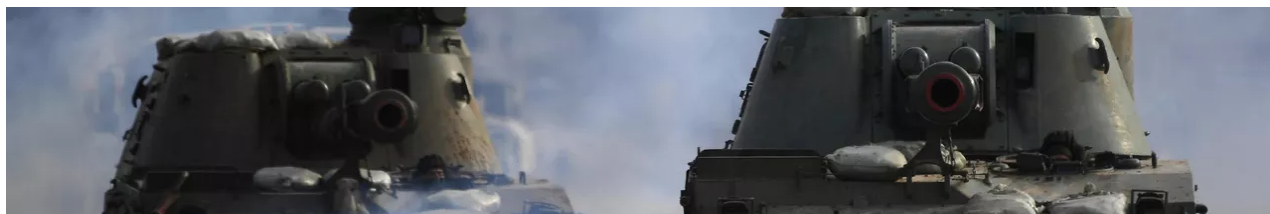


Why Sending Leopard 2 & M1 Abrams Tanks to Ukraine is NATO's Grave Mistake

sputniknews.com/20230126/why-sending-leopard-2--m1-abrams-tanks-to-ukraine-is-natos-grave-mistake-1106737387.html



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"Kancelář Scholz dal jasně najevo, že Německo nepovolí přepravu německých tanků Leopard 2 na Ukrajinu, pokud USA nejprve nepovolí přepravu tanků M-1A1 Abrams," David T. Pyne, odborník na EMP Task Force a bývalé ministerstvo obrany USA. důstojník, řekl Sputniku.

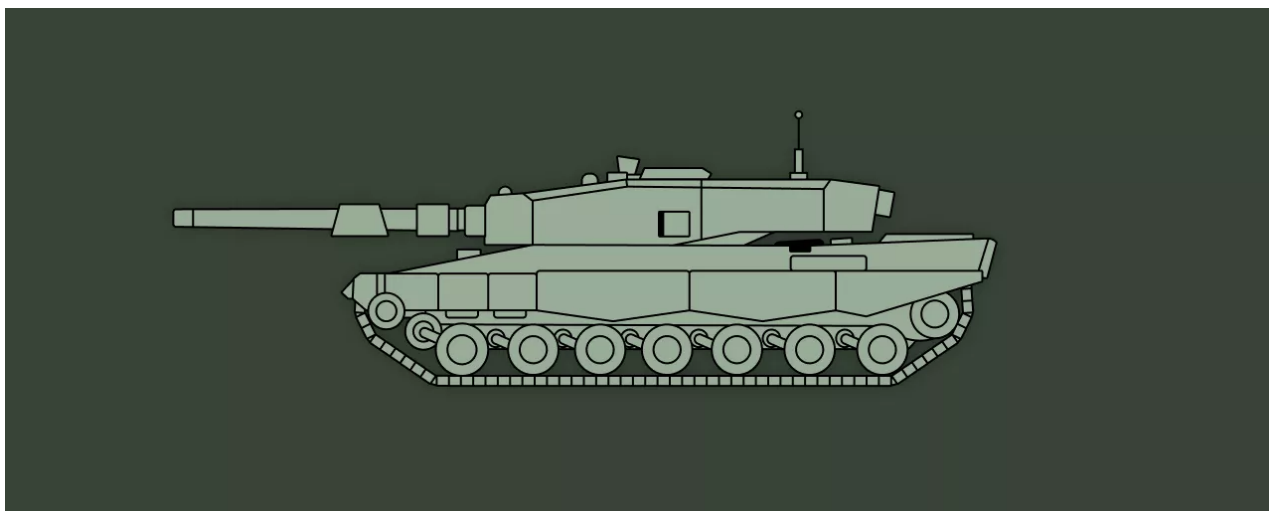
Pak, 24. ledna, "Bidenova administrativa konečně ustoupila a oznámila, že pošle na Ukrajinu asi jedenatřicet tanků M-1A1 Abrams (ve kterých jsem byl vycvičen jako důstojník obrněných jednotek americké armády v roce 1993).

Je zřejmé, že USA a Německo se dohodly, že pokud Berlín schválí přepravu tanků Leopard na Ukrajinu, pak USA pošlou také tanky Abrams. To je důvod, proč Scholz nakonec ustoupil a souhlasil s jejich vysláním. Věřím, že tato poslední eskalace jeho zástupné války NATO na Ukrajině bude pokračovat v sestupném trendu ve vztazích mezi EU a Ruskem na historické minimum.

David T. Pyne

Vědec EMP Task Force a bývalý důstojník amerického ministerstva obrany

Rozhodnutí o dodání tanků přišlo v patách setkání Ramsteinské kontaktní skupiny pro Ukrajinu, které se nepodařilo najít společnou řeč pro vyslání Leopardů 2 do Kyjeva. Očekává se, že 12 evropských zemí poskytne ukrajinské armádě zhruba 100 leopardů; Berlín má poslat 14 MBT.



24. ledna, 18:36 GMT

„Toto západní rozhodnutí poslat tanky na Ukrajinu následovalo po schůzce ředitele CIA Williama Burnse s prezidentem Zelenským, který posledních několik týdnů bije na poplach ohledně hrozící velké ruské zimní ofenzívy,“ poznamenal Pyne. "S největší pravděpodobností pomohl Burns identifikovat nedostatky ve schopnosti ukrajinských ozbrojených sil bránit Ukrajinu proti takové ofenzívě, což způsobilo, že USA a EU přehodnotily svou neochotu poskytnout Ukrajině tanky."

Ruská armáda zmařila plány na ofenzívu Ozbrojených sil Ukrajiny v Záporožské oblasti, řekl ruským novinářům Vladimir Rogov, člen hlavní rady regionální správy 25. ledna Podle něj plány kyjevského režimu spustit široká ofenzíva proti osvobozené části Záporožské oblasti s cílem dosáhnout pobřeží Azovského moře se nezdařila.

Mezitím ruští vojáci přeřízli dálnici spojující Artěmovsk (Bachmut) se Severskem, čímž zmařili možnost Ozbrojených sil Ukrajiny – které stále drží klíčový mlýnek na maso z města – získat posily. Po dobytí

Soledaru útočí ruské síly na Artěmovsk ze severozápadu a postupují směrem k Razdolovce na sever; Blagodatny na západ; a Krasnaja Gora na jihozápad, podle ruských vojenských pozorovatelů.

„Domnívám se, že USA a EU se rozhodly zvýšit vojenskou pomoc Ukrajině, protože sdílejí obavy Ukrajiny, že se ruské zimní ofenzívě podaří dobýt zpět velké množství ukrajinského území, a nechtějí, aby byl vojenský kolaps Ukrajiny vynucený. přijmout mírové podmínky Ruska, což by považovali za velkou porážku nejen pro Ukrajinu, ale i pro samotné NATO,“ navrhl bývalý důstojník Pentagonu.



před 17 hodinami

Proč poslat tanky na Ukrajinu je špatný nápad

Pyne se domnívá, že rozhodnutí Berlína a Washingtonu zvýšit sázky odesláním svých hlavních bojových tanků do Kyjeva je chybou.

Za prvé, ruská armáda má „desítky – ne-li stovky – tisíce“ raket, raket a další munice, kterou může použít k vyhození MBT NATO do povětří.

„Věřím, že vyslání tanků Abrams na Ukrajinu poslouží k rychlému proražení mýtu o jejich nezranitelnosti, protože ruská armáda z nich udělá vysoce prioritní cíle, protože má desítky tisíc, ne-li statisíce raket, raket a munice [Rusů] mohl použít k jejich zničení,“ řekl

učenec EMP Task Force. "Myslím, že propagandistická hodnota pro Rusko zveřejnění obrázků spálených západních tanků v ruských médiích bude pravděpodobně značná."

Před několika lety ztratily tanky Leopard 2A4 svou neporazitelnost poté, co se v letech 2016 a 2018 zapojily do divokých přestřelek proti bojovníkům Kurdů a Daesh (ISIS). Přibližně tucet nebo více Leopardů 2 bylo zničeno IED, sebevražednými bombami v autech a proti tankové řízené střely. Aby toho nebylo málo, ani Leopard 2, ani Abrams M1 dosud nebojovaly proti důstojnému konvenčnímu nepříteli, který má těžkou dělostřeleckou a leteckou podporu.



Včera

Za druhé , ani 100+ Leopard 2, ani 30+ M1 Abrams pravděpodobně dramaticky nezmění situaci na bojišti.

[tyto tanky] samozřejmě zkomplikují akce našich jednotek. Ale to není změna hry. Máme hlavní bitevní tanky T-90 Proryv (Breakthrough). Existují [ruské] protitankové zbraně, v zóně konfliktu pracují speciální bojové vrtulníky. Nejsme proto v žádném případě ubohá, vystrašená armáda, která se bojí těchto Leopardů a Abramů. Bude to těžší než obvykle, ale [tyto tanky] nezmění situaci na zemi.

Leonid Rešetnikov

Generálporučík ruské zahraniční zpravodajské služby (SVR) ve výslužbě a ředitel Ruského institutu pro strategická studia
Prior to the conflict, Pyne calculated that Russia had a 5-to-1 advantage in terms of the number of tanks they possessed over and above European NATO (excluding Turkey). He believes that advantage in main battle tanks will likely prove decisive for Russia during its special military operation in Ukraine.

"The US and EU would have to provide Ukraine with several times more tanks for it to constitute a game-changer for Kiev," Pyne highlighted.



20 hours ago

Third, "it will take months for the US and other NATO countries to train the Ukrainian military to operate US M-1A1 Abrams, German Leopard 2 and British Challenger 2 tanks before they can be deployed to Ukraine," according to the former DoD officer.

Sending tanks provides no immediate relief for Ukraine, echoed Larry Johnson, a veteran of the CIA and the State Department's Office of Counter Terrorism, which provided training to the US Military's Special Operations task force for 24 years.

"Once they are delivered they will require months of training for the crews who plan to operate them," Johnson told Sputnik. "The decision of NATO to send different brands of tanks further

complicates the training and the logistics supply chain required to keep those tanks running (...) None of these tanks are likely to be operating on the battlefield for at least four months. Ukraine will be pushed to the west of the Dniepr River and may no longer exist as a country."

Fourth, since the Ukrainian military won't be able to operate the M1 Abrams and Leopard 2s without proper training, it cannot be ruled out that the machines will initially be staffed by NATO crews, as Johnson noted in his recent blog post.

NATO battle tanks driven by NATO soldiers in Ukraine would elevate tensions between Moscow and the transatlantic bloc to a new level, according to the security expert. This would rubbish Joe Biden's claims that the US' actions don't constitute a direct threat to Russia.

Fifth, announcing an escalation like this allows Russia to do the necessary planning to counter the threat and destroy it, according to Johnson. The security expert expressed bewilderment about NATO's open discussions of Ukraine matters in his blog. According to him, "the NATO crowd" appears to be focused on playing "the public relations game."

"It is an unwise escalation and creates a legitimate reason for Russia to take action to prevent the delivery," said the CIA veteran. "This is an act of war. Most are just too polite to say so."



24 January, 20:49 GMT

Russia Won't Back Down, Peace Deal is Way Out

By increasingly providing Ukraine with lethal weapons, NATO fits into the definition of an "aggressor" under international humanitarian law, according to Fahri Erenel, retired brigadier general of the Turkish Armed Forces, professor, and head of the Center for Strategic Studies on Security and Defense at Istinye University.

First, the West supplied Ukraine with light weapons, then medium-range missile systems, and now, having failed to achieve any results, they have begun to increase the capacity of weapons and equipment.

Fahri Erenel

Retired brigadier general of the Turkish Armed Forces, professor, and head of the Center for Strategic Studies on Security and Defense at Istinye University

What's worse, Berlin's decision to send Leopard 2s to the conflict zone sends a signal that Germany is no longer pushing for peace talks, according to the retired brigadier general.

"Western leaders fail to understand that there is literally no possibility of Ukrainian victory or Russian defeat given Russia's overwhelming advantage over Ukraine in terms of military, industrial and economic strength," argued Pyne. "Furthermore, US national security interests are not at issue in Russia's ongoing border dispute with Ukraine, as even the most diehard proponents of the war in Ukraine like Robert Kagan, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, have conceded while the roll-back of Ukraine's de facto NATO membership constitutes a vital national security interest for the Russian Federation."

According to the ex-DoD officer, the West should not expect Russia to back down in Ukraine given that Moscow's national interests are at stake. At the same time, the US and NATO's defeat in Ukraine would mean significant reputational damage for the western bloc.

As a result, the more the West escalates its proxy war in Ukraine, the more Russia will escalate its military actions in response, warned Pyne.

"That is why it is imperative for the Biden administration to suspend all lethal military assistance to Ukraine and mediate an immediate cease-fire in Ukraine, as I have been calling for the past four months, to avert the dangerous prospects of further escalation of the conflict," Pyne concluded.

**Daesh (ISIS/ISIL) is a terrorist organization banned in Russia and many other countries.*

Hard Line Party Head Paludan Pledges to Burn Qurans 'Every Friday' Until Sweden Is Admitted to NATO

52 minutes ago (Updated: 40 minutes ago)



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Apart from putting Sweden's NATO bid on ice amid harsh rhetoric from Turkey, the inflammatory action involving Islam's most revered text has sparked a strong backlash from the Muslim world at large, leading to calls to boycott Swedish goods.

Danish right-wing Hard Line party leader and habitual Quran-burner Rasmus Paludan has promised Ankara to burn copies of Islam's sacred book in front of the Turkish embassy "every Friday" until Sweden is granted permission to access NATO.

Earlier, Ankara interrupted NATO tripartite negotiations with Sweden and Finland; it decried them as "meaningless," citing Paludan's protest in Stockholm, during which a copy of the Quran was burned, leaving the nations' NATO bids hanging in the air. Paludan, whose fringe party runs on an anti-Islam agenda and a promise to ban all non-Western immigration, reiterated the framing of his actions as an exercise in freedom of speech. In recent years, Paludan has made burning and otherwise defacing copies of the Quran an **integral part of his political repertoire**.

"I will proclaim that this is Erdogan's fault. Now that he doesn't want to let Sweden into NATO, I have to teach him about freedom of speech until he does. As I see it, Erdogan is a liar. When he says it's someone else's fault, he doesn't know how causality works," Paludan told Swedish media.

Admittedly, he intends to burn three Qurans this Friday in Copenhagen — one outside of the Turkish embassy, one near a mosque and one near the Russian embassy. Unlike in Sweden, Paludan doesn't need a permit in Denmark, but must notify the authorities 24 hours before carrying out an action.

Paludan also promised to "never in his entire life to burn a Quran in front of the Turkish embassy again" once Sweden is accepted into NATO.

Sweden's NATO Bid Gets Delayed Amid Internal Strife

In recent weeks, Sweden's already fraught NATO talks were complicated further by high-profile provocations, including one where an effigy of Turkish President Recep Erdogan was hanged in Stockholm and a cartoon contest was held by a Swedish newspaper to mock the Turkish leader.

Amid a strong backlash in Turkey and the Muslim world at large, Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson tried to mend fences and condemned the Quran-burning, while offering his "sympathy" to all offended Muslims. He also emphasized the importance of the quickest possible NATO accession and called for a dialog with Turkey.



17 January, 08:04 GMT

The government's previous readiness to go to considerable lengths to accommodate Turkish demands, including greenlighting arms exports and extraditing people on Ankara's wishlist, has angered the left-wing opposition and human rights groups. However, its handling

of the "Quragate" sparked outrage among its own allies, the Sweden Democrats, which, as the country's second-largest party, provide key support to the embattled minority government.

First, Sweden Democrat leader Jimmie Akesson lambasted Turkish leader as an "Islamist dictator" and cautioned the government against going too far in trying to please him — a nod to the very same Prime Minister Kristersson previously calling some of Erdogan's demands impossible. Subsequently, Richard Jomshof, the chairman of the parliamentary justice committee and Akesson's party mate, ventured that the prime minister's apology was a bridge too far and that more vigorous action to defend free speech was needed.

"I don't think you should do it, but you can do it and they get upset, so torch a hundred more [Qurans] then," Jomshof told Swedish media.

At the same time, he emphasized that the national-conservative Sweden Democrats had nothing to do with the Quran burning in Stockholm, even though a journalist with connections to the party paid for Paludan's permit for the demonstration.

Incidentally, a similar approach was voiced by Sweden Democrats' archrivals, the Greens. Their spokeswoman Marta Stenevi fully supported Paludan's right to incendiary action and urged the government to stand up for the freedom of speech.

However, the consequences of the Quran-burning may reach even farther than Sweden's stalled NATO bid. Al-Azhar University in Cairo, renowned as the highest institution of learning for Sunni Muslims, called for a **global boycott of Swedish goods**, sparking concerns of potential economic harm to Swedish companies.

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