

## Ukraine Charity Gala Function, Polish Club in Bankstown, 20 March 2022

### SPEAKING NOTES – Prof Sev Ozdowski AM

Dzień Dobry Państwu.

Jako, iż wśród nas są ludzie, którzy nie mówią po Polsku, powiem parę słów po angielsku.

My warm welcome goes to the Polish Consul General, Honorary Consul of Ukraine, President of the Polish Club, many volunteers here who made today's charity gala possible.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, all!

On 24 February this year a peaceful Ukraine attacked in very early morning by its powerful neighbour – the Russian Federation.

There was no good reason for this brutal aggression. To put it simply, it is Russian attempt to rewrite the post-Soviet history outcomes and to re-establish Russian evil empire.

As a result, today, we live in a very different world as not only Ukraine was attacked. Russia also attacked the Europe; it attacked the existing world order; it attacked our values.

Every day we learn through the media about the resulting human tragedy.

Cities are being bombed indiscriminately, civilians murdered, houses destroyed, the dead and wounded are everywhere.

In Russian occupied areas- rapes of women, looting, robbery are common. An eye witness reported that a young man was killed by a Russian soldier for his i-Phone.

On my way to the Polish Club I heard the reports that Russian army started deporting hundreds of Ukrainians from Mariupol to eastern Russia. This is a well known practice to the Poles remembering the deportations to Siberia after insurrections in 19th century and between 1939 and 1941 when Russia occupied eastern Poland.

All these Russian actions amount to a massive crimes against humanity

To put it simple, Putin is a war criminal that will be put before a Nuremberg style International Crimes Tribunal. The United Nations Human Rights Commission has already initiated an inquiry into human rights crimes committed by Russia.

The courage of Ukrainians is an example for all.

Ukrainian army is proving to be very successful in the circumstances. Ukraine may have temporarily lost some territory, but Ukrainian hearts and minds are unbreakable. Ukraine is clearly a country that values its independence and is not afraid to defend it.

The world admires Ukrainian determination.

I hope to see a successful counter-offensive soon.

History is on Ukrainian side. The UN General Assembly passed a resolution condemning Russian aggression with the vast majority – 140 countries – supporting it and only 4 countries opposing the resolution.

In fact, I am sure Ukraine will win this David and Goliath battle; but to win it, Ukraine needs our help now!!!

It is our duty to help Ukraine in her fight for independence

The Polish nation is in forefront of providing such help!

Poland has already welcomed over 2 million of refugees – women, children, elderly, disabled ...

I admire the response of the Polish government and in particular of the Polish volunteers.

Poland also created transport corridors to deliver much needed supplies – medical, food, military.

Looking at the Polish response - we should be proud to be Polish.

Today's Charity Gala Function was organised to provide a necessary help to Ukraine.

The organisers hope that out of your donations today we will be able to provide Ukraine with an ambulance! So, every dollar counts. Be generous.

But also be active in informing the public about the barbaric invasion - write to politicians, speak in the media; explain the situation to your neighbours and friends.

And remember, if Putin is allowed to take Ukraine, it will result in further aggression and annexations in Europe.

The simple truth is - without free Ukraine there will be no free Poland.

So, give generously today!

SLAVA UKRAINY!