

# Lady Ashton Knew: Maidan Leaders Deployed Snipers

March 5—A recorded and leaked phone conversation between EU foreign affairs chief Lady Catherine Ashton and Estonia's Foreign Minister Urmas Paet has blown apart the myths about a dictatorial President Viktor Yanukovych ordering snipers to fire on the Euro-maidan protesters in Kiev on Feb. 20. Many in Ukraine have raised the question of a "third force" driving the events toward the coup of Feb. 21-22, including through the Feb. 20 appearance of snipers who fired against both the police and the crowd.

As former Ukrainian MP Natalia Vitrenko has emphasized in her chronology of the escalation to the coup, it was firing from the Conservatory building, where a part of Right Sector was positioned, that started the furious gun battle that day.

Now the Ashton-Paet conversation of Feb. 26, following Paet's visit to Kiev the day before, confirms that Ashton was well aware of testimony that Yanukovych did not deploy the snipers. RT reported that the recording was leaked by Ukrainian intelligence personnel. It is on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZEGJ0oo3OA8>.

Right after Ashton talks about the need for the new cabinet to "reach out to the Maidan" (which had just dictated who should be in that new cabinet!) and opines that Party of Regions members should be told to go and lay flowers where people died on Hrushevsky Street, because people "feel that he [Yanukovych] ordered that to happen," comes the following exchange:

**Paet:** And second, what was quite disturbing, this same Olga [Bogomolets, a doctor] told as well that all the evidence shows that the people who were killed by snipers from both sides, among policemen and then people from the streets, that they were the same snipers killing people from both sides.

**Ashton:** Well, yeah, that's, that's terrible.

**Paet:** So that she then also showed me some photos she said that as a medical doctor she can say that it is the same handwriting, the same type of bullets. And it's really disturbing that now the new coalition, that they don't want to investigate what exactly happened. And there is now stronger and stronger understanding that behind the snipers, it was not Yanukovych, but it was



YouTube

*European Union foreign affairs chief Catherine Ashton and Estonian Foreign Minister Urmas Paet. Ashton knew as early as Feb. 25 that President Yanukovych did not order sniper attacks on protesters, because Paet told her. But she kept the information to herself.*

somebody from the new coalition.

**Ashton** (stuttering): I think we do want to investigate. I mean, I didn't pick that up, that's interesting. Gosh.

Paet repeats that the matter is "disturbing," adding that "it already discredits from the very beginning" the new Ukrainian regime.

Channel One Russia tonight aired an expert analysis of the lines of sight around the Maidan, arguing that in one of the most gruesome filmed images of a group of Maidan activists being shot down from the rear on Feb. 20, the filming and the shooting would have been done from the same location. In other words, they suggested, a team of guerrillas was shooting demonstrators and making a snuff movie of their deaths, to use as a demonstration of police brutality.

**Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov** called in a press conference on March 8 for an investigation by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) into who was behind the deaths of dozens of people in Kiev in sniper attacks in Kiev, saying the truth could no longer be "covered up."

"The latest information about the so-called snipers case can no longer be covered up," Lavrov told a news conference in Moscow. "We have proposed that the OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] takes up an objective investigation of this and we will ensure there is justice.

"There have been too many lies, and this lie has

been used too long to push European public opinion in the wrong direction, contrary to the objective facts."

Lavrov also stressed that "the so-called interim government is not self-sufficient, and, to great regret, depends upon radical nationalists, who carried out the military coup."

Lavrov gave an example of how the Right Sector is influencing the current decision-making in Kiev: "The new government's officials asked this Right Sector to approve their choice of ministers and now the Right Sector is dissatisfied. Its leaders say the reloading of the government system in Ukraine has not been completed. They are demanding that each of the ministers go to the Maidan protesters and report on how

well they are implementing the demands of the protest leaders."

Lavrov continued: "Our Western partners, it seems to me, are quite well informed of what they [the radicals] represent, because they are frequent guests there [in Kiev] and among themselves they are sharing extremely alarming impressions. But I guess for political reasons, they try to conceal the facts in public."

### U.S. media coverage:

The Obama Administration, Congress, and the mainstream media have been pouring out lies about the situation in Ukraine to cover up the killings of protesters by the opposition forces themselves. Nevertheless, coverage began to take off elsewhere.

On March 5, Michael Salla in the *Washington Examiner* reported that "the hacked call reveals that a mysterious third force was operating to destabilize the previous Ukrainian government run by President Yanukovych by making it appear responsible for the sniper attacks." The author quotes infowars.com reporter Kurt Nimmo linking the West's covert operations against Ukraine back to NATO's Operation Gladio, which supported Nazi groups in the aftermath of World War II.

On March 6, in [Op-Ed News](#), an article titled "Did Right Wing Protesters Hire Snipers to Kill Protesters and Police," by Walter Uhler, reported on the Paet-Ashton conversation, and also on the campaign by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) and others against Ukraine and Russia.

On March 6, in [The People's Voice](#), author Steven Lendman posted an exposé titled “Evidence Shows Kiev Putschists Recruited Euromaidan Snipers.”

By March 8, Associated Press was forced to put out its damage control version of the story, lying that the explosive Paet-Ashton phone call reported nothing but a “feud” between the Russians and Yanukovych supporters on the one side and “new coalition” on the other, which has a “different” version of the sniper shootings of Feb. 20.