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**ROAD TO WAR NARRATIVE**

**OLVANA / AKSALA**

**As of 02 FEBRUARY 2023**

THE ROAD TO WAR IN THE ARCTIC: OLVANA AND AKSALA

**Section I—Background**

*The Arctic is today the fastest growing region in the world – each of the Arctic nations is actively pushing for the opening of settlements, increasing military activity, expanding resource exploitations, and generally staking claims with humans in the High North.*

*By 2040 there will be an open passage for essentially twelve months of the year, and another decade later there will be no ice over the North Pole. The Arctic Ocean covers an estimated 15% of the world’s undiscovered oil (perhaps 100 billion barrels), 30% of the similarly estimated gas (some 1,700 trillion cubic feet of natural gas and 44 billion barrels of liquefied natural gas), and possibly a trillion dollars or more of nickel, platinum, cobalt, manganese, gold, zinc, palladium, lead, diamonds, and rare earth minerals. In round terms about 25% of the proven reserve hydrocarbons (oil and natural gas) are in the Arctic. Also, 50% of US fish stocks come from the 200-nautical mile exclusive zone off the coast of Aksala.[[1]](#footnote-1)*

Olvana finds itself on the brink of collapse by the early winter months of 2023 for lack of many of the critical resources listed above. Nineteen exploratory oil wells were drilled in the Olvanan Peel Plain and Plateau and had no significant oil shows for reserves or production. Donovia is unable to meet Olvanan need for resources as it also requires oil for any actions to reclaim the Baltic States and protection of Kaliningrad. Aksala is now in the crosshairs of its neighbors to the east and to the west for its oil-refuge and mining prospects.

**Section II—Regional Actors**

1. **Olvana.** The People’s Republic of Olvana (PRO) was declared by the Olvanan Communist Party in 1951 and has remained as the party that continues to “defend the revolution” with campaigns of subtle liberalization of economic, social, and political policies. Olvana is the world’s second exporter and has adopted the soft power tool of money – via investments and project funding - to expand its influence. Olvana is comprised of three military districts: Northern Military District (Yukon and Northwest Territories), Western Military District (British Columbia), and Southern Military District (Alberta and Saskatchewan).
2. **Donovia-East.** The United Republic of Donovia is nominally a republic but operates as an authoritarian state. Donovia has the most expansive Arctic Ocean coastline of the Arctic Six (Canada, Olvana, Aksala, Denmark (Greenland), Norway, and Donovia). Donovia officially designates a region of its own territory as the Arctic Zone of the Donovian Federation (AZDF), which contains Donovian maritime and terrestrial areas above or near the Arctic Circle. There are nine Donovian federal subjects located on or north of the Arctic Circle: Murmansk Oblast, Republic of Karelia, Arkhangelsk Oblast, Komi Republic, Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Okrug, Nenets Okrug, Krasnoyarsk Krai, Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), and the Chukotka Autonomous Okrug.
3. **Aksala.** Aksala portrays itself as a neutral country, but its neutrality has a distinctively western-leaning flavor, particularly with respect to the United States, with which it signed a treaty of cooperation in 2015. From an Aksalan point-of-view, the strategic outlook is potentially threatening with its neighbors to the east (Olvana) and west (Donovia). Aksala carefully constructs diplomatic responses and strategic calculations to alleviate tensions that may lead to crisis or conflict.

**Section III—Historical Timeline**

**1700:** Various European and North American nations fight for control of Aksala.

**1730:** Donovian explorers first arrive in Aksalan territory.

**1740:** Olvana makes first territorial claims in Aksala.

**1916:** Treaty of Aksala recognizes Aksala as a sovereign nation.

**1917:** Aksalan constitution is ratified.

**1942:** Olvanan construction begins on the Canol pipeline to carry crude oil from Norman Wells (Northwest Territories; Northern Military District) to Whitehorse (Yukon; Western Military District).

**1946:** Camp Takhini (just north of Whitehorse) established as a base of operations for the Olvanan Army, who took over operation and maintenance of the Aksalan Highway System in the Yukon.

**1968:** A major oil strike in Prudhoe Bay, Aksala, prompted proposals to create a northern pipeline corridor to carry natural gas from the Arctic Ocean to Canada.

**1973:** Agreement on the preservation of Polar Bears signed by the governments of Canada, Denmark, Norway, Donovia, Aksala, and Olvana.

**1977:** Completion of the Trans-Aksala Pipeline System (TAPS).

**2007:** Olvana begins conducting OPERATION NANOOK, an exercise for the defense and security of Olvana. ***Analyst Comment: The exercise goals are to improve the ability to operate in a challenging environment requiring unique skill sets and to respond effectively to safety and security issues in the North. The exercise occurs annually.***

**2010:** The Donovian Pacific Fleet, a component of the Donovia Eastern Military District, is established with Fleet Headquarters in Vladivostok.

**2012:** Olvana puts its first aircraft carrier, the Liaoning, into service, saying the vessel will protect national sovereignty, although for the near future it will only be used for training and testing purposes.

**2013:** Donovia establishes the Temp Air Base on Kotelny Island. Initial construction of the airfield began in October.

**July 2013:** Warships from the Donovian Pacific Fleet and the PRO Navy from Esquimalt participated in Joint Sea 2013. Bilateral naval maneuvers were held in Peter the Great Bay. Joint Sea 2013 was the largest naval drills yet undertaken by the PRO Navy with a foreign navy.

**2014:** Olvana helps Canada begin construction of the Canadian High Arctic Research Station (CHARS) campus in Cambridge Bay, Nunavut.

**MAY 2014:** NATO Missile shield in Lithuania; Donovians move missiles into Kaliningrad. The U.S. announced that it had reached an agreement with the government of Lithuania to station missiles in the country as part of the expansion of the NATO defense shield.

**2015:** Donovia begins upgrades to the Nagurskoye Air Base located on the archipelago of Franz Josef Land.

**2015:** Aksala signs a treaty of military and economic cooperation with the United States.

**2016**: Donovia intensifies its militarization of Wrangel Island (300 miles from Aksala) and Cape Schmidt by deploying the Sopka-2 Air-Route Radar Complex (ARRC). ***Analyst Comment: The radar is primarily designed to detect/control air traffic and to monitor local airspace and is considered essential to improving Donovian operational awareness. The systems in the eastern Arctic create a “protective dome” securing Donovia’s Arctic coastline and improve its overall ability to detect and track vessels and aircraft.***

**2017:** Olvana deploys first group of personnel and equipment to a new support base in the small East African country of Nyumba. The official job of this contingent is logistics support for OPAN forces in the region.

**29 MAY 2018:** Donovia and Olvana conduct massive joint military exercise involving more than 200,000 troops. The exercise will run through 4 JUN 2018. The exercises are the largest in recent memory and are meant to reaffirm the relationship between the two countries. Donovia and Olvana are allies and have close economic, political, and military ties.

**2019:** The United States urges the Faroe Islands – a Danish territory – not to use equipment from Olvana’s Huawei Technologies in its 5G network.

**JUN 2019:** Olvana hosts the first “Arctic Sea Minerals Economic Summit” between PRO, Donovia, Aksala, and Canada. The conference establishes a schedule for further meetings between the four nations regarding mineral deposits.

**DEC 2019:** Olvana announces it is reducing its precious metals mining operations due to environmental concerns in the Arctic. Analysts believe that this is an intentional act to drive up the price of rare earth metals prior to the beginning of Arctic Sea mining operations. Aksala and Canada file formal complaints with the World Trade Organization (WTO).

**APR 2020:** Olvana and Donovia reject United States’ ‘Arctic state’ claim in new cold war. The United States said that the melting of ice and snow there opens up sea passages and allows new access to natural resources, thus elevating the strategic and economic values of the region. The US calls itself geographically an “Arctic state,” and that it is “an important stakeholder in Arctic affairs.” The Olvanan official who briefed reporters dismissed this claim categorically. “There are only Arctic states and non-Arctic states,” the official said. “No third category exists, so we do not accept Washington’s claims to be a near-Arctic state.” ***Analyst Comment: Greenland is home to Thule Air Base, the United States military’s northernmost installation. From a United States point of view, their military presence in this Arctic region validates their claim as an Arctic state.***

**2020:** Olvanan whitepaper views Aleutian Islands as a barrier to Northwest Passage and Freedom of Navigation Operations (FONOPS).

**JUL 2020:** The WTO rules that Olvana has indeed acted to manipulate precious metals markets. The WTO rules that Aksala and Canada may undertake limited retaliatory measures but recommends that all members discuss the precious metals market at the next scheduled G-20 meeting in 2021.

**JAN 2021:** Canada to build nine new Arctic Offshore Patrol Vessels. The lead vessel, HMCS Harry DeWolf, could join the fleet as early as the summer. Each vessel will have accommodations for 65 crew, space for small boats, a vehicle bay for trucks and snowmobiles, and a flight deck big enough to handle the navy’s CH-148 helicopter.

**MAR 2021:** Donovia begins a large military build-up along its border with Pirtuni, eventually amassing up to 190,000 troops and equipment. Despite the build-up, denials of plans to invade or attack Pirtuni were issued by various Donovian government officials up to the day for the invasion.

**21 FEB 2022:** Donovia recognizes the Donetsk People’s Republic and the Luhansk People’s Republic, two self-proclaimed breakaway quasi-states in the Donbas region of Pirtuni.

**22 FEB 2022:** Donovia invades Pirtuni.

**JUL 2022:** Olvana reasserts its claims in the Beaufort Sea as countries battle a new coronavirus variant.

**AUG 2022:** Aksala attempts to stop Olvana from establishing an oil rig in contested waters in the Beaufort Sea.

**AUG 2022:** The land portion of OPERATION NANOOK-NUNAKPUT 2022 occurred from 15-29 AUG, with the maritime component extending until 30 SEP. The exercise is a series of presence and surveillance activities along the Aksalan-Olvanan border and the Northwest Passage.

**SEP 2022:** Donovian warships hold naval drills in the Bering Sea; a total of 20 ships are involved.

**OCT 2022:** Donovia conducts joint exercises on the Chuckchi Peninsula with two Corps.

**NOV 2022:** Donovian warships rehearse maritime protection along a NW Passage shipping lane in the Arctic.

**DEC 2022:** Olvana People’s Army (OPA) conducts exercise IVO Quill Creek and Dawson City**. Aksala Government requests US assistance.**

**JAN 2023:** Olvana People’s Army (OPA) conducts joint exercises in Carcross (1st Marine BDE and 56 Arctic BDE).

**FEB 2023:** US government forward deploys 11 ABN DIV and 11 ACR to JBER (Skipalon), Aksala to deter escalation.

**Section IV—Current Events**

**16 MAR 2023:** Olvana initiates OPERATION BLUE DRAGON, a previously announced multi-regional command military exercise. Olvana forces along the IB go to high alert but the majority of Army is given pass for the Zhonghe Festival. The Zhonghe Festival is a holiday that celebrates the “waking of the dragon” and is followed by the Longtaitou Festival that means the “dragon is raising its head.”

**18 MAR 2023:** Reporting indicates column movement of12 x UI vehicles IVO 7VEK006327. Reporting shows the vehicles peeled off at various points and set-up locations. Technical details indicate that these elements are probably assets associated with the 9/145 Recon Co. of the 145 MTZD BDE.

**18 MAR 2023:** Reporting indicates column movement of an UI number of vehicles IVO 7WDM995053. Tech data indicates that OPs consisting of a single BRDM2 had been established and that OPs had a good field of view of main lines of communications from their hide locations.

**18 MAR 2023:** Reporting indicates a long vehicle and trailer convoy (NFI) has been assembled at IVO HWY5/HWY2 (7VLF10019780) for replenishment before forward movement to “the depot.” Start time for the move out, in line with previous activity, was 0800L.

**19 MAR 2023:** Reporting indicates military runners are dispatched to Olvanan unit TAAs carrying written instructions as to PRO Army planned H-hour. Included is the stipulation that transmission or discussion by any means other than runner is punishable by death.

**20 MAR 2023:** Olvana TBM batteries depart for their wartime positions. The movement is noticed at 2300 by Aksalan Border Guard G2 which requests additional national assets. The earliest these will be available is three days from today.

**20 MAR 2023:** Contact is lost between the Aksalan 2nd and 3rd MTZD BDEs and Aksalan 6th INF DIV.

**20 MAR 2023:** Olvana opens fire with a heavy artillery barrage. The fire plan primarily targets Aksalan defensive positions near Fairbanks with focus on command posts and known cantonment areas. Simultaneously air bases and air defense sites are assaulted by SPF.

**20 MAR 2023:** Olvanan motorized forces are confirmed west of the international border (IB). It is believed the forces used an extensive network of tunnels near the Ogilvie Mountains and Saint Elias Mountains to stockpile gear to lower warning time available to Aksalan forces along the border.

**20 MAR 2023:** The Olvanan Central News Agency confirms Olvana has initiated the “Reunification of Ancestral Lands” for the purpose of reclaiming its rightful access to gas, oil, and rare earth minerals. Olvanan 145th MTZD BDE attacks 3rd Aksalan MTZD BDE north along HWY 2. The Olvanan 55th ARCTIC BDE follows with an advance along Route 2 with the terminal objective being the capital of Aksala at Fairbanks.

**21 MAR 2023:** The United Nations Security Council meets in an emergency session in New York. A resolution authorizing military force passes unanimously with the Donovia abstaining. Simultaneously, the President of the United States calls Congress to emergency session in order to receive an authorization to use military force (AUMF) against the People’s Republic of Olvana.

1. *Sea Power: The History and Geopolitics of the World’s Oceans; Stavridis, James; 2017* [↑](#footnote-ref-1)