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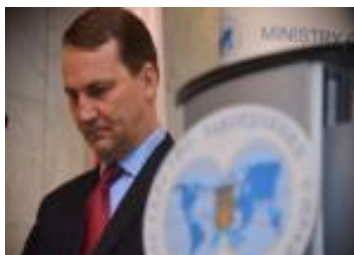
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Poland Has its Own Interest in Ukraine

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Poland's task is to help Ukraine modernize the country during the crisis and not to extinguish in it political, economic and military conflagration, Polish President Bronislaw Komorowski told the TVP.INFO television channel in an interview broadcast at the beginning of April. «*We need to think how not to respond only to the crisis in Ukraine, not to extinguish the political, economic and military fire, but to start systematically support the modernization of Ukraine, to help it and itself to realize national goals*», Komorowski said.

Poland faces a tall order mission like solving the problem of «two Ukraines» that Warsaw has to with grapple with for a number of years. The first Ukraine is the Kiev-based central government. Experts believe that Poland has to maintain close contacts and intensively work with it. The second is the western part of Ukraine with its 5 million population. It is the source of tension in

the relations, especially taking into consideration the ideology expounded by a sector of Association of Ukrainians in Poland.

According to Leszek Sykulski, famous Polish political analyst, director of the Czystochowa Institute of Geopolitics, *«to large extent the policy is defined by Polish intelligence which operates in close conjunction with the UK and US special services»*. But the interests pursued by Anglo-Saxons not always match the interest of continental Europeans, especially those who oppose the idea of confrontation with Russia.

The «second Ukraine» is a problem, especially talking about the new «national leaders» who have practically seized Kiev. In his interview to the Polish mass media outlet *RzeczPospolita*, Andriy Tarasenko, the spokesman of the Ukrainian nationalist movement 'Right Sector', expressed doubts about the fact of mass killing of Polish civilians by the Ukrainian nationalists under the leadership of Stepan Bandera, on which Poland insists. He commented the slaughter in Volyn as follows: *«This is nonsense. Having studied the history of Ukrainian Insurgent Army thoroughly, I know that this is simply not true. Yes, Bandera advocated the use of radical methods, but all methods are applicable for the fight with an occupant, especially, when this occupant does not want to leave your land»*. As to Tarasenko, Poland should give Peremyshl and some other regions to Ukraine. *«It will be fair if Poland gives Peremyshl and a few more regions to Ukraine»*, he declared in the interview.

The people who openly state they see as justified the territorial claims to Poland represent the views of those who effectively exercise power in the contemporary Ukraine, as well as fill the ranks of the military and special services. They have support inside Poland, for instance, the fifth column in the eastern part of the country, which has become kind of a safe haven for nationalism and has been supported at the expense of allocations from Polish state budget for many years.

The regions situated in the vicinity of the Carpathian Mountains have become a bulwark for the Ukrainian nationalist movement. It comprises outright thugs and the supporters of the OUN-UNA (Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists – Ukrainian Insurgent Army), a militant group propagating the Bandera ideology. The pro-Bandera Association of Ukrainians in Poland plays an active part in the movement funded by Polish government, the diaspora living in the United States and Canada and the regional authorities of Lviv. The group was involved in rendering aid to Maidan militants. Aleksandr Bacik, the Ukraine's Consul General in Przemyśl, was among the first to challenge the legal authorities of his country and called on Poland to help Ukraine «in its fight for brighter European future». (He was evidently cunning, because his associates tell Polish media that the Ukraine's entry into the European Union would contradict the idea of «national revolution»).

At that, Polish Ukrainians are not the main problem for Poland to face (according to information leaked to Internet, Ukrainian acting Prime Minister Yatsenyuk is conducting talks on giving three Galician border regions to Poland till the end of 2014 under the pretext of preventing a «humanitarian disaster»). Warsaw has another headache. According to Thomas Kvasnitsky, the editor of *Kresy.pl*, an outlet created with the help of the Ministry of Culture and the Senate, which focuses on the issues related to eastern kresy (the Eastern Borderlands of the Second Polish Republic between the two world wars, these territories today lie in western Ukraine,

western Belarus, as well as eastern Lithuania), «*The European Union is a form of German hegemony that's why it still exists. The association between Ukraine and the European Union will promote Germany's expansion... Even if Ukraine does not fall apart, the Bandera ideology may spread across the whole country in a few years. The OUN-UPA ideas disseminate rapidly, especially among young people. There is nothing to stand in the way of such a state becoming a vassal of Germany. Why should it get close to Poland? What can we offer it?*»

Could Ukraine become a satellite state in the Germany's orbit in case the ideas of Stepan Bandera prevail, as Thomas Kvasnitsly, editor-in-chief of Kresy.pl, predicts? The question is of great importance for Eastern Europe and Polish eastern policy. It will be put for consideration on April 8 at the emergency meeting of Council of Ministers of Poland...

Meanwhile the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and media irradiate conceited confidence in the soon-to-come victory in the East: the website of the Ministry published victorious reports and excerpts from European press: *Europe Recognizes Poland as an Expert on Ukraine and Russia (Le Soir)*, *Minister Sikorski Deserves Nobel Peace Prize (La Libre Belgique)*. Polish Gazeta Wyborcza and Czech weekly Respekt (the front page of the last edition offers a map with the word cholera written on the territory of Russia) wrote that Radoslaw Sikorski is the new leader of Europe who is going to change the European politics and history. The authors of Polish outlets are serious when they say that the events in Ukraine make Poland a growing European power, the fact confirmed by the intensification of its foreign policy efforts.

What do European bureaucrats and Poland's «old European» neighbors really think about it? Germany, for instance? Excluding those who take the Polish claim seriously, of course. Looks like they ignore the victory fanfare of Polish patriots. Berlin and Brussels prepare an alibi. If the events in Ukraine turn the wrong way, then Warsaw will be made a fall guy with Minister of Foreign Affairs Sikorski and President Komorowski personally responsible for what happened.