

NEWS ANALYSIS

Europe Eyes
Its ‘Bazooka’
In Trade War

Loath to Irk Trump,
Or Cede Greenland

By JEANNA SMIALEK

BRUSSELS — In a single post on Saturday night, President Trump upended months of progress on trade negotiations with an ultimatum that puts Europe on a crash course with the United States — long its closest ally and suddenly one of its biggest threats.

In the Truth Social post, Mr. Trump demanded a deal to buy Greenland, saying that otherwise he would slap new tariffs on a group of European nations, first 10 percent in February, then 25 percent in June.

It appeared to leave little room for Europe to maneuver or negotiate in a harsh and combative era of geopolitics. It also left Europe with few options to counter Mr. Trump without repercussions.

European leaders are loath to accept the forced takeover of an autonomous territory that is controlled by Denmark, a member of both NATO and the European Union.

Officials and outside analysts increasingly argue that Europe will need to respond to Mr. Trump with force — namely by hitting back on trade. But doing so could come at a heavy cost to both the bloc's economy and its security, since Europe remains heavily reliant on the United States for support through NATO and in Russia's war with Ukraine.

“We either fight a trade war, or we're in a real war,” said Jacob Funk Kirkegaard, a senior fellow at Bruegel, a research institute in Brussels.

Europeans have spent more than a year insisting that Greenland is not for sale and have constantly repeated that the fate of the massive northern island must be decided by its people and by Denmark. Last week, a group of European nations sent personnel to Greenland for military exercises — a show of solidarity that may have set off Mr. Trump, since the same nations are the ones to be hit with tariffs.

The exercises were intended to reinforce Europe's commitment to policing the Arctic. Mr. Trump has insisted that the United States needs to own Greenland to improve security in the region.

In that sense, the exercises were part of a continuing effort to placate Mr. Trump. For weeks, officials across Europe had dismissed Mr. Trump's threats to take Greenland, even by military force, as unlikely. Many saw

Continued on Page A7

More on the White House

PAYBACK Under Kash Patel, the F.B.I. searches its files for material against those who had investigated President Trump. PAGE A14

VETO The president killed legislation to bring clean water to conservative parts of Colorado, bewildering residents. PAGE A9



PHOTOGRAPHS BY TODD HEISLER/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Defiant residents have spelled out their opposition to ICE in holiday lights and attended demonstrations to mourn Renee Good, who was killed by a federal agent.

In Minneapolis, Tensions Can Ignite on Any Corner at Any Time

By VIVIAN YEE

MINNEAPOLIS — The vehicles all jolted to a stop — S.U.V.s full of masked immigration agents and cars carrying activists and journalists who had been tailing them — and in what felt like less than a second, everyone was out on the frozen Minneapolis street corner, facing off.

Car horns and sirens and the screech of whistles from the activists almost drowned out the profanities hurled at the ICE agents.

Men in military-style uniforms descended from an S.U.V., pointing cans of pepper spray at the cars. Other federal agents were already surrounding a man in a hoodie who had been standing at a bus stop on Lake Street.

Activists scrambled toward the bus stop, some of them masked as well. Blowing their whistles, they held their phones aloft to shoot video, trying to alert the whole block: ICE is here. ICE is here, arresting someone. Expletives and pepper spray spattered the crowd.

The agents stuck the man in the back of a car and were gone.

Fear and fury can explode on any street corner during this charged time in Minneapolis, any time, any place the muscle of the federal government meets the rage of the citizens who reject its tactics.

Thousands of people attended a march this month to mourn Renee Good, the woman an ICE agent had shot and killed days earlier. There have been school walkouts, daily protests outside the federal

A Cat-and-Mouse Game
of Residents vs. ICE

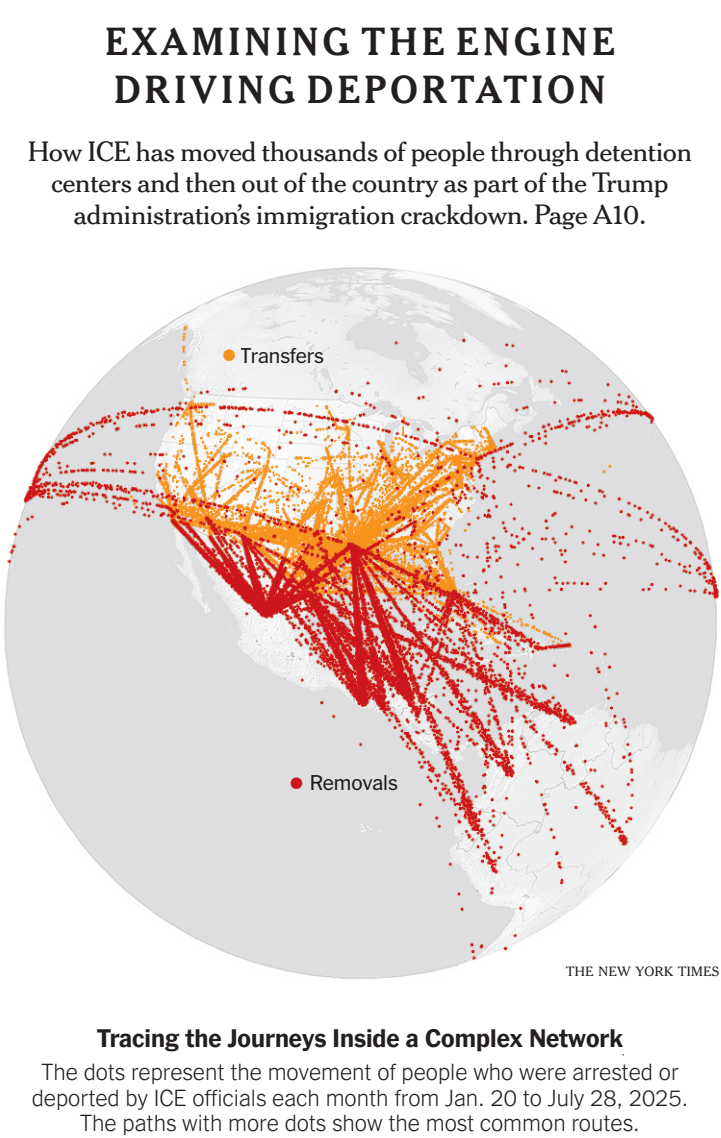
building where agents take detainees, four-person protests on frigid street corners and an hours-long demonstration after an ICE agent shot a man in the leg while attempting to detain him on Wednesday night.

But the city's defiance toward the thousands of federal agents

surging into Minneapolis also looks like this: local people using their cars, whistles, phones and local networks to monitor and confront the agents wherever they can, sticking close to them to complicate their efforts, like cornerbacks guarding wide receivers.

It is a cat-and-mouse game with a global audience, high stakes and a looming element of danger. Activists are pressing against a gray zone of legality as they try to confront heavily armed federal

Continued on Page A12



How Wall St.
Wiped Climate
From Agenda

By DAVID GELLES

In January 2020, Larry Fink, the chief executive of BlackRock, the largest asset manager in the world, stunned the business world by declaring that he intended to use the trillions of dollars managed by his firm to address global warming.

“Every government, company, and shareholder must confront climate change,” Mr. Fink wrote, calling for “a fundamental reshaping of finance.”

A few days later, Mr. Fink arrived in Davos, Switzerland, for the World Economic Forum's annual gathering, donning a scarf featuring a design of the “warming stripes,” a pattern that depicts 150 years of rising global temperatures.

Mr. Fink's impassioned call to address climate change was the unofficial start of a movement. Nearly every major financial institution was soon pledging to reduce emissions, joining high-minded alliances designed to phase out fossil fuels and promising to support clean energy. Environmental, social and governance

Continued on Page A15



ANDREW TESTA FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Josh Firkins, right, and Tom Joslin, an apprentice, bring modern tools to the job of sweeping London's chimneys, including drones.

Chim Chim Cher-ee! Sweeps
Stage a Comeback in London.

By STEPHEN CASTLE

LONDON — Against a gray London skyline, a spiky round brush protruded from the chimney of a large family house as Josh Firkins got to work.

The brush would have been familiar, Mr. Firkins said, to his great-great-great-grandfather Charles, who began working as a chimney sweep in the mid-19th century. Other aspects of the job would have seemed outlandish to him, though.

A digital camera revealed the chimney's interior. An industrial vacuum cleaner removed soot and other debris dislodged by the brush. Earlier, a drone buzzed above the house, scanning the state of the rooftop.

Chimney sweeps were once an essential part of British life, when households relied on coal and wood-burning fires to heat their homes. They have played an outsize role in the cultural imagination, whether because of Dick Van

Dyke's portrayal of Bert in “Mary Poppins” or — less cheerfully — the children sent up flues in the 18th and 19th centuries, some getting stuck or suffocating in the process.

The mass adoption of central heating in the second half of the 20th century, and the introduction of clean air regulations, meant open fires fell out of fashion and the industry shrank. But some firms survived.

Now, many sweeps, including those in the Firkins family business, say the trade has been experiencing an improbable resurgence.

According to the National Association of Chimney Sweeps, demand has been bolstered by high energy prices, the popularity of wood-burning stoves and an international climate that has prompted warnings that electricity supplies could be vulnerable to

Continued on Page A8

U.S. Threatens Cuba's Stability by Choking Off Venezuelan Oil

By FRANCES ROBLES

Cuba needs 100,000 barrels of oil a day to keep the lights on, experts say, and to keep its buses, trains and factories running.

But because of President Trump, it is not getting nearly enough.

With the Trump administration exerting control over Venezuela's oil industry, Cuba is receiving only a trickle of the oil it needs — a

shortage experts warn is increasingly likely to trigger a humanitarian crisis unlike any the country has ever experienced.

From diesel to operate buses to gasoline for cars to jet fuel to power airplanes, oil is in short supply in Cuba. A nation already enduring prolonged blackouts could come to a grinding halt as reserves run out, the country plunges into darkness and its economy craters, according to en-

Blackouts That Plague
Nation May Worsen

ergy experts and economists who follow Cuba closely.

A government-run television and radio broadcaster in central Cuba announced Tuesday that it had been off the air for several days because it had run out of

diesel to power its station. Without power, many people also do not have running water.

More than 20 years ago, Venezuela's president at the time, Hugo Chávez, struck a deal with his ideological ally, Fidel Castro, to provide oil and help keep Cuba afloat, though the amount has declined sharply over the years.

Lacking cash or lines of credit, Cuba compensated Venezuela by

Continued on Page A6



INTERNATIONAL A4-8

Salesman Shaping U.S. Policy

Spotty research from a Christian activist has been used by Republicans to justify U.S. strikes in Nigeria. PAGE A4

Antiwar Russians in Europe

Pushback over a rant against Ukrainian officials has raised questions about the region's stance on dissidents. PAGE A7

NATIONAL A9-17, 20

G.O.P. Hit on Health Care

Pete Buttigieg and Cory Booker, potential presidential candidates, previewed a party midterm strategy of assailing Republican votes on the issue. PAGE A17

Corruption Fighter Targeted

An anonymous campaign aimed at New Jersey's departing attorney general is called “a warning to others.” PAGE A16

OBITUARIES B7

He Revised Biblical History

The archaeologist Gabriel Barkay found evidence of an earlier origin of Old Testament writings. He was 81.



ARTS C1-6

Explaining a Gamified World

The author C. Thi Nguyen explores the philosophy of games, and how scoring systems teach us what to desire. PAGE C1

Go Westeros, Young Man

“A Knight of the Seven Kingdoms,” a new “Game of Thrones” spinoff, is as much a comedy as it is a drama. PAGE C1

BUSINESS B1-5

A.I. Has Arrived in Your Gmail

Google's A.I. assistant, Gemini, can create a to-do list and help users manage their bloated inboxes, among other new tricks. But there are implications to consider for your privacy. PAGE B1

Trump's Influence on Davos

The traditional discussions at the World Economic Forum centered on global integration, climate change and international cooperation. That's not the case anymore. News Analysis. PAGE B1

OPINION A18-19

Denyce Graves PAGE A19



SPORTS D1-8

Undefeated Versus Underrated

In the championship, Fernando Men-doza will lead Indiana against Miami, which some critics said should not have been included in the playoff. PAGE D1

