



Committee: United Nations General Assembly: Laos

Topic: Russia-Ukraine Crisis

On February 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine, marking a steep escalation of the Russo-Ukrainian War, which had begun in 2014. The invasion has caused Europe's fastest-growing refugee crisis since World War II with more than 6.5 million Ukrainians fleeing the country and a third of the population displaced. The war resulted in humanitarian crisis, as thousands of Ukrainians fled to the west of their country and abroad. Russia's invasion of Ukraine constitutes the biggest threat to peace and security in Europe since the end of the Cold War. On February 21, 2022, Russian president Vladimir Putin gave a bizarre and at times unhinged speech laying out a long list of grievances as justification for the "special military operation" announced the following day. Grievances included the long -simmering dispute over the expansion of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the shape of the post-Cold War security architecture in Europe.

On May 18, 2022, Lao journalists were invited to a media briefing on the situation in Ukraine which was jointly hosted by the Australian and UK embassies. Mr Paul Kelly and british ambassador to Laos, hosted Mr. Oleksandr Lysak the charge d Affairs of the Ukraine embassy in Bangkok, who spoke about the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine. Journalists from state and independent media in Laos questioned the Ukrainian Ambassador in Bangkok through an online platform. Journalists questioned the ambassador on areas such as seaport closures and ongoing food crisis, as well as potential for armistice and the establishment of humanitarian corridors.

Laos formally established diplomatic relations with Ukraine on 2nd January 1992. Laos has a long standing relation with Russia.

Whether in war-torn Ukraine, Laos or Spain, kids have felt compelled to pick up crayons and put their experiences to paper. In 1970, a 16 year old Laotian boy drew a picture of his school being bombed. "Many people died, he wrote there." Children's art from Ukraine has not yet played a role in political deliberation as it did when peace activist Fred Branfman shared his collection of drawings by Laotian children and adults during his 1971 testimony before congress on the "Secret War." The U.S. had been conducting in Laos since 1964.

Many countries are suffering downstream consequences, with commodities prices skyrocketing worldwide, contributing to food shortages across Africa and middle east, while gaps in fuel supply have hit Laos hard. On February 27, 2022 Laos says that all parties involved must seek peaceful solution in Russia -Ukraine conflict. Laos has made an official statement regarding the situation in Ukraine through its ministry of foreign affairs on February 27, 2022 and hopes that a

peaceful resolution will be reached by all parties soon. The statement which was released on February 26, reads ‘ The Lao PDR has been closely following the evolving complex and sensitive development in Ukraine.

The Lao PDR calls on all parties concerned to exercise utmost restraint and pursue efforts in deescalating the tension that may undermine international peace and security. Lao PDR supports ongoing efforts to find a peaceful settlement to the situation through diplomatic means.”