



Exposed: Ukraine slaughtered for ‘NATO mission’ vs Russia

By Elisa Barwick

Ukrainian Defence Minister Oleksei Reznikov bragged in a 5 January TV interview that his nation is proudly “carrying out NATO’s mission”. He was backed up by Ukraine’s ambassador to the UK, Vadim Prystaiko, who told *Newsweek* two days later: “There are not many nations in the world who would allow themselves to sacrifice so many lives, territories and decades of development for the purpose of defeating the archenemy.” The enemy, of course, being Russia.

Urging rejection of Russia’s offer of a ceasefire ahead of Orthodox Christmas, Prystaiko, who headed Ukraine’s mission to NATO in 2017-19, assured *Newsweek* that Ukraine will become part of NATO, boasting of interoperability already on the ground. Prystaiko was Ukraine’s chief negotiator for the Minsk Peace Accords but in 2015, as Deputy Foreign Minister during those negotiations for peace, he told Canada’s CBC Radio that Ukraine was “preparing for full-scale war”.

Prystaiko’s comments, then and now, resonate with the recent admissions of key European leaders that the 2014 Minsk Accords were never intended to result in a peaceful settlement of the conflict between Ukraine and the Donbass region. The Donetsk and Lugansk People’s Republics had declared independence after the February 2014 US/UK-supported coup against the democratically elected government of Ukraine and installation of a pro-NATO puppet regime with the help of neo-Nazi militias. (Full details at citizensparty.org.au.) Crimea also broke with Ukraine, reunifying with Russia, and by September the Ukrainian army was exhausted in its battle against the rebelling territories. The Minsk Agreement between Ukraine and Russia was then initiated, mediated by German and French leaders Angela Merkel and François Hollande. Including a ceasefire between Kiev and the Eastern republics, plus constitutional autonomy for those regions, without Western enforcement it constantly stalled. But it was at this time that the USA and UK stepped up support for the Ukrainian military with expanded training and provision of equipment, betraying the real plan.

Only after it was abundantly clear that Minsk was dead, with its December 2021 appeal to the USA and NATO for a mutual security guarantee ignored and a bold military build-up by Ukraine and NATO underway, did Russia commence its Special Military Operation in February 2022.

In late 2022 three of the key players who forged the Minsk accords admitted the ruse that bought them time to arm and train Ukrainians for war with Russia:

- On 17 November 2022 former Ukrainian President (2014-19) Petro Poroshenko, in discussion with Russian pranksters Vovan and Lexus, confessed: “I needed the Minsk Agreements for having at least these four and a half years to form the Ukrainian Armed Forces, build the economy and train the Ukrainian military together with NATO. To create the best armed forces in Eastern Europe, according to NATO standards.”

- In a 7 December interview with German newspaper *Die Zeit*, former German Chancellor Merkel admitted: “The 2014 Minsk agreement was an attempt to give time to Ukraine. It also used this time to become stronger as can be seen today. The Ukraine of 2014-15 is not the modern Ukraine.” Merkel said “it was clear to everyone” that the conflict in the Donbass had stalled, and that the Minsk Accords “gave Ukraine

invaluable time” to justify NATO support.

- Former French President Hollande, during a 28 December interview with the *Kyiv Independent*, was asked about Merkel’s comments: “Do you also believe that the negotiations in Minsk were intended to delay Russian advances in Ukraine?” He answered: “Yes, Angela Merkel is right on this point. The Minsk agreements stopped the Russian offensive for a while. What was very important was to know how the West would use this respite to prevent any further Russian attempts.”

Referring to the Minsk talks following Merkel’s revelation, Russian foreign ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said the West “already knew that they would never implement it and that they would be filling up the Kyiv regime with weapons. They did not care about anyone: women, children, the civilian population of Donbass or Ukraine in general. They needed a conflict and they were ready for it back then already, in 2015.”

Deputy Speaker of Russia’s Federation Council Konstantin Kosachev wrote on his Telegram channel: “The admissions by Merkel and Hollande are proof of betrayal. The southeast of then Ukraine was betrayed by the West from the start despite the verbal fluff around it. The cost of this betrayal was thousands of human lives over the past eight years of civil war in Ukraine.... Russia has been systematically deceived since the end of the Cold War ... with one goal: to geopolitically weaken our country”.

In his New Year Address to the Nation, Russian President Vladimir Putin blasted the deception: “For years, Western elites hypocritically assured us of their peaceful intentions, including to help resolve the serious conflict in Donbass. But in fact, they encouraged the neo-Nazis in every possible way, who continued to take military and overtly terrorist action against peaceful civilians in the people’s republics of Donbass. The West lied to us about peace while preparing for aggression, and today, they no longer hesitate to openly admit it and to cynically use Ukraine and its people as a means to weaken and divide Russia. We have never allowed anyone to do this and we will not allow it now.”

In other reactions, Swiss intelligence expert Jacques Baud wrote on the blog *Current Affairs in Focus* that “Recent interviews with Angela Merkel ... show that Germany deliberately sacrificed peace in Europe to maintain the appearance of unity in NATO.” An interview with the grandson of former French President Charles de Gaulle—who in 1966 withdrew France from NATO military integration—was cited by German Linke party founder Oskar Lafontaine on 6 January warning that “Public opinion is beginning to become aware of the perverse game and lies of the Americans and NATO in particular. The Ukraine crisis is being used to destabilise Europe. The war triggers are the Americans and NATO, and I would like to cite as evidence the statements of Mrs Merkel, who said that she never intended to implement the Minsk agreements ... [and] has done everything to allow NATO to arm Ukraine, has done everything to lay the groundwork for this conflict. By allowing this Ukrainian nationalist expansion, she has allowed 16,000 to 18,000 people [in the Donbass] to be bombed and killed.” Lafontaine insisted the German government “abandon its US-affiliated policy and push for an immediate cease-fire and peace negotiations”.