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Press release

“Block, Weaken, Break” - Gen. Grynkewich Delivers a Strong Message to NATO’s Adversaries at Warsaw Security Forum 2026

Tusk, Zelenskyy, Støre, Sinkevičius and Gen. Grynkewich set the tone for the first day of the Warsaw Security Forum 2026. More than 3,000 participants from 90 countries are attending the conference, organized by the Casimir Pulaski Foundation. The three key issues dominating the opening of WSF 2026 are: how to end the war in Ukraine, how to sustain U.S. engagement in European security, and how to build stability across the continent in the post-war era.

Opening this year’s Forum at a critical juncture in the war in Ukraine, Prof. Katarzyna Pisarska, Chair of the Warsaw Security Forum, delivered a clear message to the leaders of NATO member states: “Victory is not guaranteed, but neither is defeat. History has not yet made its choice — it is waiting for ours.”

Tusk: “Russia Is Fighting for Dominance”

Prime Minister Donald Tusk highlighted the real-world consequences of the war: “For Poles and the entire Western world, security is not an abstract concept from an academic debate, but a tangible consequence of Russian aggression against Ukraine.”

He also pointed to the fundamental difference between the objectives of the two sides in the conflict: “Ukraine is fighting for survival. Russia is fighting for dominance.”

He called on European leaders to act: “If you want to look after your national interests, it is your duty today to support Ukraine.”

He also signaled a tougher stance: “This is the moment when the entire West must show Russia and Putin that we are ready to pursue a policy of deterrence using even tougher measures.”

Zelenskyy: “We Want Peace,” but Real Pressure Is Needed

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who addressed Forum participants online, assured them: “We want peace and are ready to work with the Americans and other nations.” He described Donald Trump’s proposal for a ceasefire in the energy sector as “an important step towards ending the war,” provided that Washington ensures Russia complies with it. “We agree if they agree. And we

have already shown that we are serious," he stressed, pointing to Russia's violations of ceasefire agreements.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy called for an uncompromising stance towards the Kremlin: "We need American pressure on Russia, not the lifting of sanctions or concessions." He rejected claims that European countries were standing in the way of ending the conflict: "Europe is not the one making everything difficult."

He also criticized an agreement reached between the United States and Russia on diesel fuel without Kyiv's involvement: "I believe these arrangements are not right."

Addressing the issue of Ukraine's youngest citizens who have been abducted, he stated unequivocally: "We are doing everything we can to bring our children back. They cannot be part of an exchange fund."

Støre: Time to Think About Europe After the War

Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre, representing this year's Partner Country of the Warsaw Security Forum, highlighted Norway's multi-year support package for Ukraine, worth €8 billion: "Relative to GDP, I believe this is the highest level of assistance in the world."

Prime Minister Støre also called for a broader, long-term perspective on the future of Europe's security architecture: "We spend too little time considering what Europe will look like after this war."

He also warned that "Russia's defence planning is largely focused on building up military capabilities along the border with Norway and Finland."

Sinkevičius: "We Are Investing in Deterrence"

Lithuanian Prime Minister Mindaugas Sinkevičius described the United States as "a strategic ally, important for Lithuania's security" and framed defence spending as an investment: "We are not buying protection; we are investing in deterrence."

Calling for greater engagement from other European countries, he added: "Support for Ukraine is increasingly becoming a Northern European effort. We must make it a European one."

He also announced a key decision by the Lithuanian authorities: the parliament had voted to remove from the Constitution a provision prohibiting the presence of weapons of mass destruction on the country's territory. He made the rationale clear: "This is not about escalation; it is about deterrence."

Gen. Grynkewich: NATO Is Ready

NATO's Supreme Allied Commander Europe, General Alexus Grynkewich, publicly presented his "Theory of Victory" for the first time — a strategy aimed at moving beyond deterrence alone towards building the actual capabilities needed to win a potential conflict.

The General stressed that the Alliance is purely defensive in nature, while emphasizing: “No one should mistake this for weakness or a lack of resolve.”

He also sought to reassure the public, stating: “I do not believe that conflict is imminent or inevitable. It is not.”

However, he issued an unequivocal warning to potential aggressors: “Our Alliance exists to protect peace, but let there be no doubt: if war breaks out, we will be ready to block, weaken and break any attack.”

Editorial Information

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