



Special Newsletter – 30 August 2024

Cyprus and the risk of the Russia/Ukraine war

Situation

1. The invasion of Ukraine by Russia in February 2022 continues today.
2. Weapon systems given by NATO to Ukraine have enabled it to continue the war.
3. The latest system to be given to Ukraine is F16 fighter planes.
4. Russia knows they are capable of carrying tactical nuclear weapons and has stated that if they are flown they will consider all flights so armed.
5. Russia has also stated that it will target all bases holding such planes even if outside Ukraine. **"Of course, if they will be used from airfields in third countries, they become for us legitimate targets, wherever they might be located," Putin said. ***
6. British tanks are being used today on Russian soil.
7. The UK is providing long range missiles called Storm Shadows which can be nuclear.

Action by Russia

Russia attack the British Royal Air Force base on Cyprus to dramatically shock NATO countries from holding F16s on behalf of Ukraine.

Result

1. Cyprus is not a member of NATO and therefore all NATO members would not be forced under Article 5 to reply with force.
2. Russia would argue it is not an attack on the UK because the bases are left overs from colonialism in the past. In 1982 British forces in the Falkland Islands were attacked by Argentina. NATO and the USA did not declare war on Argentina.
3. The attack would clearly demonstrate to Europe the risks of holding F16s for Ukraine.

Global Impact

1. The British Government and people would realise the risks they face of nuclear war.
2. Stock markets would fall dramatically
3. A new "Iron Curtain" would fall between Russia and the EU.
4. Cyprus tourism would stop immediately, the property market would collapse, banks would fail.
5. ECB would have a Euro crisis as many bonds dropped to zero worth.
6. Global trade would fall into two camps. One for the West, one for Russia/Brics

Summary

1. Russia does not want F16s deployed on behalf of Ukraine. They view it as an existential threat.
2. Such an attack would clearly demonstrate to the EU the risks if F16s were deployed.
3. From a Russian point of view they have little to lose.

Have you considered this risk in your planning?

Tim Underwood

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*<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/putin-tells-pilots-f16s-can-carry-nuclear-weapons-they-wont-change-things-2024-03-27/>