

News; Domestic

**Joe Biden Announces New Sanctions To "Squeeze" Russia; China-Russia Relations Amid Ukraine Invasion; Russia Accuses U.S. Of Funding Bioweapons Labs; Sen. Dan Sullivan (R-AK) Is Being Interviewed About The Rising Concern Over Taiwan Security; Sen. Dan Sullivan (R-AK), Is Being Interviewed About Biden Administration's Shutting Down The Production Of American Energy, Which Is One Of The Greatest Strategic Strengths Of The United States; Biden Policy Squeeze On Family Budgets; White House Monitors War In Ukraine; Russian Military Forces Continue Invasion Of Ukraine; Millions In Ukraine Flee West Away From Russian Invasion; Poland Accepting Over 1 Million Ukrainian Refugees; NATO Allies Hold Weapons Demonstration In Latvia; U.S. And Other Countries Continue Imposing Economic Sanctions On Russia; Rising Gas Prices And General Inflation Affecting Americans**

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Fox News: Special Report with Brett Baier

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HAROLD FORD JR., FOX NEWS CHANNEL CONTRIBUTOR: Your strength, we support, we pray for you. And I hope we get you more weapons soon.

JESSE WATTERS, FOX NEWS CHANNEL HOST: Yes, inspiring.

JEANINE PIRRO, FOX NEWS CHANNEL LEGAL ANALYST: You know, all our prayers for those families in the hopes that they'll be able to be reunited at some point.

WATTERS: Yes, we're praying for you guys all over the place. Thank you guys so much for fighting on.

That's it for us, SPECIAL REPORT is up next.

BRET BAIER, FOX NEWS CHANNEL HOST: Good evening. Welcome to Washington. I Bret Baier.

Breaking tonight, Russia's invasion of Ukraine enters its third week, with Moscow intensifying its attacks near the capital of Kyiv, also striking airports, airfields in the West and an industrial city in the East.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has approved the use of volunteer fighters from the Middle East and elsewhere.

The mayor of Warsaw, Poland is appealing for international help as his city becomes overwhelmed by refugees.

Here in this country, President Biden announced the U.S. will dramatically downgrade its trade relationship with Russia, banning imports of vodka, seafood and diamonds. And calling on Congress to strip Russia of its most favored nation status.

Correspondent Trey Yingst in Kyiv tonight starts us off with the latest where air sirens were just blowing a short time ago. Good evening, Trey.

TREY YINGST, FOX NEWS CHANNEL CORRESPONDENT (on camera): Bret, good evening facing P.R. and logistical difficulties, a demoralized Russian army is regrouping and starting to attack Western Ukraine.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

YINGST: (voice over): Ukrainian soldiers on patrol in the snowy woods around the capital Kyiv. Encountering Russian resistance, holding their positions.

The Ukrainians armed with rocket propelled grenades and anti-tank missiles, showing remarkable success against a better equipped Russian force.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE (through translator): We'll be clearing the village of Russian troops who occupied it with armored vehicles. According to our intelligence, there's a Russian battalion there.

YINGST: The Ukrainian resistance apparently foreseen a full scale Russian pivot. Satellite photos show the huge 40-mile armored column stalled for a week outside Kyiv on the move again, fanning out on what military analysts say is a Russian effort to re-posture its operations, while increasing its indiscriminate bombing in civilian areas.

This apartment building in a Kyiv suburb destroyed by an airstrike and in Hostomel (PH) an injured child carried to safety. Ukraine's president in an outdoor dress saying his military has reached a strategic turning point.

VOLODYMYR ZELENSKYY, UKRAINIAN PRESIDENT (through translator): It is impossible to say how many more days we must liberate our Ukrainian land. But it is possible to say we will do it.

YINGST: But Russia is upping its offensive, striking areas Friday in the West away from the main battle zones, including military airfields in two Western cities. And in the East, the major industrial hub of Dnipro targeted for the first time. At least one person killed. Ukrainian officials say missiles landing near kindergarten and apartment buildings.

And in Kharkiv, another day of relentless bombing. The mayor says 48 schools have so far been destroyed, including a facility for the disabled. With temperatures well below freezing, residents seek shelter underground.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE (through translator): I'm scared for my home. Very scared for the whole country and scared for myself of course.

YINGST: For the tens of thousands of Ukrainians reported leaving daily, authorities are working to establish 12 humanitarian evacuation and supply corridors that will soon include this girl in Kharkiv.

A final serenade at home before her family packs up and heads West as refugees to an uncertain future.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

YINGST (on camera): Here in Kyiv, air raid sirens have sounded multiple times tonight as Russian forces try to attack the city, Bret.

BAIER: Trey Yingst live in Kyiv. Trey, thank you.

Tonight, we look at how the Russian invasion of Ukraine is sitting with China. The two have taken public steps to promote a strengthening relationship. So, how is that holding up?

National Security Correspondent Jennifer Griffin is at the Pentagon tonight with a look at that. good evening, Jennifer.

JENNIFER GRIFFIN, FOX NEWS CHANNEL NATIONAL SECURITY CORRESPONDENT (on camera): Good evening, Bret. According to testimony from the nation's top intelligence chiefs. China is taking note of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the new strategic alliance may not be going as planned.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

WILLIAM BURNS, DIRECTOR, CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY: President Xi is probably a little bit unsettled as he watches the way in which President Putin has driven, you know, Americans and Europeans more closely together and strengthen the Transatlantic Alliance in ways that would have been a little bit hard to imagine before the invasion began.

AVRIL HAINES, DIRECTOR, NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE: It is likely to reinforce China's perspective on our -- the seriousness with which we would approach and imprint it on Taiwan.

GRIFFIN (voice over): At the Olympics, President Putin told President Xi of his intention to invade Ukraine. Their February 4th joint statement of commitment was the most sweeping expression of their commitment to partnership that Western intelligence had ever observed according to the CIA director.

Chinese state media still angry that the U.S. Intelligence blamed a leak at the Wuhan lab for the pandemic has been elevating Russian disinformation as part of their new partnership. Like just as this Russian Defense Ministry spokesman saying the U.S. plan to use migratory birds to spread weaponized viruses from Ukraine to Russia, and Russian propaganda bots accusing the U.S. of developing bioweapons in Ukraine.

The head of U.S. Pacific Command said China was surprised by how bloody the invasion had been so far, and the unity shown by NATO and the E.U., especially regarding the devastating sanctions imposed against Moscow.

ADM. JOHN AQUILINO, COMMANDER, U.S. INDO-PACIFIC: The loss of life required to create an execute an illegal war is certainly something that ought to be taken away. Both President Putin and President Xi Jinping should learn that lesson, that cost of life is broad, extensive, and will haunt them both.

BURNS: I do, however, think that President Xi is unsettled by what he's seen transpire in the last 15 days in Ukraine. I don't think they anticipated that the Russian military was going to prove largely ineffective so far. I think they are worried about reputational damage and I think they're worried about the wider economic consequences.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

GRIFFIN (on camera): But for now, Beijing has sided with Putin, Bret.

BAIER: Jennifer, where do things stand regarding the Polish MiG-29s to Ukraine from the Pentagon's perspective?

GRIFFIN: Bret, U.S. defense officials say Poland can provide the MiGs if they want but U.S. defense officials don't believe the MiG-29s would be helpful militarily right now.

Ukraine still has 56 working fighter jets that are flying between five to 10 sorties a day inside Ukraine, the airspace remains contested.

Sadly, this U.S. official says sending the 24 MiG-29s to Ukraine would not help stop Russia's siege and encirclement of Ukraine's population centers because the airspace is still so contested.

The U.S. is still sending other weapons that are more useful on the ground, Bret.

BAIER: Jennifer Griffin at the Pentagon. Jennifer, thank you.

American officials are denying Russian claims that the U.S. is operating biological warfare laboratories inside Ukraine.

Correspondent Alexandria Hoff has the latest on that tonight.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: In every other situation, everyone would have thought that this is a joke.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Russia is sinking to new depths today.

ALEXANDRIA HOFF, FOX NEWS CHANNEL CORRESPONDENT (voice over): The Russian Federation was met with disgust after calling for a United Nations Security Council meeting to air unfounded claims about U.S. backed biological and chemical weapons labs in Ukraine.

VASILY NEBENZYA, RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR TO U.N.: As Russia is conducting a special military operation in Ukraine, we discovered truly shocking facts.

HOFF: No evidence by Russia was provided during the meeting. U.S. and partner nations say that's because the accusations are yet another false flag.

LINDA THOMAS-GREENFIELD, U.S. AMBASSADOR TO U.N.: The world is watching Russia do exactly what we warned it would. Russia is attempting to use the Security Council to legitimize disinformation and deceive people to justify President Putin's war of choice against the Ukrainian people.

HOFF: According to the United States Department of Defense, the U.S. does not own or operate labs in Ukraine.

After the fall of the Soviet Union, the DOD's Cooperative Threat Reduction Program did provide assistance to former Soviet Union countries to reduce biological threats at various labs, which the Department says have transitioned to serve public and veterinary health goals.

SEN. MARK WARNER (D-VA): There is no evidence of any kind of Ukrainian bioweapons laboratory. But if, you know, there are research laboratories everywhere. If you're doing research on smallpox, if you're doing research on another disease, you know, that is what virtually every civilized nation does.

HOFF: Secretary of State Antony Blinken warned last month that Russia would fabricate a story in order to excuse a potential chemical or biological attack in Ukraine.

SERGIY KYSLYTSYA, UKRAINIAN AMBASSADOR TO U.N.: So, what else are you going to use against Ukraine? Cruise missiles, multiple rocket launchers, heavy aerial bombs? We have already experienced all of this. What is next? Ammonia? Phosphorus?

(END VIDEO CLIP)

HOFF: During the meeting, that Russia was repeatedly criticized for its own chemical and biological weapons stockpiles, as well as its backing of chemical warfare in Syria's Assad regime, Bret.

BAIER: Alex, thank you. Let's bring in Alaska Republican Senator Dan Sullivan. He's on the Armed Services Committee. Senator, thanks for being here.

SEN. DAN SULLIVAN (R-AK): Great to be here, Bret. Thank you.

BAIER: First of all, let's start out with this. Is it fair to say that there is bipartisan unity when it comes to supporting Ukraine up on Capitol Hill?

SULLIVAN: Yes, absolutely. I mean, look, there's some differences on some elements of the sanctions. You're seeing a lot of senators, both Republicans and Democrats pushed the administration on some key areas with regard to, for example, oil and gas sanctions on the Russians but they were listening. Now, we're doing the same on the MiG-29s. And we'll see if they listen on that.

But overall, I think there's pretty strong bipartisan support on this brutal invasion by the dictator Putin.

BAIER: But do you think, for example, the MiG-29s would make a difference on the battlefield for the Ukrainians?

SULLIVAN: Well, I think, you know, the beginning of this discussion came when President Zelenskyy requested this in a Zoom meeting with a number of senators just the past weekend.

And from my perspective, different weapon systems bring different capabilities. And what we need to do is not have a no-fly zone that we impose. But to give the Ukrainians the ability to oppose -- impose a no-fly zone, and to get them as many different weapon system capabilities, including MiG-29s, but also stingers, also surface to air missiles. That's the way in which we do it.

So, there is a capability that the MiG-29 has, and I think the administration needs to get there. There's a bipartisan group of senators growing that is calling for this.

BAIER: Yes. And this whole thing about this, there's a line, President Biden said, make no mistake, folks, this is World War III and this is the line, do you see that?

SULLIVAN: Well, look, I actually agree with what the president is doing in terms of saying, we need to bolster our NATO allies.

By the way, it should be not just U.S. troops, but other NATO troops on the Eastern flank, in our -- in NATO territories and NATO countries like the Baltics and Poland. And I think that's the point he's making.

I do think that bringing U.S. troops in the Ukraine is not supported by anybody really in the Senate, in the Congress.

But the key issue from my view, Bret, is to make sure that we're providing as much lethal weapons as they need, and sometimes this administration has been hesitant, and that's why they're getting pushed by the Congress.

BAIER: You're a Marine, reservist, you actually still serve in Asia when you're called up. China and how this administration reads China and this relationship between China and Russia, do we fully understand how close it is or what exactly is happening?

SULLIVAN: Well, I think it's going to be closer. But I think one of the most important things of this invasion of Ukraine, it's a clarifying moment.

I mean, we are in a new era of authoritarian aggression led by the dictator Putin, but also, importantly, the dictator in Beijing Xi Jinping. And these countries, these two dictators are increasingly working together. I think we're going to see more of that soon.

You know, China has been putting on this notion of neutrality, I think it's going to be pretty clear soon that they're more of a co-conspirator in Ukraine. They're driven by historical grievances. They're driven by the desire to break up American alliances. They're driven by the desire to shut down democratic countries on their flanks, Ukraine or Taiwan, and we need to be ready for this new era, Bret, I think it's going to be with us for years, decades, we got to face it with strategic resolve and confidence.

BAIER: There was a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing where you had the U.S. Indo-Pacific commander talking about the possible aggression by China in Taiwan, take a listen.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

AQUILINO: Most of the nations in the region have the same view. The change in the international world order is at risk. There's economic impacts, that's two-thirds of the global flow of trade flows through that region in the maritime domain. There's expansive second third order effects that would be concerning.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

BAIER: So today, is Taiwan more vulnerable?

SULLIVAN: Look, you know, my first deployment as a Marine was to the Taiwan Strait. And during a very vulnerable period, when the Chinese military was threatening to invade Taiwan, it was 95 and 96 on the eve of the first presidential election in Taiwan. I think that the opportunity that Xi Jinping might take with regard to an invasion has increased.

You know, last year, the INDOPACOM Commander Admiral Davidson, he said that he thought this would happen within six years. Well, that was a year ago. So, that's now five years.

So, I think Admiral Aquilino is doing a great job. I'm out there, as you mentioned, as a reservist. I watch and I'm participating in the readiness of our forces.

They're getting ready, but I think this Ukrainian incursion, this Ukrainian invasion, I think it actually ups the risks.

BAIER: Yes. I want to play this soundbite from President Biden, you're from an energy producing state of Alaska. Take a listen.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

JOE BIDEN, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: You know, Republicans are saying it's Biden's gas pipeline. Biden said he's going to stop the Keystone Pipeline and I did. And that's the reason price went up.

Folks, let's get some straight here. The Keystone Pipeline was two years away. That had been two percent finished. Give me a break.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

BAIER: How do you answer that?

SEN. DAN SULLIVAN (R-AK): I say give me a break, Mr. President. I mean, this administration from day one -- day one, I've seen it in Alaska, has come into office, and has been focused on shutting down the production of American energy. They do it all the time. In my state. I see it all the time. Now they're trying to backpedal because this inflation, a lot of it has been driven by the Biden administration's energy policies.

And back to this broader issue with regard to Russia and China, you know, one of our greatest strategic strengths is our natural resources and energy. And it's just national security, suicide, in my view, to want to shut down the production of American energy.

That is exactly what they have been doing. It hurts working families with regard to price at the pump, it's laid off workers. Keystone, president mentioned it, that laid off 10,000 workers, Bret.

But it's also been empowering our adversaries in the notion that now, the Biden administration has said they're going to go out and beg for more oil from Venezuela? In Iran? This is nuts. We need to produce more energy back at home, and Alaska, and other places in the country.

BAIER: And that argument is going to continue. I should point out that you and I know each other for a long -- from a long time. I covered the Pentagon 2001 on.

This is in Iraq when you were a major.

SULLIVAN: Yes. (INAUDIBLE)

BAIER: I was a few weight classes. And I don't know what was happened on that helicopter, but that's been a long time.

SULLIVAN: Been a long time. Good to see you again, though.

BAIER: Thank you, Senator.

Here is some other headlines tonight. Authorities in Chicago say actor Jussie Smollett has begun serving his 150-day jail sentence for faking a hate crime against himself.

Smollett responded to yesterday's sentencing by defiantly maintaining his innocence and suggesting he could be killed in jail.

The annual report for Immigration and Customs Enforcement shows arrest and deportation sharply decreased in fiscal year 2021 compared to prior years. The report says ICE arrested more than 74,000 non-citizens and deported about 59,000. That's down dramatically from prior years.

The family of Gabby Petito has filed a lawsuit against the parents of Brian Laundrie. The lawsuit accuses Laundrie family of knowing their son murdered the 22-year-old woman, and trying to help him leave the country.

Plaintiffs are seeking damages of at least \$100,000.

Up next, President Biden takes new action, targeting the Russian economy, and steps up efforts to blame Russia for his political woes.

Thanks a lot.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

BAIER: As we told you at the top of the program, President Biden is taking new steps to try to cripple the Russian economy over its invasion of Ukraine. It's also trying to blame Vladimir Putin for a host of domestic political problems.

White House correspondent Peter Doocy reports.

PETER DOOCY, FOX NEWS CHANNEL WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT (voice-over): These famous Russian products --

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

BIDEN: Sea foods, vodka, and diamonds.

DOOCY: Now can't be imported to the U.S. That is the latest White House effort to punish what the vice president now calls war crimes.

KAMALA HARRIS, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: We are clear that any intentional attack or targeting of civilians is a war crime. Period.

DOOCY: President Biden continues hearing out Ukraine's president.

BIDEN: I was on the phone today for a better part of a -- an hour with Mr. Zelenskyy, who I speak to almost daily.

DOOCY: Zelenskyy wants a no-fly zone. Biden is offering more of a no-trade zone, calling the strip Russia of most favored nation trade benefits, making it easier to impose new tariffs on Moscow.

BIDEN: Going to make it harder for Russia to do business with the United States. And doing it in unison with other nations that make up half of the global economy will be another crushing blow to the Russian economy.

DOOCY: it's unclear if the punishment will still mostly remain financial if Putin deploys chemical weapons.

BIDEN: I'm not going to speak about the intelligence, but Russia would pay a severe price if they use chemical.

DOOCY: Ukraine is the number two issue concerning voters in a Wall Street Journal poll. Number one is inflation.

REP. NANCY PELOSI (D-CA): That's really Putin's gas hike. That's his gas hike.

DOOCY: Top House Republican Kevin McCarthy says, "These are not Putin gas prices. They are President Biden gas prices."

Prices have risen for months, but the president now points a finger at an invasion that has been going on two weeks.

BIDEN: Democrats didn't cause this problem, Vladimir Putin did.

DOOCY: And Biden isn't just betting on the impact of sanctions, he is boasting about it.

BIDEN: Moscow stock exchange is closed for simple reason. I get asked, well, why is it closed? Because, for the last two weeks -- because the moment it opens, it will be disbanded. Hear me? It will blow up.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

DOOCY: Half a dozen Democratic governors are now calling on Congress to suspend the federal gas tax. But officials here will not commit to that yet. And even as President Biden is out there warning about price is rising, he is not offering any new policies that could bring prices back down. Bret.

BAIER: Peter Doocy, live in the North Lawn. Peter, thank you.

Stocks were down to end the week. The Dow lost 230 today. The S&P 500 dropped 55. The NASDAQ fell to 86.

For the week, we have the Dow down two percentage points. The S&P 500 lost almost three. The NASDAQ finished down 3-1/2.

Tonight, we have another edition of the Fox News power rankings as we head toward the midterm elections in November.

In the Senate, Washington now moves from solid democratic to likely democratic.

Oklahoma is added to the board with a solid Republican ranking. There are now two Senate races there in Oklahoma with Senator Inhofe announcing his retirement.

The Senate has eight races and the solid democratic column. One is likely, one leans Democrat. There are five toss ups. Four lean Republican, one is likely Republican. 15 solidly Republican.

In the governor's races, Florida moves from lean Republican to likely Republican as Governor DeSantis picks up points. Massachusetts moves from lean democratic to likely democratic.

Overall, there are three solidly democratic races, five likely, four lean that way. There are seven toss ups, one leans Republican, six likely Republican, and 10 solidly Republican.

There'll be a quiz later. No. You can see it all on foxnews.com. And we're tracking it all the way until the midterms, and you can check it out. That's a good way to track all the races.

Up next, we'll go to the touch screen for a visual representation of what's happening in Ukraine.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

BAIER: Welcome back to SPECIAL REPORT. Let's take a look at what's happening in Ukraine. Some airstrikes from the Russians in places they haven't hit before. One of them out west here. This is Lutsk. An airfield struck by the Russians, four Ukrainian servicemen killed, six wounded there.

Also Ivano-Frankivsk, it's another airfield, residents ordered into air shelters as those bombs hit, the air raid striking these airfields, likely a message about the MiG-29s, not using those airfields for that. Don't know specifically. Here Dnipro, fourth largest city in Ukraine, and for the first time Russian airstrikes targeted this major industrial hub in the east. State of emergency in effect there as they're continuing to get bombarded. A lot of activity in the south, but again, most of it right around Kyiv.

Speaking of the south, let's take a look down here. The Russians are on the move. We've talked about that movement. But now there's an armored column heading both ways to Mariupol, circling Mariupol, much like we are seeing the circle around Kyiv. But there is fierce resistance there, and the Ukrainian forces using the Javelin missiles, trying to take out these tanks. Take a look at this one. This actually is in a playground of a school, and this tank right here taken out, it looks like, by a Javelin, at least struck by the Ukrainian Javelins.

All right, let's go back to the map. We'll take you up north into the center of the country and Kyiv right here. Again, that's encirclement, we are seeing the movement of Russian forces. That column has dispersed, going to different areas now, and also moving down from the north. It's a matter of timing when that big strike on Kyiv happens. But when it does, it's likely going to turn into a long, drawn-out insurgency.

Out in the west, Mike Tobin is following the story. Tonight, we have additional images of how Russian bombardment of Ukraine is affecting children. Senior correspondent Mike Tobin is in Lviv tonight with that. Good evening, Mike.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

MIKE TOBIN, FOX NEWS CORRESPONDENT: Good evening, Bret. It's up to about 2.5 million refugees who have been driven over the western border of Ukraine. About 10 percent of them stop here in the city of Lviv. But especially for the sick, just because they have escaped the fighting does not mean that they have left their troubles behind.

(BEGIN VIDEO TAPE)

TOBIN: In time of war the most vulnerable face the greatest suffering. Melania (ph) is a cancer patient from the town of Dnipro, which was bombed today. She is being treated at a hospital in Lviv in the west away from most of the fighting. The Chernobyl hospital is named because it originally treated victims of the 1986 nuclear disaster. Now the hospital treats pediatric cancer patients. Kids with kidney failure get dialysis here.

Kids needing dialysis face a unique risk during this war. They need their blood cleaned every two days, a little less than the time it takes to first escape the fighting, then battle the traffic, checkpoints and crowds escaping over Ukraine's western border. Those who know stop in Lviv.

ROMAN ANDRUNEVYCH, CHERNOBYL HOSPITAL: They are lucky. They get right now treatment. The situation in Lviv is safer than other parts of Ukraine.

TOBIN: The train station in Lviv has become a hub for refugees. Millions have passed through, hoping for the next train to another country to safety. Those forced to stop here have no plan, nowhere to rest. Often their first contact is an aid organization like the Red Cross.

ROSTY SHELANDNYSH, RED CROSS VOLUNTEER: They need some psychological help at first because they escape from war, and they were totally in panic, and we support them.

TOBIN: Volunteers contribute what they can, like a hot meal in the bitter cold.

TONYA SAZOOANOVA, VOLUNTEER: Every little act of kindness, it brings hope, it brings some better around, people around, and if we are united we can stand anything.

(END VIDEO TAPE)

TOBIN (on camera): And the deputy director of the Chernobyl hospital says they have got enough supplies to make it about another two weeks. They're running low on immunosuppressive drugs. Those are for the kids with kidney transplants. Those drugs help prevent them from rejecting the transplants. Bret, back to you.

BAIER: Mike Tobin live in Lviv. Mike, thank you. Meantime, the mayor of Warsaw, Poland, is asking for help tonight dealing with many of the 2.5 million people who have fled Ukraine. Most of them have come to Poland. Correspondent Alex Hogan shows us from Warsaw tonight.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

OLGA, UKRAINIAN REFUGEE: I must save my child.

ALEX HOGAN, FOX NEWS CORRESPONDENT: The safety of four-year-old Yevi (ph) is the light at the end of the tunnel for her mother Olga and neighbor Karina.

OLGA: It was a terrible feeling when you can't save your child.

HOGAN: The women, now bonded by war, spent six straight days in a bomb shelter in Kharkiv before eventually arriving in Medyka, Poland.



KARINA, UKRAINIAN REFUGEE: All night the bombs.

OLGA: I really thinking about death.

HOGAN: As food and water run out in Ukrainian cities, bombings and shellings increase, and there is a migration of mothers fleeing the country, leaving their homes and husbands to save their kids.

OLGA: You can't feel safe in that city.

KARINA: It was dangerous even to go for food.

HOGAN: The faces of children crossing the border, mobilizing volunteers from around the world.

ALEX, BRITISH VOLUNTEER: I got a little boy who is two. And I've seen children on the tele, so it made me think of him. So that's why I did it.

HOGAN: As refugees flee the country in droves, others head back in.

There are vans lined up one after another waiting in long lines here at the border to enter Ukraine, most of them with trunks looking just like this, filled with clothing, diapers, food and medical supplies, anything that would be needed for those still across the border.

Poland says it has accepted more than 1.5 million refugees, exceeding any other country, in the border village of Medyka, buses shuttle them to nearby towns and refugee centers. Like the rest of the children who have arrived, little Yevi is safe. Still, Olga and Karina says it's too soon to process everything they have seen and everything they've lost.

KARINA: Without feeling, without feeling.

OLGA: I don't feel safe now. I will feel safe when I'm with my friends maybe in one house, but now it is not yet.

(END VIDEO TAPE)

HOGAN (on camera): The three plan to travel to Germany to stay with friends, but many don't have international connections. The Polish government is partnering with the United Nations Refugee Agency to provide cash assistance to refugees here in need. Bret?

BAIER: Thank you, along the Polish border with Ukraine.

Up next, NATO is firing up all its weapons for all the world see, and especially for Russians to take notice.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Definitely all the troops are behind what we do here, and it's very important for us.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

BAIER: NATO is making sure Russia is aware of just how much fire power NATO possesses. The alliance is holding a massive weapons demonstration in Latvia. Correspondent Jeff Paul is in Riga, Latvia, tonight.

(BEGIN VIDEO TAPE)

JEFF PAUL, FOX NEWS CORRESPONDENT: They speak different languages, fly different flags, and use different machinery. These NATO forces from 13 different countries all recognize what is happening in Ukraine is far from normal.

MAJ. GEN. JEFFREY BROADWATER, V CORPS DEPUTY COMMANDER: Everybody is very aware of what is on the world, and we have to make sure that we are ready. And we are ready with our natures.

PAUL: U.S. Army Major General Jeff Broadwater spoke with us from the Adazi military base in Latvia, a Baltic country that borders Russia. He says while fire power demonstrations are somewhat frequent, and this one was planned well before Russia attacked Ukraine, the invasion has changed the tone of the joint NATO exercise.

BROADWATER: I think it makes it more real.

PAUL: Despite what's unfolding in Ukraine, these NATO troops are focused on the mission of preparing themselves to protect every inch of NATO territory. The invitation from NATO, they put our crew right in the middle of the military demonstration. Anti-tank weapons were fired, artillery blasted distant targets, and then in rolled the tanks.

After a show of force on the ground, attention turned to the sky. Apache helicopters buzzed our position, followed by two jets roaring through the sky. These troops the exercises only further unify NATO forces.

BROADWATER: If you are able to do that now on an environment where you can learn on it and you can build a reputation on that, it just makes it that much better in case you have to do it for real.

(END VIDEO TAPE)

PAUL (on camera): Baltic countries like Latvia have a history of Russian occupation, but there is some relief in knowing that NATO is committed to defending all of its members, as we saw today, in constant preparation. Bret?

BAIER: Jeff Paul in Latvia. Jeff, thanks.

Up next, the panel on the latest developments in Ukraine and the fight over U.S. energy policy, what the president is saying.

First, here is what some of our FOX affiliates around the country are covering tonight. FOX 29 in Philadelphia as the city hits a grim milestone with its 100th homicide of the year, outpacing what was a historically bloody 2021 that saw more than 560 deadly crimes. A 28-year-old man was pronounced dead this morning following a shooting late Thursday night in west Philadelphia.

FOX 31 in Denver as Starbucks workers there in that city go on strike. They are protesting alleged unfair labor practices by the coffee chain. Some workers claim Starbucks has punished them in retaliation for supporting unionization.

And this is a live look at Las Vegas from FOX 5, our affiliate out there. One of the big stories there tonight, little less time to gamble this weekend. Daylight savings time begins early Sunday morning. Remember, set your clocks forward an hour, spring forward before you go to bed Saturday night.

That is tonight's live look outside the beltway from SPECIAL REPORT. We'll be right back.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

JOE BIDEN, (D) PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: Each of our nations is going to steps to deny most favored nation status to Russia. We're also taking the further step of banning imports of goods from several signature sectors of the Russian economy, including seafoods, vodka, and diamonds. And we're going to continue to squeeze Putin.

Direct confrontation between NATO and Russia is World War III, something we must strive to prevent.

KAMALA HARRIS, (D) VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: From everything that we know and have witnessed, Putin shows no sign of engaging in serious diplomacy.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

BAIER: Well, the situation in Ukraine continues day to day as the Ukrainians battle back. But here in the U.S., the battle is on the gas pump and what you are seeing as you pay for gas. If you look at the national average of gas prices, \$4.33 now, and you can see one week ago, one year ago, big changes.

Let's bring in our panel Byron York, chief political correspondent of "The Washington Examiner," Josh Kraushaar is politics editor for "National Journal," and Jeff Mason, White House correspondent for Reuters.

Jeff, pretty interesting to listen to the president. It was a political event, but saying, hey, it's not my fault about inflation. This is Putin's deal. Is that selling, do you think?

JEFF MASON, WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT, "REUTERS": Well, that's the event in Philadelphia this afternoon, not the clip that you just played at the White House. But I don't know if it's selling across the country, but it's certainly the argument he wanted to make in a room full of Democrats who are eyeing challenges coming up in November in a country where inflation is so high, as you mentioned, and where people are upset about that.

Whether or not the hashtag "Putin price hike" is going to take off I think is another question, but certainly the White House wants to emphasize that he at least gets part of the blame. He doesn't get all of the blame, and Republicans are rightly pointing that out. Gas prices were going up before this. But the White House wants to make sure Americans also know that they have gone up 75 cents since Putin put troops on the border of Ukraine.

BAIER: Yes. Let's take a listen to at least a piece of that from the Philadelphia event, the gas price blame game.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

NANCY PELOSI, (D-CA) HOUSE SPEAKER: Putin's gas hike, that's his gas hike.

JOE BIDEN, (D) PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: The Republicans are playing a game here. They are talking about the Democrats having raised prices.

SEN. MITCH MCCONNELL, (R-KY) SENATE MINORITY LEADER: The Biden administration has tried to invent some laugh-out-loud, laugh-out-loud revisionist history. Washington Democrats war on domestic energy, long, long predates Putin's war on Ukraine.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

BAIER: Josh, what about this? Where does it play?

JOSH KRAUSHAAR, "NATIONAL JOURNAL": Look, it's a clever bit of political misdirection from the Democratic Party who are really feeling the heat on rising gas prices even before Putin's invasion and think that this is a good way to redirect that anger. I think it's a good short-term strategy, but the problem is that the larger polling continues to show Democrats are getting blamed for the larger inflationary problem. So I think the public still is blaming the party in power, and it's not going to be easy to redirect it that successfully.

And I think there's a larger problem, too, on energy, where Democrats, at that conference in Philadelphia, they were talking about how they need to talk to normal people, talk to the average American. And when you have the transportation secretary, when you have the president talking about buying electric cars, going green, people don't have the money to -- the average American doesn't have the money to go green and to do a lot of the things that the environmental activists want them to do. So there is a real risk that they could also sound condescending on the energy issue by trying to get people to be more energy efficient in their purchases.

BAIER: President also at that Philadelphia event fiery about inflation. Another soundbite here.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

JOE BIDEN, (D) PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: We're on track right now, on track to be the first president in history to lower the deficit by over \$1 trillion in one year.

(APPLAUSE)

BIDEN: So I'm sick of this stuff. We have to talk about it, because the American people think the reason for inflation is government spending more money. Simply not true.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

BAIER: Byron?

BYRON YORK, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT, "THE WASHINGTON EXAMINER": I just don't think it's going to work. The whole Putin's price hike thing is not going to work, because it conflicts with people's everyday experience. First of all, anybody who has been to the grocery store or tried to buy a car knows that inflation is not just the price of gas.

They also remember just last year inflation had hit about five percent by May of last year. People were very concerned about it. The White House was saying it was transitory. It was a major concern then. And it's even more so now. A new "Wall Street Journal" poll just came out today asked Americans what issue would you like it see the Congress and the president make a top priority? And the number of people who said the war in Ukraine was 25 percent. The number of people who said inflation was 50 percent.

So, one, it's a very, very big deal, and two, people's experience tells them what the president is saying doesn't quite add up.

BAIER: Jeff, we don't know how long this is going to last. Clearly, this is having a devastating effect on the Russian economy. "The New York Times" writes it this way, "Facing economic calamity Putin talks of nationalizing western businesses. Of particular concern are western companies that once symbolized post-Soviet Russia's integration into the world economy, like McDonald's, Ikea. Mr. Putin told officials in the televised meetings that the assets of such companies should be put under external management and then transferred to those who want to work." It sounds like big changes may be on the way in Russia.

MASON: Oh, absolutely. I think it reflects the effectiveness of the sanctions by the U.S. and by Europe against Russia and the impact that it's having on the economy. The ruble, of course, dropping over 50 percent. So it's hurting them a lot.

But the question of whether the president of Russia and Russia takes over some of these U.S. companies and other companies that are there, their assets anyway, will raise hackles for sure among these institutions that have spent the last 30 years integrating parts of the economy and investing there.

So the White House was asked about this a couple days ago, and Jen Psaki, the spokesperson said, that she didn't have a specific answer for what the White House would do, but she said that they would have a response.

BAIER: Tough to imagine those companies going back under this current environment.

MASON: Absolutely.

BAIER: Tough to imagine that. Panel, thanks so much.

It is Friday, and you know what that means. It is time for "Notable Quotables."

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: The whole world did see the pictures of pregnant women trying to escape from that building after it was bombarded from air by Russians.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: There's no time for politics. There's literally blood in the streets of cities across this country.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: They damaged our infrastructure and killed innocents.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: We'll bring you to the scene here. That appears to be an anti-aircraft missile.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I think Russia has been substantially diminish no matter what happens. They are obviously not 10 feet tall.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE (through translator): We will continue fighting for our land, whatever the cost.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: They want MiGs. Get them the MiGs.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: We don't believe additional aircraft is the most effective answer.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: This is not leading from behind. This is just not leading, period.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: You have Putin pump, gas price pump.

JOE BIDEN, (D) PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: Can't do much right now. Russia is responsible.

KAMALA HARRIS, (D) VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: One of my favorite topics, electric school buses.

JEN PSAKI, WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY: There are 9,000 unused approved permits to drill in. I don't think they need an embroidered invitation to drill.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: An administration that would rather deal with international killers than when American drillers.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Use wisely. Use wisely.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

BAIER: One week.

Monday on SPECIAL REPORT, we'll talk with author and speaker Tony Robbins about his new book and a bunch of things. Also have a report on the Justice Department's newly formed task force targeting Russian oligarchs.

Join me this weekend, I'm hosting FOX NEWS SUNDAY. My exclusive guest will be Idaho Republican Senator James Risch and Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman.

Thanks for inviting us into your home tonight. That's it for the SPECIAL REPORT, fair, balanced, and still unafraid. Here comes Jesse.

END

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