



In view of its physical position -- a peninsula on the southern tip of Ukraine -- Crimea has always had close economic and political ties with Ukraine. It was only during the creation of the USSR in 1922 that the central government of the USSR decreed that Crimea become an Autonomous Republic of the Russian SFSR. Historically, the makeup of the population has fluctuated, notably in this century when massive deportations were ordered by Stalin, and followed by resettlement of ethnic Russians to the resort peninsula. Finally, in 1954, Khrushchev transferred Crimea to Ukraine, recognizing its close physical ties and economic dependence on Ukraine. In the process of Ukraine's march to independence in 1991, and in acknowledgement of the ethnic diversity of the peninsula, Crimea was given the status of an Autonomous Republic once more, but this time

within the new state of Ukraine.

According to Ukrainian law, the Republic of Crimea is an autonomous integral part of Ukraine with extensive rights in the economic sphere, resources, ecology, culture, social life. However, it is not entitled to declare sovereignty and cannot make political ties with foreign countries.

The Constitution of Ukraine is valid throughout the entire territory of Ukraine,

including that of Crimea. The Constitution of the Republic of Crimea cannot contradict the constitution of Ukraine.

Article 70 of the Constitution of Ukraine states that the territory of Ukraine includes Crimea and is integral, inviolable, and indivisible. Any alteration of the territory and state borders of Ukraine is inadmissible without the consent of the people of Ukraine. In turn, the Republic of Crimea's status implies that Ukraine cannot take any decisions on altering the territory of the Republic of Crimea without the latter's consent.

The Republic of Crimea has no other separate citizenship but that of Ukraine. The citizens of the Republic of Crimea are citizens of Ukraine who permanently reside in the Crimea. It cannot form its own armed forces or have its own financial or monetary system separate from Ukraine.

Therefore, by Ukrainian law, Crimean leadership cannot enter into these and other issues which are the exclusive jurisdiction of the government of Ukraine.

Furthermore, the territorial integrity of Ukraine is almost universally recognized, in such international legal documents as the UN Statute, the Final Helsinki Act, as well as in bilateral and trilateral agreements signed by Ukraine since its independence.

According to the Tripartite Agreement of the Presidents of Ukraine, the USA and Russia signed in January 14, 1994, both the USA and Russia pledged to be guarantors of Ukraine's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity, unreservedly recognizing Crimea as an integral part of Ukraine.

The 1978 Constitution of Ukraine states clearly that the city of Sevastopol is also an integral part of Ukraine... On July 20, 1993, the chairman of the UN Security Council expressed anxiety over the controversy then surrounding Sevastopol, and confirmed Ukraine's territorial integrity as stated in the Statute of the United Nations.

(With Ukrainian Embassy files.)

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