

Okuma Alıştırması: Gazete Haberi

Western Nations Split on Arming Kiev Forces

MUNICH — Differences within the Western alliance over whether to send defensive arms to Ukraine were thrust into the open on Saturday when [Angela Merkel](#), the German chancellor, bluntly opposed providing lethal military support to Kiev and called instead for continued efforts to persuade Russia and separatist forces to cease fire.

“The progress that Ukraine needs cannot be achieved by more weapons,” she told a security conference here. Instead, she spoke of how Western values and persistence won the Cold War.

Ms. Merkel’s position was challenged by Senator Bob Corker, a Tennessee Republican who is chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, and by Senator Lindsey Graham, Republican of South Carolina, who noted that there was growing support in Congress for arming Ukraine.

Malcolm Rifkind, the former British foreign secretary and a Conservative politician, said it was unlikely a peace agreement could be reached unless there was a combination of military assistance and diplomacy so that the Russian-backed separatists in Ukraine faced tougher Ukrainian resistance.

The pointed exchanges laid bare the divisions within the West’s ranks and did not provide a sense of how the United States and its European allies hoped to fashion a common strategy that might persuade President [Vladimir V. Putin](#) of Russia to honor an agreement negotiated in Minsk, Belarus, in September. The agreement called for a cease-fire and the removal of Russian weapons and forces from eastern Ukraine.

Ms. Merkel did not say if she had made any headway in her talks in Moscow on Friday with Mr. Putin and the French president, [François Hollande](#), who has also opposed arming the Ukrainians but is eager to fulfill an existing contract to sell warships to Russia if the crisis eases.

Ms. Merkel drew parallels to the containment policy that brought an end to the Cold War and suggested that a prolonged period of economic sanctions was the best strategy, though one, she acknowledged, that might not work in the end.

“We have no guarantees that President Putin will do what we expect him to do,” she said, conceding that Russian violations of the Minsk agreement had been “very disillusioning, very disappointing.” But given the imbalance in forces between Russia and Ukraine, she said, “I do think that military means will lead to more victims” and not produce the West’s desired outcome.

Senator [John McCain](#), the Arizona Republican who has argued forcefully for weapons deliveries to Ukraine, summed up his reaction to Ms. Merkel's speech with one word: "Foolishness."

Mr. McCain said that unless the West beefed up its support to Ukraine, Mr. Putin could next seize the port of Mariupol in eastern Ukraine with a view to building a land bridge from Russia proper to Crimea, which the Kremlin [annexed last March](#). "I can assure you that he will not stop until he has to pay a much higher price," Mr. McCain said.

After her appearance, Ms. Merkel met with Vice President [Joseph R. Biden Jr.](#) and President Petro O. Poroshenko of Ukraine. Mr. McCain, after meeting Mr. Poroshenko, said, "It's safe to say that he's not overly optimistic about this negotiation."

Providing new details about the German and French initiative, a senior State Department official said Saturday that it was broadly consistent with the Minsk agreement but specified the steps necessary to implement a political settlement and the sequence and timing for carrying them out. The plan, when compared to the Minsk agreement, also appears to envision a wider buffer zone between Ukrainian forces and the separatists. Ms. Merkel, Mr. Hollande, Mr. Putin and Mr. Poroshenko plan to speak Sunday to discuss the initiative.

Kaynak: <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/02/08/world/europe/divisions-on-display-over-western-response-to-ukraine-at-security-conference.html?ref=europe>

Aşağıdaki soruları metni okuyarak cevaplandırınız.

1. Who are the major actors of Western Alliance mentioned in the text?
2. What is the major problem that the members of Western Alliance argue?
3. What for does Ms. Merkel use “the containment policy” example?
4. How does Senator McCain reply Ms. Merkel speech? What is his solution for the problem?