RUSSIAN TROOPS ON OFFENSIVE
UK ADMITS SPECIAL OPERATIONS IN UKRAINE

by our Eastern European Affairs correspondent

RUSSIAN TROOPS went on the offensive this week in a renewed bid to crack the Ukrainian lines and drive the fascists out eastern Donbas as waves of Russian drones rained down on the Ukrainian capital in pre-dawn attacks on strategic targets in central Kiev. The Ukrainian national grid has been crippled. Millions of Ukrainians are left without power for hours on end and the Zelensky regime is begging NATO supply some 50 million energy-saving light bulbs to help Ukraine cope with Russian attacks on its energy system.

Around 12 million Ukrainians are now disconnected from the electricity grid Zelensky told his Western masters on a video-link to an aid for Ukraine donors conference in Paris this week. “Unfortunately, this is a typical situation for us. And we expect new Russian strikes every day, which can dramatically increase the number of shutdowns,” Zelensky said.

French President Emmanuel Macron, who hosted the conference, said Russia’s strikes on Ukraine’s power grid were “cynical” and “cowardly”, and warned that “these acts are intolerable and will not go unpunished.”

But Macron cuts no ice with the Donbas resistance, which sees the Western European powers as little more than pawns of American imperialism these days.

Nor indeed within the corridors of power in the Kremlin, especially after the revelations of German double-dealing during the so-called Minsk process and the participation of British commandos in support of the Ukrainians in the current war.

Last week former German Chancellor Angela Merkel told the Zelt newspaper that the Minsk agreements were not an attempt to establish peace in war-torn Ukraine but they were aimed to give the Kiev regime more time to strengthen their military and prepare for a large-scale war. And a British general has confirmed Russian claims of direct NATO participation in the conflict in an article published in the official journal of the Royal Marines.

Lieutenant General Robert Magowan says that the Marines supported “discrete operations” in a “hugely sensitive environment” in Ukraine. Writing in the Marine’s official journal The Globe and Laurel, Magowan said the Marines took part in covert operations in April that carried “a high level of political and military risk.”

Members of the 45 Commando Group of the Royal Marines left Ukraine in January after evacuating the British embassy in Kiev to Poland. But some 300 members of the elite unit were sent back into the country in April to re-establish the British mission in Kiev, before going on to conduct “other discreet operations”. Although Magowan did not elaborate on what kind of missions the commandos carried out, his statement marks the first time that the UK has admitted its troops conducted special operations in Ukraine.

Meanwhile, Russian humanitarian aid continues to pour into the liberated areas of the Donbas. This week another communist convoy will set off from Moscow packed with goods and medicines for the beleaguered civilians and the soldiers on the front. The convoy, the 104th organised by the Communist Party of the Russian Federation (CPF), will take 170 tons of food, medicines and thermal underwear to the people on the front as well as a large number of festive New Year’s gifts for children.

• Italians march against NATO and for peace.

FUND

The post has been erratic due to the postal strikes but what has been delivered included two cheques totalling £70 from a regular Essex supporter, a score from a Cornish friend and a letter from comrades from the Richmond & Kingston NCP that contained £1,000 in memory of Harry Dunvers and Peter Geddes on their special anniversaries. Hopefully there’s more still at the depots and more to come to help us reach our £3,500 target. We’ve raised £1,672 for the December appeal. We now need £1,828 by the end of the month.

Although this is the last edition of the New Worker for the year campaigning continues throughout the festive season. Industrial action by nurses, posties and railway workers will continue throughout the month and we stand with them in the fight for higher pay — much needed to cope with the energy hikes, rising prices and soaring inflation.

There is an answer to the crisis and you can make sure it gets out on the street by guaranteeing the survival of the New Worker. All donations, big or small, count over the Christmas break. Please send them to: New Worker Fund, PO Box 73, London SW11 2PQ. Cheques and postal orders should be made payable to the ‘New Worker’.

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