Ukraine speech sept 2022 hoc

It is now seven months since Putin launched his vile, illegal and unprovoked war against an innocent European country

 and in those seven months his actions have cost as almost many Russian casualties as were sustained in the whole ten year Russian invasion and occupation of Afghanistan

  and if he continues at this rate

it will not be that long before Russian losses in Ukraine exceed American losses in the 20 year Vietnam conflict and that is before we have counted the Ukrainian losses in the last seven months

  and the catastrophic suffering he has inflicted on that people

the torture, the systematic rape, the mass murder

 the deliberate targeting time after time of apartment blocks and schools and kindergartens

and in all these seven months of horror

 that this modern Moloch has personally unleashed

he has not attained a single one of his objectives

in a war that - do not forget - was meant to be over in days.

He has not overturned the Ukrainian government or captured the capital city

he has not even secured the Donbass – far from it

and instead of coming to terms with the reality of his mistake

 his complete misunderstanding of what Ukraine is and what really motivates the Ukrainians

 which is a simple love of their country

he has decided to double down on disaster

 He has announced a mobilisation of 300,000 more young Russians

 a move that has caused such panic among people about to be fed into the meat grinder of Putin’s war zone

that yesterday in a single day the price of a one way air ticket from Moscow to South Africa went up to 50,000 dollars

because those potential conscripts can see that what began as a war to rebuild the soviet empire

has collapsed into a shameful war to save Putin’s face

and they have no desire to be sacrificed on the altar of his ego

and at the same time he is threatening to hold sham referendums in the territories he has occupied and then to defend those territories with every weapon in his arsenal

in words that he hopes will make our flesh creep

and weaken our resolve

 He will fail in that pitiful bluster because we can see

he is escalating his rhetoric not because he is strong

but because he is weak

because he is so transparently a problem gambler who takes more risk not because he is winning but because he is terrified of losing

Thanks to the inspired leadership of President Volodomyr Zelensky

 thanks to the heroism of the Ukrainian armed forces

and thanks in part to the weaponry that has been supplied by friends of Ukraine including this country

the Russian forces have in recent days been expelled from large parts of the north east around Kharkiv

 they are under increasing pressure in Kherson in the south and I have no doubt whatever that the Ukrainians will win

because in the end they have the inestimable moral and psychological advantage of fighting for their country in their country

against an enemy that is increasingly demoralised and confused about what they are meant to be doing in that country and what they can hope to achieve

and at this turning point in the war it is more vital than ever that we have strategic patience and hold our nerve

and ensure that Ukrainians succeed in recapturing their territory right to the borders of Feb 24 and if possible to the pre-2014 boundaries

because that is what international law demands

and it was our collective failure to insist on upholding international law 8 years ago that emboldened Putin to launch his disastrous invasion this year

If Putin is going to double down on his aggression then we must double down in defence of the Ukrainians

We must be prepared to give more military assistance and more economic support

and so I welcome yesterday’s announcements from the government

and we must work with our friends and partners as well as the Ukrainians to ensure that we provide that country with the long term assurances on their security and their defence

that we have so far failed to provide in their 31 years since independence

because if anyone has proved the absolute necessity of those guarantees it is Vladimir Putin and his war

and we must close our ears in the months ahead to the absolute rubbish he talks

This is not some nuclear stand-off between Nato and Russia

as he seemed to pretend yesterday

This is a war of aggression by Russia against an innocent neighbour and we are helping with equipment as you might help a neighbour to fight a fire

when their house has been attacked by an arsonist

and we are not engaged in a war against Russia

let alone against the Russian people

and we are not concerned here with regime change in Moscow as he egocentrically likes to claim

Whatever politics may hold for Putin may be a subject of interesting debate

but it is not the issue at stake

There is only one objective, and that is the sovereignty independence and freedom of the people of Ukraine

That is our objective and we must acknowledge that the months ahead will be tough – for Ukraine and for Britain and for the world

For all the latest Ukrainian success Putin is still the possessor of almost 20 per cent of Ukrainian territory

and it may well be costly and time-consuming to winkle him out

and I have no doubt that in the hard winter months ahead

with the price of energy continuing to inflict hardship on the people of this country and around the world

there will continue to be some who draw the false conclusion that the Ukrainians must be encouraged to do a deal

to trade land for peace and to allow the Russian gas to flow to Europe

Even if that were politically possible for Volodomyr Zelensky or any Ukrainian government

which I doubt very much

there is absolutely no sign that Putin either wants any such deal or can be trusted to deliver it

and as I have told the House many times before any such deal or compromise would send a signal around the world that violence does pay off

that might is right

and that when the going gets tough the great democracies will not have the stomach to stick up for freedom

and that is why we have absolutely no choice but to stay the course

 to stay resolute

and we should be confident because with every passing week our position gets stronger

and Putin’s position gets weaker and

though times are tough for families now we should be in no doubt this country has the economic muscle not just to help people with the cost of energy

caused by Putin’s war

 but to put in the long term resilience – the secure and independent UK supply

including much more nuclear more wind and in the transition more of our our own hydrocarbons

  to ensure that we are never again vulnerable to Putin’s energy blackmail

 and it is a measure of Putin’s giant strategic failure that

he has not only united the west against him

and encouraged two traditionally neutral countries

Sweden and Finland actually to join Nato

which would have seemed unthinkable only last year

he has decisively alienated his most valuable western customers from his most important Russian exports, oil and gas, with incalculable consequences for his people’s economic future

and if he were not locked in his windowless mental dungeon surrounded by bodyguards and sycophants he would see the tragedy he has unleashed and withdraw before he is pushed out

and pushed out he will be

 In the last seven months the sufferings of Ukraine have moved the world

We grieve for them and we have opened our hearts to them as few other countries have done

 But we know that thanks to their heroism and sacrifice their day of freedom is coming

 and when it comes we will rejoice with Ukraine and that rejoicing will echo round the world