

**CAN THE WEST AVOID AN OUTRIGHT,
ARMED CONFRONTATION WITH THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION ?**

Whether or not the present situation, festering in Ukraine, will bubble over into outright belligerency between The Russian Federation and The United States of America (and, most likely, quite a number of the allies of these two, heavily armed powerhouses), only history will be able to record.

TARGET () has almost no knowledge of adumbration and prefers to refrain from trying to pretend to indulge in the art of soothsaying.

However, having said that, one cannot help but put the political events of the past few months, first, in The Crimea, and, now, in other parts of Ukraine, especially in the east of the country, and ponder: Where will this all end?

Last Monday (April 28), Washington time, The United States imposed a second round of sanctions.

This time, the sanctions applied to seven Russian individuals and 17 entities, all of whom/which are said to be, or have been, linked to the President of The Russian Federation, Mr Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin.

**Please see the attached Appendix for the names and designations of the 27 parties,
sanctioned by the Government of The United States.**

One is reminded, at this point, of that memorable date of September 1, 1939, when Germany invaded Poland, leading to the outbreak of World War II. This war lasted for six long and tragic years.

France and the United Kingdom, both of which had pacts with Poland, declared war on Germany on September 3, 1939.

About six years later, some 50 million people lay dead on battlefields, from nearly every part of Europe, The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (**USSR**), to most parts of Asia, and to the South and North Pacific.

It is well known that President Vladimir Putin rues the day that the former USSR was broken up.

Most likely, this former, senior officer of the KGB would like to place the flag of Ukraine, alongside the flags of the other, 85 Federal Subjects, as the territory of The Russian Federation are called.

He, already, has obtained the flag of the and the Federal City of.

Now, it appears, he is shooting for the entire country, known as Ukraine.

But he is trying to ant his way into the country by implosion rather than invasion although one may conjecture that, at some point in time, he may well order Russian troops to enter Ukraine in order to protect the Russian-speaking minority of the country, representing about 17 percent of the country's total population of about 44 million, men, women and children.

That was President Vladimir Putin's ratio decidendi when ordering Russian troops (not designated as such, however) 'to *invade*' The Crimea on March 1, 2014, leading to an illegal referendum of the region that, when the votes were tallied, indicated that the 1.50 million Russian residents of The Crimea wanted, overwhelmingly, to become part of The Russian Federation – again.

And so it came to pass.

The Kleptocrats

Ukraine, today, is ruled by Kleptocrats, according to President Vladimir Putin.

There appears to be some truth to this nomenclature of a number of the people, trying to govern the country, as has been made only too apparent of late.

Be that as it may, not all of the 44 million-odd Ukrainians want to change nationalities; and, some of them will put up quite a struggle should push come to shove.

On the horns of a terrible dilemma, where, in the east of the country, the very serious problems are akin to the beginnings of a brutal civil war, one ponders how the incompetent, would-be diplomats, trying to govern the country from Kiev, the Capital City of Ukraine, can bring any legitimacy to this Interim Government.

Further, it seems ludicrous, in today's world, even to consider trying to hold free and fair elections in Ukraine in order to elect a people's government.

If Kiev determines to send armed troops with orders to get tough in their attempts to quell the disturbances in the east of the country and to oust the pro-Russian insurgents, one way or another, it could well result in President Vladimir Putin, ordering Russian troops to come to the rescue in order to protect 'his' people.

For many of the residents of the east Ukraine, a great deal of their day-to-day activities has been, for many years, in the manufacture of goods that are destined for markets in The Russian Federation: They have little interest in Ukrainian politics: Let well-enough alone, if you please.

At the barrel of the gun, legitimacy of a government cannot be obtained, at all; and, a legitimately elected government cannot be maintained for very long by force of arms.

These are historical facts that are indisputable.

The insurgents, now rampaging parts of Ukraine (assuming that they are not agents or soldiers of The Russian Federation), despite the threat of Kiev, sending in armed troops with orders to fire in self-defence, continue to seize public buildings in one town after another in the Donetsk Region of the country, right on the border with The Russian Federation.

When unarmed supporters of Kiev, determined, recently, to hold a rally in the regional capital city, Donetsk, the insurgents, armed with clubs and what-have-you and wearing what appeared to be military fatigues, broke up the rally, sending some of the pro-Ukrainians to hospital.

The Mayor of Kharkiv, the second-largest city of Ukraine, has been shot to death by an unknown gunman.

There is quite a number of Ukrainians, also, who want a change in the Kiev Government and are going round, gathering signatures from citizens in an attempt to legitimise the overthrow of the Kiev Government – which is, after all, only, an Interim Government, at best, following the ousting of President Viktor Yanukovich from office.

While chaos reigns in Ukraine, in The Russian Federation, reports are filtering through that wealthy Russians have fled to the United Kingdom with buckets, full of roubles, trying to purchase property as a hedge against the unknown.

Money talks, but bullshit still walks.

Don't Rile The Russian Bear!

The Russian Federation is the largest country in the world and accounts for about 12.50 percent of the inhabitable area of this planet. It is a vast land.

It is, also, the world's ninth, most-populous country, having a human population of about 142.50 million people, 78 percent, being Russian, and about 1.40 percent, being Ukrainian.

It is one of the world's leading producers of oil and natural gas. Also, it is a large player in the exportation of steel and aluminium, round the world.

The country has the ability to call upon about 45 million people, between the ages of 16 years and 49 years, all of whom are said as being fit for military service.

However, as for the known, serving personnel in the armed forces, it is estimated that it is upward of about one million, fighting-fit soldiers, sailors and airmen, are on active service.

It is well known that The Russian Federation has the largest stockpile of nuclear weaponry in the world – and this, to the Western World, should be a frightening statistic.

Second only to The United States of America, Russia has the largest fleet of ballistic-missile submarines; and, it has one of the world's most-modern, strategic bomber force.

On land, Russia's tank force is unmatched, internationally.

Its arms industry is legendary, producing most of the military equipment that it requires. In fact, Russia accounts for sales of about 30 percent of worldwide weapons, anywhere on the earth. It exports weapons to some 80 different countries.

The French and the Germans have both attempted to conquer Russia, but to no avail, and, in both cases (June 24, 1812, when Napoleon's Grande Armée of about 500,000 men invaded, and June 22, 1941, when German armies invaded with a force of about 4 million men), the armies were repulsed with terrible losses on both sides.

It is estimated that France's losses were about 380,000 men (76 percent of the total invasion force of 1812) and Germany's losses were about one million men (about 25 percent of the 1941 invasion force).

As for Russia's losses, alone, during the 1941 German invasion, during World War II, they were about 20 million men and women.

In the 1812 invasion, Russian losses have been estimated at about 200,000 men, with another 125,000 men, missing in action.

To state that Russia is a tough nut to crack would be to state the obvious – because, among other things, the country is just too vast to be conquered, easily.

Thus, nobody should want to engage in a war with The Russian Federation because the chances are very high that there would be no winners ... only losers – on all sides: Men and women in uniform and innocent civilians, caught up in such a conflict.

Appendix

**The following individuals have been added to
The Office of the Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) of**

**Special Designated Nationals (SDN) of
the Department of The Treasury of The United States of America**

BELAVENCEV, Oleg Evgenyevich (also known as BELAVENTSEV, Oleg);
Date of Birth: 15 Sep 1949;
Russian Presidential Envoy to the Crimean District; Member of the Russian Security Council (individual) [UKRAINE2].

CHEMEZOV, Sergei (also known as CHEMEZOV, Sergey Viktorovich);
Date of Birth: 20 Aug 1952;
Place of Birth: Cheremkhovo, Irkutsk, Russia (individual) [UKRAINE2].

KOZAK, Dmitry;
Date of Birth: 07 Nov 1958;
Place of Birth: Kirovograd, Ukraine;
Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation (individual) [UKRAINE2].

MUROV, Evgeniy Alekseyevich (also known as MUROV, Evgeny; also known as MUROV, Yevgeniy; also known as MUROV, Yevgeny);
Date of Birth: 18 Nov 1945;
Place of Birth: Zvenigorod, Moscow, Russia;
Director of the Federal Protective Service of the Russian Federation; Army General (individual) [UKRAINE2].

PUSHKOV, Aleksei Konstantinovich (also known as PUSHKOV, Alexei);
Date of Birth: 10 Aug 1954;
Chairman of State Duma Committee on International Affairs (individual) [UKRAINE2].

SECHIN, Igor;
Date of Birth: 07 Sep 1960;
Place of Birth: St. Petersburg, Russia (individual) [UKRAINE2].

VOLODIN, Vyacheslav;
Date of Birth: 04 Feb 1964;
Place of Birth: Alexeyevka, Khvalynsk district, Saratov, Russia;
First Deputy Chief of Staff of the Presidential Executive Office (individual) [UKRAINE2].

**The following entities have been added to the list of
The Office of the Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) of
Special Designated Nationals (SDN) of
the Department of The Treasury of The United States of America:**

AQUANIKA (also known as AQUANIKA LLC; also known as LLC RUSSKOYE VREMYA; also known as OBSHCHESTVO S OGRANICHENNOI OTVETSTVENNOSTYU RUSSKOE VREMYA; also known as RUSSKOE VREMYA OOO; also known as RUSSKOYE VREMYA LLC),
47A, Sevastopolskiy Ave., of. 304, Moscow 117186, Russia;
1/2 Rodnikovaya ul., Savasleika s., Kulebaski raion, Nizhegorodskaya oblast 607007, Russia;
Website <http://www.aquanika.com>; alt.
Website <http://aquanikacompany.ru>;
Email Address office@aquanika.com;
Registration ID 1075247000036 [UKRAINE2].

AVIA GROUP LLC (also known as AVIA GROUP LTD),
Terminal Aeroport Sheremetyevo Khimki, 141400 Moskovskaya obl., Russia;
Website <http://www.avia-group.su/> [UKRAINE2].

AVIA GROUP NORD LLC, 17 A, Stratoyava St., Saint Petersburg, Russia;
Website <http://www.ag-nord.ru> [UKRAINE2].

CJSC ZEST (also known as ZEST LEASING),
pr. Medikov 5, of. 301, St. Petersburg, Russia;
2 Liter a Pl. Rastrelli, St. Petersburg 191124, Russia;
Website <http://www.zest-leasing.ru>;
Registration ID 1027809190507;
Government Gazette Number 44323193 [UKRAINE2].

INVESTCAPITALBANK (also known as INVESTKAPITALBANK; also known as OJSC
INVESTCAPITALBANK; also known as OPEN JOINT STOCK COMPANY INVESTCAPITALBANK),
100/1, Dostoevskogo Street, Ufa, Bashkortostan Republic 450077, Russia;
SWIFT/BIC INAKRU41;
Website <http://www.investcapitalbank.ru>;
License 2377 [UKRAINE2].

JSB SOBINBANK (also known as SOBINBANK),
15 Korp. 56 D. 4 Etazh ul. Rochdelskaya, Moscow 123022, Russia;
15/56 Rochdelskaya Street, Moscow 123022, Russia;
SWIFT/BIC SBBARUMM;
Website <http://www.sobinbank.ru>;
Registration ID 1027739051009;
Government Gazette Number 09610355 [UKRAINE2].

SAKHATRANS LLC (also known as OBSHCHESTVO S OGRANICHENNOI OTVETSTVENNOSTYU
SAKHA (YAKUTSKAYA) TRANSPORTNAYA KOMPANIYA; also known as SAKHATRANS OOO),
14 ul. Molodezhnaya Rabochi Pos. Vanino, 682860 Vaninski, Raion Khabarovski Krai, Russia
[UKRAINE2].

SMP BANK (also known as BANK SEVERNY MORSKOY PUT; also known as SMP BANK OPEN
JOINT-STOCK COMPANY),
71/11 Sadovnicheskaya Street, Moscow 115035, Russia;
SWIFT/BIC SMBKRUMM;
Website www.smpbank.ru;
Email Address smpbank@smpbank.ru [UKRAINE2].

STROYGAZMONTAZH (also known as LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY STROYGAZMONTAZH;
also known as STROYGAZMONTAZH CORPORATION; also known as "SGM"), 53 prospekt
Vernadskogo, Moscow 119415, Russia;
Website www.ooosgm.com; alt.
Website www.ooosgm.ru;
Email Address info@ooosgm.ru [UKRAINE2].

STROYTRANSGAZ GROUP (also known as STROYTRANSGAZ; also known as "STG GROUP"), 3
Begovaya Street, Building #1, Moscow 125284, Russia; Website www.stroytransgaz.ru [UKRAINE2].

STROYTRANSGAZ HOLDING (also known as STG HOLDING LIMITED; also known as STG
HOLDINGS LIMITED; also known as STROYTRANSGAZ HOLDING LIMITED; also known as
"STGH"), 33 Stasinou Street, Office 2 2003, Nicosia Strovolos, Cyprus [UKRAINE2].

STROYTRANSGAZ LLC (also known as OOO STROYTRANSGAZ),
House 65, Novocheremushkinskaya, Moscow 117418, Russia [UKRAINE2].

STROYTRANSGAZ OJSC (also known as OAO STROYTRANSGAZ),

House 58, Novocheremushkinskaya St., Moscow 117418, Russia [UKRAINE2].

STROYTRANSGAZ-M LLC,

26th Meeting of the Communist Party Street, House 2V, Novy Urengoy, Tyumenskaya Oblast, Yamalo-Nenetsky Autonomous Region 629305, Russia [UKRAINE2].

THE LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY INVESTMENT COMPANY ABROS (also known as LLC IC ABROS),

2 Liter a Pl. Rastrelli, St. Petersburg 191124, Russia;

Government Gazette Number 72426791;

Telephone: 7812 3358979 [UKRAINE2].

TRANSOIL (also known as LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY TRANSOIL; formerly known as OBSHCHESTVO S ORGANICHERNNOI OTVETSTVENNOSTYU TRANSOIL; also known as TRANSOIL LLC; also known as TRANSOYL SNG LTD.),

18A Petrogradskaya nab., St. Petersburg 197046, Russia;

Website <http://www.transoil-spb.ru>; alt.

Website <http://transoil.com>;

Email Address info@toil.spb.ru;

Registration ID 1037835069986 [UKRAINE2].

VOLGA GROUP (also known as VOLGA GROUP INVESTMENTS; formerly known as VOLGA RESOURCES; formerly known as VOLGA RESOURCES GROUP),

3, rue de la Reine L-2418, Luxembourg; Russia [UKRAINE2].

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