Russia-Ukraine war: Daily Update Report (July 18, 2024)

Introduction

The ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine has persisted over two years, with recent developments indicating continued intense clashes and geopolitical manoeuvres. This report highlights the significant events occurred today.

Military Actions:

1. **Prisoner exchange:** From past 7 weeks this is the third prisoner swap between two nations under war. Ukraine and Russia both exchanged 95 soldiers, this was facilitated by United Arab Emirates, showing diplomatic efforts from other nations in order to stop this ongoing war [1].

2. **Continued hostilities:**
   - Explosions were reported in Kyiv as air defence intercepted a Russian drone [1].
   - In Russian-occupied Kherson, Ukrainian shelling and drone attacks resulted in death of one civilian and 8 were injured [1].
   - Similar thing happened in Belgorod region of Russia, a drone from Ukraine hits the passenger car resulting in death of young civilian couple [1].

3. **Tactical movements:** Ukraine has allegedly withdrawn its troops from the village of *Krynky,* a key position on the Russian-occupied eastern bank of the *Dnipro* river in southern *Kherson* region.

International support and Diplomacy

1. **Germany's planned Aid reduction:** Germany plans to reduce its aid to Ukraine in upcoming budget year of 2025, in 2024 this aid was €8 billion and it plans to reduce it €4 billion [3]. This decision comes despite concerns over potential changes in US support to Ukraine if Trump comes to presidency in November elections. Key points:
   - Germany is currently second larger monetary aid supporter to Ukraine after US.

- The German government cites the G7's $50 billion loan scheme from frozen Russian assets as a reason for the reduction.
- This move raises concern for Ukraine about the long-support from western alliance [3].

2. **NATO appointment:** NATO has appointed British official Patrick Turner as its senior representative in Ukraine, signalling continued alliance from west as of now.

3. **Diplomatic tension:** The European parliament condemned Hungarian prime minister for meeting with Russian president [1].

Cyber warfare

- The defence intelligence of Ukraine successfully executed cyberattack on Russian digital infrastructure. This operation disrupted Russian management, logistics, and military activities, showcasing the evolving cyber front in the conflict [5].

Civilian impact

1. **Underground schools:** officials in Kharkiv announced plans to build series of underground schools to protect children from frequent Russian attacks [1].

2. **Aid worker milestone:** Michael Betoin, a British charity worker, completed 500 days as a volunteer aiding needed in Ukraine at remote villages neat the frontlines.

Analysis and future outlook

1. **Military aid concerns**: Germany's reduction in its monetary aid can influence other western countries too. This development comes at a crucial time when Ukraine expects the international backing.
2. **Continued conflict**: The prisoner exchange and ongoing military actions across various fronts indicates that both sides remain committed and have no intention of withdrawing from this ongoing disastrous war.

Conclusion

As the war approaches its 900th day, the landscape of international support appears to be shifting, as exemplified by Germany's aid reduction plans. While diplomatic efforts like prisoner exchange continues, the conflict shows no signs of resolving of matter as of now. The international community's commitment in long-term aid to Ukraine remains critical factor in the war's future trajectory

Citations:

[1] Al Jazeera: "Russia-Ukraine war: List of key events, day 874"

[2] BBC News: "Germany plans to halve military aid for Ukraine"

[3] Reuters (via The Guardian): "Germany to halve military aid to Kyiv, draft budget reportedly shows"

[4] BBC News: "Aid worker marks 500 days in Ukraine"

[5] Ukrinform: "Latest attack on Russian cyberspace was very successful - Yusov"

[6] some AI 😊