

GLOBAL SCOTLAND

SNP Foreign Affairs and Defence
Newsletter



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UK Risks Inflaming Tensions in Middle East

The SNP's Foreign Affairs spokesperson has warned the UK government against any plans to relocate the British embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem after separate comments made by the new Prime Minister and her ministers at FCDO Questions earlier this month.

Alyn Smith MP stated that the reported relocation risks violating international law and inflaming tensions at a time when relations between Israel and Palestine are increasingly strained. He has subsequently written to the new Foreign Secretary asking for reassurances that the Embassy will not be moved and has also submitted an Early Day Motion on the issue.



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



'Keep Up Ukraine Support!' MPs Urge

The House of Commons debated the situation in Ukraine the previous week, with both SNP Defence spokesperson, Stewart McDonald MP, and SNP Foreign Affairs spokesperson, Alyn Smith MP, making important contributions.

Mr McDonald reflected on his most recent visit to Ukraine and made the case for continuing assistance to the country. He also warned about those who would argue for an end to the war at any cost. Smith added to his points by highlighting how the SNP has supported the international coalition to support Ukraine and urged the UK to go further in giving meaningful support for refugees.

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



NI Protocol Bill Must Be Cut

The UK has "cynically abused" the Northern Ireland Protocol, claims Alyn Smith MP.

The issue was raised at FCDO Questions after House had returned from summer recess. Smith argued that the proposed Bill is "wrong in international law, wrong in politics... and wrong as a negotiating tactic..."

He added: "There are ways of reforming the protocol within the protocol, but that has been ignored. The only way that the Bill makes sense to me is as a vehicle for the future Prime Minister to prove how tough she is on Europe. Now is the time to get rid of it."

See more [here](#).



Returning to Ukraine

The SNP's Stewart McDonald MP returned to Ukraine alongside other members of the House of Commons' Foreign Affairs Committee in September.

The delegation attended the annual YES (Yalta European Strategy) Conference, which involved a broad discussion with speakers from around the world. Topics discussed included the current state of the war, future security guarantees for Ukraine, disinformation, rebuilding Ukraine after its victory, amongst others.

The delegation also met with President Zelensky and his team.

See more [here](#).



Scotland Meets Armenia

Alyn Smith MP met with the Armenian Ambassador to the UK, HE Varuzhan Nersesyan, at the start of September.

The fruitful discussion covered a variety of topics, including trade between Scotland and Armenia, human rights, conflict resolution and international co-operation.

[See more here.](#)



Pakistan Floods Devastate Country

Floods have devastated Pakistan, with more than 33 million people being displaced and a third of the country covered with water.

SNP MPs, including Alyn Smith MP and Stewart McDonald MP, wrote to the Foreign Secretary urging the Government to issue a Ministerial Statement on the issue as well as raise aid levels for the country.

[See more here.](#)



Scottish Security in Europe

SNP Defence spokesperson, Stewart McDonald MP, participated in a joint discussion alongside Allan Dorans MP and Siobhian Brown MSP on all things defence, security and independence. With the next referendum just over a year away, it is clear that SNP members are keen to engage with the issues of the debate, and help secure Scotland's independence in Europe.

[See more here.](#)



Iranian Crackdown On Women's Rights Unacceptable

The SNP have criticised the violent crackdown on protestors by the Iranian regime and have urged the Foreign Secretary to take proactive measures to support their right to peaceful protest.

Alyn Smith MP has written to the Foreign Secretary asking what the FCDO is doing to assist or protect protestors in Iran. He also asked what representations have been made to Iranian counterparts regarding their human rights obligations and urged for a statement to be given to Parliament at the earliest opportunity.

[See more here.](#)



SNP Call for Closing of Sanctions Loopholes

The UK ought to go further in closing sanctions loopholes as it looks to weaken Putin's regime argues Alyn Smith MP.

The SNP's Foreign Affairs spokesperson pointed out that there is a greater need to scrutinise third countries and overseas territories laundering Russian assets, such as refining of Russian energy products. He also called for more support to be given to UK businesses who have acted in good faith but are suffering the loss of revenue from Russia.

[See more here.](#)

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