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№ 148

**To all people of good will
who value freedom and dignity**

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen!

I am addressing you at a most difficult time for Ukraine and the whole world.

It is hard to imagine that in the 21st century, in the heart of Europe, there is large-scale bloody aggression of Russia against Ukraine – a sovereign European state, recognized by the entire world community, a founder and member of the UN!

The aim of this aggression is to destroy the Ukrainian people, their history, their language, their culture, and their right to freedom, self-determination, and, consequently, statehood, which is a manifestation of genocide. The way to achieve this is through undeclared war, and in fact through a terrorist operation carried out throughout Ukraine by one of the largest countries in the world, Russia. The Ukrainian people are being deprived of the right to life!

You are now witnessing how the citizens of Ukraine, regardless of their ethnic origin, have united and, with the world community's support, are desperately resisting the aggressor, sacrificing everything – including their lives!

Thank you very much, your countries and your governments, for this tremendous support!

Today's aggression poses a great threat to the collection of Vasyl Stefanyk National Scientific Library of Ukraine in Lviv, especially from the possible air attacks!

The Library's holdings include more than eight million volumes, comprising collections of books, periodicals, works of art and manuscripts – the oldest dating back to the eleventh century. Library's collections are housed in nine buildings dating from the 17th to the 20th century that are architectural monuments. The multi-ethnic collections of the Library are a material embodiment of the world-view and spiritual values of the Ukrainian people, a reflection of its history and a scientific and cultural heritage of worldwide significance.

In view of the above, I ask you:

1. To condemn the aggression by all possible means and to help Ukraine in its fight against the aggressor-terrorist for a complete victory!

2. To make donations to the Library to ensure its functioning and protection of its collections in this difficult time:

Beneficiary: Address: 79000 Lviv, 2 Stefanyk Str.,
Vasyl Stefanyk National Scientific Library of Ukraine in Lviv
Bank account: UA143253650000002600401411690 (USD, EUR, PLN)
Bank address: 79000, Lviv, 1 Tsekhova Str.
JSC KREDOBANK Lviv, 78 Sakharova Str.
SWIFT: WUCBUA2X
MFO 325365 ZKPO 22334641
Purpose of payment: "A charitable contribution"

With respect and gratitude,

Vasyl Fershtey
General Director of Vasyl Stefanyk National Scientific Library of Ukraine in Lviv

