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**TO: NCSJ Leadership and Interested Parties**

**FROM: Stephen M. Greenberg, Chairman;  
Alexander Smukler, NCSJ President;  
Mark B. Levin, NCSJ Executive Director**

**UKRAINE UPDATE #17**

Yesterday, the U.S. House and Senate approved a \$1 billion aid package for Ukraine and sanctions on Russia. President Obama said he will sign the legislation, which also includes new sanctions on Russians and Ukrainians who aided in Crimea's annexation.

Also yesterday, the IMF announced a \$14-18 billion credit for Ukraine, allowing for further aid from the EU, the U.S. and others, up to \$27 billion.

These were important steps by the IMF and the U.S. in helping to fulfill Ukraine's urgent needs and aid its economic transition. The IMF deal however, calls for tough economic reforms and austerity measures, which would require significant sacrifices by the people of Ukraine.

Also, in a speech before the Verkhovna Rada, Acting Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk called on the Rada to pass a number of budget cuts. Yatsenyuk announced future gas tariff increases and downsizing of the government, including the elimination of a number of government jobs.

The U.N. General Assembly also sent a strong signal to Russia yesterday. It adopted a non-binding resolution that affirms Ukraine's territorial integrity and calls Russia's annexation of Crimea illegal.

Tensions on Ukraine's eastern border persist, as Russian forces gather there - according to new U.S. intelligence reports, close to 40,000 troops. President Obama called on Russia to move its troops from the border and begin direct negotiations with the new Ukrainian government.

Ousted Ukrainian leader Viktor Yanukovich made a speech today urging all regions of Ukraine to hold referendums on their "status within Ukraine." He added that "only an all-

Ukrainian referendum, not a snap presidential election, can, in a significant way, stabilize the political situation and preserve sovereignty and Ukraine's [territorial] integrity."

Yanukovych's speech further fuels concerns by the population of Eastern Ukraine about Russian military intervention and provocations by pro-Russian groups in the region. In attempt to prevent further provocations in Kharkiv, leaders of Maidan and anti-Maidan movements in the city agreed to a truce and cooperation.

In a troubling development yesterday, close to 1,500 supporters of Right Sector gathered at the Verkhovna Rada to protest the alleged inadequacy of the investigation into the death of Right Sector coordinator Oleksandr Muzychko (aka "Sashko Bily"), who was arrested and killed earlier this week. They demanded the resignation of Ukrainian Interior Minister Arsen Avakov and attempted to storm the Rada building.

Such disturbing actions by Right Sector reinforce NCSJ's concerns about the extremist activities of far-right groups in Ukraine. It is incumbent upon the government of Ukraine not to tolerate these actions and to enforce the rule of law.

NCSJ will continue to closely monitor the situation in Ukraine and provide you with critical and timely information.

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## About NCSJ

NCSJ: Advocates on Behalf of Jews in Russia, Ukraine, the Baltic States & Eurasia, founded in 1971, represents the organized American Jewish community in monitoring and advocating on behalf of the estimated 1.5 million Jews living in the 15 successor states of the former Soviet Union.

Website: <http://WWW.NCSJ.ORG>

NCSJ

email: [ncsjinfo@ncsj.org](mailto:ncsjinfo@ncsj.org)

phone: 202-898-2500

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