

Hon Markus Campbell-Savours MP
Member for Penrith and Solway
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

Mr Chris Austin
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Thursday 26 September 2024, corrected Saturday 28 September '24

Dear Mr Campbell-Savours,

Russia, Ukraine, NATO, our lives, homes and civilization

I have lived here at 33 Collins Terrace, Maryport, Cumbria, CA15 8DL, for more than 33 years, so I am one of your constituents.

The terrible conflict in Ukraine has started to grow or escalate, in a way that is very dangerous to us all. Ukraine has started to attack Russia, with Western support, in various ways. President Putin of Russia said on Thursday 12 September 2024 that if Western nations allow Ukraine to use long-range weapons supplied by NATO countries to strike inside Russia, then it would mean NATO would be at war with Russia. President Putin reportedly outlined yesterday, Wednesday 25 September 2024, a proposed update to Russia's nuclear policy document, that would expand the conditions under which Russia would use nuclear weapons, to include the launch of a massive aerospace attack crossing the Russian state border into Russia. Discussions between NATO leaders and Ukrainian leaders, about plans to allow Ukraine to strike deep inside Russia using long-range weapons supplied by NATO countries, are reportedly continuing at the current United Nations General Assembly meeting.

May I respectfully remind you that your most fundamental duty, as the Member of Parliament for Penrith and Solway, is to stand up for the safety and well-being of the people of Penrith and Solway. The most fundamental duty of the British government is to ensure the safety and well-being of the people of the United Kingdom.

No matter what the rights or wrongs were, that led to the terrible conflict in Ukraine, a far worse wrong would be to allow the conflict to grow or escalate into a catastrophic war, that would kill a billion or more innocent people, including people here in the United Kingdom, and destroy our beautiful countries, and the civilization which we all enjoy.

(please turn over)

The Russian government's nuclear deterrence doctrine published in June 2020 stated that Russia would use its nuclear weapons, if an attack threatened the very existence of the Russian state. On taking into account the large number and the catastrophic destructive power of the NATO nuclear weapons, the Russian government may consider that a war between NATO and Russia threatens the very existence of the Russian state.

Please see the following analysis, by a Western expert:

https://ecfr.eu/article/commentary_russias_nuclear_deterrence_principles_what_they_imply_and_what_n/

A nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought. Those are the joint words of President Biden and President Putin, on 16 June 2021.

The immediate duty of every government is now to avert a nuclear war. Towards that end, may I respectfully suggest that the British government should now, immediately, inform the Russian and Ukrainian governments, and our NATO allies, that to avoid further escalation, we now wish to assist both sides to reach a settlement acceptable to both of them, as rapidly as possible.

I do not know what terms would be acceptable to both sides, but may I respectfully make the following suggestion, as a starting point for negotiations. I understand that the Russian government currently controls some territories in the east, south-east, and south of Ukraine. I also understand that approximately 300 billion US dollars of Russian government funds are currently frozen in banks in NATO countries. May I respectfully suggest that the Russian government could purchase the Ukrainian territories it currently controls, as an agreed purchase, and the purchase price could be the Russian government funds that are currently frozen in banks in NATO countries. Sales and purchases of territories between countries have occurred before, notably the United States purchased territories in the Louisiana purchase of 1803, and the Alaska purchase of 1867.

As your constituent, may I respectfully ask you to put this suggestion, or a better one if you can think of one, to the British government, with the utmost urgency.

Yours sincerely,
Mr Chris Austin