

The Blessed Hope!

“Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;” –(Titus 2:13)

Diamond & Nugget #136

Few of you are likely to remember the Cuban Crisis of 1962, however, none of you will forget the current crisis building between the U.S./NATO/UK and Russia. I recall it vividly well and I was in Rochester, NY at the time looking for housing after being hired as a computer programmer for Xerox Corp.

The major difference between 1962 and the present time is that the U.S. had a leader in 1962 seeking to negotiate a peace and a stand-down of belligerent psychopaths in the former Soviet Union. Today, we don't have a leader with the doppelganger sitting in for a brain-dead Joe Biden. The cutout is a puppet being controlled by Barack Hussein Obama and his handler Valeria Jarrett. If you don't believe that click on to this link and you will see I am quite serious: [Who is the Real Joe Biden?](#) posted on 01/03/23. The stand-in today is doing everything to provoke WW3 and the end of civilization as we know it. The media has led the public to believe Ukraine is winning its war against Russia. The facts merely confirm that the Rothschild-controlled media are lying to the American public. One commentator has stated we are sleep-walking into World War 3.

The U.S. will soon send the first batch of funds from confiscated Russian property to Ukraine, the head of the Department of Justice (DOJ) special sanctions task force, Andrew Adams, revealed on Thursday. Adams said the move should inspire U.S. allies to do the same, and insisted the unprecedented practice is not just possible and permissible under international law, but *“imperative”* given the current conflict.

“We're also poised to begin the transfer of forfeited assets for the benefit of Ukraine,” Adams said at an event hosted by the Hudson Institute, a DC think tank.

“It's not a silver bullet, but it's something that nevertheless makes me hopeful,” Adams said, adding that the relatively minor sums are important as *“a model to our foreign partners”* and to establish a legal precedent going forward. *It's really insanity and not going to change President Putin's mind or his actions.*

U.S. President Joe Bama proposed the scheme last April, and Adams hinted it was in the works in September, but said Congress needed to amend several laws to make it work. On Thursday, he confirmed those changes were indeed inserted into the \$1.7 trillion omnibus spending bill, passed by Congress in the final days of 2022.

[READ MORE: Ivan Timofeev: Why the West's new anti-Russia sanctions are a dangerous game changer](#)

The new laws give the DOJ power to *“direct forfeited funds to the State Department for the purpose of providing aid to Ukraine,”* said Adams.

Previously a federal prosecutor in the Southern District of New York (SDNY), Adams was appointed head of Task Force KleptoCapture, an interagency sanctions enforcement outfit created in March. KleptoCapture is part of the U.S.-led Russian Elites, Proxies, and Oligarchs (REPO) Task Force, which has frozen *“hundreds of billions of dollars in Russian state assets and tens of billions of dollars belonging to Kremlin-linked elites,”* according to the Hudson Institute.

Asset forfeiture is a controversial practice in U.S. law. Proponents have defended it as a *“key tool”* for weakening organized crime and funding law enforcement, while critics accused it of being *“policing for profit”* and *“egregiously at odds with our due process rights.”*

Adams insisted that taking the assets of Russian officials, businessmen and entities seized without trial *“possible and permissible under fundamental norms of due process”* and international law. The U.S. has to date sanctioned 1,097 Russian entities and 1,331 individuals, according to data from the Atlantic Council, a think tank funded by NATO and Western arms manufacturers. The total value of the U.S.-held assets belonging to these targets is unclear.

Washington and its allies have also frozen assets belonging to the Russian central bank, totaling around \$300 billion, but have thus far found no legal loophole to seize these assets.

The freezing of Russian assets and finances by the U.S. and its allies is *“a completely illegitimate measure, violating commonly acceptable standards of commercial and international law,”* and proof to the rest of the world *“that they are thieves,”* Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova said last week. She warned that any attempt to confiscate those funds and redirect them to Ukraine would be a violation of property rights and met with an *“appropriate”* countermove from Moscow.

Arms transfers to Ukraine have left Western weapon stockpiles strained, making it increasingly difficult for NATO militaries to honor politicians’ pledges to supply Kiev, the New York Times reported on Saturday.

“Smaller countries have exhausted their potential,” and according to one NATO official, at least 20 of the bloc’s 30 members are *“pretty tapped out,”* the newspaper wrote. Only *“larger allies,”* including France, Germany, Italy, and the Netherlands, have enough stockpiles to continue or potentially increase their weapon shipments to Ukraine.

Since the start of Russia's military operation in Ukraine in late February, the U.S. and its Western allies have been providing Kiev with billions of dollars in security assistance, to the tune of nearly \$40 billion, now comparable to the entire annual defense budget of France. Moscow has repeatedly warned that the weapon shipments will only prolong the conflict and increase the risk of a direct conflict between Russia and NATO.

Meanwhile, the head of the German parliament's Defense Committee, Marie-Agnes Strack-Zimmermann, called on the government to continue to supply Ukraine from the Bundeswehr stocks. Germany could especially spare some Marder infantry fighting vehicles, she said last week, adding that this military hardware can then be replaced by the German defense industry.

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U.S. President Joe Biden/Joe Bama has vowed to keep the arms pipeline open for "as long as it takes," but even American military stockpiles have taken a toll after repeated shipments to Kiev. As early as March, just weeks after the conflict in Ukraine kicked off; the U.S. Defense Department was already scrambling to replenish thousands of shoulder-fired missiles supplied to Kiev. By August, US stockpiles of 155mm artillery ammunition were "uncomfortably low," according to the Wall Street Journal.

The Pentagon's latest [fact sheet](#) detailed more than \$19 billion in direct military aid approved since February, including over 46,000 anti-armor systems, nearly 200 Howitzers, 38 long-range High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS), and a litany of other heavy weapons, vehicles and ammunition – as well as over 920,000 of 155mm artillery rounds.

[READ MORE: NATO should give Ukraine 'everything we have' – member state](#)

The U.S. think tank Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) previously pointed out that the American military is "not structured to fight or support an extended conflict," while the defense industry is "sized for peacetime production rates," and expanding capabilities would take years.

NATO is heavily invested in Ukraine, with the alliance's members also providing training and intelligence capability. Despite this "unprecedented support," the military bloc's secretary general, Jens Stoltenberg, has repeatedly claimed that "NATO is not a party to the conflict."

Moscow sees things differently. Multiple top officials, including Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, have accused NATO of waging war against Russia "by proxy," while Putin has described Russia as fighting "the entire Western military machine."

FLASH Russia Installing "PANTSIR-S" Air Defenses on Roofs of MoD and Gov't Buildings in Moscow

If anyone needed a sign that Russia is preparing for all-out war, they need only look at what took place today earlier in Moscow. PANTSIR-S air defense systems were hoisted by cranes onto the rooftops of Russia's Ministry of Defense, and several other government buildings around Moscow.



You can see a large crane, surrounded by Russian Army trucks on the street below, hoisting a PANTSIR-S1 onto the roof of another government building elsewhere in Moscow:

The PANTSIR-S-1, shown below in a FILE PHOTO from an Air Show, is one of the most formidable anti-aircraft defense systems in the world.

It comes in a variety of models, some all-inclusive with Radar, missiles, and anti-aircraft guns, as shown above, or with the Radar unit separate from the missile and gun batteries, as seen in this additional FILE PHOTO from an air show:



The radar unit above can command and control several different batteries of missiles and guns.

The fact that the Russian government is now moving THIS type of defensive system onto the roof of the Ministry of Defense and onto other roofs of other government buildings in Moscow, shows they EXPECT to be at war soon, and they EXPECT Moscow to be attacked by air.

One does NOT hoist anti-aircraft missile systems onto the roofs of government buildings on a lark; they do this because they EXPECT to need it.

The Pantsir missile system is a family of self-propelled, medium-range surface-to-air missile and anti-aircraft artillery systems. Starting with the Pantsir-S1 as the first version, it is produced by KBP Instrument Design Bureau of Tula, Russia, and is the successor to the Tunguska M1.

The Pantsir-S1 was designed to provide point air defense of military, industrial and administrative installations against aircraft, helicopters, precision munitions, cruise missiles and UAVs; and to provide additional protection to air defense units against enemy air attacks employing precision munitions, especially at low to extremely low altitudes.

The first finished version was completed in 1995 with the 1L36 radar, later another was designed. It is a short to medium range ground-based air defense system, wheeled, tracked or stationary with two to three operators. Its air defense consists of automatic anti-aircraft guns and surface-to-air missiles with radar or optical target-tracking and radio-command guidance.

Its purpose is the protection of civil and military point and area targets, for motorized or mechanized troops up to regimental size or as defensive asset of higher ranking air defense systems like S-300/S-400. The system has capability for anti-munitions missions. It can hit targets on the waterline/above-water. It can operate in a fully automatic mode. It has the ability to work in a completely passive mode. The probability of hitting a target for one missile is not less than 0.7 with a reaction time of 4–6 seconds. It can fire missiles and gun armament while in motion.

For its main radar station, early detection in height may be between 0–60° and 26–82° depending on the mode. The system is claimed to have significant advantages over other systems, such as Crotale NG (France), Roland-3 (France + Germany), Rapier 2000 (UK), SeaRAM (Germany + USA). This is not confirmed by comparative testing, but clearly follows from the declared limit of possibilities of systems (2010). In 2013, there was a variant with two radar stations for early detection, standing back to back. The system has a modular structure which enables a fast and easy replacement of any part.

After receiving target coordinates (from any source) it may engage the target (using all the radar except the early detection radar) within a range from -5 to +85 (82) degrees (vertical). The interval between missile launches is 1-1.5 seconds (a world record for analogue systems).

The S-400 Triumf and Pantsir missile system can be integrated into a two-layer defense system.

The images and video above PROVE that things between Ukraine and Russia are getting very much worse and that Russia expects to be attacked by NATO. Ukraine no longer has much ability to attack Russia and certainly not Moscow. So it is only logical for one to conclude that these defensive missile systems are being mounted because Russia now EXPECTS to do battle with NATO.

This is the worst sign yet that World War 3 is very much heading our way.

TAKE-AWAY: Since Ukraine lacks any real ability to hit Moscow, the question now facing all of us is simple: Will NATO simply "jump-in" to the Ukraine-Russia fight, or has Russia now decided that NATO has interfered so much, they must be hit first? Of course, if the latter is the case, then there wouldn't logically, be a NATO counter-attack and Moscow could be hit.

This is how dangerously close all of us actually are to the commencement of World War 3. And the mass-media, in the US, UK, and EU . . . haven't said much about it at all. Most citizens in the US, UK, and EU are blissfully unaware of how much trouble our "aid" to Ukraine is causing.

UPDATE 2:13 PM EST --

The European Union (EU) has set up its first stockpile to respond to nuclear emergencies. The stockpile has been deployed into Finland.

A total of €242 million has been allocated to Finland by the European Commission to create the bloc's first strategic reserve against chemical, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) threats for use by all member states.

"Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine has confirmed the need to strengthen EU CBRN preparedness," Janez Lenarcic, European Commissioner for Crisis Management, said.

The stockpile, he added, *"will provide the EU with a significant safety net enabling a quick and coordinated response at EU level."*

The new reserve will include critical medical countermeasures, such as vaccines and antidotes, medical devices and field response equipment to ensure better protection in preparation and in response to biological, radiological and nuclear incidents.

RUSSIA CANCELING ALL TREATIES WITH COUNCIL OF EUROPE

President Vladimir Putin instructed Russian lawmakers on Tuesday to adopt a law that would formally end the country's participation in 21 treaties and charters related to the Council of Europe. Moscow withdrew from the human rights body last March, claiming it had been captured by the US and its allies and only serves Western political objectives.

Putin has formally submitted the bill on terminating the treaties to State Duma chair Vyacheslav Volodin, following the provisions of a 1995 federal law.

Among the 21 treaties that will cease to apply to Russia is the charter of the Council of Europe (CoE), the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, the European Convention for the Suppression of Terrorism, the European Charter of Local Self-Government, and the European Social Charter. The CoE will also lose the immunities and privileges granted by the charter.

The CoE was established in 1949 by several Western European countries, with a mission to promote "democracy, human rights and the rule of law." Russia joined the organization in 1996 and in 1998 ratified the human rights convention.

In February 2022, however, 42 out of 47 members voted to suspend Moscow's membership, citing the conflict in Ukraine. Russia condemned the "*openly political*" decision by which the nominally neutral body sided with the U.S. and NATO, and withdrew from the CoE on March 15. Moscow also announced it would send only the prorated amount of its 2022 contribution to the CoE budget, approximately 5.7 million euros.

In June, Putin signed a law that declared all verdicts of the European Court of Human Rights after March 15 null and void in Russia. Moscow formally repealed the convention accepting the ECHR jurisdiction in September, 2022. The following month, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) adopted a resolution urging member countries to declare "*the current Russian regime as a terrorist one.*"

(Hal Turner REMARK: So now, the Treaties started being canceled on Tuesday, The EU began deploying its Strategic Reserve for Nuclear incidents into Finland on Wednesday, Russia began deploying anti-air missile defenses onto its; Ministry of Defense and other government buildings in Moscow (Story Here) on Thursday it doesn't take a rocket scientist to see where all this is heading: World War 3.)

With Ukraine Situation Getting Worse, What Would Happen if Russian Nuke Hit New York City . . .

The situation between Russia and Ukraine grows worse each day because the United States and its NATO vassals continue to escalate the weapons given to Ukraine. At some point, Russia may have to tell the U.S. to stop or be made to stop. Of course, the U.S. will not back down, and as such, the missiles may fly. Here are what scientists say will happen if a Russian nuke hits New York City . . .



Russian intercontinental ballistic missiles are believed to carry a total of approximately 1,000 strategic nuclear warheads that can hit the U.S. less than 30 minutes after being launched. Of this total, about 700 warheads are rated at 800 kilotons; that is, each has the explosive power of 800,000 tons of TNT. What follows is a description of the consequences of the detonation of a single such warhead over midtown Manhattan, in the heart of New York City.

The initial fireball. The warhead would probably be detonated slightly more than a mile above the city, to maximize the damage created by its blast wave. Within a few tenths of a millionths of a second after detonation, the center of the warhead would reach a temperature of roughly 200 million degrees Fahrenheit (about 100 million degrees Celsius), or about four to five times the temperature at the center of the sun.

A ball of superheated air would form, initially expanding outward at millions of miles per hour. It would act like a fast-moving piston on the surrounding air, compressing it at the edge of the fireball and creating a shockwave of vast size and power.

After one second, the fireball would be roughly a mile in diameter. It would have cooled from its initial temperature of many millions of degrees to about **16,000 degrees Fahrenheit**, roughly 4,000 degrees hotter than the surface of the sun.

On a clear day with average weather conditions, the enormous heat and light from the fireball would almost **instantly ignite fires over a total area of about 100 square miles.**

Hurricane of fire. Within seconds after the detonation, fires set within a few miles of the fireball would burn violently. These fires would force gigantic masses of heated air to rise, drawing cooler air from surrounding areas toward the center of the fire zone from all directions.

As the massive winds drove flames into areas where fires had not yet fully developed, the fires set by the detonation would begin to merge. Within tens of minutes of the detonation, fires from near and far would join to form a single, gigantic fire. The energy released by this mass fire would be 15 to 50 times greater than the energy produced by the nuclear detonation.

The mass fire, or firestorm, would quickly increase in intensity, heating enormous volumes of air that would rise at speeds approaching 300 miles per hour. This chimney effect would pull cool air from outside the fire zone towards the center of the fire at speeds of hundreds of miles per hour. These superheated ground winds of more than hurricane force would further intensify the fire. At the edge of the fire zone, the winds would be powerful enough to uproot trees three feet in diameter and suck people from outside the fire into it.

The intruding winds would drive the flames from burning buildings horizontally along the ground, filling city streets with flames and firebrands, breaking in doors and windows, and causing the fire to jump, sometimes hundreds of feet, swallowing anything not already violently combusting.

These above-hurricane-force ground winds would have average air temperatures well above the boiling point of water. The targeted area would be transformed into a huge hurricane of fire, producing a lethal environment throughout the entire fire zone.

Ground zero: Midtown Manhattan. The fireball would vaporize the structures directly below it and produce an immense blast wave and high-speed winds, crushing even heavily built concrete structures within a couple miles of ground zero. The blast would tear apart high-rise buildings and expose their contents to the solar temperatures; it would spread fires by exposing ignitable surfaces, releasing flammable materials, and dispersing burning materials.

At the Empire State Building, Grand Central Station, the Chrysler Building, and St. Patrick's Cathedral, about one half to three quarters of a mile from ground zero, light from the fireball would melt asphalt in the streets, burn paint off walls, and melt metal surfaces within a half second of the detonation. Roughly one second later, the blast wave and **750-mile-per-hour winds would arrive**, flattening buildings and tossing burning cars into the air like leaves in a windstorm. Throughout Midtown, the interiors of vehicles and buildings in line of sight of the fireball would explode into flames.

Slightly more than a mile from ground zero are the neighborhoods of Chelsea, Midtown East, and Lenox Hill, as well as the United Nations; at this distance, for a split second

the fireball would shine 10,000 times brighter than a desert sun at noon. All combustible materials illuminated by the fireball would spew fire and black smoke.

Grass, vegetation, and leaves on trees would explode into flames; the surface of the ground would explode into superheated dust. Any flammable material inside buildings (paper, curtains, upholstery) that was directly exposed to the fireball would burst into flame. The surfaces of the bronze statues in front of the UN would melt; marble surfaces exposed to the fireball would crack, pop, and possibly evaporate.

At this distance from the fireball, it would take about four seconds for the blast wave to arrive. As it passed over, the blast wave would engulf all structures and crush them; it would generate **ferocious winds of 400 to 500 miles per hour** that would persist for a few seconds.

The high winds would tear structural elements from buildings and cause them to disintegrate explosively into smaller pieces. Some of these pieces would become destructive projectiles, causing further damage. The superheated, dust-laden winds would be strong enough to overturn trucks and buses.

Two miles from ground zero, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, with all its magnificent historical treasures, would be obliterated. Two and half miles from ground zero, in Lower Manhattan, the East Village, and Stuyvesant Town, the fireball would appear 2,700 times brighter than a desert sun at noon. There, thermal radiation would melt and warp aluminum surfaces, ignite the tires of autos, and turn exposed skin to charcoal, before the blast wave arrived and ripped apart the buildings.

Three to nine miles from ground zero. Midtown is bordered by the relatively wide Hudson and East rivers, and fires would start simultaneously in large areas on both sides of these waterways (that is, in Queens and Brooklyn as well as Jersey City and West New York, NJ). Although the direction of the fiery winds in regions near the river would be modified by the water, the overall wind pattern from these huge neighboring fire zones would be similar to that of a single mass fire, with its center at Midtown, Manhattan.

Three miles from ground zero, in Union City, New Jersey, and Astoria, Queens, the fireball would be as bright as 1,900 suns and deliver more than five times the thermal energy deposited at the perimeter of the mass fire at Hiroshima. In Greenpoint, Brooklyn, and in the Civic Center of Lower Manhattan, clothes worn by people in the direct line of sight of the fireball would burst into flames or melt, and uncovered skin would be charred, causing third-degree burns and worse.

It would take 12 to 14 seconds for the blast wave to travel three miles after the fireball's initial flash of light. At this distance, the blast wave would last for about three seconds and be accompanied by **winds of 200 to 300 miles per hour**. Residential structures would be destroyed; high-rises would be at least heavily damaged.

Fires would rage everywhere within five miles of ground zero. At a distance of **5.35 miles from the detonation**, the light flash from the fireball would deliver twice the thermal energy experienced at the edge of the mass fire at Hiroshima. In Jersey City and Cliffside Park, and in Woodside in Queens, on Governors Island and in Harlem, the light and heat to surfaces would approximate that created by 600 desert suns at noon.

Wind speed at this distance would be **70 to 100 miles per hour**. Buildings of heavy construction would suffer little structural damage, but all exterior windows would be shattered, and non-supporting interior walls and doors would be severely damaged or blown down. Black smoke would effuse from wood houses as paint burned off surfaces and furnishings ignited.

Six to seven miles from ground zero, from Moonachie, New Jersey, to Crown Heights, Brooklyn, from Yankee Stadium to Corona, Queens and Crown Heights, Brooklyn, the fireball would appear 300 times brighter than the desert sun at noon. Anyone in the direct light of the fireball would suffer third degree burns to their exposed skin. The firestorm could engulf neighborhoods as far as seven miles away from ground zero, since these outlying areas would receive the same amount of heat as did the areas at the edge of the mass fire at Hiroshima.

Nine miles from ground zero, in Hackensack, Bayonne, and Englewood, New Jersey, as well as in Richmond Hill, Queens, and Flatlands, Brooklyn, the fireball would be about 100 times brighter than the sun, bright enough to cause first- and second-degree burns to those in line of sight. About 36 seconds after the fireball, the shockwave would arrive and knock out all the windows, along with many interior building walls and some doors.

No survivors. Within tens of minutes, everything within approximately five to seven miles of Midtown Manhattan would be engulfed by a gigantic firestorm. The fire zone would cover a total area of 90 to 152 square miles (230 to 389 square kilometers). The firestorm would rage for three to six hours. Air temperatures in the fire zone would likely average 400 to 500 degrees Fahrenheit (200 to 260 Celsius).

After the fire burned out, the street pavement would be so hot that even tracked vehicles could not pass over it for days. Buried, unburned material from collapsed buildings throughout the fire zone could burst into flames when exposed to air—months after the firestorm had ended.

Those who tried to escape through the streets would have been incinerated by the hurricane-force winds filled with firebrands and flames. Even those able to find shelter in the lower-level sub-basements of massive buildings would likely suffocate from fire-generated gases or be cooked alive as their shelters heated to oven-like conditions.

The fire would extinguish all life and destroy almost everything else. Tens of miles downwind of the area of immediate destruction, radioactive fallout would begin to arrive within a few hours of the detonation.

But that is another story.

Editor's note: This article is adapted from "City on Fire" by Lynn Eden, originally published in the January 2004 issue of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists.

Putin has previously named target cities for his retaliation, including London, Berlin, Paris, New York, and Washington, D.C.

The link below is conversation between Judge Napolitano and Marine Scott Ritter. This report addresses what is ahead for all parties here. You need to listen to this interview in order to grasp the gravity of the current situation.

[Napolitano and Ritter Talking About Putin, Ukraine, NATO and Nuclear Weapons. odysee.com /](http://odysee.com/)

WikiLeaks cables revealed NATO intended to cross all Russian red lines, according to **Drago Bosnic** on January 20, 2023.

For nearly a year, the massive Western propaganda machine has been manipulating its audience into believing the "*Russia's unprovoked aggression in Ukraine*" narrative. The "*reporting*" can be crudely boiled down to the following: "*On February 24, bloodthirsty Kremlin dictator Putin got up on the wrong side of the bed and decided to attack the nascent beacon of freedom and democracy in Kiev.*" This is mandatory in virtually all Western mainstream media and any attempt to even think of questioning it results in immediate "*cancellation*". Propagandists posing as "*pundits*" flooded political talk shows with the task of presenting decades of unrelenting NATO expansion as irrelevant to Russia's reaction.

U.S. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Mark Milley, the highest-ranking officer in the American armed forces, met with Ukrainian soldiers undergoing Pentagon training at a base in Germany, where Washington recently stepped up efforts to prepare foreign troops for combat. The general visited the U.S. Army's Grafenwoehr Training Area in the German state of Bavaria for just shy of two hours on Monday, overseeing training operations with Ukrainian soldiers and their American instructors. The trip coincided with an expansion of the U.S. training program for Ukrainian troops at the Grafenwoehr base just one day prior, with Milley saying the Pentagon now hopes to turn out 500 combat-ready soldiers in five to eight weeks.

In Blessed Hope #135, I made my point that this war has deep religious significance and yet almost no attention has been paid to this larger overarching factor. Even the Orthodox Church has tried to get the point made at the UN Security Council.

The Russian Orthodox Church went to the UN to denounce Ukrainian crimes. At a meeting of the Security Council on January 17, invited by the Russian diplomatic representation at the UN, an Orthodox bishop linked to the Moscow Patriarchate commented on the situation of the Orthodox Church in Ukraine in the face of the

persecutions imposed by Kiev's neo-Nazi regime. This was the first time that a representative of the Orthodox clergy has addressed the UNSC.

The bishop chosen for the interaction was Chairman of the Department of External Relations of the Church of the Patriarchate of Moscow, Metropolitan of Volokolamsk, Anthony. He made it clear to all diplomats of the UNSC that the Orthodox Church is currently experiencing serious political and religious oppression under the Ukrainian government. Metropolitan Anthony said that the Russians are "*extremely concerned about the blatant violations of the universal and constitutional rights of Orthodox believers in Ukraine*".

The bishop exposed some shocking data about the Ukrainian reality. Due to the ban on Orthodoxy recently imposed by the Zelensky regime, thirteen Ukrainian bishops were actually deprived of their own Ukrainian citizenship. With this measure, the neo-Nazis intend to coerce the clergy to stop disobeying the dictatorial norms aimed at banning the Church. Currently, Ukrainian clerics are trying to resist the regime's impositions, continuing to offer liturgical services and protecting local traditions.

However, if bishops continue to lose their nationality, they will certainly be forced into exile, which will further complicate the situation for Orthodox believers in Ukraine. The bishop also highlighted that these revocations of citizenship are decreed irregularly, without any legal procedure that legitimizes them, thus violating the country's constitution.

Another data informed by him concerns the process of expropriation of the Russian Church. Metropolitan Anthony reported in his speech that last year alone 129 churches belonging to the Patriarchate of Moscow were captured by the Ukrainian regime's agents. Part of these expropriated churches are then used for non-religious purposes, while others are given to the ultranationalist and non-canonical sect called "*Patriarchate of Kiev*", which is widely supported by the Maidan Junta, as it adopts the anti-Russian neo-Nazi ideology of the Ukrainian state. It is important to remember that the Ukrainian Orthodox believers are canonically linked to the Patriarchate of Moscow, therefore these acts of the Kiev regime are an attack against the religion of the Ukrainian people itself.

The head of foreign affairs of the Russian Church also emphasized the importance of understanding the current situation of the Church as a kind of mass political repression. He told the UNSC delegates that since last year the SBU (Ukrainian intelligence agency) agents constantly carry out violent operations in Orthodox churches, during which the clergy are publicly humiliated, and the temples desecrated. He compared the oppression suffered today with that of the early years of the Soviet Union.

These recent attacks have taken place officially, as the Ukrainian state has started a banning campaign against all institutions linked to Russia. However, illegally, since 2014 there has been strong persecution against the Orthodox Church in regions with an ethnic Russian majority. Neo-Nazi militias destroyed temples and killed clergy and

believers in Donbass during hostilities against resistance forces. There are several photos and videos circulating on the internet showing the oppression to which the Orthodox Church has been subjected in Ukraine.

According to Metropolitan Anthony, since the Orthodox Church is the majority faith of both Russians and Ukrainians, it can serve as a basis for peaceful dialogue towards the end of hostilities. The recent Russian initiative, rejected by Kiev, to establish a temporary ceasefire during the Orthodox Christmas is an example of this. However, from the moment that one of the sides begins to deliberately oppress the Church, the possibility of dialogue ceases. Therefore, the international society must pay attention to the situation of the Church in Ukraine and demand changes in Kiev's position.

Furthermore, the reports made by the bishop should also generate discussions in the western world, since it is unacceptable that the regime which promotes ethnic and religious persecution continues to receive money and weapons from the West. Although NATO has already made it clear several times that it has no humanitarian concern and that it is willing to do anything to "defeat" Russia, it is important that the costs of this war are known by Western public opinion.

For approximately three decades, consecutive U.S. administrations were explicitly warned that Ukraine's NATO membership would be the last straw for Moscow. Numerous Russian officials kept cautioning this would destabilize the deeply divided post-Soviet country. These warnings were made both in public and private, and were reiterated by other NATO members, geopolitical experts, Russian opposition leaders and even some American diplomats, including a US ambassador in Moscow. Yeltsin once told former president Bill Clinton that NATO expansion was "*nothing but humiliation for Russia if you proceed*". Clinton, infamous for his aggression on Yugoslavia, ignored the warning and by 1999, less than a decade after the "*not an inch to the east*" promise was made, most of Eastern Europe was in NATO.

Despite this encroachment, Vladimir Putin still tried to establish closer ties with the political West, ratified START II and even offered to join NATO. America responded with unilateral withdrawal from key arms control treaties and color revolutions in Moscow's geopolitical backyard. By the mid-2000s, Russia was flanked by two hostile US-backed regimes on its southern and western borders (Georgia and Ukraine). Major NATO members, such as Germany and France, warned this would lead to an inevitable response from Moscow. A WikiLeaks cable dated September 2005 reads:

"[French presidential advisor Maurice] Gourdault-Montagne warned that the question of Ukrainian accession to NATO remained extremely sensitive for Moscow, and concluded that if there remained one potential cause for war in Europe, it was Ukraine. Some in the Russian administration felt we were doing too much in their core zone of interest, and one could wonder whether the Russians might launch a move similar to Prague in 1968, to see what the West would do."

WikiLeaks further reveals that German officials reiterated similar concerns about Russia's reaction to NATO expansion into Georgia and Ukraine, particularly the latter, with diplomat Rolf Nikel stating: *"While Georgia was 'just a bug on the skin of the bear,' Ukraine was inseparably identified with Russia, going back to Vladimir of Kiev in 1988."* Another cable dated January 2008 says that *"Italy is a strong advocate" for NATO enlargement, "but is concerned about provoking Russia through hurried Georgian integration."* Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Stoere made similar remarks, an April 2008 cable indicates. Despite believing Russia shouldn't have a saying in NATO, he said that *"he understands Russia's objections to NATO enlargement and that the alliance needs to work to normalize the relationship with Russia."*

In the US, even some high-level government officials made nearly identical assessments. WikiLeaks reveals that these warnings were presented to Washington DC by none other than **William Burns himself, former US Ambassador to Russia and the current CIA chief**. According to a **cable dated March 2007**, Burns said: *"NATO enlargement and US missile defense deployments in Europe play to the classic Russian fear of encirclement."* **Months later, he stated:** *"Ukraine's and Georgia's entry represents an 'unthinkable' predicament for Russia and Moscow would cause enough trouble in Georgia and continued political disarray in Ukraine to halt it."* Interestingly, Burns also assessed that **closer ties between Russia and China** were largely the *"by-product of 'bad' US policies" and were unsustainable "unless continued NATO enlargement pushed Russia and China even closer together."*

In February 2008, **Burns wrote:** *"Experts tell us that Russia is particularly worried that the strong divisions in Ukraine over NATO membership, with much of the ethnic-Russian community against membership, could lead to a major split, involving violence or at worst, civil war. Russia would then have to decide whether to intervene; a decision Russia does not want to have to face."*

Another **cable dated March 2008** stated that *"opposing NATO's enlargement to Ukraine and Georgia, was one of the few security areas where there is almost complete consensus among Russian policymakers, experts and the informed population."* One defense expert stated that *"Ukraine was the line of last resort that would complete Russia's encirclement"* and that *"its entry into NATO was universally viewed by the Russian political elite as an unfriendly act."* **Dozens of other cables** make nearly identical assessments of radical changes in Russia's foreign policy if NATO encroachment were to continue.

However, the vast majority of US officials, regardless of the administration, simply dismissed all warnings, repeatedly describing them as "oft-heard, old, nothing new, largely predictable, familiar litany and rehashing that provided little new substance." Astonishingly, even the aforementioned Norway's understanding of Moscow's objections was labeled as **"parroting Russia's line"**. While many German officials warned that the **east-west split within Ukraine** made the idea of NATO

membership “*risky*” and that it could “break up the country”, US officials insisted this was only temporary and that it would change over time.

And indeed, the political West invested hundreds of billions of dollars in turning Ukraine into a fervently Russophobic country, effectively becoming a giant military springboard aimed against Moscow. **NATO regularly conducted exercises, maintained an extensive presence**, and even planned to make it permanent with at least several land and **naval bases under construction** in the country at the time when Russia launched its counteroffensive. In 2019, RAND Corporation, a well-known think tank funded by the Pentagon, **published a report which focused on devising strategies for overextending Russia**. Part of it reads:

“The Kremlin’s anxieties over a direct military attack on Russia were very real and could drive its leaders to make rash, self-defeating decisions... .. Providing more US military equipment and advice to Ukraine could lead Moscow to respond by mounting a new offensive and seizing more Ukrainian territory.”

It’s quite hard to dismiss Moscow’s claims that the Ukrainian crisis is a segment of the comprehensive aggression against Russia when the very institutions funded by the political West itself openly admit that the current events were planned years or even decades ago. And even if the impossible happened and the Eurasian giant decided to surrender and succumb to Western pressure, where does the U.S.-led aggression against the world stop? Or worse yet, how long before a disaster of cataclysmic proportions puts an end to it?

In 2008, American President George Bush officially announced plans to add the nation of Ukraine to his empire. This would strike a serious blow to Russia by cutting its access to southern Europe. Ukraine was a key Russian trading partner that controlled most access to the Black Sea and most natural gas pipelines to Europe. It is the second largest nation in Europe by size with significant oil, natural gas, and coal reserves.

Most Ukrainians speak Russian as their primary language. They consider Russia a sister nation, much like the relationship between the United States and Canada. After allowing Ukraine to become a separate nation in 1991, Russia assisted Ukraine with discounted oil and natural gas. Most Ukrainians didn’t want to join NATO, so in 2010 elected a President who opposed this effort. As a result, the US government began a massive campaign to demonize Russia and destabilize the democratic government of Ukraine.

UPDATED 11:50 AM EST -- NATO "Contact Group" (War Council) Meeting Now at Ramstein Air Base - Germany - Over Ukraine

[WORLD HAL TURNER](#) 20 JANUARY 2023

At least thirty-two (32) military Generals have convened for a meeting at Ramstein Air Base in Germany, to discuss future "aid" and "tactics" for the ongoing Ukraine-Russia

conflict. Today, the world will find out if Germany will approve the sending of German tanks to Ukraine - a "Red Line" for Russia.

Germany manufactures the Leopard-2 main battle tank. Several other countries in Europe have purchased a number of these tanks over the years, and want to give them to Ukraine, so as to fight Russia, but there's a problem.

When a country manufactures weapons, and then sells those weapons to another country, the sale is contingent on the receiving country agreeing NOT to re-sell (or give) those weapons to anyone else without permission of the originating country.

In this case, Poland wants to give the Leopard-2 tanks they bought, to Ukraine. Germany has not given permission, so the tanks cannot go.

Last week, the German Defense Minister, Lebrecht, resigned. There is now a new Defense Minister, and he is attending today's meeting at Ramstein Air Base.

Leaked information coming out of Germany indicates the new minister will approve the transfer of Leopard-2 tanks, but right now, that is only RUMOR.

Yet, there are additional problems.

Through political back-channels, Russia has informed Germany that if German tanks attack Russian soil, it will be a violation of the Potsdam Treaty that ended World War Two. That Treaty makes clear Germany is only allowed to have a "Defense Force" which can be used "for nothing else." Manufacturing tanks which are then sent to Ukraine to fight Russia, would be using the German military for "something else" and Russia's position is that will violate the Demilitarization" provisions of the Potsdam Treaty. Russia allegedly told Germany that if German tanks attack Russian soil "World War 3 will begin immediately.

The rub here is that the former oblasts of Luhansk, Donetsk, Kherson, and Zaporozhye, have now joined Russia and been accepted by the Russian legislature, called the Duma. So those territories are now "Russian soil."

Ukraine does not recognize this, nor does the collective West. They refer to those oblasts as having been "illegally annexed."

So Russia views the territories as Russian soil, the West does not. If Ukraine is given German tanks and use those tanks to attack "Russian Soil" it will re-start World War 2, or be known as "World War 3."

That is how close the entire world is to horrifying war on a vast scale, and we all get to hear the decision about the German tanks, today.

UPDATE 11:50 AM EST --

The new German Defense Minister, Boris Pistorius has just publicly announced *"NATO countries failed to reach a unified position regarding the supply of Leopard 2 tanks to Kyiv."* He went on to say *"Statements by the media that Germany is on the way to creating a coalition to send heavy tanks to Ukraine are lies. There are good reasons to send equipment, but there are also reasons not to."* All pros and cons must be weighed. Many allies share our point of view, Pistorius added.

The insanity of Washington became more deliberate late Friday afternoon January 20, 2023. The U.S. government has authorized another \$2.5 billion in military aid for Ukraine, including thousands of rockets and artillery rounds, as well as the first-ever shipment of Stryker fighting vehicles.

The Pentagon announced the new arms package on Thursday, marking the 30th drawdown from Defense Department inventories since the conflict in Ukraine erupted last year. In addition to 90 Strykers and a variety of other armored vehicles, Washington will supply 95,000 105-millimeter artillery shells, additional ammunition for the HIMARS multi-launch rocket platform, an unspecified number of rounds for the National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile System (NASAMS), and eight Avenger air defense systems, among other gear.

In service since 2002, the eight-wheeled Stryker can be equipped with a range of main armaments depending on the model, including the M2 machine gun, the MK19 grenade launcher, or the 30mm MK44 Bushmaster chaingun. The Pentagon did not say which version Kiev would receive, only noting that the 90 Strykers would come with 20 landmine rollers.

[READ MORE: US quietly shipping arms from Israel to Ukraine – NYT](#)

The Defense Department said it would also send 59 Bradley fighting vehicles, added to 50 already authorized earlier this month. Officials have dubbed the platform a *"tank killer,"* as it comes mounted with anti-armor TOW missiles, and have suggested it could be useful in future offensives against Russian forces. Another 590 TOW missiles were included in Thursday's arms package, bringing the total to 2,590.

Though Washington has approved more than \$27 billion in direct military aid to Kiev over the last year, Ukrainian officials have continued to ask for more powerful weapons, such as the M1 Abrams main battle tank. The administration of U.S. President Joe Biden has yet to budge on that request, but some Western partners are increasingly willing to supply similar arms, with the UK vowing to send a squadron of Challenger 2 tanks earlier this week.

Berlin has also come under pressure to provide its own Leopard battle tanks, but has so far declined to do so, also barring other nations from shipping the German-made vehicle to Ukraine.

[READ MORE: Polish general proposes 'mobilizing' Ukrainian refugees](#)

NATO members and some EU states are set to hold a meeting in Germany on Friday to discuss the possibility of heavier weapons for Kiev, though it remains unclear whether disputes over the tanks have been resolved. According to a German government source cited by Reuters, Berlin will lift its objections to sending Leopards only after Washington agrees to provide the M1 Abrams.

Russia has repeatedly warned against continued Western military aid to Ukraine, insisting it will only escalate and prolong the conflict. Following London's announcement that it would send tanks on Monday, the Kremlin said the vehicles "*will burn just like the rest [of the weapons],*" insisting they would not change the situation on the battlefield.

EU foreign policy commissioner Josep Borrell said on Friday that the West must keep sending weapons to Kiev, warning those who think Russia has lost or is doing poorly that Moscow has a history of winning long wars.

"Russia is a great country, a great nation that is used to fighting to the end, almost losing and then recovering," Borrell said in a speech in Madrid, bringing up the 1812 invasion by Napoleon Bonaparte's French empire and the 1941 invasion by Adolf Hitler's Germany as historical examples of this.

"It would be absurd to think that Russia has lost the war or that its military is incompetent," Borrell added.

He claimed that so far Moscow "*has been losing the war but it still has enormous strength and capacity to continue [fighting].*"

Because of this, he said, "*now is the time to continue arming Ukraine with the necessary material and military means to wage the kind of war it has to wage.*" He described this as "*not only a defensive war but one that allows it to take the initiative and break fronts and prevent Russia from launching a new, very powerful and bloody offensive in a few months.*"

Western tanks won't be game changer in Ukraine – Kremlin

Read more Western tanks won't be game changer in Ukraine – Kremlin

Borrell's invocation of Napoleon and Hitler was unusual, as Moscow has repeatedly compared the current efforts by the collective West with the two invasions, known as the Patriotic War and the Great Patriotic War, respectively.

Napoleon led a multinational army recruited from all across French-dominated Europe and reached Moscow, but failed to compel Russia's surrender. The war ended with Russian cavalry on the streets of Paris two years later. Hitler's effort, also aided by numerous continental allies and vassals, fell just short of Moscow. The Axis armies were savaged at Stalingrad and turned back at Kursk, with Russian soldiers taking Berlin in 1945.

According to Russian estimates, the U.S. and its allies funneled almost \$100 billion worth of weapons, ammunition and supplies to the Ukrainian military in 2022. Despite this unprecedented effort, Borrell on Friday continued to insist the West was not a party to the conflict, and that the EU did everything it could to avoid it. Former leaders of Germany and France, however, publicly admitted that the European-mediated Minsk agreements had been a ploy to buy Ukraine time to prepare for war.

The EU's high commissioner for foreign affairs spoke at Madrid's Teatro Real, where he was presented with the New Economy Forum 2022 Award. One of the presenters was Javier Solana, Borrell's predecessor at the EU post and NATO's secretary general in 1999, when the U.S.-led bloc launched an unprovoked war against Yugoslavia.

The bottom line is that this will not end well at all. The Vatican ideology runs the show from behind the scenes and while they lack the will they seem to be betting all their marbles on the U.S. being their hammer! My advice to anyone reading this Blessed Hope is that you prepare your families for a nuclear holocaust. Pray that God will ***"Deliver us from this evil!" "And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil."***
-(Luke 11:4; Matthew 6:3).

Revelation 9:15 and 9:18 states that one third of man will die in the first global extinction event.

If you have not Read Blessed Hope #134, here is the link to as more in depth background to what may be days or week ahead. [The Blessed Hope, Part 135](#) posted on Thursday 01/19/23.

"Look Up, Your Redemption is Nigh!"

Blessings,
Pastor Bob, EvanTeachr@aol.com
www.pastorbobreid.com



**ADMIT THAT YOU
ARE A SINNER.**

**BELIEVE THAT JESUS
PAID FOR YOUR SIN
ON THE CROSS. †**

**CONFESS THAT JESUS
IS LORD AND CALL UPON
HIM FOR SALVATION.**

The clock is running down and when the call comes to “Come up hither” the door will close and those left behind are likely to die for their faith in the final “Seven Weeks of Daniel 9:24-27!”