

# Interpreting the Polish Military Chief's Decision to Prepare for "Full-Scale Conflict"

By [Andrew Korybko](#)

Global Research, July 12, 2024

Region: [Europe](#), [Russia and FSU](#)

Theme: [Intelligence](#)

In-depth Report: [UKRAINE REPORT](#)

All Global Research articles can be read in 51 languages by activating the Translate Website button below the author's name (only available in desktop version).

To receive Global Research's Daily Newsletter (selected articles), [click here](#).

Click the share button above to email/forward this article to your friends and colleagues. Follow us on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) and subscribe to our [Telegram Channel](#). Feel free to repost and share widely Global Research articles.

## [Spread the Truth, Refer a Friend to Global Research](#)

\*\*\*

*This strongly hints that Poland isn't ruling out a conventional intervention in Ukraine under certain circumstances and expects that it would rapidly escalate into another Polish-Russian War just like the one that broke out after World War I.*

Chief of the General Staff of the Polish Armed Forces **General Wieslaw Kukula** [told](#) a press conference on Wednesday that

"Today, we need to prepare our forces for full-scale conflict, not an asymmetric-type conflict."

This came right after the newly signed Polish-Ukrainian security pact, which was summarized [here](#) and analyzed in detail [here](#). **The relevant takeaways are that Poland will obtain enormous economic stakes in Ukraine, will assemble a 'Ukrainian Legion', and is contemplating intercepting Russian missiles.**

With these terms in mind and noting how Kukula's comments coincided with the NATO Summit, some observers suspected that they signaled progress on Poland's possible plans to [conventionally intervene](#) in Ukraine to safeguard its investments there if Russia threatens them or achieves a breakthrough. The [military-strategic dynamics](#) of the conflict have trended in Russia's favor for the past year, but no game-changing developments have yet to occur, though Poland isn't taking any chances.

Kukula's decision to prepare for a "full-scale conflict" strongly hints that Poland isn't ruling out a conventional intervention in Ukraine under the abovementioned circumstances and expects that it would rapidly escalate into another Polish-Russian War just like the one that broke out after World War I. Not coincidentally, the Polish-Ukrainian security pact stipulates

that they'll "build on the Polish-Ukrainian brotherhood in arms in the 1920 war with Bolshevik Russia" when crafting new school curricula.

The reader should also be reminded that their pact calls for the creation of a 'Ukrainian Legion' in Poland, which head of the **National Security Bureau Jacek Siewiera** [said](#) could potentially include "millions" of "volunteers". It's obvious that this claim is overly ambitious, but the point is that this fighting force could function as the tip of the spear if Poland conventionally intervenes in the conflict, plus Polish servicemen might masquerade as Ukrainians to bolster its numbers and effectiveness.

Regardless of however another "full-scale" Polish-Russian War might begin, there's no doubt that it would spike the risk of World War III. Poland is a NATO member to whom the nuclear-armed US has mutual security obligations, and even if their extension to allies' activities in third countries is legally dubious, it's unlikely that the US would [hang any of its allies out to dry](#) if their uniformed troops get pulverized by Russia in Ukraine. The Western elite would demand that the US respond in some way.

Leaving aside speculation about how such a conflict might end, it's time to turn towards what Poland's endgame would be for conventionally intervening in the first place. It was argued [here](#) back in spring 2022 that Polish interests wouldn't be best served by annexing the Western Ukrainian regions that it controlled during the interwar period. Rather, this follow-up [here](#) from summer 2023 argues that a "sphere of influence" would be much better, which was already being pursued before their security pact.

Accordingly, upon weighing the costs and benefits, it's much more likely that Poland would refrain from annexing Western Ukraine and instead remain content with turning it into a client state where Polish companies have privileged access to its natural and labor resources without any of the responsibilities. The 'Ukrainian Legion' could then act as Poland's praetorian guards while some uniformed troops might still be deployed for training and other purposes behind the scenes.

Poland's plans to [nearly triple its border forces](#) from 6,000 to 17,000, 9,000 of whom will form a rapid border reaction force, were also coincidentally announced on the same day as Kukula's scandalous comment and could facilitate a conventional intervention. Those that might cross into Ukraine wouldn't leave the Belarusian border vulnerable to [illegal immigrant invaders](#) or whatever other threats though since Poland already called on Germany to [assume partial responsibility](#) for that front.

As it stands, however, Poland would be taking a huge gamble by conventionally intervening in Ukraine anytime soon. Its [planned military buildup](#) isn't complete and will still require [at least a few more years](#) before it's ready to fight a "full-scale conflict". There's also no guarantee that the US would directly attack Russian forces in response to them pulverizing Poles ones in Ukraine. It might instead agree to [asymmetrically partition](#) Ukraine as a swift de-escalation compromise to avoid World War III.

That said, a limited intervention that's concentrated in Western Ukraine and focused on non-combat roles can't be ruled out, though the reader should know that a [top European think tank's latest survey](#) proved that it would still be very unpopular with Poles. This could take the form of a "no-fly zone" over Lvov, around which its military-industrial and other investments could be based, and the deployment of uniformed troops there for training

purposes alongside its 'Ukrainian Legion' praetorian guards.

Russia couldn't ignore that development if it unfolds since doing so could embolden NATO as a whole to rapidly scale this Polish-led intervention to cover everything up to the Dnieper, after which the bloc's hawks might get frisky and flirt with crossing the river to threaten Russia's new regions. The resultant game of nuclear chicken that was described [here](#) could end in mutual catastrophe if Russia feels that it must employ tactical nukes as a last resort in self-defense to stop an impending invasion.

It's therefore expected that Russia would kinetically respond to the official introduction of Polish troops in Ukraine and/or a limited "no-fly zone" over its western regions, though depending on the scale of Poland's intervention and Russia's response, the US might not get directly involved in the fray. To be clear, Poland might not do either of these two and could formally remain outside of the conflict, but Kukula's comments nevertheless strongly hint that there are conditions under which it'll take the plunge.

\*

Note to readers: Please click the share button above. Follow us on Instagram and Twitter and subscribe to our Telegram Channel. Feel free to repost and share widely Global Research articles.

*This article was originally published on the author's Substack, [Andrew Korybko's Newsletter](#).*

**Andrew Korybko** is an American Moscow-based political analyst specializing in the relationship between the US strategy in Afro-Eurasia, China's One Belt One Road global vision of New Silk Road connectivity, and Hybrid Warfare. He is a regular contributor to Global Research.

*Featured image is from the author*

The original source of this article is Global Research  
Copyright © [Andrew Korybko](#), Global Research, 2024

---

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Andrew Korybko](#)

### About the author:

Andrew Korybko is an American Moscow-based political analyst specializing in the relationship between the US strategy in Afro-Eurasia, China's One Belt One Road global vision of New Silk Road connectivity, and Hybrid Warfare. He is a frequent contributor to Global Research.

**Disclaimer:** The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)

[www.globalresearch.ca](http://www.globalresearch.ca) contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)