisis are held to account, as well help other countries facing debt crises.

See more [here](#).

## **UK Government Failing FCDO Staff**

Alyn Smith MP accused the UK Government of demotivating FCDO staff due to continual scandals, job losses and cuts to foreign aid.

The SNP's Foreign Affairs spokesperson made the point at FCDO Questions and urged the Minister to reverse course and "actually support civil servants doing tough jobs in tough times."

See more [here](#).

## **Remembering Srebrenica**

The SNP Foreign Affairs spokesperson paid tribute to the work of 'Remembering Srebrenica' and called on MPs to ask how they can prevent future genocides.

Alyn Smith, MP for Stirling, also noted that the peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina remains fragile and more needs to be done to support its institutions.

See more [here](#).

## **SNP Delegation Welcomed Back in Brussels**

An SNP Delegation travelled to Brussels and held successful meetings with MEPs and diplomats from around Europe.

Foreign Affairs spokesperson Alyn Smith MP and Europe spokesperson Dr Philippa Whitford MP met with a variety of stakeholders, including MEPs from the Green-EFA group, Renew, GUE/NGL group and the EPP. They also met with staff from Scotland House, as well as diplomats from the Irish and Lithuanian Permanent Representation to the European Union.

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

## **Foreign Affairs Committee in Action**

The SNP's representative on the UK's Foreign Affairs Committee, Stewart McDonald MP, travelled with members for meetings with counterparts in the United States.

The Committee had successful discussions in Washington on Capitol Hill discussing issues of security and defence. They also met with colleagues in New York at the United Nations, including the Ukrainian Permanent Representative Sergiy Kyslytsya where they discussed priorities for bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

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

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