Iran ATTACKS RAF Bases? Trump & Mossad Plot MASSIVE War | Mark Sleboda & Stas Krapivnik

Mark Sleboda & Stanislav Krapivnik discuss Trump and the chief of Mossad's meeting, what came out of it, and the sirens blaring from THREE RAF bases indicating that the war on Iran is entering a new phase. They discuss this plus the latest in the US-NATO war in Ukraine in this must-watch program. https://boosty.to/therealpolitick SUPPORT MARK HERE https://www.youtube.com /@UCNFLdCSk3KxhahxQwjvQLbQ follow Stas's work! SUPPORT THE SHOW BY BECOMING A YOUTUBE MEMBER: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOxLhz6B_elvLflntSEfnzA/join PATREON. COM/DANNYHAIPHONG Support the channel in other ways: https://www.buymeacoffee.com /dannyhaiphong Substack: chroniclesofhaiphong.substack.com Cashapp: $Dhaiphong Venmo: @dannyH2020 Paypal: https://paypal.me/spiritofho Follow me on Telegram: https://t.me /dannyhaiphong #iran #israel #trump

#Danny

Welcome back to the show, everyone. As you can see, I'm joined by geopolitical analyst, military affairs and international relations expert Mark Sloboda. Stanislav Krupivnik will join in just a moment. But first, Mark, it's been a chaotic last 24 hours. The United States responded last night to what they said was suspected unauthorized drone activity at three U.K. airbases. RAF Lakenheath and a few others had sirens blaring due to this activity. Of course, the United States and the West have been pointing fingers at Iran, especially since Iran said they would expand their target list to Europe. But nothing has necessarily been verified just yet. Also, the Mossad chief was in the White House yesterday meeting with Donald Trump, as Netanyahu has been calling Trump every single day to restart the war against Iran.

#Mark Sleboda

That sounds like a bad sitcom.

#Danny

Yeah, it is. Actually, it is. And then today, supposedly—well, we can never really believe anything Trump says. But what we do know is he's telling his advisers he may hold off on attacks on Iran, barring new provocations. But some are very suspicious, Mark, that this is simply more of the same from Donald Trump, and that there have been many instances seemingly paving the way for that justification to go back to war via false flags and other kinds of accusations against Iran. But Mark,

what do you make of these developments? What is going on right now in the war? And how do you see this transpiring and developing as, you know, the USS Teddy Roosevelt's coming in a couple of days? There's a historic Putin-Trump-Xi summit—at least it's being called historic by CNN today. What do you make of what's going on right now geopolitically, given these developments?

#Mark Sleboda

Yeah, well, I think it continues to be the case that the Trump administration and Trump are still flailing around, moving back and forth between no good options, right? That is commonly presented as a return to kinetic operations, right? But we know that the U.S. has extremely limited supplies of standoff munitions—Tomahawks and JASSMs—as well as air defense interceptors, and that they just have very few arrows left in the quiver. That's why they've been talking about three days of resumed bombing to beat Iran into submission, because the first 40 days of bombing, and then the second phase of bombing, another three days—I'm sure that'll push them over the edge.

So I don't even think they believe that. The other option is to continue the ineffective blockade, continuing to put enormous logistical, personnel, and material strain on the U.S. Navy, because a third of the U.S. Navy is sitting off the coast of Iran and has been for the last half a year. And they're just overstretched and under-resourced. They have to run logistics lines all the way to Diego Garcia after Iran's successful policy of de-basification smashed up the Fifth Fleet's headquarters in Bahrain pretty thoroughly, by their own accounts.

And the third option is to make a deal, but they can't accept Iran's terms, which were codified in the Memorandum of Misunderstanding. Iran is now demanding not just that the U.S. return to it, but that it meet all the conditions up front, right before there's even a resumption of negotiations. So there are no good options for the Trump administration. And they're flailing back and forth, and they're undecided. They're as far from a monolith as you can get, and there are different people whispering in Trump's ear every 15 minutes, "Resume the war."

No, Bessent's saying we can strangle them economically with the new Iron Gate land blockade, which doesn't exist in the slightest shape or form. I don't know how many wrought-iron gates you've seen, Danny, but the ones I've seen, it's pretty easy to just slip something through the gate to the person on the other side. In that case, maybe it's really well named, you know, Iron Gate. It's just ridiculous, the idea that the U.S. can pressure all of Iran's neighbors into closing their borders, including somehow the Caspian Sea and Russia, evidently, which is for some reason included on the list—the landlocked Caspian Sea that is a veritable Russian-Iranian lake.

#Danny

It's just...

#Mark Sleboda

They go from fantasy to even more ridiculous fantasy at this point. So, in the end, we can't know what Trump is going to do because Trump doesn't know what Trump is going to do. The New York Times reported a month ago that the Pentagon had presented him with at least six different military plans for attacks on Iran and/or Ansar Allah in Yemen. And he's tossed them all aside, not happy with any of them. So he doesn't know what he's doing. They're certainly building up contingency forces, you know, in particular with the third carrier, the Teddy Roosevelt, arriving in theater this weekend. And they'll have, you know, the most firepower that the U.S. can muster at this point, which is just not enough. It's not enough to beat Iran into submission, even if they wipe out a whole other swath of the Iranian leadership with decapitation strikes.

That's not going to change. It's not going to bring about regime change in Iran, change their foreign policy, or loosen their control of the Strait of Hormuz. So that's why they keep flailing around, going from, you know, bluff to diplomacy—what passes for diplomacy in the Trump administration. I guess the Chuckle Brothers, Witkoff and Kushner, have proven so incompetent that they had to draft J.D. Vance, maybe the one person in the administration who has actually been against all of this from the beginning, although not enough to resign or anything like that. But, you know, he's certainly trying to put as much distance between the war and himself as possible as he prepares, at some point in the future, to try to take over the idea of the America First political movement, as it exists—or doesn't exist—in the United States.

That's another question. But he has made it very hard for Trump to return to kinetic operations with his post after the midterm elections, which, you know, blamed the Republicans' loss on his own base's dissatisfaction with the war on Iran. And, you know, there's good reason to believe that that's a significant part of it. On the other hand, Trump could at this point say, "Well, I've got nothing left to lose. Screw the voters and screw the public. Whoever asked the public what they think of foreign military policy anyway?" And, you know, hang out with his pal Bibi. I mean, you know, he may do that. So he doesn't know yet.

He keeps vacillating back and forth as one person or another whispers in his ear, and he knows that none of his options are good. And, you know, with the scale of this geostrategic blunder, his entire presidency—and really far more than his presidency—is on the line. U.S. hegemony is on the line between the overstretch in Ukraine and this. Now, I mean, the U.S. is facing a collapsing hegemony at this point. I mean, we're moving from crumbling to collapsing, and that is a real possibility in the endgame of this and the other conflicts that keep bumping into each other. Because all conflicts are one conflict now: the conflict for the future world order. You know, they keep running into each other. And the fact that Russia is a not insignificant part of both of those conflicts, as is the U.S., is extremely important there.

And all of this comes, you know, with this great “Yalta 2.0” summit, as it is billed, which is going to be absolutely nothing but a glorified photo op where Trump can feel powerful and fulfill his great-power fantasies, strutting between Vladimir Putin and Xi Jinping for no purpose whatsoever that

anyone can tell. But, you know, he is sacrificing America’s hegemonic position, right? Even as he tries to play the part of the foremost among the three great world powers, he’s pretty much proving the opposite, as far as I’m concerned. Hi, Stan. Welcome.

#Danny

Yeah. Hey, guys. Good to see you. Thanks for taking time out of your Saturday. Both of you are taking time out of your Saturday nights in Russia, Moscow time. So I appreciate both of you. Well, Stas, we began the segment talking about some stories I went over about British Royal Air Force bases sounding the alarm about hostile drone activity above them last night. And, of course, the Trump-Mossad meeting that happened late yesterday as well. What are your thoughts on how these developments fit into what's going on here, and is there anything you want to react to?

#Stas Krapivnik

Oh, you mean the Iranian drones that piggybacked on the Russian drones that flew all the way from Vladivostok—or maybe it was Kamchatka? Yeah, it might as well be Mars at this point. On chemical engines, by the way. They've been flying for two years.

#Mark Sleboda

So now they've arrived over the British bases. Well, Russia does have nuclear-powered missiles and torpedoes that can theoretically travel forever. So, hey, you know? Well, it's not forever. It's until their fuel runs out, which is about two or three months. Yeah, well, which is forever.

#Stas Krapivnik

By the way, I know this is a tangent, but just to understand Musk's little plan to go colonize Mars on chemical engines—yeah, good luck. The last chemical engine that sent some satellites there, they were in transit for two frigging years. So it'll definitely be a one-way trip for whoever takes that trip. Now, Russia's nuclear engines that are right now on ballistic missiles and underwater drones—you can put them on anything. And Russia's planning on putting them on nuclear tugs as it builds its own space station. Right now, the modules are under construction on Earth.

Now, that is what will get you to Mars in about a week. It'll accelerate to a little under 1% of light speed, which is a huge speed for our technology base right now. Sure, you're not flying to Alpha Centauri anytime soon, but for Mars, that's an adequate speed. So Musk is going to have to, I guess, reverse-engineer Russian technology yet one more time, since his rockets are all Russian rockets that he reverse-engineered. On the U.S. dollar, by the way. I slightly disagree with Mark. The U.S. has a much larger quiver. It's just that the secondary quiver is not quite as effective because they're gravity bombs. Oh, yeah.

#Mark Sleboda

That's a whole other quiver.

#Stas Krapivnik

Yeah. But wait, wait. If they're gravity bombs, now you've got the JDAMs and you've got the extended-range JDAMs. That gives you an entire 85 kilometers.

#Mark Sleboda

But you have to get in close to use them.

#Stas Krapivnik

Yes. Yeah. So if you want to bomb Tehran, you only have to fly through almost all of Iran in one direction or another. But I guess if you fly from Knesset Base North, otherwise known as Azerbaijan, it'll be closer, but you still have to fly through a good distance of Iran to get up there to drop them. Did you say Knesset North? We have Knesset West, otherwise known as the U.S. Congress. They're expanding. They're expanding in every direction. I mean, look, the Israelis are building colonies in Cyprus that are blocking the Cypriot police.

They offered Greece a rent-to-own scheme for their islands. You're going to love that. That was also promised 3,000 years ago. They're building colonies in southwestern Ukraine. And now the third cousin, five times removed, of the bastard of the maid of Netanyahu's great-great-great-great-grandfather, otherwise known as—what's his name?—Milei, the president of Argentina, has given them 300,000 acres to build a colony on freshly burned land because they passed a law that whenever forest land burns, they can sell it. And it instantly started burning.

#Mark Sleboda

Amazing coincidence. I know, I know.

#Stas Krapivnik

So, yeah, there's a possibility they could still do it, but look, more realistically, they can use those JDAMs to hit coastal regions and still possibly lose planes—probably lose planes—because they still have to get pretty damn close. And they have to get pretty high to get that 85-kilometer range. Just as a comparison, the Russian FABs are basically JDAMs. The Americans came up with JDAMs first. Russia copied it. But the Russian ones go 200 kilometers. A little bit different, yeah. A little upgrade in technology there. As for aircraft carriers, honestly, I don't see what they're going to do. The Lincoln spent 48 days running in big circles in the middle of the Indian Ocean, trying not to get hit.

And I talked to some Iranians that I know, and they're all linked with the government. They said flat out that no, the government wasn't trying to sink the aircraft carrier that time. That doesn't mean they're not going to try to sink it this time, or one of those three. Sinking an aircraft carrier is pretty hard because they've got something like 4,000 or 5,000 airtight compartments. But damaging the hell out of one is not that difficult, especially if you hit the flight deck. You know, nothing's landing, nothing's taking off. And you're going to cause casualties. I mean, it's 5,000 people packed in that thing. I think that would be a pretty damn big hit on Trump. You see videos of one of those aircraft carriers limping back in, smoke rising from big holes in it. Laundry fire.

#Mark Sleboda

Obviously a laundry fire. You don't know what you're talking about.

#Stas Krapivnik

Exactly. And that's the laundry fire. I'm friends with Cameron McGregor, who's a former U.S. Navy officer. We were talking about it. It was like, you know, again, if this was just a laundry fire and the laundry room is in one of those airtight compartments, why didn't they just close everything off and let it burn itself out once the oxygen ran out? But they fought it for 60 friggin' hours? I mean, were they chasing the fire down the hallways? "Oh, look, there's one going down there. Run over this way. Run over that way." It just sounds like an explosion, you know, that ripped through multiple compartments, so you couldn't seal them off. Again, I'm not Navy. I'm a ground pounder. So, you know, if a tank's burning, you get the hell off of it. I've had a tank burn out from underneath me. It's not a fun deal, but you get the hell off of it. Try to put it out if you can. On a ship, you have to run towards the fire.

#Mark Sleboda

Because otherwise, you're just running towards the water.

#Stas Krapivnik

Yeah, that's why I never joined the Navy. I did spend half my time in armor and half in infantry. Even if your tank's burning, you can at least get the hell off and go hide under a tree or something like that. When your ship's burning, I don't know, swim with the sharks? That just never tripped my trigger. I had friends who went into submarine forces. That really didn't trip my trigger. I'm not claustrophobic, obviously. I was a tanker. But, you know, sitting underwater in a tube, getting really close to the buddies around you.

#Mark Sleboda

You know, it's just, no thanks, man.

#Stas Krapivnik

I prefer some fresh air.

#Danny

Well, now, Stas and Mark, if you want to react to this first, I don't know if you saw that the USS George H.W. Bush is having very similar problems to what the Lincoln had, and, of course, what the Washington has, which we've heard about too. But I guess families are absolutely furious that they've been ordered to remain in the Arabian Sea for a year. They are not going home for the holidays. I think it's been 187 days, maybe 188 now, but they're going to stay for the full 365, which is causing a lot of anger, not just among the families. We're also hearing that things are really bad on board.

So that raises the question, and Mark, you can begin. It's obvious Israel really wants war again, but how do these dynamics—and I asked this yesterday too—affect what kind of restart to a war could happen, given that this is a big part of it? These aircraft carriers are obviously going to be taking on a big load should it restart, but things on board are not good. Your thoughts?

#Mark Sleboda

Yeah, I mean, there's a reason why something like 90 percent of Navy marriages end in divorce. And obviously, the current administration has decided that 90 percent just isn't good enough for MAGA America, and we've got to strive for a full hundred percent. So, yeah, I mean, I have no doubt that you're going to see small acts of individual, shall we say, disgruntlement or insurrection aboard these ships. I don't imagine it is going to reach the level where it will be, shall we say, mission-critical—that it will impede the mission. There are, however, enough other strains on the fleet that adding that into the mix is going to create problems. The U.S. has problems with its shortfall in munitions—standoff munitions and interceptors—and the loss of close to 60 Reaper drones at this point, pushing half of its Reaper fleet, and smaller numbers of other drones.

At least according to the Iranians, they hit another early warning radar in the last week, adding to the toll of radars. The U.S., if it goes back to kinetic operations against Iran, is actually going to be in a much, much weaker position to do so than it was originally because of Iran's strategy thus far, the amount of overstretch, and the real, hard geopolitical limits the U.S. is reaching with its military capability right now. Again, I absolutely want the best for Iran and the Iranian people, but I'm speaking in my realpolitik mode, you know, cold-blooded, sitting, you know, in Moscow.

The absolute best thing is that the U.S. expends its last gasp of military power on another failed attempt to beat Iran into submission over this situation they've completely created around the Strait

of Hormuz. From a Russian and Chinese perspective, as long as the Iranian government stands, if the U.S. continues to fritter away its last military resources for a decade on this, you know, good job. Go ahead, guys. That's wonderful.

#Danny

Yeah. Pretty good point, Stas. Yeah.

#Stas Krapivnik

You know, first of all, by law, the U.S. Navy has to maintain 11 aircraft carriers. That's a law passed by Congress. It's stupid because, unless that law is repealed, the U.S. can't get rid of any aircraft carriers, and the U.S. can't afford 11 aircraft carriers. Out of those 11 aircraft carriers, basically six are permanently broken, and they can't get them fixed. No money, no parts, massive issues. But by law, they have to maintain them, no matter how old they get, until they build replacements. You can't chop an old aircraft carrier up until you get a new aircraft carrier, a new Ford. And those things seem to be getting more expensive by the minute. Maybe they can buy a new one from China. Yeah, yeah. The Chinese are building ships at, like, 200 times the rate of the U.S.

#Mark Sleboda

Yes, 200 times the rate of the United States.

#Stas Krapivnik

It's insane. It's actually even higher than that. Yeah, it's insane. You sink a Chinese ship, and they'll pop 200 more out before you get one of yours out. You know, it's an insane speed of construction.

#Mark Sleboda

Eighty-some percent of the ships being constructed in the world right now are being constructed in China.

#Stas Krapivnik

Yep, and Russia, by the way, is also constructing ships.

#Mark Sleboda

Especially nuclear icebreakers.

#Stas Krapivnik

Yes, yeah. Russia is not as much of a heavyweight as China in shipbuilding, obviously.

#Mark Sleboda

They're not going to be building carriers anytime soon.

#Stas Krapivnik

And Russia doesn't need them. No, it doesn't. With today's technology, what we've seen with Iran shows that carriers are really good if you're beating up a Third World nation, but a local regional power can kick its ass, as long as it can take the damage you dish out.

#Mark Sleboda

I'm going to absolutely disagree. And I'm going to fly the flag of the Fremen of the Middle East here. You know, all hail the fighters, because, by some accounts, the poorest country in the world routinely scares U.S. carriers out of the Red Sea. So it doesn't even take a regional power with current modern technologies to present a serious threat to carriers.

#Stas Krapivnik

Yemen and Ansar Allah are an exception because they may be poor, but per capita, they've got a lot of engineers—a lot of Soviet-trained engineers, by the way—that can do some masterful work in their own little shops in the middle of wherever they're hiding and building anti-aircraft missiles. They took out two F-15s about a month and a half ago, Saudi F-15s. But they're homemade missiles. Most small nations the size of Yemen don't have engineers, and that's a big bonus for whoever wants to bring an aircraft carrier and start shooting at them. But you're right. With the Yemenis, the Fremen are master engineers.

So, you know, they're the orcs sitting there and building. "Ah, yeah, come on, baby!" You know, while the Imperials are driving up and going, "Oh, damn." So, yeah, they're a really big exception, but not the only one. Of course, other countries can just buy missiles—medium-range ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, and so on. And when it comes to hypersonic missiles, you know, when you read the description of the anti-aircraft system, the SM-6, the Standard Missile 6 that's on the aircraft carriers, I love the way it's written on there: "It should be able to intercept a hypersonic missile." Let's take that apart.

Sure. That's kind of like when they say it's highly likely or it's possible. That's all that's needed these days to prove something in the West. It's highly likely a Russian agent, you know, took a dump in your toilet. It's a claim all the way. It's highly likely. We think that's highly likely to be true—not that your neighbor or your kid did it. The problem here is also that, while the U.S. supposedly has a few hypersonic missiles at the very basic level—we're talking about this Dark Eagle that they keep talking

about—they've tested them, and we know there have been failures. There might have been one or two successes, but we've never seen them in action.

#Mark Sleboda

So, as far as you know, they may have one or two prototypes somewhere, and a few that may be entering production now, supposedly.

#Stas Krapivnik

Supposedly, possibly, highly likely entering production. But here's the problem: has the SM-6 ever been tested against a hypersonic missile that the U.S. doesn't really have? Crickets, crickets, crickets. So it's highly likely or possible that it can intercept a missile, but we've never tested it, so we have no idea. And by the way, there's no other missile except the S-550 that can actually intercept a baseline hypersonic missile. We're talking Mach 5, Mach 6. And yes, the S-500 and S-550 have been tested and designed to do that. They can't handle second- or third-generation hypersonics—not yet, anyway—which is what Russia and China are on.

And the U.S. is still struggling to get to first-generation hypersonics. So, yeah, you know, take it with a grain of salt, or a whole salt lick, or, you know, a truckload of salt—whatever it takes to believe the bullshit. But, yeah, I guess it looks good in the advertisement, in the pamphlet. It's kind of like the Abrams tank. In the pamphlet, they tell you about how quickly you can change engines if the engine slows down. And honestly, within 40 minutes, you can lift the engine out, because it takes about 30 or 40 minutes for a trained crew to pop all the connections. And it takes about 30 or 40 minutes to put the engine in and hook it up. They just don't tell you that once the engine has been running, it's like 1,200 degrees.

And it takes about four hours for it to cool down, unless you're in a cold climate. It's one of those things that they leave out in the pamphlet. It's the same thing with the aircraft carriers. The other problem, flat out, is logistics. Look, at its post-Cold War height, the U.S. Navy had four fast supply ships. Four. For the entire globe, four fast supply ships. Obama killed two of those for whatever reason. I have no idea why he did it, because he was sending the U.S. Navy out on missions also. But he killed two of those, sent them to be scrapped. So the U.S. Navy, since Obama, has had two. Two. I feel like the Count on Sesame Street. The count is two.

One. Two. Two. That's all we have. Two for the entire globe. And Diego Garcia is also, by the way, limited. If you ever look at Diego Garcia on a map from space, it's not a big place, because the majority of it is a base. It's basically a volcano that collapsed in, and the island is the rim of the crater. So there's a limited amount of what you can put on it, and you have to resupply it also, obviously. So you've got really big problems with supply now. And from what we saw of what the U. S. Navy was consuming, there were some calorie counts done. They were talking about guys getting somewhere between 1,600 and 2,000 calories a day.

For a grown man who is, by the way, also having to do physical labor, that ain't enough. That's starvation-level provisions. And my friend Larry Johnson was giving a speech, and he had a woman come up to him who was former Navy herself. Her son was in the Marine Corps, and he was on another ship. It wasn't an aircraft carrier, but they suffered the exact same problems with logistics. He said he lost 15 kilos on a cruise, mostly muscle mass, because they just weren't getting fed. So this is something that's Navy-wide. The people are overworked, undertrained, and there's not enough staff on these ships. They're not fully crewed.

And, you know, Admiral Kirk advised Trump that in his day, they'd go out to sea for a year at a time. I'm making fun of him, but Trump actually said that: "Yeah, I had this admiral come up, a retired admiral." He didn't say who. He said, "Yeah, back in the day, we used to go sail for a year." Like, on what pirate ship? A year without being able to come to port—that's when people start throwing themselves off the deck. Quite literally, they start breaking. That's when people don't sign back up. They run away the moment they can. That's the death of the U.S. Navy. Congratulations, Mr. Trump.

#Danny

Yeah, it's literally happening as we're talking. Well, to both of you guys—first, maybe to Mark—what does it mean for Mossad to have visited D.C. in this way? You know, it's not every day that this happens. Before we get to the Ukraine conflict and the show there, your comments on this, and then Stas.

#Mark Sleboda

Well, we've been told before by the Western media that, you know, the head of Mossad was personally instrumental in getting Trump to attack Iran in the first place, when some people within his own administration disagreed with it. Some were, you know, fully on board and backing him up. But I mean, that's exactly what it means. And I'm sure that the Mossad chief, visiting, had another foolproof regime change plan. This time, it will really work. You know, what cards does Mossad have left to play? I have to think that if they had any cards that were really capable of regime change in Iran, they would have played them already at this point. But doubtless, they're going to try to present another foolproof Pinky and the Brain plan for regime change in Iran to Trump.

You know, and I expect that some elements of that plan, being Mossad, will be covert. If there were any disgruntled minorities in Iran—the Kurds, the Baluchi—that they could have activated already, that could really, shall we say, threaten the Iranian government from within, they would have used them already. And I've long since reached the conclusion, while at the beginning it appeared that was a possibility, that the CIA and Mossad have not done the years' worth of groundwork that would have been necessary to arm and train and really weaponize disgruntled minority extremists or whatever against the Iranian government. It is clear to me now. They don't have it left. And, you know, what does that leave?

Assassinations, targeted assassinations. And it didn't work the first time around. It didn't work during the whole first month of the conflict, when they kept trying to wipe out Iranian leadership. Where they were successful, those leaders were just replaced. The replacements showed absolutely, you know, no deficit in ability. In fact, I would venture to argue that the Iranian military-political leadership benefited from having certain, shall we say, more reform-minded people removed in the first phases of the conflict. And I don't expect that to be any different. So whatever cockamamie Pinky and the Brain scheme for regime change Mossad is going to be whispering in Trump's ear, I'm fairly confident that it will not succeed.

#Danny

Yes, Das, same question to you.

#Stas Krapivnik

The interesting thing is, the Israeli elites are now split. The thing is, Eisenkot has been given permission to form a government.

#Stas Krapivnik

And he's in negotiations. And while he was a general pretty much up to his neck in blood, his coalition is mixed, including Arabs in Israel. So he's got issues. He's already flat-out said Iran never had nuclear weapons and was not building nuclear weapons. He's been on the record saying that. The last thing he needs is any kind of war, because if there's a resumption of hostilities, which is Netanyahu's only chance at this point, Netanyahu forms a wartime cabinet again, and the elections basically get put on hold somewhere in the distant future. So he needs peace to reign long enough for him at least to form a government and oust Netanyahu, and then Netanyahu goes to jail.

Well, there's that step in between with the court case, but he goes to jail at the end or dies on his way there. He isn't exactly the youngest man around. So, you know, I think in the U.S. military, they also kind of realize that. So they're also dragging their feet because they really don't want to restart this conflict, because they know they cannot win this conflict. And things can only get worse. So, yeah, the options are what we have now or much worse. Let's just stick with what we have now. And the Israeli elites themselves are split. So it's going to be interesting to see which way it goes. Mossad, yeah, they always like a good killing somewhere or other.

They don't have a job if they're not murdering someone or training Azov Nazis in Ukraine, as they've been doing since 2014. Videos of that have been leaking. So, you know, if they're not doing something like that, then they're bored. So we'll see. We'll see how this goes, and hopefully it doesn't go anywhere. Hopefully, Eisenkot forms a government. If he's got Arabs and other groups in that government, whatever his homicidal tendencies may be, his political tendencies are going to tell him he can't go too far. Otherwise, the coalition collapses, and then he's got problems. If he wants

to stay in power, whether he likes it or not, he's somewhat constrained. We'll see how much. But at least for now, he's definitely trying to stave off any resumption of hostilities.

#Danny

Well then, gentlemen, now we can get to the Ukraine conflict and any other comments, of course, on this coming Putin-Xi-Trump summit. We've just had some activity, I guess, diplomacy-wise, with what happened in Abu Dhabi, Mark. But at the same time, the conflict does rage on. Did Ukraine launch something like 1,200 drones at Russia recently? What's going on in the conflict right now? And where are things headed, especially as Putin, Xi, and Trump get together to talk on the sidelines of APEC in Shenzhen?

#Mark Sleboda

Yeah, so there has been a little bit of an operational pause as far as the speed of this conflict goes on the ground for the last couple of weeks because of the real start of the mud season in Russia and Ukraine. We had a really dry October, an unusually dry October, and so military operations were going along the whole way up until, you know, the first week of November. And for the last couple of weeks, Russia has been doing its annual shift to winter gear and clothing, which is timed, of course, to coincide with the rasputitsa as well. You know, it makes sense.

So, I think there's been a little bit less activity on the ground, and that will probably continue more or less until things settle into a freeze, you know, whenever that is, whether in December or early January. But that doesn't necessarily inhibit fighting already in urban locations because, you know, that type of vehicular movement isn't a problem. But right now, I think the real story in the war is the long-range strikes. The Kiev regime slash CIA slash NATO continues large attacks—you know, twelve hundred in one recent batch. But they're always going to get a few through and create a few smoke plumes, you know, hitting oil storage tanks and refineries.

But ultimately, you know, that damage is more than a nuisance, but it's far from any type of catastrophic problem. And every time they try to get through to Moscow, they fail. Moscow's air defense is just, I mean, incredible. Absolutely incredible. Force-shield-level crazy. By far the best in the world, no question. So Crimea keeps getting hit. I've got family there. Their electrical infrastructure suffers outages a couple of times a week. That's maybe the biggest on-the-ground effect. But on the other side, Russia's long-range strikes now never cease, day and night. And they are taking apart the infrastructure in the Kiev regime-controlled parts of Ukraine, you know, first and foremost, the electrical infrastructure, which, of course, brings down water, you know, and sanitation as well.

But everything else too: bridges, roads, you know, locomotives. Everything is being dismantled. And multiple Ukrainian cities are facing ongoing rolling blackouts, with a few hours of power a day at best. And we're talking Kiev. We're talking Dnipropetrovsk. We're talking Kharkov. We're talking

Odessa. Russia has really taken at least one of the gloves off at this point. They're really going for the jugular now, and that means dismantling Kiev's logistics and what's left of the Ukrainian economy. And another big facet of that is the ongoing long-range strike blockade of Odessa and the other Black Sea ports. And with that, Russian forces are now not just waiting until ships start trying to run the gauntlet into Odessa.

Russia is actively hunting them down, including with USVs, with surface drones, off Bulgarian and Romanian waters. And they are not just hitting but now sinking NATO shadow fleet ships, right? Third-party-flagged ships that they're trying to use to run arms into Odessa on a daily basis at this point. And that has led to it being declared the most dangerous shipping route in the world, more dangerous than the Strait of Hormuz at this point. And the Western media and Western governments don't want to talk about it. They don't talk about it a lot because they don't know what the hell to do. And it is devastating not just to the Kiev regime's economy but, in the medium term, to the logistics supporting the Kiev regime's military.

#Danny

Yeah. Well, Stas, same question to you.

#Stas Krapivnik

I've got about five minutes. I've got to run to RT. They called me up, RT Arabia, so I guess we're going to be discussing this. On the negotiations, no, the Europeans are not going to be at the next negotiations. That's another Kushner pseudo-truth. In other words, he's lying through his teeth. They're not going to be there. They got their hopes up. Not that they could figure out who the hell is going to represent them anyway. I think Kaja Kallas was in the lead. She's put herself forward. Costa.

#Mark Sleboda

From what I heard, Costa.

#Stas Krapivnik

Yeah.

#Mark Sleboda

They've declared Costa now.

#Stas Krapivnik

Okay. Well, from what I heard from the Russian side, they wanted Kaja Kallas. They haven't had a stand-up comedian in a while, so they were quite willing to give her the mic for 10 or 15 minutes as

a comedy break before the start of anything. And they even offered to let her slip into something more comfortable, like, you know, a belly dancing outfit or something like that. Oh, God! Why did you do that?

#Mark Sleboda

Oh, God! The problem, yeah...

#Stas Krapivnik

The problem is, like I said, the Europeans don't have a position. They have 27 positions. They have 27. Hey, at least it wasn't Ursula von Kaiser. It could be worse. It could always be worse. You know, we're Russians. That's our favorite saying: it can always be worse. Having said that, the Kiev regime is doing localized counteroffensives, but they're localized. And every time, they seem to get smaller and smaller in scope because they're basically out of reserves. Azov prefers to beat up demonstrators outside torture houses rather than take on the Russian army, which shoots back—and shoots back accurately and in volume. The demonstrators at an anti-torture-house demonstration are mostly women. You know, you can take them on with baseball bats pretty easily, like they did a week and a half ago.

So, having said that, they're carrying out counteroffensives in Zaporozhye as the Russian army keeps moving forward. They tend to take more territory than the Russian army does, and faster. But they do that because they don't care how many losses they take. The problem is, they get the PR photo op, but they can't consolidate and hold because they're so short of troops at that point that the Russian military just reorganizes and starts rolling them right back up. But they get the PR photos, and Zelensky gets to continue his tours anywhere but in Ukraine, begging for money. He's in Ireland right now, enjoying some beer and begging for more money. And I think the leprechaun pots are pretty damn empty by this point. From what I've seen, his convoy, by the way, got egged.

And so did von der Kaiser's when she went to Bulgaria. So you kind of start to see that people are starting to get a little tired of this crap and maybe a little suspicious of things. So we'll have to see where it goes. But most of the front is in movement. It's just moving toward Kiev, in that direction. So the Ukrainian army is advancing backwards, strategically advancing toward Kiev and leaving their dead behind. So that's the reality of it right now. We will see. And Mark is right. Right now is the regrouping season for the winter offensives, but the rains haven't really started. The rains up north have just started. It's been a very dry October, and down south, it's been even drier. So the mud season and all that hasn't happened.

But what you should notice is the flowers blooming around Dobropolya. They're blooming primarily to the northeast, a little bit north toward Kharkov, but mostly northeast. And Russian positions have already pushed up behind Kharkov, Druzhkovka, and partially behind Kramatorsk, which is basically physically cutting them off already, on top of everything else. Plus, you know, drone operators and

artillery units from that area can cut off any of the roads coming in and out. And those roads have already been roads of death for the last two months, just from long-range drones and FPV drones. So that's the situation. It's not going to get better. By the way, there are videos that have been coming out showing them starting to do full-scale training for 14- and 15-year-olds.

#Danny

It's to the last Ukrainian.

#Stas Krapivnik

It's quite literally to the last Ukrainian.

#Danny

Stas, well, it's great to be with you. After the program, make sure you let people know to go to your YouTube channel and subscribe to it. Thank you. And I'll have you back on soon, man. All right. Take care. We'll close out here. RT's waiting. They get antsy. Cheers, guys. All right. Cheers. Bye-bye. All right, Mark, let's take it home, I guess. About five minutes or so left. I guess I want to ask if you have anything to respond to.

#Mark Sleboda

Yeah, so the one thing I want to bring up is the former NATO secretary general, Anders Fogh Rasmussen, today—in the last 24 hours—because we've missed him so much.

#Danny

He was from the Obama era.

#Mark Sleboda

So he's come out, and right now, through November 2nd, there are military drills by NATO member states going on in Poland, involving the UK, France, Germany, Poland, and some others. They are practicing sending troops into Ukraine, you know, a few thousand troops, right? Human tripwires. They're not capable of anything more. Ostensibly, this is for after a ceasefire is reached, right? And we all know that the Russians have said again and again, and have not budged one iota despite all of these diplomatic charades and theater that is going on: no ceasefire. They will not give the regime another ceasefire in this conflict. It's not going to happen, no matter how much Trump begs and pushes, or how many carrots and sticks get thrown around by Ratcliffe and so on.

So we know that they are actually, you know, trying to goad each other on at this point, a lot like a pack of hyenas trying to goad each other on to attack a lion. I mean, no disparagement toward

hyenas, which are actually incredible animals. And Rasmussen has come out and called the coalition of the willing "the coalition of the waiting" and says it needs to become an active coalition. And he is the first, you know, shall we say, former official—but he's really, of course, part of the European deep state, the European blob, the NATO blob—to say that the UK and France need to send troops into Ukraine now. Now, he said. It needs to be now.

And on one hand, read the desperation there, because he knows how bad the situation is for the Kiev regime at this point. Again, Russia's long-range strike campaign for the last three months, you know, closing down the Odessa, Black Sea, and Danube ports—it's a real game changer. That really is. It's the most significant thing Russia has done in this conflict so far. And the Western media is full of stories about Russia planning to destroy all of Ukraine's infrastructure by next year. Okay, that's a bit of an exaggeration, but we're talking about a significant amount of it anyway, and making Ukrainian cities uninhabitable. I mean, those are the words that they're using.

And to a certain extent, yeah, it would be good to have fewer, you know, possibilities for collateral damage. And, you know, Europe seems to want the Ukrainians so much. But certainly that's an element of the campaign. But other than the desperation, you know, there are serious people talking about it in Europe now. And Europe cannot muster any kind of force that could even come close to challenging Russia on the ground in Ukraine, right? Let's be clear about that. They're decrepit at this point, by their own accounts, by their own reports. So a few thousand NATO troops shoved somewhere in western Ukraine or Kiev is just a human tripwire force.

Because at some level, they believe, or at least they hope, that Russia, presented with the possibility of direct war with NATO that would result from hitting those troops, will not do so—that they will back down. Russia will not back down. Putin himself has said multiple times now, including again this last week with this feces show coming out of Abu Dhabi with Witkoff and Kushner in the room, that if any troops from NATO member states, whether they're trainers or peacekeepers or however they want to present them, are in Ukraine, it means war. And the Europeans just refuse to accept that. They refuse to accept the loss of the regime.

Kramatorsk and Sloviansk haven't even fallen yet. I mean, they haven't even acknowledged that Konstantinovka or Dobropilia has fallen, right? But once that happens, and once Russian forces start laying siege to Zaporozhye and Kharkov, moving across the Dnieper, and then, you know, potentially moving on Kiev, the voices in the West calling for NATO member state troops to be sent into Ukraine are going to grow louder and louder and louder. And they believe that Russia will back down. Russia will not back down and will target those troops immediately. And then their hope is that Big Brother America will come rushing in.

Right. And they're just not going to accept it. It is far less important to them—not that they really understand it anyway—that they can't stand up to Russia anymore. Their militaries are not capable of dealing with the Russian military of 2026 in Ukraine, which is bigger, stronger, more experienced, better armed, and at the cutting edge of drone warfare in the world, right? You know, they can't.

But beyond the Kool-Aid that they believe about themselves, again, they believe that ultimately, whoever is president in the United States—Trump or someone else at that point—the U.S. will have to come running.

And then, of course, you know, we're in World War Three territory. That's in Ukraine. And so Russia is not backing down. Their demands at Abu Dhabi immediately had Kushner and Witkoff running to Moscow to say, "Did Medinsky really mean this?" Right? You know, they tried to go over the Russian chief negotiator's head to Putin, in other words, right? "You didn't really mean this, did you?" And Putin, you know, had Medinsky in the room with them when he met them and said, "Yes, those are our conditions." And they're saying no ceasefire, no anything until there is a real settlement.

And the real settlement includes a restructured European security arrangement, which means that NATO has to be rolled back from Eastern Europe. So Russia is returning to what they demanded in December of 2021 with the draft treaties that they presented to NATO. And what's more, they're actually talking about it in terms of Eurasian security, which means that a deal would have to be reached with, I don't know, China and Iran and India. The Kremlin seems to have an idea that this should be the last conflict—the conflict that rewrites the world order and officially gives birth to the multipolar world, right?

They have the idea that they can force this into a literal rewriting of the geopolitical world order. That's their goal. I think that's, shall we say, aspirational. I don't think that's really possible. I think World War Three is far more likely than that happening, unfortunately. But that is where they are. They're demanding that, so they're not making any concessions at all. They're actually, you know, at least going up to the maximalist terms. And the other side of that is they understand that, you know, the Europeans don't accept any concessions and want war. At least a significant number of the European elite do. But as far as they're concerned, they will keep devouring Ukraine until there is absolutely nothing left and they're sitting on the Polish border. And they'll say, "Are you done yet?" And that will be a really important time.

#Danny

Mark, that was an incredibly thorough rundown of what's going on. So I think we can end it here and make sure people know that your Boosty account is in the video description below. So after people like the show and we end the stream here, they can go and support you on Boosty. You can find that link in the video description below. Stas' YouTube account is also there, where you can subscribe.

#Mark Sleboda

This is not a paid advertisement. I swear to God.

#Danny

No, it's not a paid advertisement. Mark is gracious with his time, very generous with his time, and he does a lot of independent work. So do be sure to follow that. Everybody, hit the like button before you go. That helps boost the show in YouTube's algorithm. Tomorrow I'll be back on with our usual Sunday guest, Seyed Mohammad Morandi. So be sure to check us out then. Thank you for these super chats. Rhett Priestley, appreciate that. Thanks to Sanadim. Thank you to Eddie Tours, and thank you for becoming a member, Shrieker Snuff. I appreciate that. All right, everybody, hit the like button before you go. Check out Mark and Stas in the video description, and all the places to support this show too. And I'll see you tomorrow, November 15th, at 1 p.m. Eastern time.