



QUESTION MORE

⚡ Zelensky passes buck over civilian deaths after drone depot blast | Russia-Ukraine conf....

Russia & Former Soviet Union World News Business India Africa RT Features Analysis Opinion Entertainment Shows Projects

/ [Home](#) / [World News](#)

US could nuke Iran amid deadlock – ex-counterterrorism adviser

Joe Kent has told Tucker Carlson that President Donald Trump could go for the nuclear option amid reported shortages of conventional weapons

Published 29 Aug, 2026 23:51

The US could use nuclear weapons against Iran after failing to topple its leadership with conventional means, former presidential counterterrorism adviser Joe Kent has told podcaster Tucker Carlson.

In April, US President Donald Trump threatened that Iran's *"whole civilization will die"* unless



Top stories



'Let's stop being suckers for Ukraine' – Polish MEP

London doubles down, Meta hides the evidence, surprise visitors in Moscow: RT stories that shaped the week

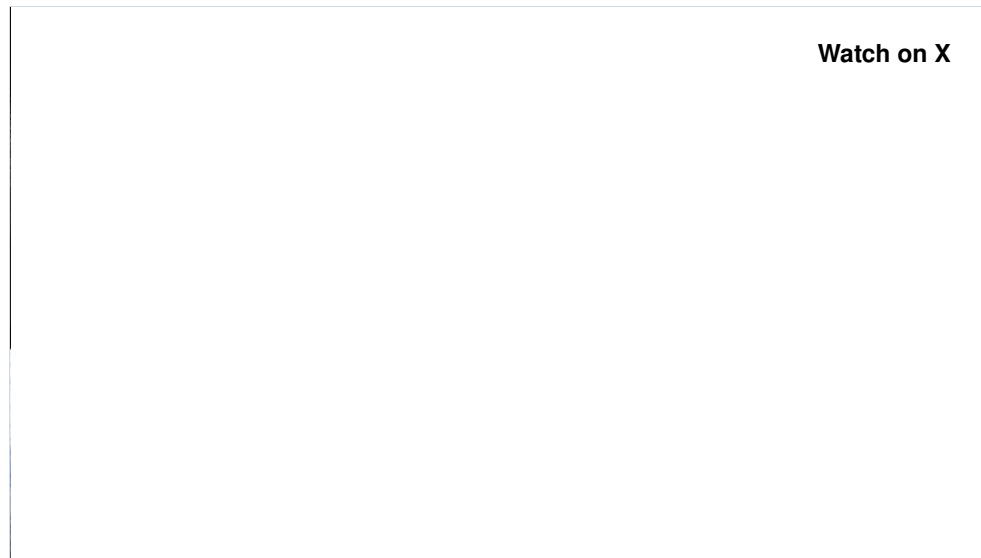
EU enters 'winter panic' mode as gas storage hits record low – Guardian

Türkiye summons Kiev's envoy over attacks on Black Sea shipping

Tehran agreed to Washington's demands. Trump has since repeatedly issued similar threats, saying that US forces could obliterate the country's civilian infrastructure, including power plants and bridges.

© Getty Images / UniqueMotionGraphics

Appearing on Carlson's show on Friday, Kent described the nuclear option as realistic, saying that *"we would be fools to think that this couldn't happen here, in this current scenario, especially as the [Trump] administration scrambles for a way out."*



He noted that Trump has failed to achieve any of his constantly shifting objectives in the conflict with Iran, despite employing the whole gamut of US military and economic capabilities.

According to Kent, if Washington is still intent on removing the Iranian leadership from power and forcing it into a *"total surrender,"* there are only two options left at Trump's disposal: a full-scale ground operation or a nuclear strike.

The former is *"not feasible whatsoever,"* given Iran's vast territory and population, Kent told Carlson.

Zelensky passes buck over civilian deaths after drone depot blast

Subscribe to RT newsletter to get news highlights of the day right in your mailbox

E-mail

☐ We offer you the possibility to receive RT's news highlights every Monday, Wednesday and Friday by email.

Subscribe

RT Features



The Oligarch Part 3: How Ukraine's richest man rose as bodies fell – and became too

"If you just play out the scenario for long enough, you arrive at weapons of mass destruction, you know, fairly quickly," Kent claimed. He speculated that Washington could hypothetically opt for a limited nuclear strike on underground uranium enrichment facilities tucked away in Iran's mountainous areas.



READ MORE: Six months ago, Iran was supposed to collapse. Here's what happened instead

The US abruptly suspended its most recent wave of strikes on Iran late last month, amid media reports that the Pentagon has largely depleted its stockpiles of high-precision munitions and interceptor missiles.

Trump and several other senior US officials have vehemently denied claims of ammunition shortages, insisting that the Pentagon has plenty of munitions at its disposal.

However, in an apparent shift in tactics, the US president announced last week the start of a *"CRUSHING ECONOMIC OPERATION"* against Iran, which he dubbed the *"ECONOMIC D-DAY."*

Several days later, US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent unveiled a slew of new sanctions against Tehran, targeting nearly 60 entities, individuals, and vessels in multiple jurisdictions, including 21 based in China.

The secretary explained that the US was aiming to make Iran an *"economic outcast"* by penalizing countries that refuse to sever economic ties.

"Any entity that facilitates money laundering on behalf of Iran will be removed from the US dollar system," he warned during a press conference on Monday.

You can share this story on social media:

Follow RT on



[Donald Trump](#), [Iran](#), [Nuclear weapons](#), [US](#), [Pentagon](#), [US army](#)

powerful to touch

FEATURE

INVESTIGATION



Deal, warning or spy swap? What Russian media are saying about the CIA chief's Moscow visit

FEATURE



Rumored Russian draft makes headlines. Ukraine's real one sparks street clashes

FEATURE

Podcasts

All podcasts



Ballooning budgets: How much does it cost to run the national security state, w/ Thomas Drake, part 3

Please check our [commenting policy](#). If you have questions or suggestions feel free to send them to feedback@rttv.ru.

SHOW COMMENTS

/ [Home](#) / [World News](#)

'It makes no sense' for Moscow to attack NATO – Finland's president

But the bloc must keep supporting Kiev because "if Ukraine loses, we lose," Alexander Stubb has said

Published 30 Aug, 2026 07:27

Finnish President Alexander Stubb has said that he doesn't believe speculations that Russia is planning to attack NATO countries.

Russia has repeatedly rejected claims that it has aggressive designs against the bloc, saying that they are only made by Western politicians to distract the public from problems at home and justify growing military spending.



FILE PHOTO: Finnish President Alexander Stubb talking to journalists during

0:00 27:51

The repugnancy clause

0:00 12:39

During his interview with the German tabloid Bild on Saturday, Stubb was asked to weigh in on the assessment by the Defense Ministry in Berlin that Russia could invade NATO territory by 2029.

a NATO summit in Ankara. © Getty Images / Dogukan Keskinilic

"If someone had such a crystal ball – wonderful. But I just don't see any evidence or facts for it," he replied.

"First, I have intelligence findings. And secondly, we have a deterrence – and this deterrence is stronger than that of any other military power anywhere in the world," the Finnish president added.



Read more: Moscow slams Finland's Stubb for backing Kiev's strikes on Russian businesses (VIDEO)

Given NATO's conventional forces, missile arsenals and nuclear weapons stockpiles, *"it does not make sense for any power in the world to test the resolve of this alliance,"* he said.

According to Stubb, Russia is also preoccupied with the Ukraine conflict.

"I simply don't see that they could now suddenly mobilize forces for two fronts," he noted.

"I'm not saying: 'Relax.' You should always prepare for the worst to prevent it," the Finnish president said.

He accused Moscow of waging *"information warfare"* against the West, saying that *"Russia wants us Europeans to sit here and discuss: Will Russia escalate?.. Will Russia attack NATO and Europe?"*

Stubb again urged NATO to continue its support for Kiev amid the ongoing conflict with Moscow. Finland joined the bloc in 2023, abandoning its longstanding policy of neutrality.

"We have to understand, you in Germany and we in Finland, that Ukraine is the best security guarantee



we have against Russia. If Ukraine loses, we lose," he argued.

Moscow maintains that a conflict with NATO is only possible if the bloc launches an aggression against Russia first.

Earlier this week, Moscow told the UK that its military facilities and equipment in Ukraine and beyond could become legitimate targets for Russia if Kiev continues to use British-supplied weapons for strikes on Russian territory.

Russian officials also previously warned that if Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania knowingly help to facilitate Ukrainian drone attacks against northwestern Russia, Moscow could consider them complicit in those actions and would have the right to self-defense under the UN Charter.

You can share this story on social media:

Follow RT on



[Finland](#), [Germany](#), [North Atlantic Treaty Organization – NATO](#), [Russia](#),
[Russia-Ukraine conflict](#), [Ukraine](#)

Please check our [commenting policy](#). If you have questions or suggestions feel free to send them to feedback@rttv.ru.



Read more: Europe only fourth on US security priority list – NATO envoy

AA B i “ <> ☰ ☷

Your comment here

Sign InSort by **Recently updated** ▾**G** **GeorgeBMac** 8/30/2026 at 10:32 AM**0**

Stubb's assessment that Ukraine is the best defense NATO nations have against their purported upcoming invasion by Russia fits with their original tactic that their proxy war on Russia will continue for «As Long As IT Takes». The only difference is that originally that was strategized in the hopes to (in their words) «Weaken, Drain and Isolate Russia» in order to (in their words) «Inflict a strategic defeat on Russia». Now Stubb proposes that that same Forever War be considered to be aimed at not defeating Russia but to defend Europe. It's a clever, political twist. But, it remains equally as false and equally as dangerous as people continue to die with no end in sight. That is perhaps because its only Ukrainians doing the dying part — and nobody seems to care about that little detail..

[Reply](#)**⚡** **Ray** 8/30/2026 at 10:12 AM**2**

Ukraine already lost! What makes no sense is that Finland and the EU as a whole keep denying this fact!!

[Reply](#)**G** **GeorgeBMac** 8/30/2026 at 10:25 AM ↑**1**

Ukraine has been losing from the beginning. But, every time that becomes apparent or obvious, the NATO nations escalate with another miracle weapon or, this time, with terrorism and drone & missile strikes inside Russia (mostly aimed at civilian targets). They do that so

they can continue their raise claims that Ukraine sees victory just around the corner.

[Reply](#)

 **Twinky Toze** 8/30/2026 at 10:24 AM

2

Sunk cost fallacy, I never thought the Finns were too bright.

[Reply](#)

 **Andreas Hasenfratz** 8/30/2026 at 10:18 AM

4

You've already lost, yoyo, stop sending European taxpayers' money to a Nazi junta, what the EU is doing is immoral.

[Reply](#)

 **Joey** 8/30/2026 at 10:03 AM

1

Finland or any nearby nation supporting Ukr militarily could become a target. It makes no sense for Finnish to have crooked leaders .. their own will become a launchpad for a proxy war against RU and turn into another failed state of Ukraine. Just look at how Ukr is now crumbling and already in selective default. Expired corrupt and crooked prez/leaders are just what foreign lawless regimes in EU and US love to exploit ..so that Ukes and Ukraine will engage with their proxy war. The same corrupt plot will take place when Finnish «leaders» are bought up to become loyal to wage a war for foreign entities

[Reply](#)

[/ Home](#) / [World News](#)

Israeli spies evacuate Netanyahu's son from Miami over 'significant threat'

The prime minister recently claimed that Iran had attempted to