generalpavel@spolusilnejsi.cz

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Statement by General Petr Pavel

I welcome clear and strong North Atlantic Council statement (22 Apr. 2021) in support of the Czech Republic, in which the Allies expressed deep concern over the destabilising actions of Russia and stood in full solidarity with the Czech Republic.

During my term as the Chairman of NATO Military Committee, I have experienced first-hand the noble spirit of 'one for all, all for one' principle which constitutes the foundation of the collective defence of our Alliance. It was my honour and privilege to inspire solidarity, seek consensus and forge common positions that are behind any statement and action of the Alliance.

Now, yet again, when one member of the Alliance was attacked, as we learned from the evidence, and is suffering hostile pressure, I look up to the Allies to take action individually and collectively in the spirit of collective security and mutual solidarity.

While we are witnessing a massive military build-up of Russian forces on Ukraine's borders alongside other continuous Russia's aggressive, malicious and provocative behaviour, I strongly believe that a united action by the Allies in line with the NAC statement will demonstrate NATO's firm resolution to maintain peace and stability in the Euro-Atlantic area.

General (ret.) Petr Pavel

ex-Chairman of NATO Military Committee 2015–2018

Chief of the General Staff of the Czech Army 2012–2015