MEMORANDUM FOR SCUSA 74

SUBJECT: Russia and Eurasia

1. **Issue:** The United States condemns the illegal invasion of Ukraine. In response, the United States looks to continue support of lethal and economic aid to the Ukrainian government.

2. **Strategic Analysis:** In February 2022, Russia violated international law by illegally invading the sovereign nation of Ukraine. Given tensions in the Middle East and Indo-Pacific, the United States finds it imperative to continue aiding Ukraine's defense and European security. A Russian victory in Ukraine would tilt global influence towards Russia and its allies. This conflict also represents the ongoing struggle to defend democracy against authoritarianism's increased global pervasiveness.

3. **Relevant National Interests:**
   a. Deepening collaboration with our strategic partners in preparation for future potential engagements with our adversaries.
   b. Promoting long term security in Eurasia.
   c. Projecting strength to secure vital U.S. interests abroad.
   d. Maintaining the free and open international systems (with norms of sovereignty and respect for international law).

4. **Strategic Options:**

   Option 1: Establishing an internal political consensus surrounding the support for Ukraine to reaffirm the American objective in its policy regarding Ukraine. It is critical for sustainable aid to be provided in order to create the opportunity to advance both tactics, as well as the allied coalition in the future. The state is currently not prepared to provide more aggressive policies, and must first solidify the current status quo.

   Option 2: In order to ensure the continued sovereignty of the Ukrainian nation, the United States will increase military aid to Ukraine, impose more robust economic sanctions upon Russia, and combat disinformation in the cybersphere. In light of the illegal and unprovoked Russian invasion, the US must assume a position of leadership in aid to Ukraine and defense of global democracy.

   Option 3: The United States will continue to take a dominant role in supporting Ukraine while simultaneously pursuing policies that incentivize Europe to take a more substantial role in the Ukrainian war effort. To do so, the US must cultivate collaboration between the U.S. and
European private sector, assist Ukraine in strengthening their democratic institutions, and prepare Ukraine for a path to EU membership.

5. **Recommendation:** In order to ensure both short and long term solutions, the committee combined policies one and three. Policy one provides a stable environment prior to and following the 2024 U.S. Presidential election, and enables a transition opportunity towards a longer term option; policy three.

6. **Implementation:**

The U.S. should not only sustain the pattern of lethal and economic aid to Ukraine but also incentivize European participation in the logistical effort. European integration is crucial in offsetting increasingly depleted American arms stockpiles. To prevent the further exhaustion of American arms reserves and to reassure a skeptical American populace, it remains critical to keep allied partners active in Ukraine’s defense.

Moving forward, the war effort and defense manufacturing must be mobilized and shifted to the regions surrounding Ukraine. To do so, we must revitalize and invest in the private sector. This would localize military equipment and further streamline the supply chain. A focus on integrating the European and American defense industries should be paramount in the continuation of the war effort. A higher stake in the conflict for European states would be beneficial for Ukraine. This will bolster the defense spending within Europe. NATO member states are required to contribute 2% of their GDP to defense spending, but 19 of 31 members do not. These efforts could help to alleviate these deficiencies and contribute to a heightened level of support to Ukraine.

In addition, the United States ought to reaffirm the democratic institutions within Ukraine in order to accelerate admission to the European Union. Reforming Ukrainian judicial institutions will remain a critical aspect of the effort to meet the requirements outlined by the EU for candidate status. Promoting integration with the EU will further long term security in the region, and on the global stage as a whole.

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