

# Current Intelligence Report Circular

**CLASSIFICATION: DECLASSIFIED AND APPROVED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE**

**Report Topic:** Responses to the Russo-Ukrainian war by Poland and Hungary

**Production Date:** 25 February 2022

**CMC Director:** Kevin Joyce

**Report Author(s):** Aubrey Belanger and Kevin Joyce

## Ukraine's neighboring countries take action in response to Russian invasion

Russia's military received orders from President Vladimir Putin on 23 FEB to invade Ukraine. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) member countries have continued to assess the situation and are acting accordingly based on war updates. German Chancellor Olaf Scholz order a cessation of the construction of the Nord Stream 2 natural gas pipeline that was meant to carry gas from Russia to Germany. Poland has stated that this was a productive step, but more serious measures need to be taken, such as taking Russia off of the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications (SWIFT). Germany and Italy have agreed that Russia should continue to be a member of the SWIFT global payments systems due to the inadequate financial repercussions that could take place in Eastern Europe. NATO member countries are continuing to distribute weapons throughout Ukraine as well. On 25 FEB, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg reported that a multinational force including land, air, sea, and special operations forces will be sent to the frontlines near Ukraine. This is the first time the NATO Response Force has been activated. This will operationalize thousands of the 40,000 available NATO troops to the alliance's eastern flank bordering Ukraine. These troops will be dispersed throughout NATO countries that border Ukraine to increase security in case of a Russian spill-over, and assist the incoming Ukrainian refugees. END

### CMCD Note

On 25 FEB, Hungary, Germany, and Italy were against removing Russia from the SWIFT banking system, but on 26 FEB, Hungary, Germany, and Italy agreed to remove Russia from the SWIFT system. Hesitation by Hungary resulted from its President Viktor Orbán's close relations with Putin; notably Orbán has openly condemned the invasion. The SWIFT system connects thousands of financial institutions around the world. Cutting Russia off from this system will prevent it from accessing and using global reserves that amount to over \$600 billion. Putin has attempted to insulate Russia over the years from economic sanctions, but this isolation from the SWIFT banking system will put Putin's efforts to test. In response to the Russian invasion, Poland was able to approve its homeland security bill that will increase its military spending to. The move is meant to enable Poland to defend itself from a potential Russian invasion. Poland will also be able to continue its efforts to aid the Ukrainian forces with supplies and military equipment.

### Sources

Poland says heavy sanctions should be inflicted on Russia

<https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/poland-heavy-sanctions-inflicted-russia-83045383>

Anger explodes at Germany, Italy, and Hungary over Europe's failure to cut Russia off from SWIFT payment network

<https://fortune.com/2022/02/25/ukraine-anger-sanctions-germany-italy-hungary-europe-eu-failure-cut-russia-swift-payment-network/>

NATO to deploy thousands of commandos to nations near Ukraine

[DNGTS] <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/2/25/nato-allies-to-provide-more-weapons-to-ukraine-stoltenberg-says>

White House and EU nations announce expulsion of 'selected Russian banks' from SWIFT

<https://www.cnn.com/2022/02/26/politics/biden-ukraine-russia-swift/index.html>

With Activation of NATO Response Force, U.S. Military Ready to Provide Forces

<https://www.defense.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/2947452/with-activation-of-nato-response-force-us-military-ready-to-provide-forces/>