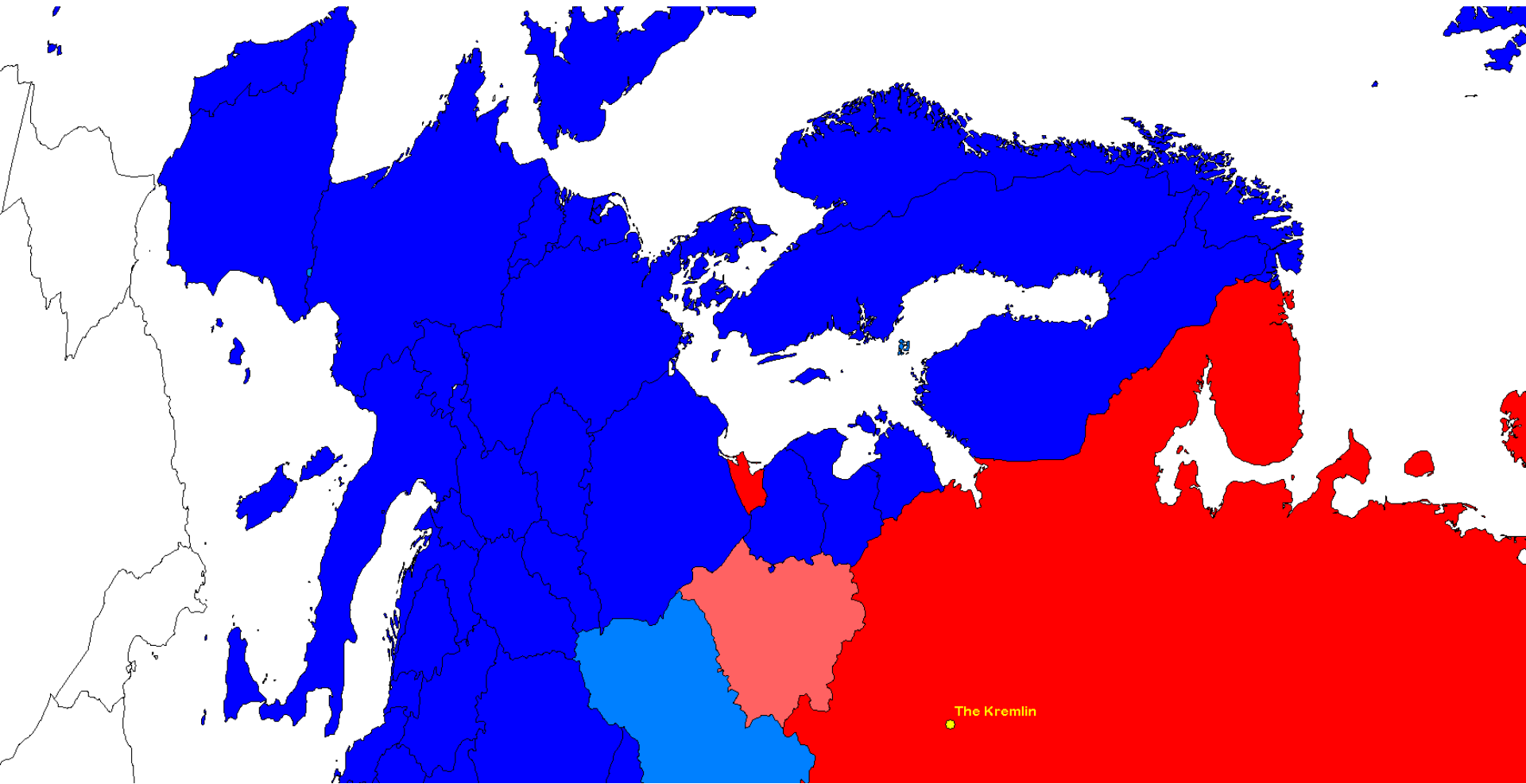




At the end of April 2024, the French head of state declared quite ominously:

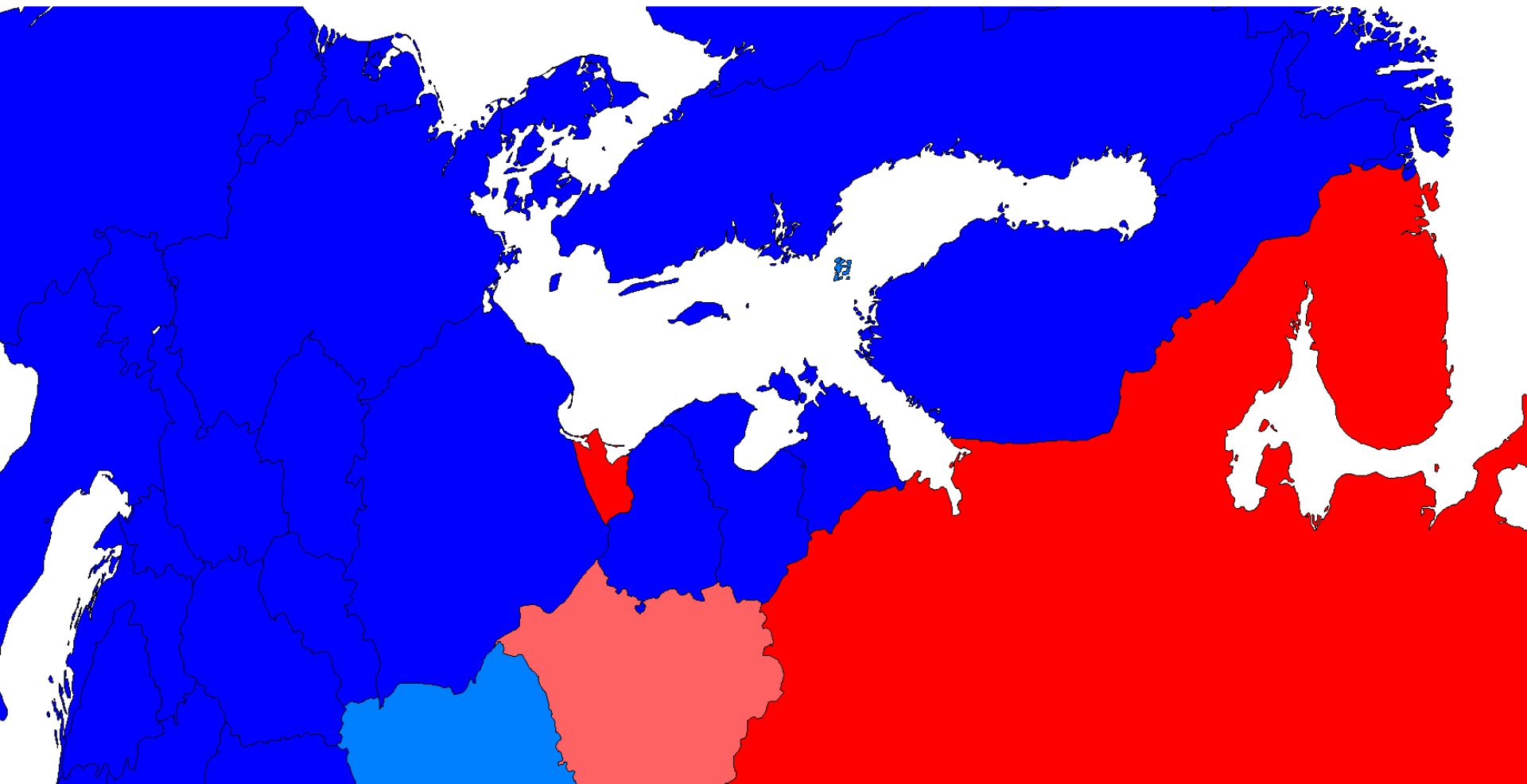
***“If Russia wins, then it will take only a second to have no security for Romania, Poland, Lithuania or our country.”***

**However, it would appear that the geography of the four countries mentioned by the French president makes their potential fates quite distinct.**



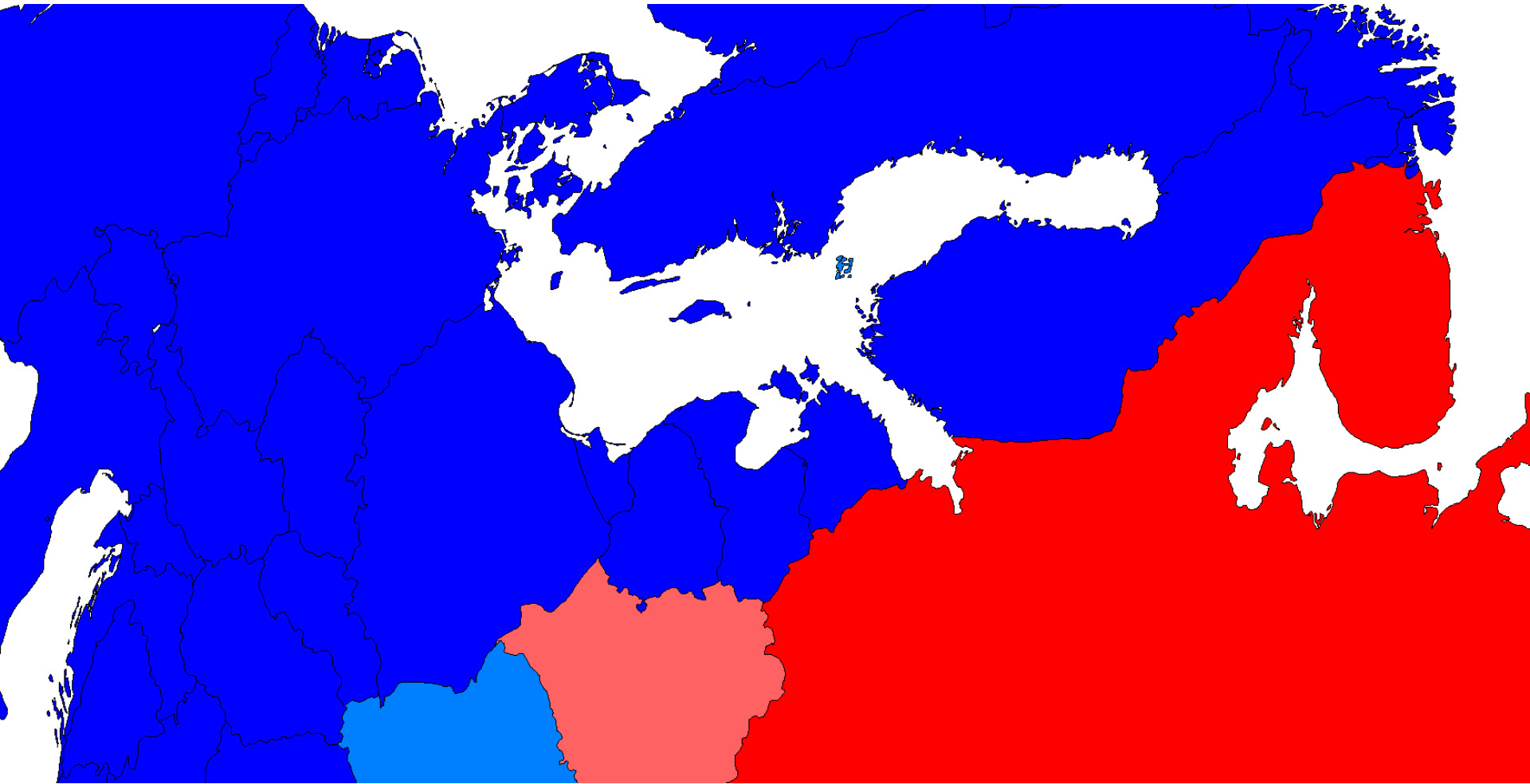
**The Baltic Sea and surrounding nations**

**NATO is now encircling the Baltic Sea in an iron girdle and promises to all but obstruct free passage through Belarus between Russia and her Kaliningrad exclave.**



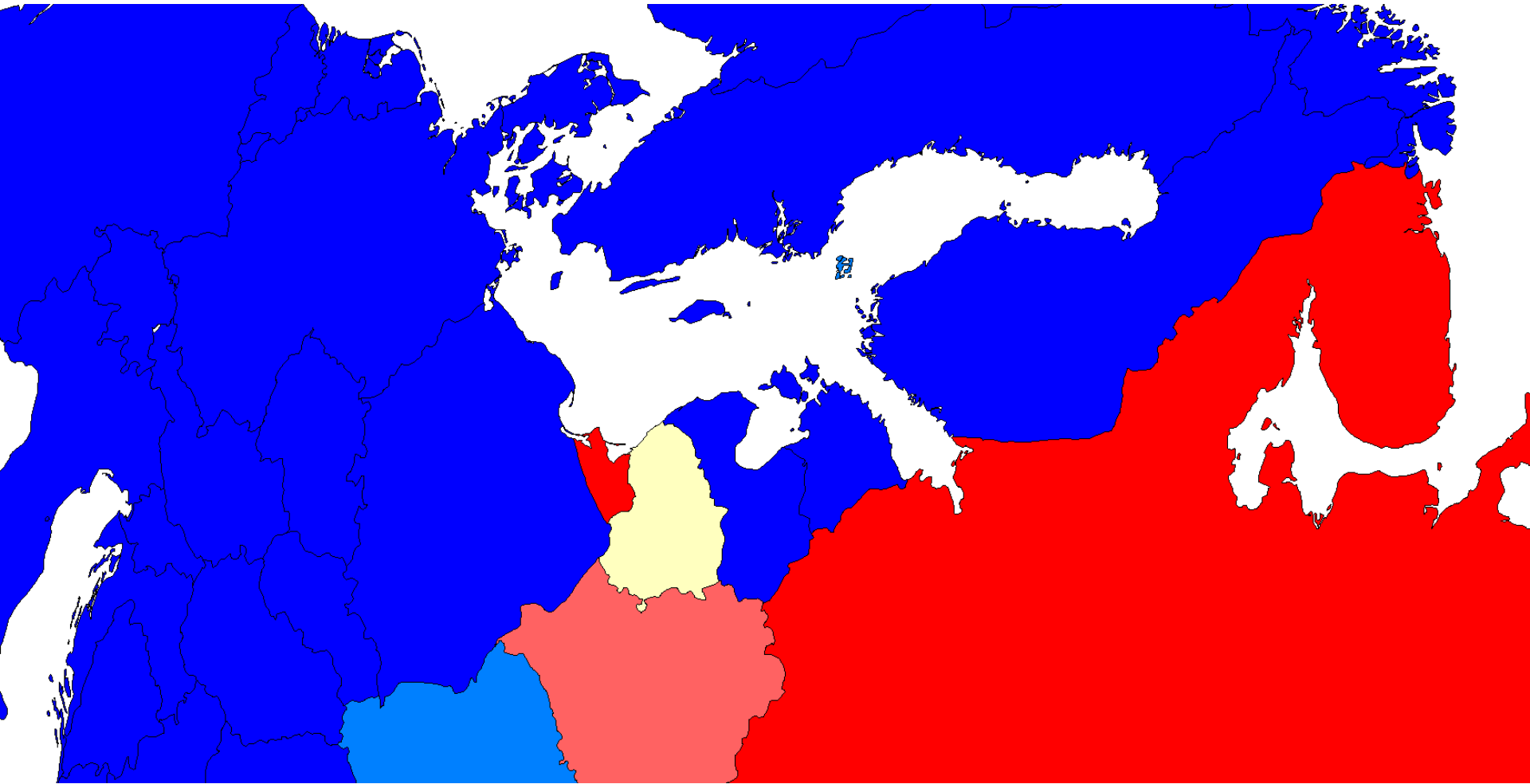
**A few options seem to be offered to Russia:**

## Option 1



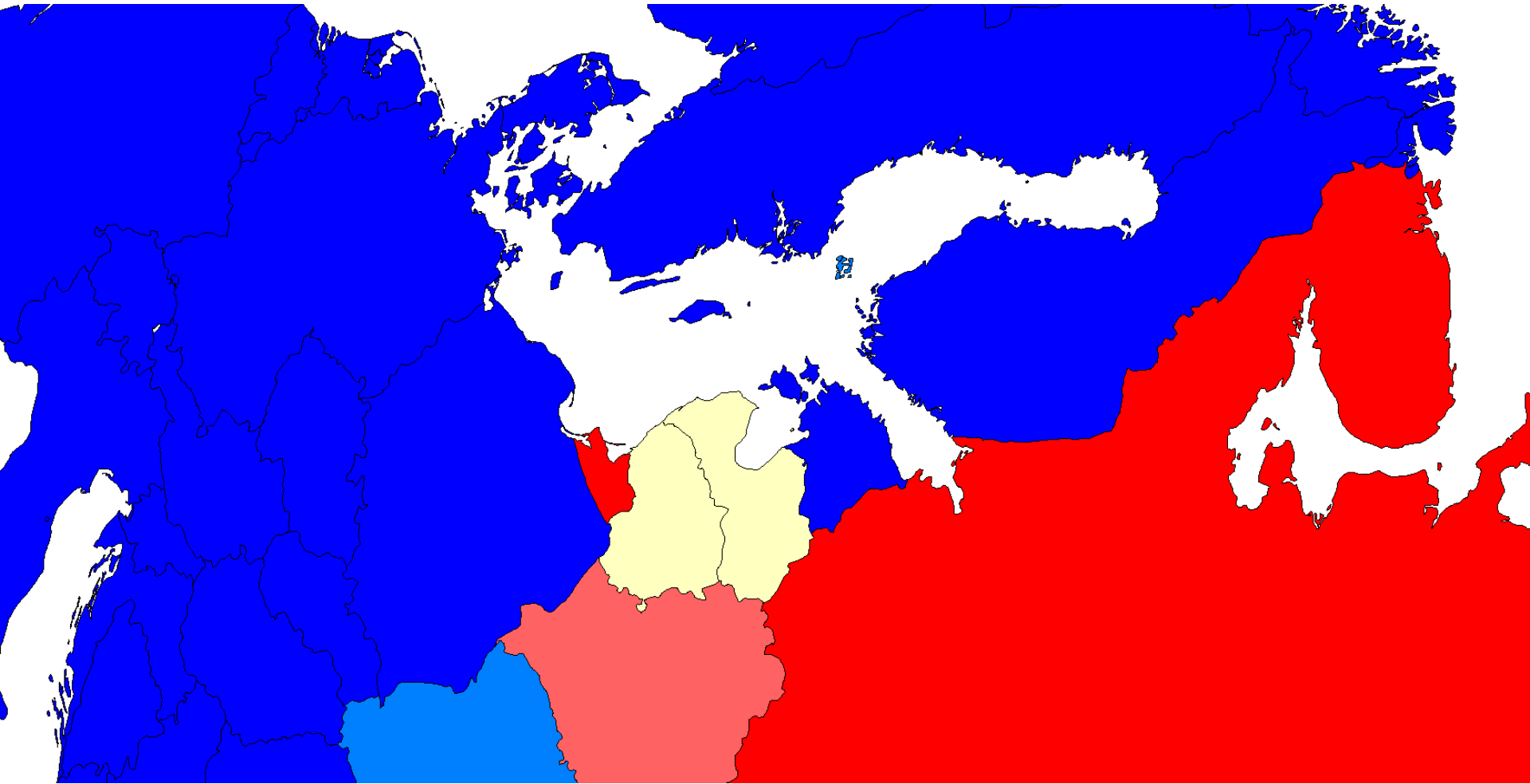
**Russia does nothing and risks the practical loss of her Kaliningrad exclave altogether, as well as a total blockade out of the Baltic Sea.**

## Option 2



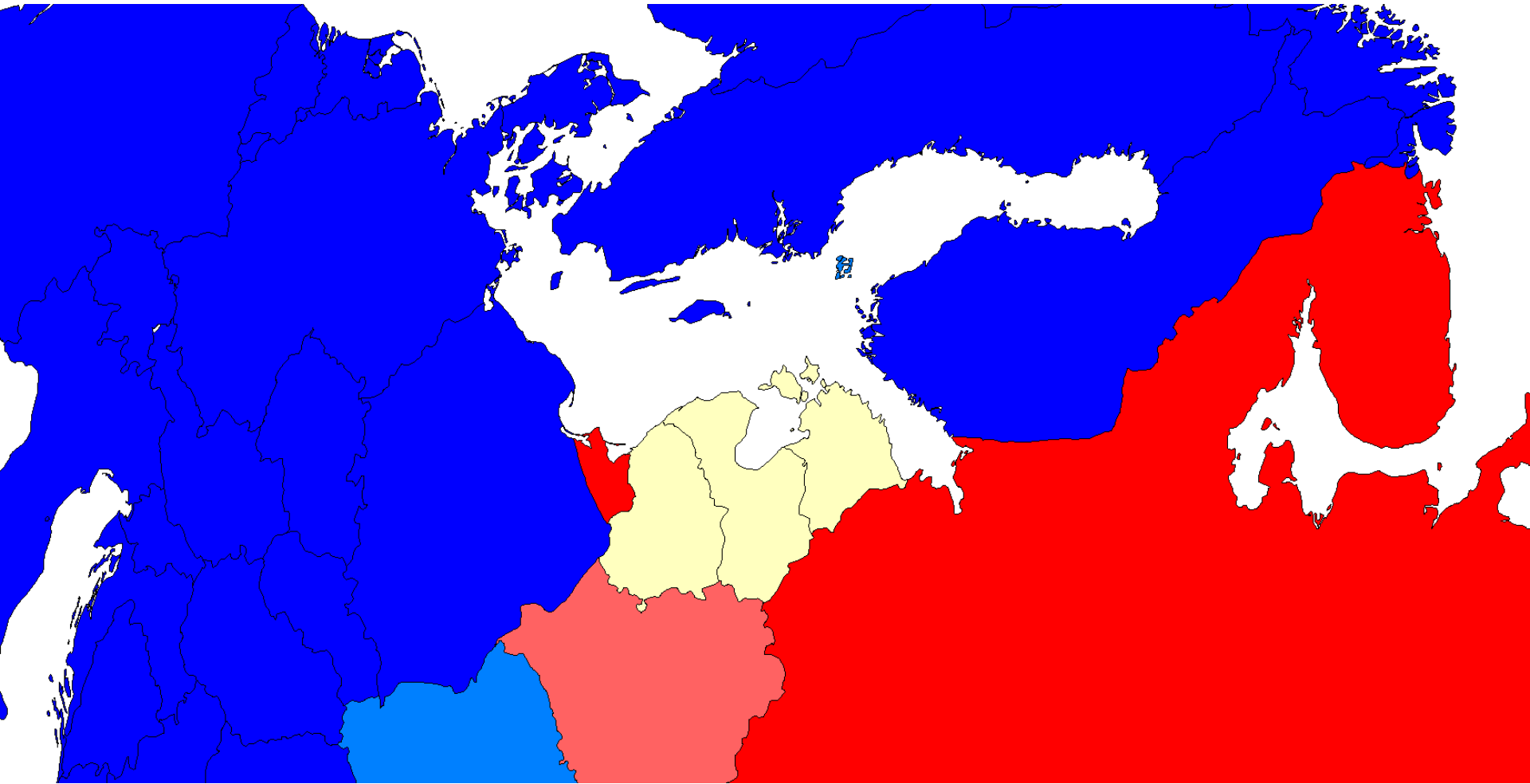
**Russia attempts to control Lithuania to allow free passage through Belarus.**

### Option 3



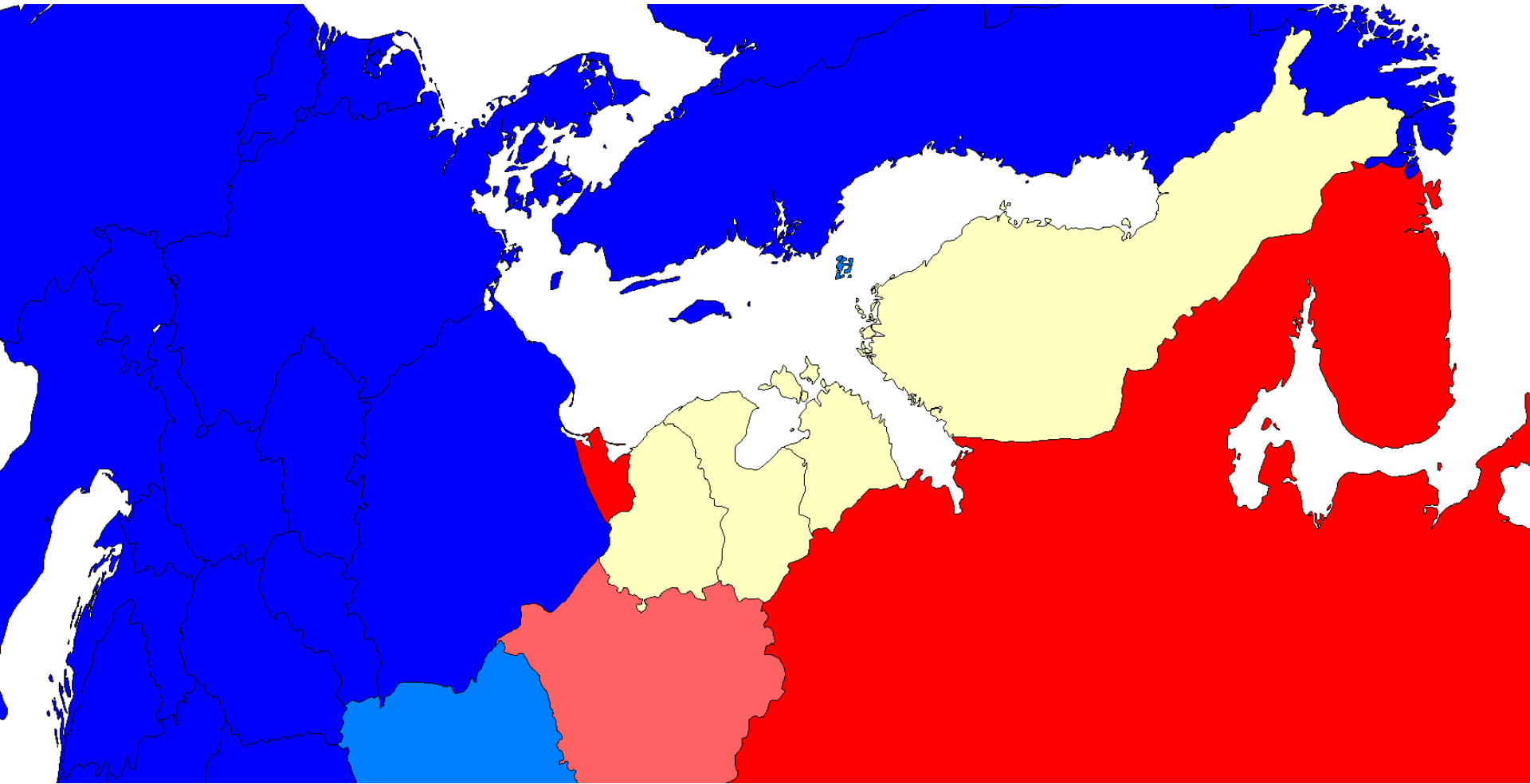
**Russia attempts to control Lithuania and Latvia to allow free passage from Russia.**

## Option 4



**Russia attempts to also control Estonia to allow free passage in the southern half of the Gulf of Finland and on the eastern side of the median section of the Baltic Sea.**

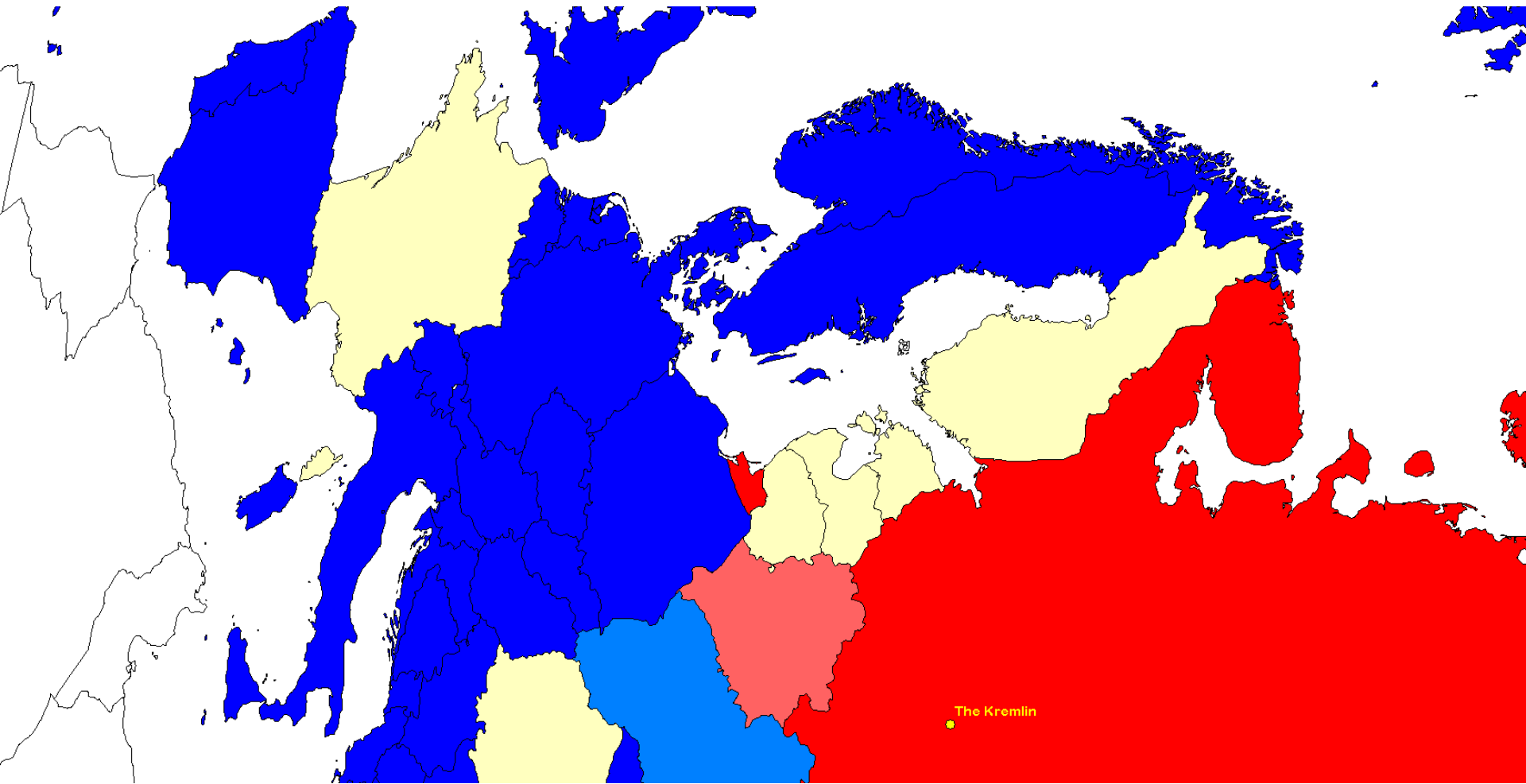
## Option 5



**Russia attempts to also control Finland to allow free passage in all of the Gulf of Finland, as well as on the eastern side of the median section of the Baltic Sea. Poland is left untouched.**



**Tant va la cruche à l'eau qu'à la fin elle se casse.**



**However, the French president did not explain how the geographical circumstances of France and Romania compare with those of the Baltic Sea, whether in a second or longer.**

The same day, the president also said:

1. *“If speaking about Ukraine, the safety of Europeans is at stake because this country is located some 1,500 kilometers from our [French] borders”;*
2. *“If Russia wins”, “the power and the striking range of Russian ballistic missiles endanger all of us”.*

There is some temptation to remark that:

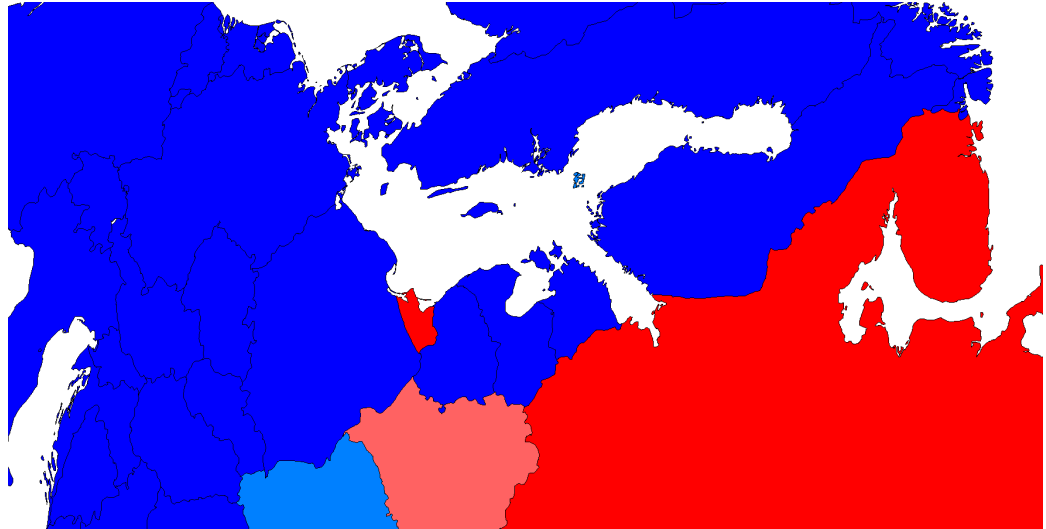
1. Irrespective of the Ukraine, the current westernmost border of Russia lies but 1,000 kilometers from French borders;
2. The current westernmost border of Belarus is but 1,100 kilometers from French borders;
3. Had NATO been successful in its enlargement policy, or had it won this conflict, NATO’s easternmost border would have been just zero kilometer from Russian borders;
4. Had NATO been successful in its enlargement policy, or had it won this conflict, NATO’s missiles would have been a mere 450 kilometers from the Kremlin.

It seems that with a few words the French president vindicated without the shadow of a doubt the very rationale given by Russia for legitimizing her military operations in the Ukraine, since it is quite irrefutable that what’s good for the goose is good for the gander.

**Some recent comments by a retired U.S. Admiral and former Supreme Allied Commander of NATO who seems to be also a lawyer and a diplomat, as well as a geopolitical strategist**

**On May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024, an article was published in *Bloomberg* by James Stavridis, a retired U.S. Navy admiral, former Supreme Allied Commander of NATO, and Dean Emeritus of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University.**

**The article addresses the Baltic Sea being a "*NATO lake*":**



***"A glance at a map shows that is largely (but not completely) true – the coastline has a couple of slivers of Russian territory. The rest of the coastal littoral is in NATO hands: Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Germany and Denmark."***

***"Look for NATO to use its Baltic lake to put pressure on tiny Kaliningrad, which acts as a geographic wedge between NATO's Baltic states – Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania – and the rest of the alliance" Stavridis wrote. "In the event of war, Kaliningrad will need to be neutralized so Russian land forces – likely operating through Moscow's vassal state Belarus – cannot take control of the critical Suwalki Gap."***