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**TO: NCSJ Leadership and Interested Parties**

**FROM: Stephen M. Greenberg, Chairman;  
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**UKRAINE UPDATE #5**

On Monday, the U.S. House of Representatives passed [H.Res.447](#), a resolution "supporting the democratic aspirations of the people of Ukraine, and their right to choose their own future free of intimidation and fear."

The measure condemns all acts of violence in Ukraine, urges all parties to engage in a constructive dialogue, and urges the United States and the European Union to continue to work together to bring the crisis to a peaceful resolution.

Efforts toward dialogue and resolution are gaining critical momentum. The U.S. and the EU are working to craft both a financial aid package to address Ukraine's urgent needs and the conditions for its acceptance. EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton plans to meet with IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde in Washington on Thursday to discuss a possible "Ukrainian Plan."

Inside Ukraine, things appear to be at an impasse. The main opposition leaders have urged the government to introduce reform by reverting to the 2004 version of the constitution, which limited presidential powers. According to Ukrainian news reports, however, the Party of Regions and the Communist Party of Ukraine have refused to consider the initiative.

President Viktor Yanukovich has not named a new Prime Minister to replace Mykola Azarov, who resigned and left the country last month. First Deputy Prime Minister Serhiy Arbuzov, a former central bank chief with close ties to President Yanukovich, has taken over as acting prime minister.

The political deadlock has contributed to the economic crisis in the country, and the confidence in Ukraine's currency, the *hryvnia*, is eroding.

In another disturbing development, the Ukrainian security agency issued a statement on

Sunday warning of potential terrorist attacks, after receiving a number of anonymous threats against airports, train stations, and other locations in the country.

In Russia, attention has shifted from Ukraine to the ongoing Sochi Olympic Games, providing a window of opportunity for the West to act. It remains to be seen whether the EU can overcome its internal divisions to put together, with the U.S., a set of concrete proposals that would satisfy both the Ukrainian government and the opposition.

NCSJ will continue to closely monitor the situation in Ukraine and provide you with relevant 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.

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