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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6225

March 8, 2022

The Honorable Daniel J. Kritenbrink
Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Assistant Secretary Kritenbrink:

I appreciate the Department's intense focus on ensuring a robust diplomatic response to the crisis in Ukraine. The multilateral, coordinated response in terms of sanctions and security assistance, particularly in Europe, is unprecedented and a testament to the Department's tireless efforts.

However, a truly comprehensive and ultimately effective effort to counter the Kremlin cannot be limited to Europe. The world needs to unite against an emboldened Kremlin, not only with rhetoric, but action. If the world does not counter this rising threat, Russian aggression will be the scourge of future generations to come in every region. We must act now.

To that end, I urge the United States to reorient its diplomatic approach and redouble its efforts throughout the world to counter Kremlin aggression. Russia's deep defense ties with countries in East Asia and the Pacific pose serious concerns for long-term U.S. security interests in both Europe and Asia. Further, in light of the Chinese government's failure to condemn Russia's invasion of Ukraine and reports that senior Chinese officials had knowledge of Russia's invasion plans during the Beijing Olympics, I am also deeply concerned about the growing closeness between Moscow and Beijing.

I respectfully request that you provide me details to the questions below in writing.

First, how are you personally working to ensure that countries in East Asia and the Pacific are imposing and enforcing sanctions on the Putin regime and the Russian economy? Please specifically describe your efforts to encourage the governments of China, Vietnam, Malaysia, Myanmar, Indonesia, Laos, Cambodia, the Philippines, and Thailand to impose and enforce sanctions, including sanctions similar or equal to those imposed by the United States.

Second, how are you personally encouraging countries in East Asia and the Pacific to provide financial support to Ukraine and security assistance to the Ukrainian armed forces? Please provide specific details on these efforts and quantify these efforts by country in the region.

Third, what specific efforts are you making to encourage the governments of China, Vietnam, Malaysia, Myanmar, Indonesia, Laos, Cambodia, the Philippines, and Thailand to end purchases of Russian military equipment or cut off other economic ties with Russia?

Fourth, what are you doing to counter the Kremlin's persistent disinformation in the region and ensure that the public has access to unbiased information about Russia's invasion of Ukraine?

The United States needs a comprehensive, global and durable diplomatic approach to counter rapidly increasing Kremlin aggression. Thank you for your attention to these issues. I expect your prompt reply in open or classified form as appropriate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert Menendez." The signature is fluid and cursive, with a period at the end.

Robert Menendez
Chairman