For the moment, Young argues China is learning the lesson that the West will respond resolutely to illegal attempts to topple another government. But, he continued, “we could reinforce that lesson by taking some other measures to shore up Taiwan,” such as authorizing more sales of anti-ship missiles “so that we can ensure that they are a porcupine that will be difficult for the Chinese Communist Party to consume, just as we are going to great lengths to ensure that Ukraine is a porcupine that will be difficult for the Russian snake to digest.”

**THE INBOX**

**SITUATION REPORT:** We will only cite official sources. As always, take all figures, assessments and statements with a healthy dose of skepticism.

**War in Ukraine:**

— 498 Russian troops have died in the war to date while 1,597 sustained injuries (Russian Ministry of Defense)

— Ukraine shot down two Russian Su-35C warplanes in an air battle at night on March 1. Ukraine lost one MiG-29 in the fight. (Ukraine Ministry of Defense)

— Russian troops remain stalled outside of Kyiv, not much movement in last 24 hours (senior U.S. defense official)

— New Bayraktar TB2 drones have arrived in Ukraine and will soon be followed by more Stingers and Javelins (Ukrainian defense minister)

— Nearly 875,000 Ukrainians have fled the country since the war began a week ago, with more than 450,000 of them arriving in Poland (U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees)
Who would have thought the Europeans would be the ones leading the way on imposing tougher sanctions on Russia? That’s exactly what happened over the weekend when they decided to limit Russia’s access to SWIFT.

8:37 AM • Feb 28, 2022 • Twitter for iPhone

Senator Pat Toomey
@SenToomey

Replying to @SenToomey

It’s a start, but too many Russian banks are not effectively sanctioned. Secondary sanctions would force the world to decide between doing business with Russia or the U.S. by blocking from our economy any foreign bank that chooses to continue doing business with Russia.

As our sanctions regime against Iran illustrates, the world will choose the U.S. This would then entirely isolate Russian banks from the global economy—not just the U.S. economy—and shut down Russian oil and gas sales.

While coordinating with our European allies is important, we can no longer wait on reaching a consensus with the EU before taking swift and severe action. America must step up and lead before Russian aggression escalates even further.

I implore @POTUS to immediately impose sweeping secondary sanctions against Russia’s entire financial sector and for Congress to pass the Never Yielding Europe’s Territory Act to impose such sanctions—before more blood is shed.