

# Conflict Update # 337

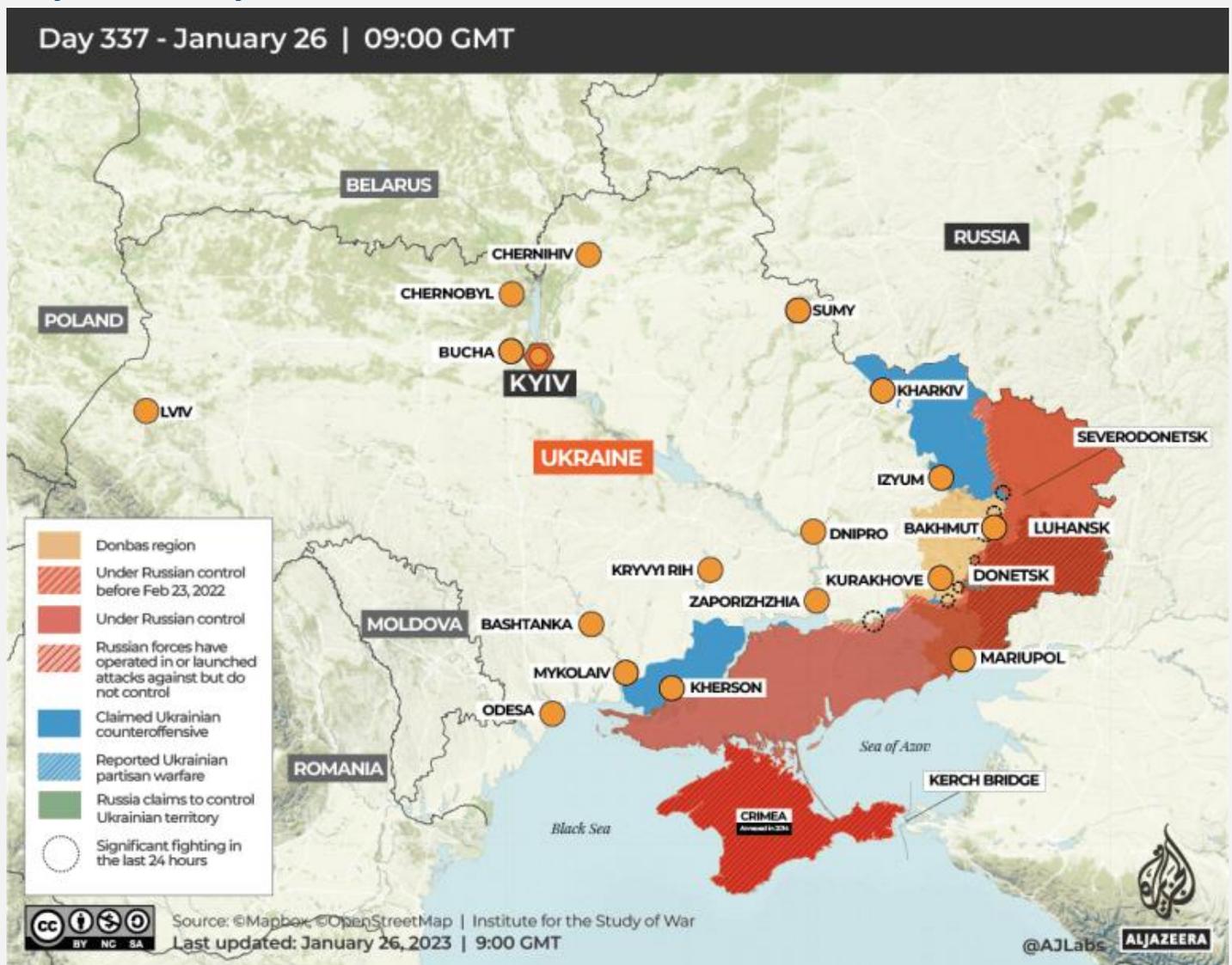
January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Back issues at [www.accgroupco.com](http://www.accgroupco.com)

## Conflict Assessment

**Russian losses<sup>1</sup>** – 123,860 (780) soldiers killed, 3,175 (+14) enemy tanks, 6,334 (+27) armored combat vehicles, 2,169 (+15) artillery systems, 452 (+2) MLRS systems, 220 (+0) air defense systems, 292 (+2) warplanes, 282 (+1) helicopters, 1,908 (+6) UAVs of the operational-tactical level, 749 (+0) cruise missiles, 18 (+0) warships/cutters, 4,986 (+19) trucks and tankers, 4 Iskander Missile Launchers (+0), 239 fuel bowsers (+0) and 195 (+1) units of equipment.

## Key Takeaways



**By the numbers** – Another day of high Russian losses with 780 killed and approximately 1,600 injured over the past 24 hours.

Also of note is the ongoing Ukrainian attrition rate against fighter jets and helicopters seeming to indicate an increase in anti-aircraft ability – perhaps denoting further Patriot anti-aircraft missile batteries arriving from NATO Allies.

Of further import is the increasing destruction against Russian artillery, MLRS and air defense systems, implying Ukrainian assaults on enemy defensive positions - indicating war preparation tactics for pending offensive action?

**11 killed in missile attacks<sup>2</sup>** - At least 11 people killed and 11 others wounded in Russian missile attacks, according to Ukraine’s emergency services. The raids, which targeted several different areas including the capital Kyiv and the southern region of Odesa, wounded 11 others, SESU said in a Telegram post.

It added more than 100 personnel were taking part in search and rescue operations in the aftermath of the shelling.

**US designates the Wagner Group as a ‘criminal organization’<sup>2</sup>** - The United States has formally designated the Wagner Group as a “transnational criminal organization”.

The shadowy paramilitary group is closely aligned with the Kremlin and has been heavily involved in Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

The US Department of the Treasury said it had taken the move as part of action targeting dozens of people and entities in an effort to degrade Russia’s ability to wage the war.

The declaration freezes any US assets that the Wagner Group may have and prohibits US nationals from providing funds, goods, or services to the group.

**Ukraine downed 47 Russian missiles fired in latest attacks: Top general<sup>2</sup>** - Ukrainian air defences shot down 47 of the 55 missiles Russian forces fired at Ukraine in Moscow’s latest wave of attacks, the country’s top general said.

Moscow used the Kh-47 Kinzhal hypersonic missile, among other models, in the attacks, General Valery Zaluzhny said in a post on Telegram. Twenty of the incoming missiles were shot down around the capital, Kyiv, he added.

“The goal of the Russians remains unchanged: psychological pressure on Ukrainians and the destruction of critical infrastructure,” Zaluzhny said. “But we cannot be broken!”

**Russia destroys 171 medical facilities in 11 months of war<sup>6</sup>** - Ukraine's Ministry of Health said on Wednesday that Russia has targeted more than 1,200 medical facilities since the war began almost a year ago. Of those, more than 170 were destroyed.

Oleksandr Komarida, the first deputy of the Minister of Health, said Russia's aggression has ruined 1,206 medical facilities, and that about \$1 billion will be needed for repairs, according to the health ministry's website.

"Every day, we receive figures from each region on the destruction and damage of medical infrastructure. Unfortunately, these numbers are growing almost every day, especially in the front and near-front territories. Our hospitals, maternity hospitals and dispensaries continue to become targets for Russian missiles and projectiles. But Russia will not break us with any such "attacks. We are already rebuilding the destroyed hospitals so that our patients have full access to the necessary medical care," Komarida said.

**Comment** – South Africa blamed the US and NATO for precipitating the illegal Russian invasion of Ukraine. This is why they are adopting a “Neutral” stance and why they support an alternative global order that is not dependent upon the West as led by the US. Now the South African government should explain how this has anything to do with how Russia is conducting itself in a barbaric fashion and how this is not a modern form of colonialism.

Either South African geopolitical myopia or obfuscation of fact.

**Russia ‘just throwing’ bodies at fight in Ukraine<sup>2</sup>** - Zelenskyy says Russian troops are attacking Ukraine without regard for human life.

He acknowledged in an interview with UK’s Sky News that Ukrainian troops were under pressure in the Zaporizhia region in the south and east of the country.

“It’s just an extraordinary number. They don’t care about it. I mean, they don’t count their people ... But from what we have already seen and counted, there are thousands of people dead from their side, and they are just throwing them,” Zelenskyy said in Ukrainian.

**Satellite images hint at scale of Russian mercenary group's losses in Ukraine<sup>11</sup>** - Aerial photos of a cemetery on the outskirts of Russian village Bakinskaya suggest a sevenfold increase in the number of graves in just two months.



The number of graves at a cemetery used by Russia's notorious mercenary Wagner Group has dramatically grown over the last two months, satellite images show.

A photograph taken on Jan. 24 by Maxar Technologies, a U.S. defense contractor headquartered in Colorado, shows at least 121 burial plots in a section of the cemetery allotted to fighters from the private military company.

An image of the same area taken on Nov. 24 appears to show around 17 graves, suggesting that in two months there has been around a sevenfold increase, according to an NBC News analysis of the site on the outskirts of the village of Bakinskaya, in southwestern Russia.

The apparent expansion at the site, which is situated around 200 miles from the border with Crimea, comes after Wagner Group fighters were belatedly credited earlier this month by Russia's defense ministry with taking the town of Soledar in eastern Ukraine, which saw some of the war's most intense combat.



**Fighting<sup>2</sup>** - The head of the Russian-controlled part of Ukraine’s Donetsk region said Wagner units were advancing in the town of Bakhmut and a senior Ukrainian official said fighting there and in a second town was growing fiercer.

Ukraine acknowledged its forces had withdrawn from Soledar, a salt-mining town near Bakhmut that Russia said it captured more than a week ago, its biggest gain for more than six months.

**Comment** – NATO has indicated that they believe Ukraine should rather concentrate on its southern offensive than in this area.

## Putin & Russia

**Lavrov slams West over ‘colonialist-like pressure’ to help Ukraine<sup>9</sup>** - The West is using “colonialist methods” as it is exerting “unprecedented” pressure on developing countries to support Ukraine, Russian FM Lavrov said in Angola yesterday.

In a short statement to journalists at the end of an audience with Angolan President Joao Lourenço, Lavrov sent messages to the African country, a traditional ally of Russia, which has recently moved closer to the US and other countries, stressing that the West “can betray allies” from one moment to the next.

Lavrov welcomed “the very prolonged and consistent dialogue” with Lourenço, with whom he discussed bilateral relations in detail, noting the mutual intention to develop them in various areas

“And we will do it despite illegitimate pressure from the US and its partners,” stressed the head of Russian diplomacy, pointing out as the next task the preparation of the joint intergovernmental meeting for economic trade technical and scientific cooperation.

Besides the steps to be taken for the implementation of our strategic cooperation, Lavrov and Lourenço talked “quite a lot” about the current situation and “about the West’s support for the practices in Ukraine of imposing Nazism and the hybrid war that is developed against our country,” he declared.

“We presented our views based on our contacts that prove the unprecedented pressure on developing countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America in this regard,” he criticized.

**Comment** – Not by any accident that Lavrov invokes the “colonialism” mantle when traveling in Africa. Angola has long been in the Russian orbit, having received huge amounts of Russian and Cuban aid during the 1980’s war against South Africa, cajoled by the US and aided by Israeli pilots and technology.

It is rather cheap for Lavrov to use such terminology given the exact reason for his country’s illegal invasion of its neighbor is to colonize it. But as they say “When in Africa, do as African do.”

**Moscow says tank promises show ‘direct’ Western involvement<sup>2</sup>** - The Kremlin says promises from Ukraine’s Western allies to deliver tanks to Kyiv are evidence of their direct and growing involvement in the war.

“There are constant statements from European capitals and Washington that the sending of various weapons systems to Ukraine, including tanks, in no way signifies the involvement of these countries or the alliance in hostilities in Ukraine,” Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

“We categorically disagree with this, and in Moscow, everything that the alliance and the capitals I mentioned are doing is seen as direct involvement in the conflict. We see that this is growing,” he added.

The secretary of Russia’s Security Council has said the United States and NATO are parties to the conflict in Ukraine, according to a report by Russia’s state-owned TASS news agency.

TASS quoted Nikolai Patrushev, one of Putin’s closest allies, as saying that what was happening in Ukraine was the result of a years-long “hybrid war” being waged by the West against Russia.

He accused the US and NATO, which is led by Washington, of seeking to drag out the conflict.

**Putin Lackeys Lose Their Minds Over Ukraine Getting Battle Tanks<sup>3</sup>** - It didn't take long for Russian officials to start foaming at the mouth and ranting about global conspiracies after Germany agreed to deliver its Leopard 2 battle tanks to Ukraine on Wednesday.

After weeks of resistance, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz announced that, along with allies, the country would provide 88 of the battle tanks to Ukraine, effectively giving Kyiv more firepower to launch new offensives. The Biden administration was also expected to announce a deal to send 30 M1 Abrams tanks to the country.

The Russian Embassy in Berlin was among the first out of the gate after the news broke—offering a bizarre, if not deranged, take: “Berlin’s decision signifies the unequivocal refusal of the Federal Republic of Germany to recognize historical responsibility to our people for the terrible, timeless crimes of Nazism,” Russian Ambassador Sergei Nechayev said in a statement.

The statement went on to say the tanks would also put an end to “postwar reconciliation between Russians and Germans” and “take the conflict to a new level of confrontation.”

Kremlin mouthpiece Margarita Simonyan, the editor-in-chief of RT, joined Russian diplomats in offering up far-fetched Nazi comparisons.

“After a flogging by Washington, Germany will send 14 tanks to Ukraine. Closer to summer, deliveries of gas chambers are also expected,” Simonyan tweeted.

TV propagandist Vladimir Solovyov called European leaders “Nazi scumbags” and argued that the delivery of Leopard tanks to Ukraine makes all of Germany a “legitimate” military target for Russia.

He claimed Germany has “forgotten its historical guilt” and must pay for it.

Sergei Aksyonov, the Kremlin’s man in charge in occupied Crimea—one of the territories Ukrainian authorities may use the tanks to take back—published what he said were the schematics of Germany’s Leopard 2A4 tank on Telegram.

“I am sure that everyone will be able to find more detailed information about the vulnerabilities of this... on their own, and the command will provide our fighters with everything necessary to destroy the descendants of the fascist ‘Tiger’ and ‘Panther’ [tanks used in WWII],” Aksyonov wrote.

Pro-Kremlin pundits unanimously bent themselves into knots (and broke their brains) trying to prove a global Nazi conspiracy.

**Russia outlaws Meduza in latest media crackdown<sup>2</sup>** - Russian authorities have designated independent news outlet Meduza as an “undesirable organization,” effectively outlawing the site from operating in the country and banning Russian citizens from cooperating with the organization or its journalists.

The designation is the latest in a years-long campaign by the Kremlin to curb independent media outlets and stop their reporting from reaching ordinary Russians in a crackdown that has escalated since Moscow launched its invasion of Ukraine last February.

In a statement announcing the decision, Russia’s General Prosecutor said the Latvia-based news outlet “poses a threat to the foundations of the constitutional system and the security of the Russian Federation.”

There was no immediate response from Meduza, which is one of Russia’s most widely read independent news sites.

**Comment** – We use Meduza for articles and coverage in our Updates.

## Diplomacy

**French foreign minister visits Odesa<sup>2</sup>** - France's foreign minister has arrived in the Ukrainian city of Odesa on a visit intended to underscore her country's backing of Kyiv.

Catherine Colonna said in a post on Twitter that she was travelling to "show France's support for Ukraine's sovereignty, now as before."

Although delayed by a new wave of Russian strikes overnight and on Thursday morning, Colonna was still set to meet her Ukrainian counterpart, Dmytro Kuleba, in the Black Sea port city, AFP reported.

**The European Court of Human Rights<sup>2</sup>** allowed cases brought against Russia by Ukraine and the Netherlands over allegations of human rights violations in the breakaway Luhansk and Donetsk regions of Ukraine, and the shooting down of flight MH-17.

**Zelenskyy urged a senior UN official<sup>2</sup>** to help find a way to resolve what Ukrainian authorities decry as a serious consequence of 11 months of the war – the deportation to Russia of thousands of adults and children.

## Comments, Developments & Reports

**ECHR says it can hear case against Russia over MH17 downing<sup>2</sup>** - The Netherlands and Ukraine are pursuing Moscow over its pre-February 2022 actions in eastern Ukraine.

Europe's top human rights court has ruled that it can adjudicate on cases brought by the Netherlands and Ukraine against Russia for alleged rights violations in eastern Ukraine in 2014, including the downing of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17.

The ruling on Strasbourg-based Human Rights significant progress Dutch and governments to accountable for its and could pave the way for compensation orders. The court said a judgment on the merits of the cases will follow at a later date.



can adjudicate on cases brought by alleged rights violations in downing of Malaysia Airlines

Wednesday by the European Court of (ECHR) marks in efforts by the Ukrainian hold Russia legally actions in Ukraine

The cases were filed before Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in late February 2022.

**German and US tanks will be critical in Ukraine's next phase against Russia<sup>7</sup>** - The main battle tanks that the United States and Germany have agreed to provide Ukraine will help its forces punch through Russian fortifications and retake lost territory.

Western aid for Ukraine has steadily increased over the past year in both quality and quantity—from handheld weapons such as Javelin anti-tank missiles and Stinger anti-aircraft missiles that were dispatched at the beginning of the war to much more sophisticated systems provided more recently, such as the HIMARS (High Mobility Artillery Rocket System) and the Patriot air defense system.

January 2023 marked two other milestones: the month began with Western allies finally agreeing to send advanced armored personnel carriers—the United States will contribute Bradleys and Strykers, Germany will send Marders, Sweden will send CV90s, and so on—and it ended with a breakthrough decision to send main battle tanks as well.

Britain led the way by pledging 14 Challenger 2 tanks, but Germany refused to provide its Leopard 2 tanks (pictured below) until the US agreed to send its own M1 Abrams tanks. Risk-averse German Chancellor Scholz wanted political cover from his American allies if he was going to take a step that could provoke an escalatory response from Putin, and sending the vehicles would represent another break with Germany’s postwar quasi-pacifism. **(Comment** – I would hazard a guess that the US called Germany and advised them that they were in fact sending Abrams tanks to Ukraine, something forcefully advocated by Sen. Graham, so the Chancellor should open German doors for Leopard 2 tanks as well).

A standoff ensued that was finally broken this week when the Joe Biden administration agreed to send at least thirty Abrams tanks to Ukraine, though they will likely take months to arrive. This gave Scholz the opening he sought to lift his ban on providing the Leopard 2 tanks. Germany pledged to donate at least fourteen of its Leopards, while other nations such as Finland, Greece, Poland, and Spain are preparing to send their own Leopards.

First made in 1979, the of the most world. It is fielded by modern laser range enable it to day and engage accurately.



Leopard 2 is one potent and popular tanks in the superior to the Soviet-era tanks both Russia and Ukraine. It has optics and a finder that track targets night and them

It can move quickly (top speed: 44mph) and it has secure ammunition storage so as to avoid the danger of its turret blowing off when hit—the “jack in the box” effect that has destroyed so many Russian T-72 tanks. The M1 Abrams is, in many respects, similar to the Leopard 2 but, in its newer variants, features even better armor and more sophisticated optics and targeting systems. The Abrams took a fearsome toll on Iraq’s Soviet-era tanks in 1991 and 2003.

The goal for Ukrainian commanders is to quickly assemble at least seventy Leopard 2s—enough for two armored battalions. Of course, Ukrainian soldiers will need to be trained to operate and maintain these tanks, but given their experience operating Soviet-era tanks, this should not present any major difficulties.

These tanks will be critical to Ukraine’s prospects for mounting a successful offensive in the late winter or spring.

Russia’s momentum has stalled since the early days of the war, while Ukraine has mounted successful counteroffensives around Kherson and Kharkiv, taking back about 20 percent of the territory Russia occupied in early 2022. But there is still an immense amount of territory in Ukraine’s south and east that has been occupied by Russian forces since the start of the war on February 24, 2022 (to say nothing of the territory in Crimea and the Donbas that Russia has occupied since 2014). Their front line stretches over eight hundred miles, and Russian forces have been digging in and fortifying their positions. Ukraine needs modern battle tanks such as the Leopard 2 to have any hope of punching through Russian positions without suffering appalling casualties.

Secretary Austin said in an interview last week, while he was in Germany for a meeting of countries donating military equipment to Ukraine, that “a realistic goal for this year” would be for Ukraine to “cut the land bridge” Russian forces

have established between Russia-occupied Crimea and Russia proper. That “land bridge” constitutes one of only two supply arteries for Crimea, the other being the Kerch Strait bridge that was damaged in a truck explosion on October 8.

If Ukraine cuts the “land bridge” and destroys the Kerch Strait bridge, that makes it exceedingly difficult for Russia to hold onto Crimea. Conversely, if Ukraine fails to cut the land bridge this year, Russia could pour in more men and resources and Ukraine could lose that portion of its country permanently.

Ukraine could benefit from other western capabilities as well, if they’re able to obtain them, such as longer-range rockets to target Russian bases in Crimea and fighter jets such as the U.S.-made F-16 or Swedish Gripen to provide air cover for its forces.

Once the Leopard 2s are incorporated into the Ukrainian army, along with Bradleys, Strykers, CV90s, and other armored vehicles, Ukraine is likely to mount an offensive that could determine the course of the war.

**Zelenskyy repeats his rejection of negotiations with Putin<sup>2</sup>** - Zelenskyy has reiterated his rejection of negotiations with Russia before a withdrawal of Russian troops.

Talks would be possible only if Russia withdraws its soldiers, admits its mistake and if there is a new government in Moscow, Zelenskyy told British broadcaster Sky News in an interview.

The president had already banned negotiations with Putin by decree at the end of September 2022.

He stressed that a meeting with Putin made no sense. “It is not interesting for me. Not interesting to meet, not interesting to speak,” he said in English. “They don’t want talks, and that was the case even before the invasion. President Putin decided so.”

## Containment

**U.S. to send 31 Abrams tanks to Ukraine<sup>8</sup>** - President Biden yesterday announced the US will send Ukraine a battalion of 31 M1 Abrams tanks, the Army’s premier main battle tank, in a significant show of support for Kyiv in its fight against Russia.

The tanks won’t arrive in Ukraine for many months, and the Pentagon is working through the challenges involved in providing the training, equipment and fuel to operate the 70-ton tracked weapons, officials said.

The decision is a huge symbolic win for Ukraine, bogged down in brutal fighting across the country and preparing for a spring counteroffensive to repel the Russians.

“Putin expected Europe and the United States to weaken our resolve. He expected our support for Ukraine to crumble with time. He was wrong,” Biden said, referring to Russian President Vladimir Putin. “These tanks are further evidence of our enduring, unflagging commitment to Ukraine and our confidence in the skill of the Ukrainian forces.”

**Will French tanks be next?<sup>10</sup>** - One Russian political commentator Ivan Arkatov told media site Novorossiia that Germany’s announcement, which followed America’s, showed that the US was the puppet-master of the West.

“This is an indicator of Germany's lack of sovereignty. It is not for nothing that a large number of US military bases are located in Germany. If the Germans are already under the spell of the Americans, what can we say about other Western countries?”

Until now, the US and Germany have resisted pressure to join the British military — which promised last week to send a dozen Challenger 2 tanks to Ukraine — in sending heavy armor to Ukraine, fearing the move would escalate the conflict

and make NATO a direct party to the war with Russia. Washington has also previously cited the extensive training and maintenance that the high-tech Abrams tanks demand.

While the reported number of tanks is likely to fall short of the 300 Ukraine says it needs to win the war, the move could spark a chain reaction of other Western nations sending similar aid — including France, where the government is also considering sending its own Leclerc tanks to the frontline.

### **Spring offensive**

This would allow Ukraine to make substantial attacks on the ground and, combined with the Patriot air defense systems pledged by the U.S. at the end of last year, could help Ukraine to make serious progress on the battlefield.

Pro-Putin political scientist Sergei Markov wrote on his Telegram channel that he feared “All this was being done for the planned spring offensive of the Armed Forces of Ukraine under the command of NATO generals.”

Russian political scientist Malek Dudakov shared Markov’s concerns, but suggested that a possible offensive may not come as early as spring. “Washington will have to make concessions. They will need to specifically purchase Abrams for Ukraine, since it was not part of their original plan to give away their tanks,” Dudakov suggested.

Commenters on a RIA Novosti article reporting the announcement were also fearful. “Now that Kyiv is being supplied directly with tanks, our men will become exhausted,” one person said. “They will pour a hundred tanks into the fire every three months. It will drag out the conflict. If we want to succeed we will need to use bombers from the air.”

Another commenter stressed the need for Russia to actively prepare for the coming offensive, if it hoped to interrupt the battlefield defeats that have become all too common for Russia: “(Ukraine) will prepare a major offensive with the participation of all Western Challenger tanks, Leopards and armored vehicles sent to Ukraine,” the commenter said. “I hope this time our intelligence will be able to figure out where this offensive will be and the army will be ready to avoid another Kharkiv repeat.”

**Canada prepares to send Leopard tanks to Ukraine<sup>5</sup>** - The Canadian Forces is looking at sending Leopard tanks to Ukraine but is still examining exact numbers it can donate, National Defence and industry sources say.

Plans are proceeding now that Germany has dropped its concerns about supplying the equipment to Ukraine which is in the midst of preparing for a new Russian offensive. NATO nations are coordinating between themselves trying to determine specific numbers of tanks that each country can provide.

**Germany aims to deliver tanks to Ukraine by beginning of April<sup>2</sup>** - Germany’s defence minister says Berlin intends to deliver the Leopard 2 tanks it has pledged to Ukraine by early April at the latest.

“The aim with the Leopards is to have the first company in Ukraine by the end of March, beginning of April,” Boris Pistorius said.

He added that training of Ukrainian troops on German Marder infantry fighting vehicles will start in the next few days, with training on the heavier Leopard 2 tanks due to start “a little later.”

**Karpowership, Ukraine sign pact to fast-track 500-MW floating power stations<sup>2</sup>** - The Turkish firm Karpowership has signed an agreement with state-owned trader JSC Energy Company of Ukraine (ECU) to fast-track the use of 500-megawatt floating power stations to alleviate Ukraine’s energy crisis.

Karpowership and ECU will work with national and international organisations to develop and finance the stations, which will produce electricity to power more than 1 million households, a statement about the deal said.

Options being considered for the floating power stations include mooring them in the Black Sea off Moldova and Romania and connecting them to Ukraine's electrical grid with transmission lines.

**The US and Germany announced plans to send Ukraine dozens of modern tanks<sup>2</sup>**, hailed by Kyiv as a potential turning point in repelling Russia's invasion but denounced by Moscow as an "extremely dangerous" step.

The key to providing tanks was speed and sufficient numbers, Zelenskyy said. He said he has also spoken to NATO top brass and called for supplies of long-range missiles and high-end aircraft to add to the commitment of tanks by the US and Germany.

Germany's decision paves the way for countries such as Poland, Spain, Finland, the Netherlands and Norway to supply Leopard tanks to Ukraine, going some way towards delivering the hundreds of tanks that Ukraine says it needs.

It may take many months for the powerful US tanks that President Joe Biden agreed to send to Ukraine to reach their destination, the White House said.

## NATO

**Turkey says it is 'meaningless' to restore NATO dialogue with Sweden, Finland<sup>2</sup>** - Turkey's foreign minister has ruled out resuming talks with Sweden and Finland over their NATO bids, saying such a move would be "meaningless".

Speaking at a news conference, Mevlut Cavusoglu also said there was no offer to evaluate Sweden's and Finland's NATO membership separately after Ankara pulled out of trilateral talks scheduled for next month following recent protests in Stockholm.

Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson has said his country wants to restore NATO dialogue with Turkey.

**Comment** – We have referred to the Kurdish and Turkish position throughout the past 11 months. Erdogan is currently contesting an election in Turkey so developments indicating conflict, such as against Greece and the NATO debate, are commonplace in these events.

## Sources

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.mil.gov.ua/en/news/2022/09/22/the-total-combat-losses>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/liveblog/2023>

<sup>3</sup> <https://dnyuz.com/2023/01/25/putin-lackeys-lose-their-minds-over-ukraine-getting-battle-tanks/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.rferl.org/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://ottawacitizen.com/news/national/defence-watch/canada-prepares-to-send-leopard-tanks-to-ukraine>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.newsweek.com/russia-destroys-171-medical-facilities-11-months-war-health-minister>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.cfr.org/in-brief/german-and-us-tanks-will-be-critical-ukraines-next-phase-against-russia>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.politico.com/news/2023/01/25/u-s-to-send-31-abrams-tanks-to-ukraine-in-major-reversal>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.euractiv.com/section/politics/news/lavrov-slams-west-over-colonialist-like-pressure-to-help-ukraine/>

<sup>10</sup> <https://worldcrunch.com/focus/tanks-germany-ukraine-counterattack>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/satellite-images-hint-scale-russian-mercenary-groups-losses-ukraine-rcna>