



Russia Warns Of ‘Dirty Bomb’ False Flag Plot In Flurry Of Rare Calls To Western Leaders

Description

RUSSIA/UKRAINE: A major new and sensational charge of a Ukrainian false flag plot in the making issued by Russia’s defense chief has set off a string of tit-for-tat accusations and statements Sunday.

Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu claimed in rare phone calls that included his counterparts from the United States, Britain, France, and Turkey that Ukrainian forces are **preparing a “provocation” with a radioactive device**. A Kremlin statement cited that he conveyed a warning over **“possible Ukrainian provocations involving a ‘dirty bomb’”**.

Shoigu’s office said in follow-up that he conveyed the warning to all the above-named countries’ defense chiefs. As for his conversation with Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin, it was the second phone call in merely three days. The Pentagon in the hours after said Austin told Shoigu he **“rejected any pretext for Russian escalation”** – which strongly suggests the US perceives that Moscow is about to heighten attacks on Ukrainian cities further:

*Russian authorities repeatedly have made allegations that Ukraine could detonate a dirty bomb in a false flag attack and blame it on Moscow. **Ukrainian authorities, in turn, have accused the Kremlin of hatching such a plan.***

The Kremlin is further charging that this low-intensity nuclear provocation is being prepared with the help of Great Britain; however, the Western allies have said no evidence whatsoever was presented in the phone calls alongside the accusations.

The UK defense ministry said in its statement following Shoigu’s phone call with Secretary Ben Wallace that the Russian side “alleged that Ukraine was **planning actions facilitated by Western countries, including the UK, to escalate the conflict in Ukraine.**”

“The Defense Secretary refuted these claims and cautioned that such allegations should not be used as a pretext for greater escalation,” the ministry said.

Russia is saying that such a ‘dirty bomb’ detonation, which would spread radioactive waste and potentially contaminate large urban areas, would then be blamed on Moscow in order to justify greater Western intervention.

Ukraine, for its part, blasted what the presidency’s office called an “absolute and quite predictable absurdity” and blatant “lie”. France too agreed with Ukraine’s assessment, and a statement from the French Foreign Ministry has ominously warned that the crisis is “**trending towards uncontrollable escalation.**” But Macron on Sunday admitted that “**peace is possible**” – yet it depends on when the Ukrainians “decide it”.

Who exactly endowed this person with the authority to decide when the US must launch World War III on his behalf <https://t.co/GYc98QnH89>

— Michael Tracey (@mtracey) [October 23, 2022](#)

Meanwhile, Zelensky’s own rhetoric urging Western military intervention has escalated as well, all of which strongly suggests the war will soon grow hotter.

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earlier

Now much of Western Ukraine, which lies far away from the front lines of fighting with Russia in the east, is without power due to fresh weekend airstrikes across the country.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in a Saturday night address said new “massive” strikes targeted Dnipropetrovsk, Khmelnytsky, Kirovohrad, Mykolaiv, Odessa, Rivne, Volyn and Zaporizhia regions.

“We continue eliminating the aftermath of today’s terrorist attacks on our infrastructure,” Zelensky [said](#). “**The geography of this new massive strike is very wide.**”



Thermal power plant on fire following Russian strike, via Reuters.

The past days have already seen power outages in Kyiv, with energy grid authorities warning of rolling blackouts, and urging residents to take power-saving measures such as the avoidance of running large appliances.

On Saturday the national power utility operator Ukrenergo said that damage from the latest round of Russian strikes **set a new record**. The Saturday air offensive by Russia was bigger than an initial major wave of strikes from earlier this month:

Over 1.4 million Ukrainian households have lost electricity after a morning of repeated Russian air raids, Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's office says.

The Ukrainian General Staff reported that 40 cruise missiles and 16 allegedly Iranian-made drones hit Ukraine throughout the day.

Oleksandr Kharchenko, a Ukrainian energy official, said in an interview with US media that national infrastructure vital for the people is facing “really huge trouble”.

“When you don’t have electricity in a city, it means you have no water, you have no supply of gas, you have nothing,” Kharchenko [said](#). Days prior to the stepped-up Saturday assault the government said one-third of all power stations had been hit or damaged in Russian strikes.

The right bank of Kyiv covered in darkness this evening as the Ukrainian authorities began to implement planned power outages to save energy, due to continued Russian strikes targeting Ukraine's energy infrastructure.

pic.twitter.com/QeR6AEvYwG

— Status-6 (@Archer83Able) [October 20, 2022](#)

Most new damage to energy has been recorded in the country's west, south and center, with some **hospitals since reporting they are running on backup generators**. Reserves of oxygen and fresh water are also being tapped by hospitals.

Ukrenergohas on Sunday introduced phased blackouts to "avoid accidents", per [The Guardian](#):

The blackouts began at 11.13am local time (09.30am BST), with households in Kyiv divided into three groups that will be "disconnected for a certain period of time", DTEK said.

It added that the blackouts should last "no more than four hours" but may be longer "due to the scale of damage to the power supply system".

According to the latest estimate of the damage reported in *Reuters*, "Russia has hit **at least half of Ukraine's thermal generation** capacity and caused billions of dollars of damage in attacks since Oct. 10, but not all stricken power units have stopped working completely, Ukraine's energy minister said on Friday."

?? Confirmed: Live network data show internet outages in south [#Ukraine](#) corresponding to new Russian missile attacks this morning targeting critical infrastructure; the bombardment of civilian energy utilities has intensified since 10 Oct.

? Background: <https://t.co/S0qJQ7CJD3> pic.twitter.com/M832lukdy5

— NetBlocks (@netblocks) [October 22, 2022](#)

Further, "Herman Halushchenko told Reuters in an interview that **30-40% of overall national power infrastructure had been hit** in attacks that he depicted as intended to destroy Ukraine's energy system — a goal that he said had not been achieved."

by Tyler Durden

Category

1. Army-Wars-Conflict Zones-Military Tech.
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