

Beat: Vips

## FORMER PRES SARKOZY SAYS "THE ONLY WAY IS DIPLOMACY" OVER UKRAINE' S ATTACK

INVITED BY PRES. MACRON AT ELYSEE

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**USPA NEWS** - Amid escalating tensions arising out of Russia's attack on Ukraine which has led to unknown number of human losses, so far and certainly hundred thousands of civilians, to flee to border countries such as Poland and Romania (members of the European Union), under panic and the fear of being killed by the bombing, France has and still deploying efforts to stop this war, whose battlefield is close to the gates of Europe.

In the light of these efforts, President Macron received today the two former Presidents preceding his mandate, Francois Hollande (Left Wing, Socialist Party, in Office 2012-2017) and Nicolas Sarkozy (Right Wing, Republicans, in Office 2007-2012 for consultation at the Elysee Palace. The two former Presidents spoke for 1 hour each with the Current Head of State. During their very short debriefings to the press (in the courtyard, and not in a televised press room), while their Renault armored vehicles were already waiting, ready to leave up...Francois Hollande and Nicolas Sarkozy have delivered a totally opposite vision as to the path to be taken by France with respect to this armed recent conflict in Ukraine, since the Russian attack which started last Thursday 24 Feb

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"That's why I approved of President Macron's approach when he went to Moscow," he explained, who had also favored negotiation with Russia during the crisis in Georgia in 2008. , through successful diplomatic mediation. At the end of the extraordinary summit of September 17, 2008, Nicolas Sarkozy had maintained a firm attitude which had been held, in Brussels, at the start of the conflict in Georgia / Russia. This is why ex-President Sarkozy pleads for diplomacy.

Nicolas Sarkozy also wanted France to propose the creation of "new multilateral institutions" because "Today, nothing works anymore. NATO doesn't work. The G7 doesn't work. The G20, which I wanted to create, does not work. And even the UN, which oscillates between apathy and immobility," he exclaimed. "We are in 2022, it is time to invent the institutions that will enable 21st century multilateralism. But we live with institutions that are those of the 20th century. It is up to France (...) to propose major initiatives. From any crisis can come the worst, but sometimes the best," he concluded. Before him, Emmanuel Macron received Friday morning, also for an hour, his predecessor François Hollande, who felt that Europe should toughen its sanctions against Russia.

NICOLAS SARKOZY SUCCEEDED IN A MEDIATION OVER GEORGIA' CRISIS WITH RUSSIA IN 2008 THIS IS WHY HE PLEADS FOR DIPLOMACY

Indeed in 2008, the President of the French Republic, Nicolas Sarkozy succeeded a mediation with Georgia and Russia. He had

performed in August and September 2008 in Moscow and Tbilisi to try to end the war between Russia and Georgia. At the time, the French president had also just taken over the head of the Council of the EU on July 1, 2008, as is the case in 2022, for President Macron.

It all started on August 7, 2008, the clashes in the separatist region of South Ossetia between pro-Russian militiamen and the Georgian army had degenerated into conflict. The Russian army enters South Ossetia and overthrows the Georgian army in a few days, consolidating its military superiority by bombing and fighting beyond the separatist provinces of South Ossetia and Abkhazia.

The EU's extraordinary summit, which had brought together all the Member States, on September 1, 2008, the 27, on the Russian question, reached a common communiqué, despite the differences in approach. Polish President Lech Kaczyński goes so far as to compare the situation of the Russian army in Georgia to that of German troops in 1939. (Source: INA)

"This meeting was not directed against Russia, but it is also clear that Russia's behavior over the past few weeks, with its disproportionate military response, and with the retention of Russian troops in Georgian territory, has created a deep concern in Europe and beyond. The return of spheres of influence is not acceptable: Yalta is over. » declared the French President, at the time Nicolas Sarkozy../"

**Article online:**

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