

Ukraine Stands Strong 6 Months Later

Ukrainians celebrated the 31st Anniversary of their independence on the 24th August, a date which also marks 6 months since Russia's renewed invasion.

Writing in 'The Scotsman', SNP Defence Spokesperson Stewart McDonald MP noted how Ukrainians are not only fighting to defend their freedoms but also those across Europe and the world. He added: "The war in Ukraine serves as a sharp reminder that the future is not fixed. There is a new world incubating amidst the domestic tumult and the foreign wars, and how these problems are resolved will shape the world for generations to come. Even if we just haven't all realised it yet. Sláva Ukrajíni!"

See more [here](#).

Scottish Diplomacy in the World

Scottish diplomacy can go a long way towards boosting the country's reputation and engagement argues Alyn Smith MP.

Writing in his weekly National column, the SNP's Foreign Affairs spokesperson noted the importance of international engagement at all levels in the party.

He praised the recent trips of the Young Scots for Independence to Strasbourg and the Nordics, where members have formed close ties with other political young people. The Stirling MP also contrasted the positivity of Scottish actions in the world to that of 'Global Britain'.

See more [here](#).

West Must Keep Arming Ukraine

Stewart McDonald MP reiterated his call for the West to continue arming Ukraine in a column for 'The Scotsman'.

The SNP's Defence Spokesperson stated his concern that there has historically been a lack of long-term thinking in the UK's political institutions. The Glasgow South MP cited the UK's failure to hold Russia's illegal and aggressive actions in Crimea and the Donbass as one example of this. He added: "...The longer we wait [to help Ukraine], the more those options will disappear and the more expensive – in both financial and political terms – those few remaining choices will become."

See more [here](#).

Scotland Can Help Tackle Global Debt

Sri Lanka is "the canary in the coal mine of unsustainable debt" warns Alyn Smith MP.

Sri Lanka has been undergoing a traumatic economic crisis which saw inflation hit 54.6% in June this year as well as extreme shortages of food and fuel. It owes more than \$51bn to foreign lenders, including \$6.5bn to China. Writing in 'The National', the SNP's Foreign Affairs spokesperson noted how many of the world's poorest countries were already in debt distress or at high risk. He added that an independent Scotland would be able to use its legal expertise in debt arbitration to help other countries around the world.

See more [here](#).

Ambassador Meetings

Alyn Smith MP has met with the new Portuguese and German Ambassadors, the latter alongside Europe Spokesperson Dr Philippa Whitford MP. He also recently met with HE Mansoor Abulhoul, the UAE Ambassador to the UK.

The meetings were productive and helpful, and offered lots of ways for Scotland to cooperate with the wider world.

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

Cyprus in a Changing World

The SNP's Foreign Affairs spokesperson Alyn Smith MP was a guest speaker at the APPG for Cyprus event 'Cyprus Foreign Policy in a Changing World'.

The event was co-hosted by the National Federation of Cypriots in the UK, and included speakers from civil society, parliamentarians as well as both UK and Cypriot Ministers.

See more [here](#).

Commonwealth Games Success

Scotland's performance at the Commonwealth Games brought a much-needed feel-good factor and the independence movement could learn from their examples argues Alyn Smith MP.

The MP for Stirling noted that "Each and every one of them has shown how Scotland can punch above its weight in sport and in the world at large."

See more [here](#).

Lessons Have Not Been Learnt From Afghanistan

August marked one year since the fall of Kabul to the Taliban after 20 years of war. However, the UK has failed to analyse what went wrong over the course of the conflict claims Alyn Smith MP.

Writing in 'The National', Smith outlined the devastating humanitarian consequences the Taliban's recapture of Afghanistan has had on the local population. He added: "If we are serious about an independent Scotland in Europe and the world, we must be realistic about the challenges and obstacles we will face."

See more [here](#).

Ukraine Training Needs to Continue

SNP Defence Spokesperson Stewart McDonald MP urged the UK Government to keep pace with what is needed for the training of Ukrainian armed forces, particularly ahead of the winter.

The Glasgow South MP and member of the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee raised the issue during the last session of Defence Questions before the Summer Recess. He also praised the cooperation of the Ministry of Defence over recent months in regard to Ukraine and expressed his hope that this cooperation will continue.

See more [here](#).

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