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# INTRODUCTION

Ukraine is the largest country in Europe. It declared independence in 1991 after the collapse of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Since then, Ukraine has been actively developing as a peaceful, democratic, European-style country, implementing reforms and seeking to join the European Union. However, the great slave and totalitarian Russia has always, in different historical periods, sought to capture and subjugate free-minded Ukraine. Just as it did in the past centuries during the Russian Empire and later the communist Soviet Union. In February 2014, after large-scale protests, the Ukrainian people drove out the pro-Russian authoritarian President Viktor Yanukovich. Russia sheltered him, then forcefully annexed the Crimean peninsula and subsequently launched separatist insurgencies in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of eastern Ukraine.

Russia's covert, hybrid war against Ukraine lasted for eight years. Starting on February 24, 2022, a new terrible great war began on the European continent.

Russia's unprovoked full-scale armed invasion of neighboring peaceful Ukraine.

This war is the most large-scale, longest and most brutal war on the entire globe since the Second World War. It is a war that involves millions of people, actively employing all types and branches of the armed forces currently available to the warring parties, as well as the latest military equipment, weapons and ammunition. The war, the devastating impact of which has already been felt by the economies of the world's leading countries far beyond the theater of operations. A war that has called into question the effectiveness of existing collective security systems on the continents. A war that has already changed and will continue to change the entire world order in many ways.

The Russian military is committing war crimes on a massive scale, occupying Ukrainian lands, towns and villages, killing and raping civilians, destroying housing and civilian infrastructure, and deporting Ukrainian children. Leading democratic countries, including the United States and the EU, have supported Ukraine and sided with the light and good – freedom and European democracy. On the other side are those who support darkness and evil – Russian totalitarian despotism of the worst kind.

The length of the active front line is more than 1500 kilometers, and the war has covered hundreds of thousands of square kilometers. Large-scale fighting is taking place in all three natural elements: at sea, in the air and on land. On our fields, in the forests and steppes, inside our cities and villages, on the banks

of our rivers and on the expanses of our seas. In our endless Ukrainian sky.

The military intelligence of Ukraine, symbolized by an owl with a sword pointed at the center of imperial Russia, has become one of the main elements of armed resistance to Russian aggression. The emblem of the Defence Intelligence of Ukraine bears the Latin slogan «Sapiens dominabitur astris — wisdom will rule over the stars.» According to its purpose, military intelligence is always responsible for the enemy, not for its own forces. That is why I know we will win and I believe in our victory.

The essence of the profession of military intelligence has never been about public assessment of our activities, because intelligence officers are people of silent heroism. However, a large-scale war of aggression and dynamic geopolitical changes in the security environment have made significant adjustments to the work of intelligence. Today, the whole world is watching our achievements and trusts us and the information we provide. Forewarned is forearmed! Successful combat missions behind enemy lines, special operations, liberation of hostages and prisoners of war have made the contribution of intelligence officers to the struggle for sovereignty, territorial integrity of the state and freedom of millions of Ukrainians invaluable.

I thank every serviceman for their service, for everything they do for our common victory, for their professionalism, resilience, courage and sacrifice. Because intelligence is not only about heroic deeds and feats, it is, first of all, a tense, hard daily work

that requires great efforts, constant endurance, will, thorough knowledge and skill for the sake of the state and national interests.

Eternal glory and honor to our comrades-in-arms who laid down their lives for their country and independence. They will always remain in our hearts. We will take revenge on the racist scum for our fighters, for the killed and maimed children, for orphans and parents, for Ukrainian cities and villages, for our sky, our land and our sea.

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