



The Ukraine conflict and the art of diplomacy

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“The Ukraine conflict and the art of diplomacy.” Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen. The French politician Félix Faure, the 7th French President from 1895 to 1899, is reported to have said, I quote:

“Diplomacy is the art of petting a dog until the leash and muzzle are ready.” Kla.tv wanted to know if there is any truth to this proverb and investigated further into the development of the Ukraine-conflict after the Minsk peace agreement which came into force on February 15, 2015. We reported about the peace agreement in detail and the diplomatic drive of leading politicians in our broadcasts of February 13 and February 23, 2015. As a reminder, how did it actually come to this civil war: The outbreak of the military conflict in East-Ukraine happened in April 2014, shortly after the illegal dismissal of the pro-Russian President Viktor Yanukovich. The coal mining areas in Eastern Ukraine, Donetsk and Lugansk, didn't approve of the EU-influenced change of government in Kiev and proclaimed the independent “People's Republics”. In a referendum on May 11th 2014, 89.7% voted for the secession of the self-proclaimed “People's Republic of Donetsk” from Ukraine, respectively 96 percent voted for the autonomy of “Lugansk”. As a response Kiev deployed their army and tanks. Since the beginning of the Ukrainian military operation, politicians from Kiev and the US, as well as the NATO, reported regularly about an alleged Russian “invasion” and “participation” in the war in Eastern Ukraine. This served as justification for the economic and military measures taken against Russia – despite the lack of evidence. Since then a military armament by the Ukrainian government, the NATO, as well as American forces in Europe can be observed. To say it with Félix Faure's own words: “Muzzle and leash” are made ready. So, the Ukrainian President Poroshenko repeatedly required deliveries of arms from the West, for example at the Munich Security Conference in 2014. And according to the Supreme Commander of the US-army in Europe, Lieutenant General Ben Hodges, there will be continuing armament and a heavy armored tank-brigade in Europe throughout 2015. Also for the first time US-soldiers are to be moved into Western Ukraine – to train Ukrainian troops. However, can this military armament based on the statement that Russia is participating in the war, be justified? Russia refuses any involvement in the Ukraine conflict. Reliable evidence could never be presented or they proved to be counterfeit. For example the US-Senator Jim Inhofe caused a stir when he published alleged photos of Russian tanks in Ukraine. These photos provided by Ukrainian members of Parliament however turned out to be from the Georgian war in 2008. Inhofe himself had to find this out and then reacted quite furiously towards the British newspaper “The Mirror”. Or you use a trick like the German Newspaper “Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung” did on February 8, 2015: The “separatists” have, I quote: “Some of the newest weaponry systems of the Russian army”, and mentioned

as source an anonymous officer from the NATO. The explanation for the lack of evidence was supplied by the FAZ itself, namely: The recordings of the “military reconnaissance satellites” are not allowed to be published.

Yet there are still hints that despite of the Minsk “diplomacy” the military armament keeps moving forward and to say it with our words “muzzle and leash” are being prepared.

1. The speaker of the foreign ministry in Moscow said on March 5, 2015 that up to 300 soldiers were expected to arrive in the West Ukrainian town Lviv. They are supposed to train Ukrainian soldiers in handling weapons. The German Newspaper “Frankfurter Rundschau” wrote on March 5, 2015, that US-media just recently reported on plans for a training period in Western Ukraine from March 5th to October 31st. And the US-information service “Defense News” wrote about a planned stationing of troops on the training ground of Jaworow near Lviv at the Polish border.

2. On February 19th, the Security Council of Kiev had approved of the presence of foreign troops in Ukraine.

3. The parliament in Kiev decided on the enlargement of the army by more than a third up to 250,000 soldiers.

4. According to the deputy foreign minister of Ukraine on February 20, 2015, Ukraine is preparing for a “full-scale war” against Russia and therefore needs weapons from the West. Relatedly the spokesman of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs reported about several NATO-warships, entering the Black Sea.

Ladies and Gentlemen, do you now understand the meaning of the proverb: “Diplomacy is the art of petting a dog until the leash and muzzle are ready”? For each additional hint about the continued military armament of the Ukrainian army as well as the volunteer battalions, and the US-forces in Europe and the NATO, we are grateful. We would also be pleased to receive evidence proving the Russian military presence in Eastern Ukraine. Thank you very much for your attention and see you next time here on klagemauer.tv.

from dd.

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