Twitter Thread by Cate Eland



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"Multiple European security officials told Insider that President Donald Trump appeared to have tacit support among US federal agencies responsible for securing the Capitol complex in Wednesday's coup

"Today I am briefing my government that we believe with a reasonable level of certainty that Donald Trump attempted a coup that failed when the system did not buckle." - NATO Intelligence official

Yikes on bikes.

"The French police official said they believed that an investigation would find that someone interfered with the deployment of additional federal law-enforcement officials on the perimeter of the Capitol complex...

"...the official has direct knowledge of the proper procedures for security of the facility."

We know that:

1) Sund told Representatives that he had requested additional National Guard back-up. That did not happen.
2) National Guard was deployed for "traffic control" at...

...the Capitol perimeter. Though this was a fairly small number of Guard troops, none were deployed to help inside the perimeter.
3) Additional Guard support was delayed by Sec. of Army Ryan McCarthy, Sec. Def. Christopher Collins, and allegedly by Trump himself for 90 minutes.

4) Before the rally, the DoD circulated memos hamstringing the National Guard's ability to respond to a riot.
5) Sund also told the FBI Capitol Police didn't need back-up when the Capitol perimeter was being breached.

Multiple people absolutely interfered.

"It is routine for the Capitol Police to coordinate with the federal Secret Service and the Park Police and local police in Washington, DC, before large demonstrations. The National Guard, commanded by the Department of Defense, is often on standby too.

"On Wednesday, however, that coordination was late or absent."

Yup. And the stories about why it was absent don't add up.

"Kim Dine, who was the chief of the Capitol Police from 2012 to 2016, told The Washington Post that he was surprised that the Capitol Police allowed demonstrators on the steps of the Capitol. He said he was also mystified that few rioters were arrested on the spot."

The article lays out the systematic failures of crowd control. I recommend reading them all.

I've attended protests in DC before. I can't imagine being allowed to march from the White House to the Capitol in large numbers without having any real crowd control.

Notably, DC Mayor Bowser had called on the National Guard for support and they were supposedly helping with crowd control at this point AND were stationed at the perimeter of the Capitol.

Why they didn't direct traffic to the designated protest zone away from the Capitol...

...makes no sense to me.

The piddly barricades and sparse coverage by Capitol Police is also baffling. Basically everything that allowed people to get to the Capitol building itself makes no sense to me.

"Thank God it didn't work, because I can't imagine how hard it would be to sanction the US financial system."

It would be a fucking mess. And being on the receiving end of sanctions in the middle of an already poorly managed pandemic and economic crisis? Jesus.