## RUSSIA'S ILLEGAL ANNEXATION OF THE CRIMEA: WORLD PEACE IS THREATENED!

The peace of the world, which has lasted for the past 69 years, is at stake, following the illegal annexation of The Crimea by the oblique and covert acts of agents of The Russian Federation.

Never since the end of World War II has there been such a threat to world peace as that which the President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin of The Russian Federation has laid at the doorsteps of European Union (EU) and the United States of America.

In the opinion of **TARGET** (), the worst is yet to come.

The US has imposed sanctions on select Russian and Ukrainian citizens and the EU's 28 foreign ministers have agreed to subject 21 Russian and Ukrainian officials to visa restrictions and freezes on certain of their known assets for their respective roles in the events, leading up to the dangerous situation that now exists.

But, in The Russian Federation, thus far, President Vladimir Putin is enjoying even more popularity than ever before.

**TARGET** asks: Have the right-thinking people of Russia gone completely bonkers?

## The Background to the Present Chaos

On Thursday, February 27, 2014, heavily armed soldiers, clearly on the payroll of The Russian Federation, regardless of the fact that their uniforms did not indicate that they were the servicemen of President Vladimir Putin, occupied the Crimean Peninsula.

There had been no declaration of war or even any real or logical justification for this obvious bellicose action.

The Western World watched, seemingly precipitantly terrified as to what Russia's jingoistic acts were meant to suggest.

Perhaps history will mark Thursday, February 27, 2014, as being the naked aggression by The Russian Federation of another sovereign state that, in fact, had little or no way to repel the invasion of what has come to be a fighting force, numbering more than 60,000, well-armed, Russian soldiers.

President Putin went on record as stating:

'Russia retains the right to protect its interests and the Russian-speaking population of those areas.'

Shades of Munich Agreement of September 1938 when another dictator, one Chancellor Adolf Hitler of Germany, went on record stating:

'The German Reich is no longer willing to tolerate the suppression of 10 million German across its borders.'

On September 1, 1939, about one year after the ink had dried on the Munich Agreement, World War II broke out as the German Army invaded Poland.

As Germany enjoyed one military success after another, from 1939 until about 1942, the popularity of Chancellor Adolf Hitler rose from one plateau to a higher plateau.

But, come the end of the war in Europe, the German people were singing a completely different song with regard to 'Der Fuhrer'.

## **The Kleptocrats of Ukraine**

One could, today, perhaps label the Interim Government of Ukraine as being kleptocratic in nature, following the toppling of the former President Viktor Yanukovytch.

Kleptocratic governments are, in all cases, governmental administrations that are led by those who seek chiefly status and personal gain at the expense of those who, due to circumstances, find themselves, being governed.

The present Government of Ukraine has ordered the partial military mobilisation of some 40,000, Ukrainian army reservists.

Even three times that number of Ukrainian reservists are quite unlikely to be able to best the military might of the well-trained and heavily armed soldiers of The Russian Federation: It would be suicidal for the reservists even to try to match the Russian invasion force.

All the bluster in the world would be worthless when facing the armies of President Vladimir Putin, armies that are highly ranked, internationally.

Such an act of attacking the existing Russian soldiers, now stationed in The Crimea, would be akin to an ant, considering the rape of an elephant.

Perhaps, the Ukrainian Government is fully aware of what would be the end result should the call go out to defend the Ukraine, militarily, against the aggressor.

It must be a terribly sour taste in the mouths of many Europeans, faced with the situation as they see it in The Crimea, but, today, The Crimean Peninsula is part of the sovereign state of The Russian Federation: President Vladimir Putin signed the decree, formerly recognising this part of Ukraine as being part of his 'empire'.

The Referendum of last Sunday, the votes of which, overwhelmingly, were in favour of the unification of The Crimea with Russia, clinched President Putin's stratagem.

If the Ukrainian Government were silly enough to order an attack on Russian troops who, before this week is out, will, without question, be bivouacked in and around the Port of Sebastopol, it is likely to play right into the arms of President Vladimir Putin, who could then claim that the present Ukrainian Government comprises nonentities on the world's diplomatic stage.

Making pejorative remarks about the present government of Ukraine might well serve to become home truths if the Ukrainian Government determines (or threatens) to take on the military might of The Russian Federation in mortal combat.

The final outcome of such an act by Ukrainian armed (reservist) forces would be a forgone conclusion, no doubt.

Meanwhile, while the Ukrainian Government dickers with the idea of bellicosity toward the Russian aggressors, in a number of other parts of Ukraine other, that is, to The Crimean, parts of the country where

there are large communities of Russians, there are calls for these parts, also, to hold referenda in order to allow the disgruntled populations to determine their own futures: Either to go over to The Russian Federation; or, to remain an integral part of Ukraine.

That which is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander.

Although there are no up-to-date, population statistics with regard to Ukraine, in the 2001 Census, it was recorded that at least 17 percent of the total population of the country of about 48 million people were Russians.

That means that not less than 6.50 million, Russian people live in the Ukraine, today, excluding the 1.50 million Russians who are known to live in The Crimea.

Whether or not President Putin (or his subordinates) has sent in Russian agents to Ukraine in order to stir up the Russian population of the country to become loyal to Mother Russia is not confirmed, but it certainly cannot be ruled out.

As this medium pointed out on March 14, 2014 (please refer to **TARGET** Intelligence Report, Volume XVI, Number 50, headlined: '*THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION CHALLENGES EUROPE: ON THE HORNS OF A POTENTIAL DILEMMA*'), there are strong suggestions that President Putin will not be satisfied with just the annexation of The Crimea.

He wants much more ... much more.

The Russian Federation has, already, violated the United Nations Charter, The Helsinki Final Act, The Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances for Ukraine of 1994, The Russian-Ukrainian Friendship Treaty of 1997 and the Sevastopol Naval Base Agreement of 1997.

What is one more '*little*' violation of an international promise to this country that is ruled by the iron fist of a former Lieutenant Colonel of the KGB?

If the EU and the US were to impose draconian sanctions on The Russian Federation, sanctions with which President Putin could not, and would not, tolerate, the path to further incursions by Russian troops into other parts of Eastern Europe is quite possible, if not probable.

Thus the door to hell on earth would be opened wide, once again.

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