

PLAN A

HOW A NUCLEAR WAR COULD UNFOLD

Alexander Glaser
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Revision 2



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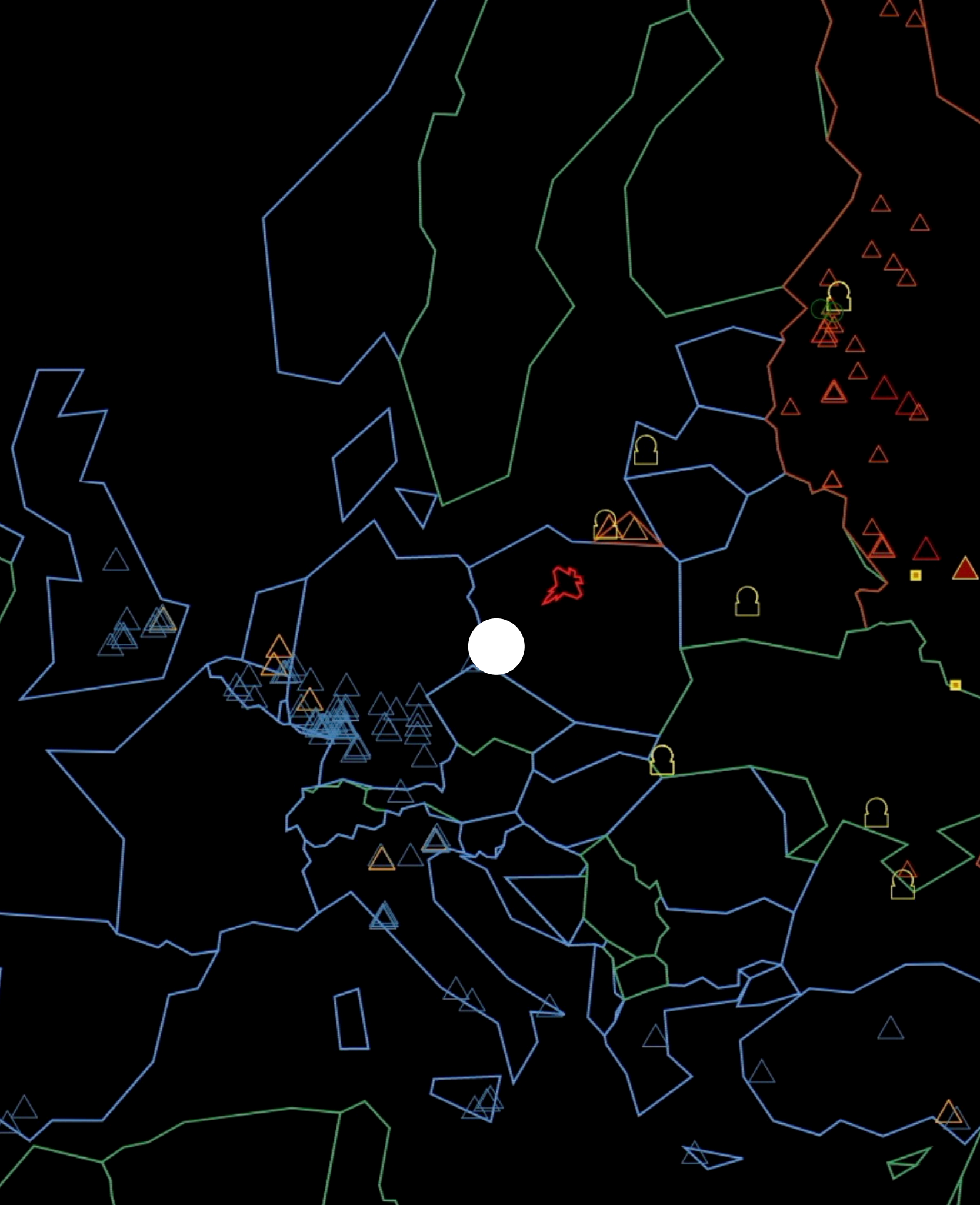
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*Plan A was originally produced as part of
a small exhibition at Princeton University that
opened in November 2017*

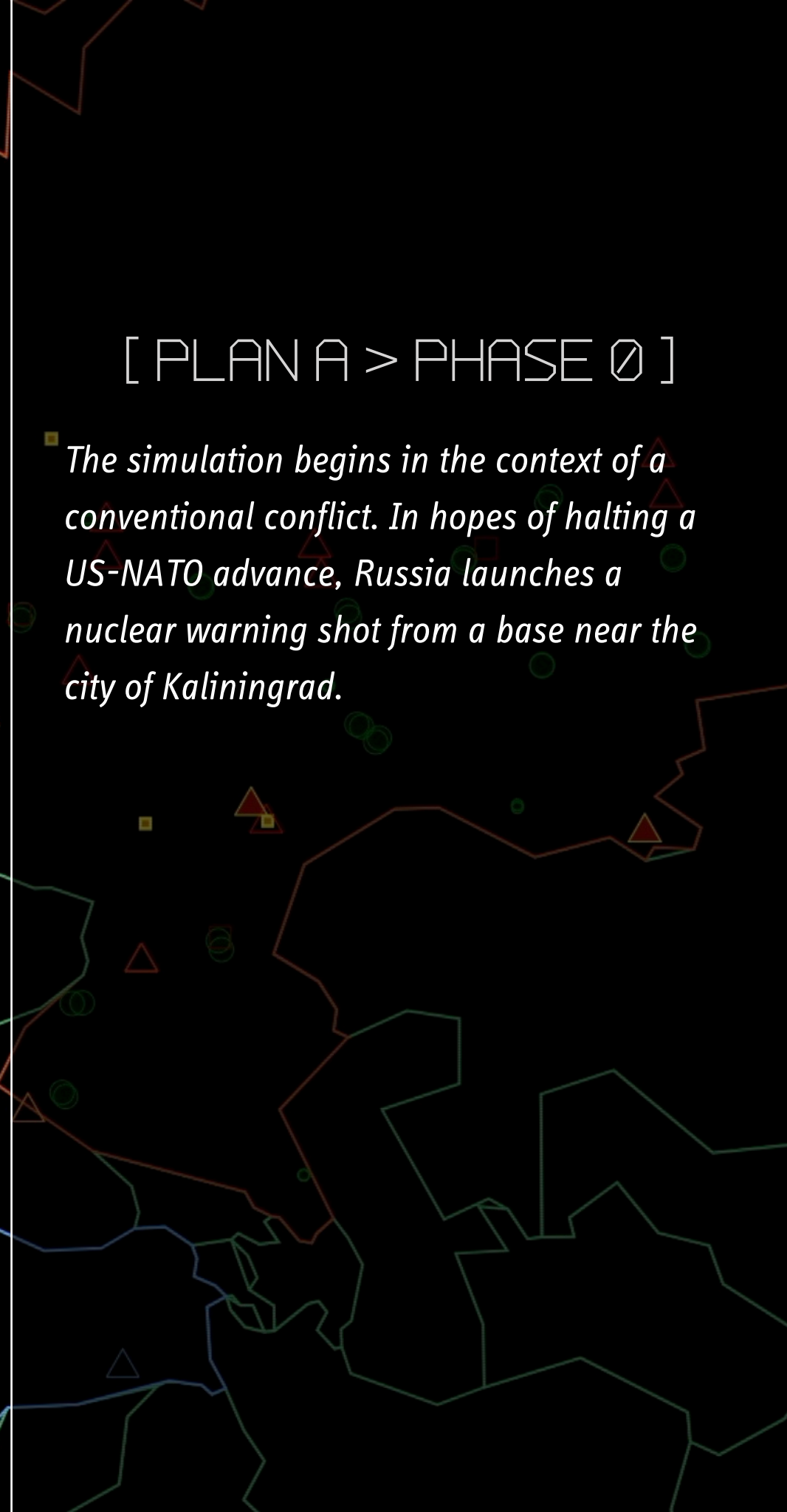
Nuclear Warning Shots

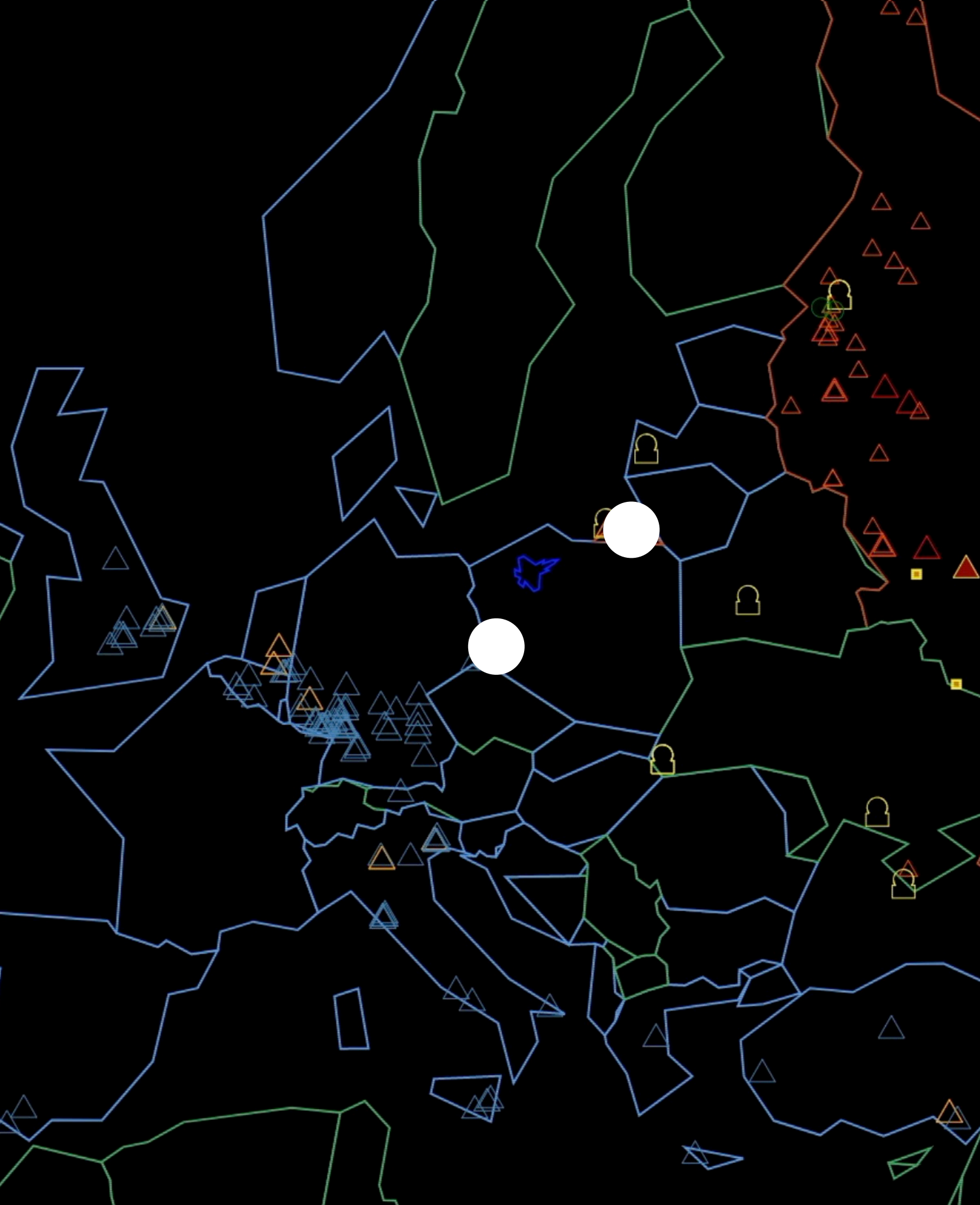
[PLAN A > PHASE 0]



[PLAN A > PHASE 0]

■ *The simulation begins in the context of a conventional conflict. In hopes of halting a US-NATO advance, Russia launches a nuclear warning shot from a base near the city of Kaliningrad.*

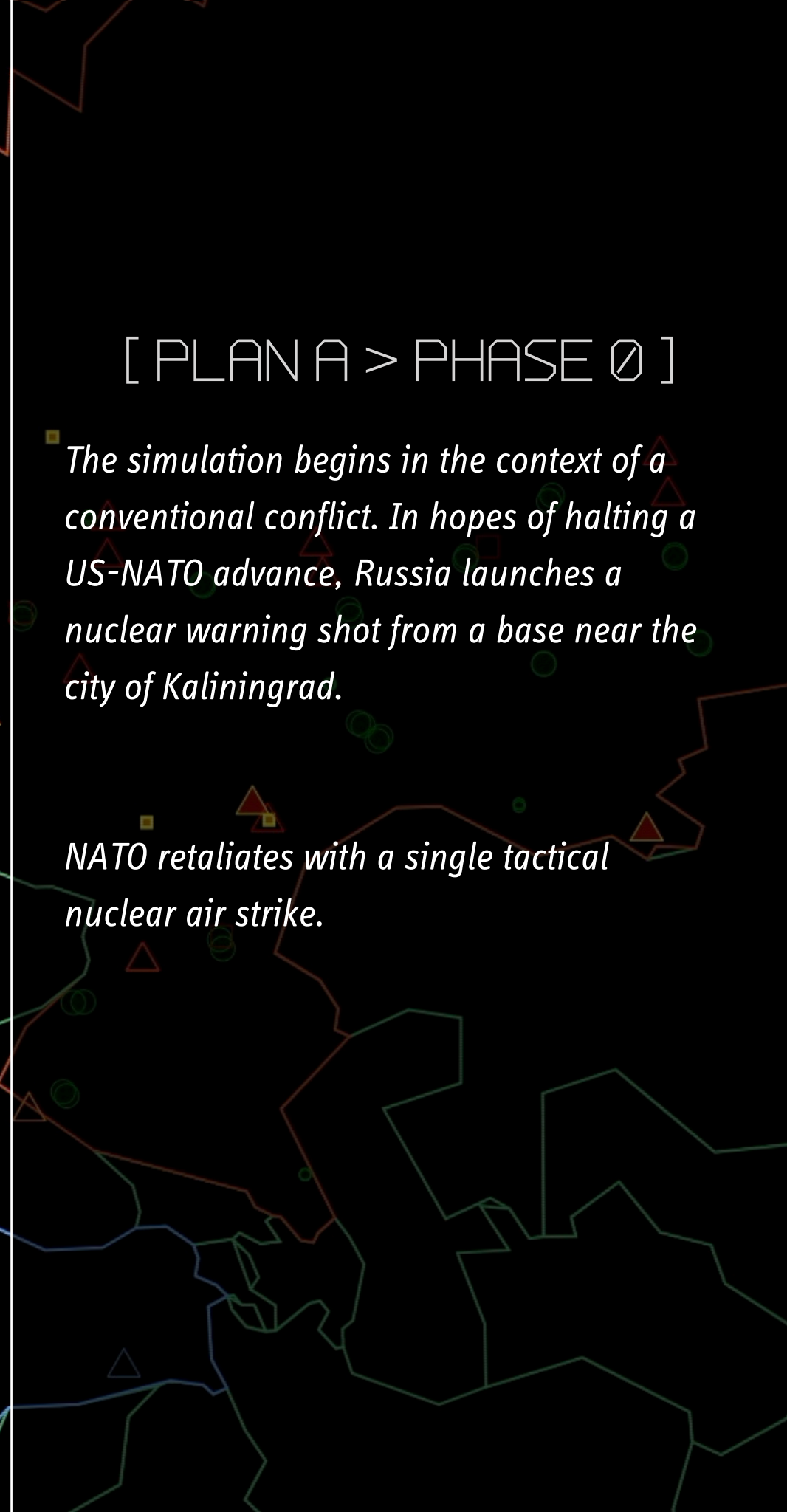




[PLAN A > PHASE 0]

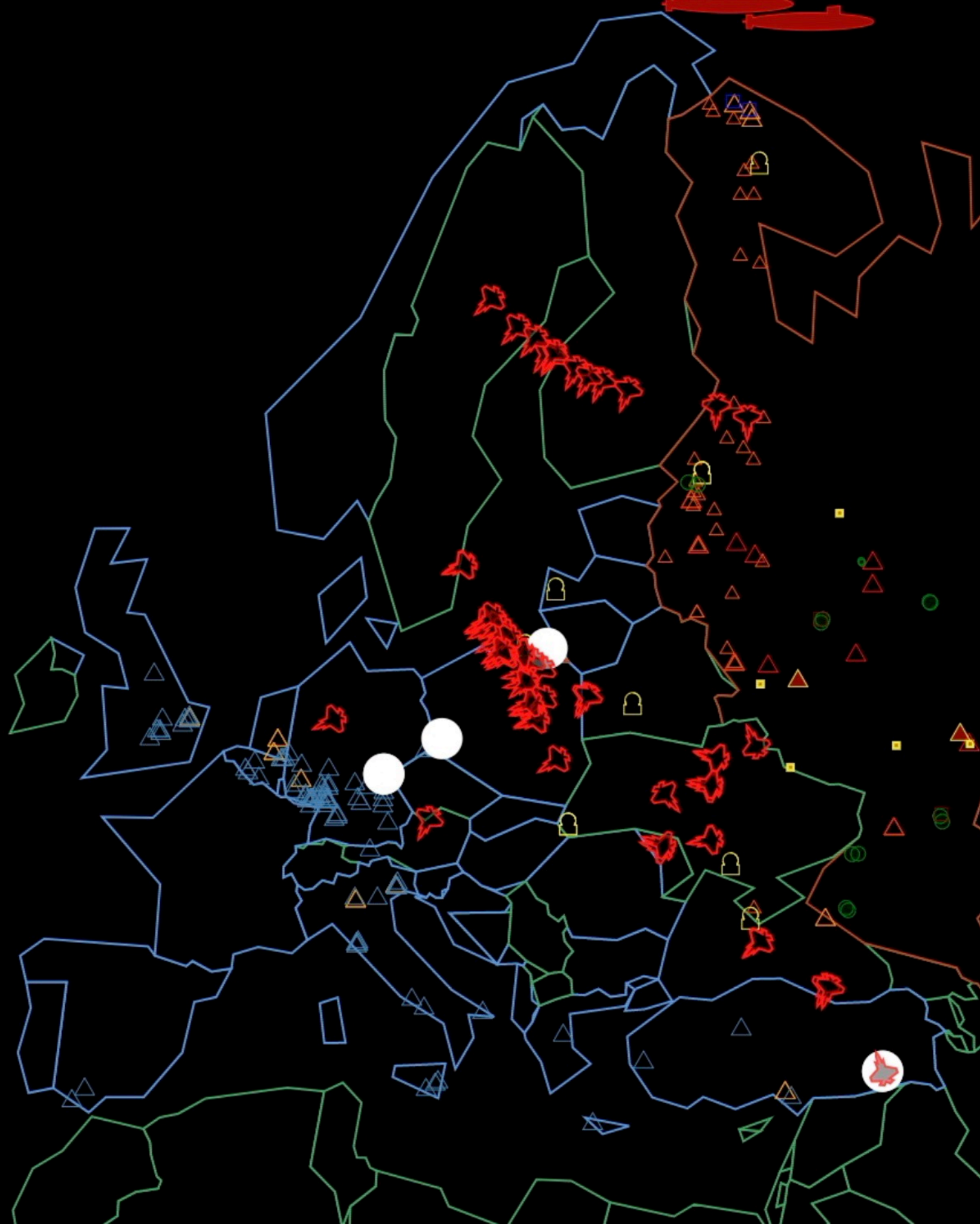
■ *The simulation begins in the context of a conventional conflict. In hopes of halting a US-NATO advance, Russia launches a nuclear warning shot from a base near the city of Kaliningrad.*

■ *NATO retaliates with a single tactical nuclear air strike.*



The Tactical Plan

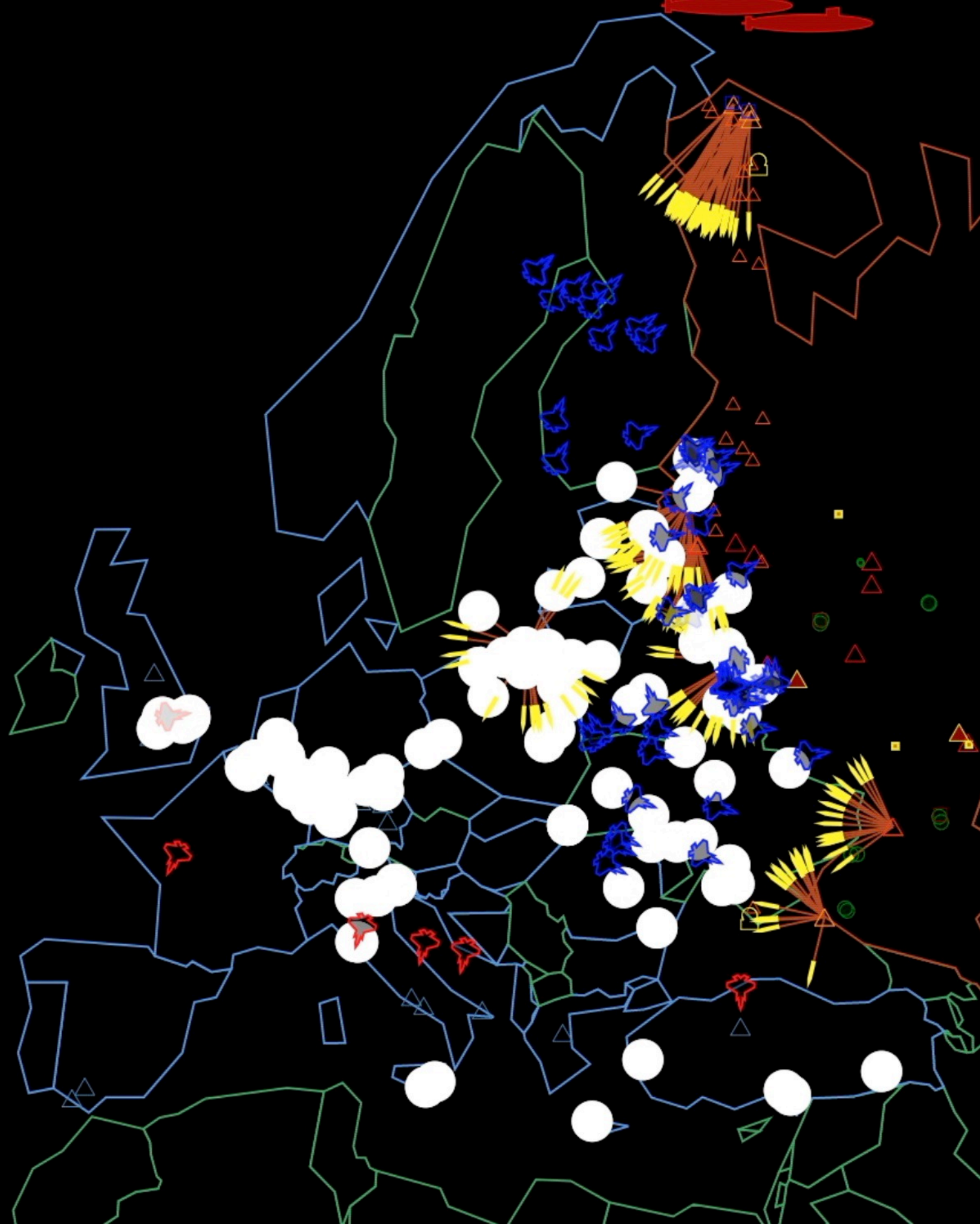
[PLAN A > PHASE 1]



[PLAN A > PHASE 1]

As the nuclear threshold is crossed, fighting escalates to a tactical nuclear war in Europe.

Russia sends 300 warheads via aircraft and short-range missiles to hit NATO bases and advancing troops.



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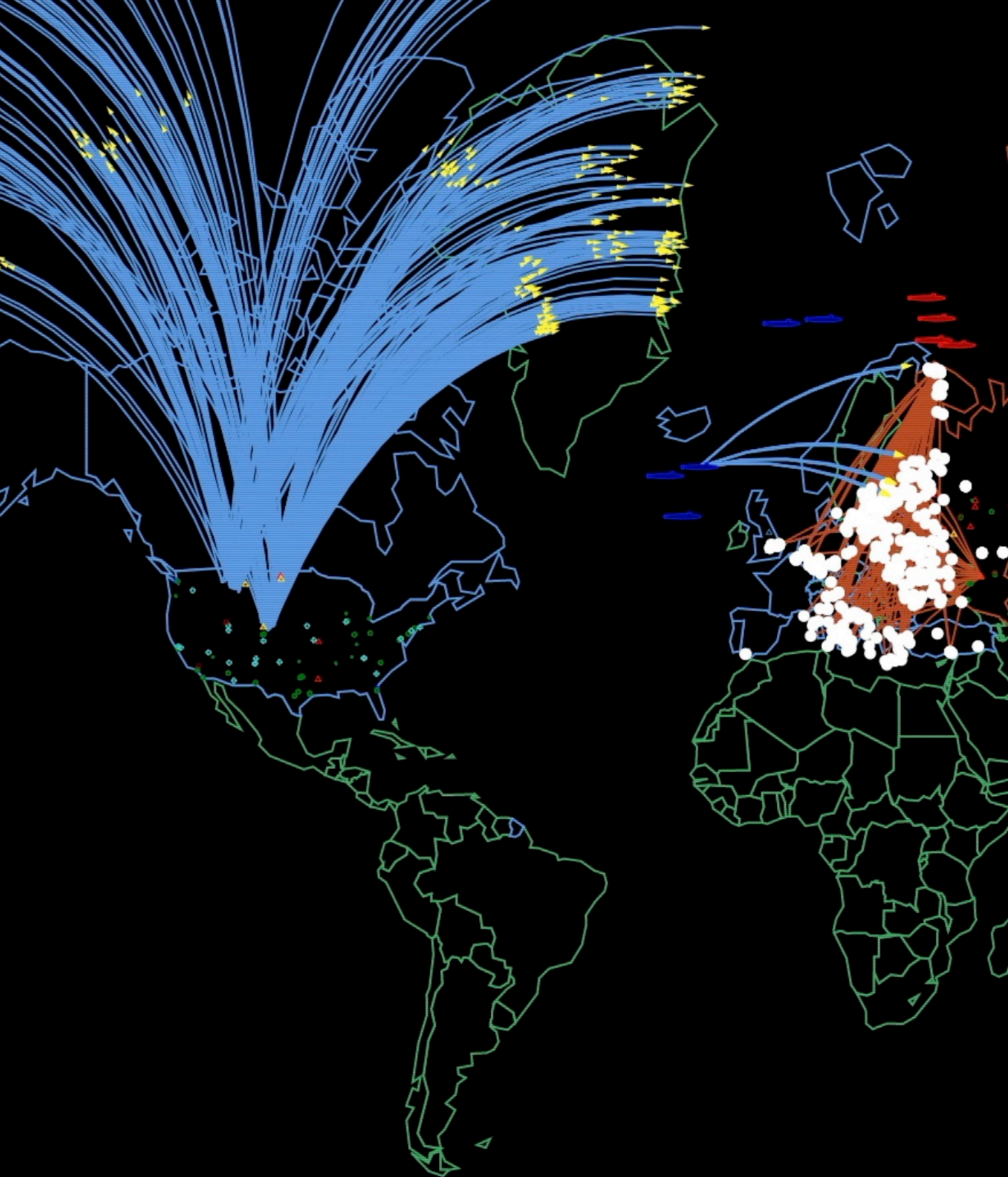
Russia sends 300 warheads via aircraft and short-range missiles to hit NATO bases and advancing troops.

NATO responds with approximately 180 nuclear warheads via aircraft.

*Immediate casualties:
2.6 million over several hours*

The Counterforce Plan

[PLAN A > PHASE 2]



[PLAN A > PHASE 2]

With Europe destroyed, NATO launches a strategic nuclear strike of 600 warheads from US land and submarine-based missiles aimed at Russian nuclear forces.





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Before losing its weapon systems, Russia launches on warning, responding with missiles launched from silos, road-mobile vehicles, and submarines.

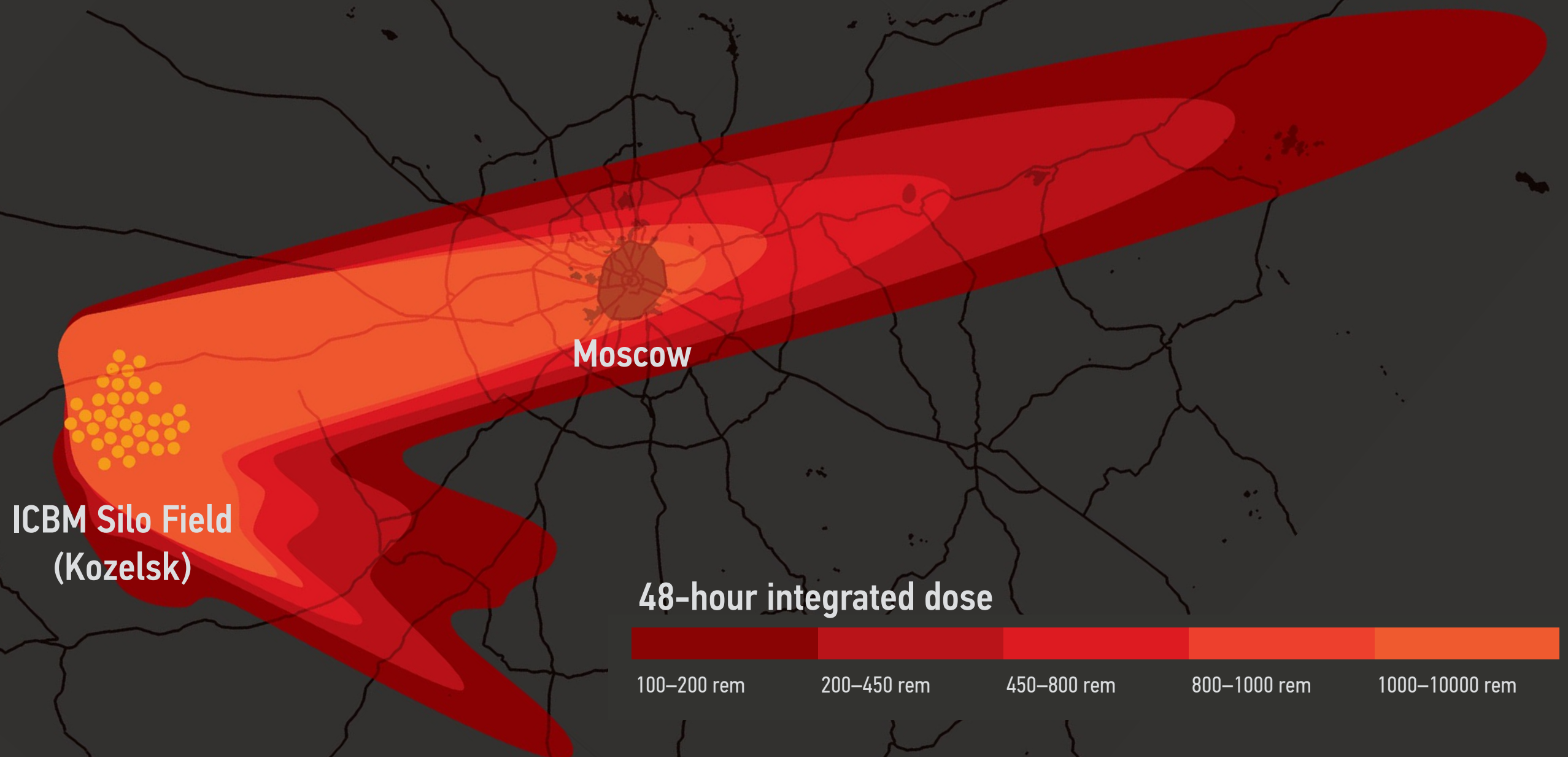
Immediate casualties:

3.4 million over 45 minutes

PLAN A also includes a Phase 3, during which the most populated cities and economic centers in the United States and Russia are targeted.

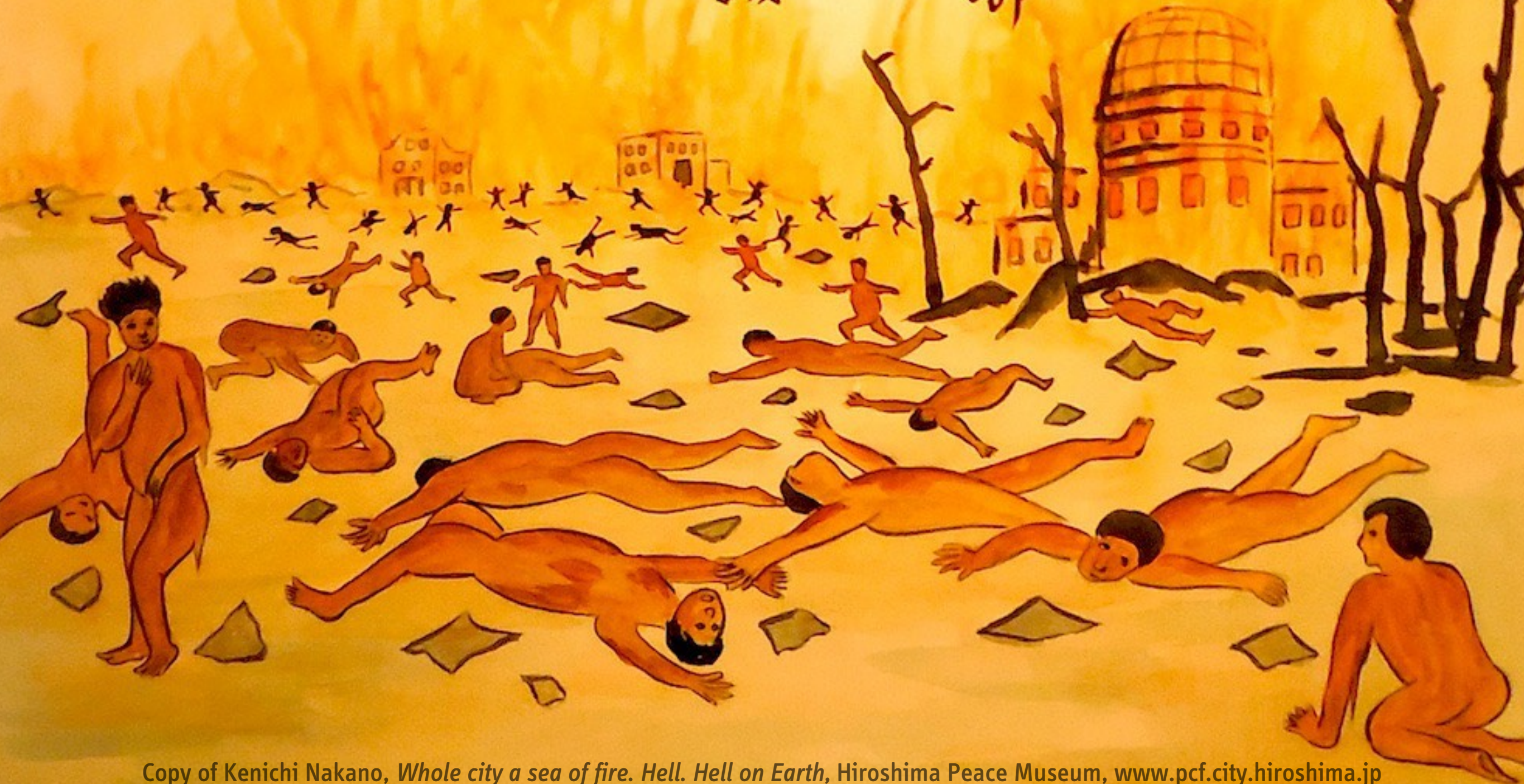
The catastrophic effects of nuclear weapons are not limited to the intended target

A counterforce attack on the Kozelsk missile field (about 150 miles from Moscow) would cause several million deaths in the region



Source: The U.S. Nuclear War Plan: A Time for Change, Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), 2001

市の中心部
八月六日
午後
全市火の海
地獄
地獄
此の世の
生地獄



Copy of Kenichi Nakano, *Whole city a sea of fire. Hell. Hell on Earth*, Hiroshima Peace Museum, www.pcf.city.hiroshima.jp

John Hersey, "Hiroshima," *New Yorker*, August 31, 1946, www.newyorker.com/magazine/1946/08/31/hiroshima



*How do you think it ends?
It ends the same way every time. It does.
It ends bad. And the bad meaning it ends with global nuclear war.*

*General John E. Hyten (Commander, U.S. Strategic Command, 2016–2018)
on the outcome of the annual Global Thunder Exercise*

www.stratcom.mil/Media/Speeches/Article/1577239/the-mitchell-institute-triad-conference