

TO: National Security Council (NSC)

FROM: Evan Dayton, Secretary of State

DATE: March 6, 2022

SUBJECT: Russia's Disregard to Latvia's Sovereignty and the Risk of Another World War

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The purpose of this memo is to address the Department of State's stance on the recent events in Latvia. This memo will contain information regarding the background of the situation, our department's objectives, as well as policy options with justifications. This is all a part of our goal in protecting Latvia's sovereignty.

With the rise of insurgent Russian nationalist group Rodina, Russian Special Forces have entered and taken command in one of the striking factories in Latvia. In response to this information, the Latvian Prime Minister has declared a state of emergency, as well as imposed martial law in areas along the Russian border. Soon after a state of emergency was declared, Russian troops gathered on the Russian side of the border. NATO governments have shown immediate actions of concern but have not taken any further action. Russian officials have also downplayed the news, calling this a routine exercise.

Latvia is a member of NATO and with this comes responsibility by the other members to aid Latvia. Policy-wise the United States must maintain the safety of the American people, and protect the economic prosperity of the State.

The Department of State has collected a list of objectives in regards to the recent events in Latvia.

- Prevent war of any kind
- Protect our economy and trade relations
- Protect the U.S. Citizens

The Department of State will not propose any options outside of our jurisdiction. We as a Department explicitly are opposed to the idea of using military action. This is until it becomes clear by NATO that Russia has violated the North Atlantic Treaty.

The first option the Department of State proposes is heavy economic sanctions towards Russia. These sanctions would target the importing of mostly oil and gas into the U.S. Most of Russia's exports are involved in oil and gas. The U.S. also calls other NATO countries to also use these sanctions. The benefits of this are Russia would drastically be hurt economically. The negatives are the lack of imports of oil and gas into the U.S.

Another option we propose is the removal of Russia from SWIFT. (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication) Cutting Russia's access to SWIFT would immediately harm the country's economy and, in the long run, cut Russia off from a large portion of international financial dealings. This would include income from overseas oil and gas production, which contributes to more than 40% of Russia's revenue.

Our last proposed option is to freeze all overseas assets of certain individuals. This would also be in the form of a sanction. Certain individuals will be determined later and will go into effect immediately. The required individuals would be Mr. Putin, Prime Minister Mikhail V. Mishustin, and Foreign Minister Sergey V. Lavrov. The downside to this is Mr. Putin does not on paper have any assets. The positive of this option would be that other individuals and higher-ups would be affected dramatically.

The Department of State would like to propose heavy economic sanctions as stated in option one. We would also like to propose the use of option two and three if option one does not suffice. We believe that option 1 is the best option in sanctioning Russia. This is because of the heavy reliance on exports. If the U.S. were to convince other NATO countries to use the same sanction, it would tremendously hurt Russia's economy. The only downside is if the U.S. uses this sanction it will in return hurt our economy in the short term.

If the U.S. were to convince other NATO countries to follow with the same sanctions, we would not have to impose as heavy as a sanction. This could be spread throughout the other countries that agree to do the same.