

## Ukraine Defense Chief Says "Low Probability" Of Major Conflict With Russia, Contradicting Biden



BY TYLER DURDEN

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[Authored by Jason Ditz via AntiWar.com.](#)

Ukraine Defense Minister Oleksii Reznikov [told parliament on Friday](#) that there is a **low probability of any major escalation with Russia**. He added that Ukraine intelligence sees every move made in the area.

Tensions at the Russia-Ukraine border have been ongoing, with several Western nations repeatedly predicting a huge war. Ukraine [has chided those nations](#) for **causing a panic**.



*Def. Minister Oleksii Reznikov, via Reuters*

"Our intelligence sees every move that could pose a potential threat to Ukraine. We estimate the probability of a large-scale escalation as low," Reznikov said.

The timing of the statement is interesting given that just the day prior, President Joe Biden stuck by the White House assessment that an invasion is imminent.

"We have reason to believe they are engaged in a **false flag operation to have an excuse to go in**," Biden told reporters at the White House on Thursday. "Every indication we have is they're prepared to go into Ukraine and attack Ukraine."

The fact that Ukraine's defense chief, who is certainly closer to the situation than anyone at the White House, directly contradicted Biden's words is no minor thing.

Predictions of such a conflict go back years, and while previous Ukraine officials had similar pessimism about it, more recently officials see [a lot more chance for diplomacy](#).

*Meanwhile, US officials have continued seeking to convince and warn Kiev that a 'Russian invasion' is imminent...*

Grateful to [@SecBlinken](#) for sharing additional data and assessments on Russia's aggressive plans. Ukraine is now even better prepared for any further scenarios. Ukrainian and American diplomacy will spare no effort to protect Ukraine. The U.S. stands by Ukraine resolutely.

[pic.twitter.com/FZD7TrBQyb](https://pic.twitter.com/FZD7TrBQyb)

— Dmytro Kuleba (@DmytroKuleba) [February 19, 2022](#)

President Biden again predicted a Russian invasion Friday, noting a Russian offer to talk later this month and suggesting there'd be no point if invasion happens first. Ukraine's own assessment is clearly far afield of America's.

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