


the **fleet sheet's** **final word**

No. 5073

Free subscriptions at www.fsfinalword.com Mon., June 26, 2023

Prigozhin and the Nato summit

The build-up to the [Nato summit in Vilnius on July 11-12](#) has so far been visible mainly on the side of Nato countries and Ukraine. For example, [Defense Min. Jana Černočová](#) stressed in a [speech](#) last week that the eastern flank of Nato is the main line of defense against Russian imperialism and that the CR is intensively preparing to be able to rush to the aid of allies if they're attacked or to defend itself if necessary. Ex-Nato chief Anders Fogh Rasmussen said that Poland and some other Nato countries might be willing to [put troops on the ground in Ukraine](#) if member states don't provide tangible security guarantees at the summit. Amb. to Nato Jakub Landovský said that Ukraine desperately needs ammunition and weapons, including fighters. On the Russian side, Vladimir Putin hinted on June 16, apparently for the first time, that if the F-16 fighters provided to Ukraine are based in Nato countries, Russia might [hit them there](#). And now he's sending nuclear weapons and Yevgeny Prigozhin to Belarus, which is not only [closer to Kyiv](#), as EU Affairs Min. Martin Dvořák noted yesterday, but also closer to Poland.

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