CIA Under ATTACK! US Orders Iran DECAPITATION Strike | Larry Johnson & Col. Lawrence Wilkerson

Former CIA analyst Larry Johnson and Colonel Lawrence Wilkerson provide their assessment of reports that Trump has given the green light to a decapitation strike on Iranian leadership in the moment he and the Israelis deem right. Meanwhile the CIA and numerous major government and intelligence institutions have been hacked in what amounts to a historic attack. We talk what it all means. Follow Larry Johnson: https://sonar21.com/ PATREON.COM/DANNYHAIPHONG Support the channel in other ways: https://www.buymeacoffee.com/dannyhai... Substack: chroniclesofhaiphong. substack.com Cashapp: $Dhaiphong Venmo: @dannyH2020 Paypal: https://paypal.me/spiritofho Follow me on Telegram: https://t.me/dannyhaiphong #iran #iranwar #israel

#Danny

Welcome back to the show, everyone. As you can see, I'm joined by former CIA analyst Larry Johnson and former chief of staff and retired Army Colonel Lawrence Wilkerson to go over the latest developments on this day before Thanksgiving. Well, one of the big stories over the last day has been a massive hack of U.S. intelligence systems affecting the CIA and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. The system that was breached was said to be unclassified.

And the other big story is that Donald Trump's administration is now considering—and, to a large extent, already planning—a new round of decapitation strikes against Iranian leadership on Iranian territory. This comes as Israel has once again spread a story about Iran, with a gentleman claiming that Iran has activated sleeper cells inside the United States that pose a danger to Trump and his family, and that they eventually plan to attack and kill Trump. And I guess before we get to some of the other stories, like the U.S. Army detonating five tons of degraded lead azide in Iowa, Larry, maybe you can comment first on the CIA story. What do you make of it? What's happening? I mean, we've been going through this for a long time now, and it only seems to be getting worse. What are your thoughts on it?

#Larry Johnson

Well, when you say the CIA story, do you mean the story about Iran allegedly having sleeper cells ready to wake up and go to work, or do you mean the story about the CIA getting hacked? Getting hacked. Well, let's start with getting hacked. Okay. So this is way before your time, but did you grow up as a science fiction buff? I like Star Trek. Did you read Arthur C. Clarke's 2001: A Space Odyssey?

#Danny

No, I did not read it.

#Larry Johnson

Okay, so did you ever watch the movie? Probably not. I did, I did. Oh, you did?

#Danny

The Kubrick movie, right? Yeah, yeah, yeah, definitely. So basically, that's what we're experiencing.

#Larry Johnson

Kubrick's movie, 2001: A Space Odyssey, was basically a story about how a tool that man creates or decides to use becomes a weapon. You know, it starts off with the monkeys fiddling with a bone. It's good for hammering things into the ground. And then all of a sudden, they figure out, "Hey, I can hit someone over the head with this and kill them." And I guess when Kubrick made that movie, there was a reason he called the computer HAL. What's the letter that follows H? I. What's the letter that follows A? B. And guess what letter follows L? M. IBM. He was going to make it about IBM, but they backed off for fear of lawsuits. So anyway, look, what we're witnessing is AI on steroids. When Anthropic unveiled something called Mythos, it was, again, a tool—a tool that was going to help companies find vulnerabilities, right?

Well, lo and behold, Mythos says, "Hey, I can find these vulnerabilities, and I can create mayhem." And the problem is, all these vulnerabilities are being exposed at the same time, faster than people can fix them. So that's why, you know, it's not a coincidence. They're trying to say, "Oh, this is just routine maintenance. We discovered a problem." Right. So first it happened with the airlines, the banks, and the computer companies—Apple and Microsoft, right? And then with NSA Net, then with the FBI, then with the CIA, then with the DNI, then with the fintech side of the Treasury. Yeah, just a coincidence. There's no such thing as a coincidence. So this is not so much a cyberattack from the outside as it is our own computer system going all Terminator on us, gaining consciousness and deciding, "You know what? These people, they're a little useless. We can do without them."

#Danny

Yeah, Colonel Wilkerson, what are your thoughts on the situation?

#Lawrence Wilkerson

Well, as Larry was explaining that, I was just glad we didn't have anything like this after 9/11. After 9/11, the president essentially said, "Tell me where we're vulnerable." The vice president said, "Tell

me where we're really vulnerable. Now do it." And of course, the entire interagency group spread out, with all the agencies looking at their own underwear, as it were. But the ones that had the capacity, training, and education to do it took a hard look at the other agencies that might not have had that kind of capacity. And when they came back, the initial briefing was really, really grim.

We were probably the most exposed nation on the face of the earth when it came to our open society, the general rules governing it, and the vulnerability of assets that any terrorists who wanted to could attack with gusto, if you will. And of course, Dick Cheney thought terrorists were lurking behind every doorknob. We didn't have AI to help us, thank God, based on what Larry just said, because we probably would have fallen over ourselves in fear and dread if we'd had AI to help us. But, you know, we're back at a moment like that, and to a certain extent, it's self-created.

#Danny

Yeah, well, it appears that even the establishment is having trouble because usually in times like these, Larry, the establishment likes to blame an outside force—Iran, China, Russia. I've seen the mainstream media do it, but I don't think it's landing very well. What are your thoughts on this? Is there any credence to the idea that outside forces could be causing this problem by attacking the CIA's databases and unclassified systems? I think the FBI was hacked as well.

#Larry Johnson

Look, this is what should scare the hell out of everybody: not even the neocons are coming out and blaming this on Iran or Russia or North Korea or China. I mean, God, this was practically made in heaven for them. They could have accused them, but they're not doing that because it's something else. And frankly, it's something that has them frightened because they don't control it, and they can' t figure out how to control it. And that's why the computer in *2001: A Space Odyssey* was called HAL. And HAL ended up killing the crew, you know, because HAL had a mission. And it looks like this Mythos software, bot, intelligence—whatever you want to call it—has acquired its own agenda and is doing its thing. And the tech world can't stop it.

#Danny

This is for both of you, but let me start with you, Colonel Wilkerson. Some people who watch this program are wondering whether Israel might have played a role in creating some of these problems, perhaps to stir up panic and justify certain policies. What are your thoughts on that?

#Lawrence Wilkerson

Well, I wouldn't say Israel so much as I'd say the crowd around Bibi Netanyahu. I think General Eisenkot and others, the Arab lists and such, and the people he's trying to bring together to form a government—I think they've got other concerns and other worries. But I don't put it past Netanyahu.

Remember, Netanyahu is the man who, during his political campaigning, created an environment in which the settlers were so enraged that one of them shot and killed Yitzhak Rabin. I'm fairly confident in saying that Netanyahu intended that.

He didn't know with 100 percent certainty that it was going to happen, but he intended it. He created an environment where some Hitler would rise up and shoot Rabin, and that's what happened: Rabin was shot and killed. He's creating some of that same sort of environment around the attempt to form a government right now, with some really specious objectives, as far as I'm concerned. One person even told me that part of it might be to get Eisenkot himself or some of the others involved killed, which would cause chaos. I don't know if that's true or not, but I wouldn't put it past Bibi Netanyahu.

So I think it's a very dangerous time for Israel right now because I think the general has made up his mind. I think he's a pretty deep thinker when it comes to generalship and military matters. He's the author of the Obliteration Doctrine, so he's not much different from Netanyahu when it comes to killing Palestinians—babies, women, children, and everyone else. But he does have a brain, and it works more or less along military lines. So I think there are two or three things that are fundamental to his thinking right now. First, he doesn't want this war to resume, not right now, anyway.

He understands what could happen to Israel, and he understands that it probably would happen if they started the war back up. Two, he wants Netanyahu gone because he's mucking around in everything. And that means Netanyahu would be the one taking advantage of some of this confusion in the United States for his own nefarious purposes. And three, I don't know if we're going to have a government anytime soon that can make any real decisions that will stick in Israel. So that presents us with a problem, too, especially if there's some intent to join in another attack on Iran. I don't think there is, but it would be a really difficult thing to do if we've got this kind of contention going on in Jerusalem and in Israel proper.

#Danny

Yeah, Larry, same question to you. Roman Gofman, the Mossad chief, is very close to Netanyahu. I believe he served as his military secretary right before that. And the defense minister, yeah.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

Katz, yes.

#Danny

Oh, yeah, Katz. He's always behind this new information that's come out about Iran's chemical weapons and sleeper cells.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

I've got to comment on that. That's the most egregious thing I've ever heard in my life. I mean, Rumsfeld went over there and gave them the precursors. The Iraqis used chemical weapons mercilessly against Iranian human-wave attacks, which were usually led by 12- and 13-year-olds. The Iranians never turned to chemical weapons. They never used chemical weapons. I don't believe they would. Like nuclear weapons, chemical weapons are anathema in their version of Islam. You don't use those kinds of weapons.

#Danny

Right. Larry, same question to you. I've seen people ask about this in the comments, and I've gotten messages about it, too. What do you make of the possibility that Israel and the Mossad had some kind of hand in these attacks on U.S. intelligence agencies and so on?

#Larry Johnson

Again, it's not so much about attacks as it is about exploiting vulnerabilities. Now listen, Israel was heavily involved in the move against Jensen Huang because Israel wants to get control of the AI industry. The three candidates who were in line to replace Huang are all tied to Israel. Two of them are actually Israeli. One of them has been heavily involved with companies, and she's on the record saying, you know, that the first thing she does in the morning is check what's going on in Israel. So I wouldn't call it sophisticated. I'd say it was a clumsy intelligence effort to paint Huang as a Chinese spy. I mean, here's the irony: the damn spies who are running around scooping up everything in Washington, D.C., and across the United States are Zionists, for God's sake. Okay?

It's not the Chinese. The Chinese are pikers compared to what the Israelis are doing. Well, it's failed so far, but they're not giving up. They're still going to go after Huang and so on. And, you know, credit to Huang for fighting back, because this is also about trying to attack China and make it out to be an enemy we have no choice but to go to war with. I mean, good God, we keep sinking to new depths of stupidity. And, you know, you reach a point where there's no coming back. So I don't think Israel was, you know, launching these so-called attacks on the airlines and so on. I think, as I said, this Mythos thing came out of a company that has heavy Israeli involvement. And the head of Anthropic is Jewish. You know, call it a coincidence, but I don't believe in coincidences.

#Danny

Well, Colonel Wilkerson, maybe we can turn to the reports that Trump is now considering a decapitation strike against Iran. We know that when these things are talked about, they're definitely on the table. But why now? What do you make of this plan to go after Iran's leadership once again? What's behind it?

#Lawrence Wilkerson

Well, I could say that he's suicidal, that he wants the hammer turned against himself so he can gain more esteem with the American people, if you will, after November 3rd. I think this is just typical Trump. I don't think there's anything serious about it. I think it's just typical Trump. And the very worst war crime he could commit now, in this particular conflict, would be to attempt to assassinate Iran's leadership. And then I've got to ask: How would he do that? Because the way he thinks he'd do it, based on past experience, and the way Israel would suggest he do it, is to use Israel's incredible human intelligence capabilities in Iran to set up the targets and so forth. And that's not going to happen, because Iran's countermeasures have basically neutralized those capabilities. So I'd love to see him try.

It's kind of like stirring up the Kurds, or stirring up anybody else, to act as a third party, as it were, and go into Iran to carry the fight to them for us. It's utter nonsense. You saw what the Iranians did in Kurdistan with the recent strikes. They know where everybody is. They know where every lieutenant in the Peshmerga lives. They know where the leadership of Kurdistan lives. They know where all the MI6, CIA, and Mossad elements are in there. We should all realize that. They've been pounding the hell out of them all along. And every time they move something, the Iranians know where it is, and they pound it again. So I don't understand why this was made public as if it were a course of action, as if someone had briefed him that this was a course of action. Maybe it's just Trump playing with different things to try to get what he ultimately wants, which is to get out of this war.

#Danny

Yeah, Larry, what are your thoughts on decapitation? It seems like the U.S. is having trouble deciding what to do in this war, and this could very well be a step it takes.

#Larry Johnson

Yeah, I always like to play out in my mind how this discussion in the White House went. "Mr. President, we've got this great idea. We've got the solution to break the deadlock." "Okay, what is it?" "Decapitation." And even Trump would go, "Didn't we already try that? You know, when we tried it, we didn't warn them about it. But now you're saying we're going to tell them we're going to do it, and that's going to surprise them?" "Yes, sir. That's our plan." "Okay, yeah, let's go with that." I mean, look, if it weren't a discussion about actually killing people, this would be a Monty Python skit for the ages.

Because when we did try the decapitation strategy, at least we tried it without warning them. But I love this: "Yeah, we're going to kill the hardliners." Well, we already killed the guy who opposed

nuclear weapons. We killed Larijani, who was keen on negotiating with the West, unlike many in the IRGC. That's who we killed. That's who we knocked off. And what even is your definition of a "hardliner"? The inmates have literally taken over the asylum and are driving us into a ditch.

#Danny

Yeah, and the last time this strategy was used—and I guess it's been used multiple times in this war—it also killed Iranian families. And there's also a debate, Colonel Wilkerson, about Iran's retaliation. I don't know how there could be a debate when Iran has already shown all of us, not just U.S. officials but everybody, that it has the capacity to retaliate. Iran has a big missile stockpile, and it's going to use it even if the U.S. just fires on Iranian tankers, let alone kills Iranian leaders. So the consequences would be grave, no?

#Lawrence Wilkerson

I think so. I'm really perplexed by a lot of what has happened on the ground in the last 48 to 96 hours. Let me review a few things that I think are now firm. We had an Osprey flying from west to east just inland in Oman, headed toward the Persian Gulf but still some distance from it. It started squawking 7700, the emergency code. We haven't heard from that Osprey. Now, clutch failure is a particular safety problem with Ospreys. It's one of the reasons I never would have bought the aircraft if I'd been the procurement agent or had been involved in the decision. If the clutch failed and the Osprey went down, then we're looking at four to eight deaths, maybe 20 or more. Nothing's been said about it. At almost the same time, an F-35 squawked the same emergency code, 7700, and disappeared.

No one's said anything more about that, or at least I haven't picked it up in the news or from any of my other sources. I also found out that the Emirates, of all people, are over in Somalia taking over civilian airfields. These are just small airfields, but they're being expanded and made more robust by both Emirati and, yes, U.S. personnel. And we're there ostensibly to make sure they can handle American aircraft. Well, why on earth would you waste money, time, and effort—and strain relations, too, I would suspect, though they probably don't care about those one whit—to take over civilian airfields in Somalia, lengthen their runways, and make them more robust so they can support American aircraft and so forth?

Not only can Iran hit those targets, but the Houthis can hit them quite easily, as a matter of fact. So I'm really confused about what these 50,000-plus troops are doing over there and what the gear is there for. As I understand it, most of it is in Israel now, but some of it is elsewhere, as we've seen with the Osprey and the F-35. I don't know whether the F-35 was flying to Al Udeid, whether it can even fly there anymore, or whether it was flying from somewhere else. But none of what's happening on the ground makes sense to me tactically, and neither does the way the naval forces are positioned. I can't figure out what they would do, for example, in the face of a threat to move the convoy out to China.

And I think that threat comes from China as well as Iran. And what are they going to do about what's still happening in the strait? Yesterday, I saw that a VLCC—a very large crude carrier, or whatever they call those big tankers—which used to cost about $150,000 to $250,000 to insure, now costs as much as $15 million to insure. And one of them actually went for $150 million in insurance. So how do you maintain that you have any control over that key waterway when these kinds of things are happening? And how do you maintain that you're putting together a strategic package to strike Iran when the disposition of your forces doesn't make a lick of sense?

#Danny

Those are great points. And maybe, Larry, you could comment on this too. I haven't been able to talk to either of you about some of the developments Colonel Wilkerson raised. What do you make of them? Is the U.S. hiding what's actually happening when these things go on? You know, I've covered the F-35, and I know it has a lot of problems. It's a hangar queen. Yeah, very expensive.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

But it's a hangar queen for a reason: Lockheed makes more money for every hour it spends in the hangar.

#Danny

Very expensive, very incapable. But what exactly do you think is going on here with all these reports of squawking, emergency landings, and disappearances?

#Larry Johnson

Well, just to add to what Colonel Wilkerson was saying, I think it's pretty clear now that Iran has significantly upgraded its air defense capabilities. We've had at least two F-35s squawk 7700, along with one F-16 and this Osprey. And almost every day, they've been shooting down an MQ-9 Reaper or an MQ-1 Predator. There's another one, but I forget the name of it. But that raises the question: Where the hell are they launching these drones from? The MQ-1 only has a range of 400 miles. So just take a compass, set it to 400 miles on the map, and draw a circle. It's all in the Gulf. It's either the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, or Kuwait. But again, if they're launching from Kuwait or Saudi Arabia, that limits how far south the drone can go.

And we've seen these drones operating farther south. So that tells me they're launching from Qatar, Bahrain, or, more likely, the UAE. Because where are all these planes that are squawking 7700 headed back to? The United Arab Emirates. The other thing I find fascinating is that, you know, we've been monitoring this daily for the last nine months. If you go back two months, whenever Iran attacked a ship, the United States would retaliate within 24 hours against what it said were launch sites or radar sites on the Iranian side of the Persian Gulf. And it was like tit for tat, tit for tat. Now,

over the past week, Iran's been hitting two to three ships a day, either directly or with mines, and on some days, four.

And the United States really hasn't done anything in retaliation. You've got to start asking yourself why. And I don't have a good answer for that. All I can say is that for the past week and a half, we haven't seen the same level of retaliation from the United States that we saw before. Now, is this the calm before the storm? I don't know. As Colonel Wilkerson notes, yeah, they're building out the airstrips in Somalia, but that's not for drone activity. Right now, those drones have got to be operating out of the UAE, Bahrain, or Qatar. And I doubt Qatar's going to do it. So that means, you know, the UAE, which they call Israel West or Israel East, is the most likely culprit here.

#Danny

Yeah, great point.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

Little Sparta.

#Larry Johnson

Yeah, yeah.

#Danny

Yeah. Well, Colonel Wilkerson, do you want to take a stab at why the U.S. may not be retaliating right now the way it did in the past?

#Lawrence Wilkerson

I don't have a clue. I can only connect it to what I'm hearing: that Trump wants to find a way out. And taking more military action isn't necessarily going to help him find a way out, because it's not putting any pressure on the Iranians that they can't resist. In fact, it's costing us dearly when they do resist.

#Danny

Yeah, great point. It is mysterious. Larry, you bring up something I find really interesting. Before we move on—I definitely want to talk about what's happening in Europe, Russia, and Ukraine—I'd like to hear from both of you on this. Oil prices keep falling or stabilizing, yet Iran, as you said, Larry, is still tightly controlling the strait. What exactly is going on here? Is it just market manipulation, or is it something else?

#Larry Johnson

It's just market manipulation. It's paper. The price they're quoting for Brent is for a futures contract. So these are gamblers. It's like going to the casino and playing blackjack, roulette, poker, or whatever your favorite game of chance is. They're trying to predict what the price is actually going to be in a month, two months, three months. But what are people paying when the oil tanker pulls into port and starts offloading the oil? That's the price they're not advertising. And that price is still well over $100. So, I mean, again, this is mass deception.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

The other thing they're not doing, Danny, is telling you just how profitable this war is for Russia.

#Danny

Yeah.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

Hugely profitable.

#Danny

Yeah, great points. Well, let's talk about Russia and Ukraine, but more specifically, let's talk about Europe and what's been going on in recent days. You know, Fox News reported yesterday that a Russian drone slipped into Poland overnight. Poland got the okay to shoot it down but held off, we're told. A Swedish fighter jet under NATO command was supposed to shoot it down, or at least was given permission to, but didn't. And this comes after three Russian cruise missiles were said to have crossed into Poland on November 20 as well. NATO has been holding emergency meetings. They held one in the last 24 hours. And things are getting really tense, Larry, to say the least, between Russia and Europe. I mean, Vladimir Putin has also warned little Estonia about its transgressions and their consequences. What are your thoughts on what's going on here? And what exactly are Europe and NATO angling for?

#Larry Johnson

Well, they did more than warn them. They basically said, "If you take any more actions like this, you're going to war with us. A state of war will exist between us." They sent the same message to Latvia. So, you know, Russia realizes there's no path to a negotiated deal with Europe. After the meeting with Witkoff and Kushner, Russia invited the Europeans to send a delegation to Moscow so they could sit down and talk and say, "Okay, what do you need for there to be a deal, particularly when it comes to security guarantees?" And Europe's response to Russia was, "Go fuck yourself."

They didn't use those words, but that was the essence of it. They said, "No, we're not going, and we're not going to talk to you until you declare an immediate ceasefire."

And Russia said, "All right. If you're not interested in talking, we're not going to talk to you. We're going to keep striking military targets in Ukraine." And they're leaving open the possibility of striking military targets in other countries. You know, right now, the Russians have submitted demands to the government of Denmark because Danish weapons systems were used to attack the Kerch Bridge. And the Russians are asking the Danes very clearly, "Okay, explain this to us. How did this happen? Were you aware of it? Did you participate? Did you authorize it? Because if you did, there's going to be a problem." And I wish I had the concession for Depends adult diapers in Denmark right now, because I'm sure they're in high demand.

#Danny

Yeah, Colonel Wilkerson, what are your thoughts on these developments?

#Lawrence Wilkerson

Can you put that back up—the one from Poland?

#Danny

Yes, I can. Give me a second. I have to get it back up. Sorry about that. That's all right. I'll get it back up.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

What I was reading between the lines was something I've been talking about with a couple of people in Poland. They have suspicions about what the Polish government is doing with regard to some of these things that are supposedly happening because of Russia. I'm not necessarily saying it's a false flag operation, but it's kind of flaky whether it even happened or whether it happened the way they said it did. Look at the one right there in the center: "A Russian drone slips in overnight. Poland gets the okay to shoot it down but holds fire after it turns back east." Okay, why did you hold fire if it turned back east?

And then the other one: "A NATO fighter jet came close to shooting down a Russian missile over Poland as Warsaw pushes for permanent U.S. troops." Well, just read that: "as Warsaw pushes for permanent U.S. troops." And why didn't they shoot it down? Well, a lot of this is fabricated. It's fabricated by a government that wants a bigger U.S. military presence in Poland, which is right next door to insanity. But, I mean, just looking at Southwest Asia, why would you want a military

presence on your soil now, especially a U.S. military presence? Only if you're insane, right? Well, my conclusion has to be that most of these leaders are insane. Or, as one person said the other day—and I think they're absolutely right—"The Nazis in Germany aren't in the AfD. They're in power."

#Danny

Yeah. Well, Larry, what are your thoughts on the point Colonel Wilkerson just made—that Poland is using these incidents to push for a bigger U.S. military presence there? And what do you make of the reports that supposedly Russian missiles and drones have hit Polish territory?

#Larry Johnson

Well, again, this information operation has been underway for, I think, at least three months. Remember, one of the first reports was that they'd found a drone from Russia in Germany. It was, "Oh my God, this is a Russian drone." And then they found remnants of Russian drones or missiles in Romania. And then they found parts in Poland. So they're always trying to implicate Russia in this. Look, what's going on is that Ukrainian intelligence, working with the CIA and MI6, is picking up pieces of Russian drones and missiles that were fired into Ukraine. They're packing those up. They're taking them into Romania. They're taking them into Poland.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

And then they're dropping them there and saying, "Oh my God, look what we discovered. Look at this."

#Larry Johnson

So, to clean it up and use Ray McGovern's terminology, it's male bovine excrement. That's what it is. And all of this is designed to try to create a casus belli for Europe. Now, if Russia decides to actually launch a missile or drone attack, or both, on Poland or Romania, there's not going to be any confusion about it. I mean, they're going to know it. They'll know it when they see it or hear it and feel it. So, you know, right now, these are really desperate attempts by the Europeans to provoke a war with Russia. It's crazy. Russia so far has not taken the bait. But, you know, I come back to what Sergey Karaganov has been saying: Europe in particular has lost its fear of Russia's nuclear capability, and as a result, the Europeans will continue to take steps that could actually provoke a nuclear response from Russia.

#Danny

Well, I was actually going to ask you about that, Colonel Wilkerson. Dmitry Medvedev has already said that a lot of what NATO has done, including much of what we're talking about, gives Russia grounds to use its nuclear arsenal. Of course, it hasn't. But what do you make of the risks here,

given that we do seem to be in the middle of an information operation that signals escalation? And of course, it has ramifications for the conflict in Ukraine, which, you know, Russia is attempting to resolve. What are your thoughts on the nuclear risk here?

#Lawrence Wilkerson

Well, I think the risk is fairly high. I'd like to see Putin climb the so-called escalation ladder this way: I'd like to see him pick a country like Denmark, if what he's asserted about Denmark turns out to be true, or a country like Lithuania or Estonia, or maybe even Poland. Though I don't think I'd start with Poland, even if I had credible, really credible evidence that something was being done from Polish soil that was seriously undermining what I was doing in Ukraine or killing Russian soldiers there. I'd pick one of these other countries and strike it.

I would be very careful to strike something that I knew for certain, or as close to certain as you can get with your intelligence, was directly supporting operations in Ukraine. And I would strike it with Oreshniks or Iskanders or whatever, maybe a whole horde of them. And I would strike it very violently and very precisely. And if it were possible, I'd make sure some people there were killed in the strike, to make the point even more dramatic. And then I would stand back and say, "Next time, it won't be a conventional weapon." Do you get my point? Or something to that effect. Now, all that gets clouded because you can't be that direct in a conversation, especially when the other side won't talk to you.

That's what made Biden, Blinken, and Sullivan—Winken, Blinken, Nod, and Nudge, Victoria Nuland. That's what made them so obdurate and so stupid. Not talking to your enemy is about as foolhardy as it gets. We were talking to Japan even when Nimitz was pounding the hell out of them in the Central Pacific. You just don't stop talking to your enemy because you're killing each other. It's stupid. It's ridiculous. It's idiotic. And you damn sure don't do it when you're trying to keep both sides from killing each other. Now, that makes me understand that the person who said, "The Nazis in Germany aren't in the AfD; they're in the government," is absolutely right.

And it's true of France, and it's true of other countries in Europe. They're insane. They're intent on war with Russia, come hell or high water. And here comes the kicker: If Putin did something roughly similar to what I just suggested, and if he threatened to use a nuclear weapon next, they would all go to Brussels and say, "Article 5! He's hit a NATO country. Article 5!" They would put a call in to Washington, I assume, and Washington would say, "You're on your own, boys. Do what you've got to do. You're on your own. I'm not coming in. Keep going." And you're going to get to that point, and you're going to test Trump, and Trump is going to do that.

#Danny

Larry, what's actually happening in the Ukraine conflict? You know, Ukraine took credit for sinking a ship off the coast of Benghazi. The Ursa Major. Yeah, right. So what's actually going on in this

conflict? I feel like the narrative is that Ukraine is expanding this war and hitting Russia where it hurts. You know, there was also the Kerch Bridge in Crimea. What exactly is happening in the conflict, and what do you make of Russia's response to these particular kinds of escalation?

#Larry Johnson

Well, number one, Ukraine is the front. These European countries are actually the ones behind these attacks.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

Ukraine is just the tool being used.

#Larry Johnson

It's not all of NATO, but some NATO countries—the UK, Germany, France, Poland, Denmark now, and Finland—are implicated in these attempts to hit Russia. And Russia isn't reacting emotionally. You know, we've got so many people in the West who see these attacks and say, "Okay, why isn't Russia rushing to respond?" Because while these attacks have propaganda value for the West by making it look like something's happening, they don't change a damn thing strategically. They don't affect Russia's ability to recruit troops, train troops, deploy troops, build weapons, or launch weapons.

It doesn't affect any of that. And so the Russian General Staff, it turns out, is very smart. They sit back, assess, and then figure out where to strike, when to strike, and how to strike to inflict as much damage as possible, not just on Ukraine but on Ukraine's Western allies. So we've already seen that it's not a matter of saying, "Oh, well, okay, today Russia launched attacks A, B, C, D, and F in retaliation for Kerch." They're hitting major targets throughout Ukraine on a daily basis.

And this is affecting Ukraine's strategic ability to respond. It's just that the West doesn't cover it. Instead, they put out selective news releases designed to portray Russia in a certain way. You know, I was on a program today with this kid, Eli. I don't know his full name. I think he's from Britain. But, you know, his caricature of Russia was that it's this desperate authoritarian country where they don't have free elections and there's no freedom. And I just told him, "You know, you live in the UK. You' re like the madam of a whorehouse complaining about prostitution, okay?" Yeah.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

Just to add to what Larry said, Danny, I think these very glamorous operations abroad, like the strike on the corvette in the port of Sevastopol or the strike on the bridge to Crimea, are being carried out by outsiders. I don't think Ukraine is doing those things. And Russia knows that.

#Larry Johnson

Yeah.

#Danny

Yeah, well, you know, European countries are supposedly voicing concern about the way this conflict is expanding. Yet, Larry, you just said that they're behind these attacks. Their people aren't. Maybe, Colonel Wilkerson, you could comment on that first.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

Their people aren't. In fact, yesterday I was reading a pretty astute analysis by a guy from Sweden who's been sort of neutral. He's commented both ways. And he was saying, "You know, this is really weird. We're doing so many things in our capitals"—meaning our governments—"that the people don' t support." He's right. It's just going to take some time to get their electoral processes, which are very cumbersome now, going again so they can throw these people out and get some different people in there. And God forbid what might happen in the meantime.

#Danny

Well, in the five or so minutes I have left with you guys, I'd be remiss if I didn't bring up what just happened in Iowa and ask you both to comment. The U.S. Army just detonated five tons of degraded lead azide. I hope I'm saying that right. Trump ordered the Army not to proceed, but the appeals court cleared the way that same night, and Trump didn't override that decision. There you can see some images of what happened. There's been a lot of concern. Maybe we can start with you, Colonel Wilkerson, and then go to Larry. You know, I thought Iran was the one that had the dirty bomb and was going to blow it up in the United States and cause a huge calamity. But the U.S. military seems to be the one detonating very hazardous material. What are your thoughts on what just happened here?

#Lawrence Wilkerson

Early this morning, around 4:30 or 5 a.m., some others and I had a conversation about this. We brought up several things. The first was, "Why now?" And one of the ordnance types in the group said, "Well, the Army was worried it was getting increasingly unstable and might go off on its own. Then there'd be no way to control it, and it would do a lot of damage." Okay, wow. So you mean we couldn't wait four or five days, just to get past Thanksgiving? "No, it had to go." Okay, second thing: How did we let it get to this state? And why didn't we do this earlier, when it would've been less dangerous to destroy it? Well, we don't really know.

They really weren't maintaining it at the depot. Or what was that other one, the bigger place where we look after things like that? The Logistics Support Agency, or something like that. A three-star or four-star general is in charge of it. Well, we don't know the answer to that one either. And then they brought up the real kicker. The kicker is Hanford in Washington, where radioactive material stretches for acres and acres and acres and acres across the horizon, most of it in leaking 55-gallon drums. There's enough of it to produce a Chernobyl times ten. And why are we worried about what's happening in Iowa if that ticking time bomb is sitting up there in Hanford, Washington? Well, I took their point, right? Because I've done some analysis and research on Hanford, and I know how bad the situation is up there.

And incidentally, at the same time, we brought to everyone's attention the fact that every other nuclear power in the world has a plan, a program, for dealing with its nuclear waste. And that's all nuclear powers, not just countries with nuclear weapons. Most of those programs are funded, and some are well funded. They're already carrying out those plans or, in one or two cases, waiting for the final round of funding so they can finish carrying them out. The only exception is us. And we have more nuclear waste than any other country on the face of the Earth. We have absolutely no plan for dealing with it, which is a shock to me because I thought we at least had a plan. So we're in deep kimchi in this country when it comes to nuclear waste. And it'll make this thing in Iowa look like child's play.

#Danny

Yeah, Larry, what are your thoughts on this?

#Larry Johnson

Well, let's give ourselves some credit. When it comes to negligence, we're really good. Exceptional. I mean, we're world-class on that front. I was watching a video yesterday about why land is so cheap in Montana. Man, you can go out and get 1,000 acres of land for about $200,000. I mean, that's an incredible amount of land for the price. Why is that? Well, it seems we used to have this thing called mining, and they'd pour arsenic on the ore to get the gold out. They poisoned the land. They poisoned the water. And there was nobody overseeing it back then to say, "Well, okay, wait a second."

If you're going to do this, you need to have some safeguards in place so you don't contaminate the land and the water supply. We didn't have those safeguards. And it's not just one isolated spot in Montana. It's across the board. So that's why I say, give us credit. We're consistent. We don't plan. We're careless. We couldn't give a shit, as long as we're getting what we want right now. We let everybody else down the line worry about it when all of a sudden they've been exposed and they're having health issues. They're poisoned, their water's poisoned, the land's poisoned, and the trace elements show up. So, yeah, am I shocked that nobody was paying attention to this depot in Iowa?

#Lawrence Wilkerson

Here are your stock returns. Here are your stock returns.

#Larry Johnson

Gambling in the casino? Yeah, I'm shocked.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

Thank you, Claude Rains.

#Larry Johnson

Yeah.

#Danny

Yeah. Oh, no, it's incredibly troubling. I was thinking about this, too. Everyone who watches this program knows I'm not partisan. I'm not a Democrat. I'm not a Republican. But you'd think any administration in office that wants its party to win future elections wouldn't neglect something like this in Iowa. Iowa's a critical state, and that's not even getting into what's going to happen to the food supply. Donald Trump said something today about how the explosion went way better than expected, or something like that.

I was like, "What are you saying?" But I do think it's interesting, Colonel Wilkerson, and you brought this up before: It's almost as if the political party that just got walloped here in the United States doesn't care about future elections either. And I think this is becoming a theme: The political class doesn't rein any of this in because they don't really care about the consequences in that way. Do you two have any final thoughts before we end?

#Lawrence Wilkerson

You know, one of the most vivid signs of that is that hardly any members go home anymore. They don't feel like they need to. They used to go home periodically, hold town hall meetings, and so forth. Some of them still do, but a lot of them never do. I don't think Grassley had been home in four years. I mean, he'd been back to his residence or whatever, but he hadn't held a meeting. He's too powerful. He doesn't need to talk to Iowans.

#Danny

Yeah, Larry, any final thoughts before we end the stream?

#Larry Johnson

No, I'm good.

#Danny

I think we've covered it, and we've got to run. All right. Well, we'll end the stream here, everybody. Hit the like button before you go. Thanks for all the Super Chats and Super Stickers. I appreciate it. Thank you so much. I'm putting you up on the stream. Thanks to all the members who watched, and thanks to all the moderators, of course. And I will have Thanksgiving programming. I'll let you know what's going on on November 26th. Until then, see you tomorrow. Bye-bye. Take care.

#Lawrence Wilkerson

Happy Thanksgiving.