



**AMBASSADOR
OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO NEW ZEALAND**

57 Messines Road, Karori, Wellington 6012
(04) 476-61-13; (04) 476-38-43 (f); info@rusembnz.com

14 March 2021

Honourable Jenny Salesa
Chairperson,
Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee
Parliament of New Zealand
Wellington

Re: Invite to Committee Hearing on 17 March 2022

Dear Chairperson,


I was honoured to receive an invitation to partake in the hearing of the situation in Ukraine and Russia scheduled for 17 March 2022 in the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee of the New Zealand Parliament, since this is my firm belief that any accredited foreign envoy with a mission and mandate to develop bilateral relations would delightfully jump to such an excellent opportunity to justify his job worthiness.

On the other hand, last week's surprising Parliament vote in unanimous support for the blatant anti-Russian legal move showed that MPs had long since made up their mind with regard to the situation in Ukraine and hardly need additional advice. I reiterate, my direct address to such an important Committee hearing would have made perfect sense had it been set up before the vote rather than as a follow up now, that the Russia Sanctions Bill measures are in the pipeline, and the blame-the-Russians public campaign in New Zealand is on the rise.

It is for the above reasons and due to the obviously futile character of the address that I have to regretfully decline your invitation.

For any materials with the official Russian stance as to the situation in Ukraine, please be advised to refer to the Mission's web-resources. If need be, we shall stand ready to provide you with additional materials and clarifications at our disposal.

Sincerely,



G.Zuev