

Remarks by ambassador Ole Egberg Mikkelsen at the arrival of Danish donated generators, Kyiv, City Hall 8. February 2022

As Denmark's ambassador to Ukraine I am very honored to present this morning on the occasion of the arrival of generators from Denmark.

I can't claim any credit whatsoever for this donation. It is thanks to tireless Danish and Ukrainian volunteers from the international Rotary network that these generators were purchased and delivered.

Rotary members in the city of Odense decided to raise money for helping Ukraine immediately after the Russian attack almost one year ago. Odense is the sister city of Kyiv so they reached out to fellow Rotary members in Kyiv. We see the results today.

I talked to one of the Danish activists yesterday and I asked him: Why are you doing this, what is your motivation? The answer was: "We have to, because when darkness descends, you need your friends".

This illustrates what I have seen throughout the war. There is a tremendous will in Denmark to assist Ukraine, both at the official level and among private citizens.

The reason is very simple: It is because Danes and Ukrainians share the same fundamental values: Freedom, liberty, democracy and the rule of law. That is what unites us in peacetime and in times of war. Your struggle is also our struggle and your freedom is also our freedom.

The arrival of this donation is a symbol of this. May these generators lit up Kyiv and make this proud city even more resilient.

Let me conclude by thanking the Danish and Ukrainian activists who have made this donation possible. And let also thank the mayor and the citizens of Kyiv for your hospitality during my stay here. Kyiv is an open and tolerant city, welcoming to its foreign guests. Despite the Russian air attacks live goes on thanks to the resilience and perseverance of its citizens. This is not least thanks to the utility workers who keep light and heating on and the air defense gunners who keep us safe during air raids.

I am proud to be a temporary citizen of your city.