

Sulky Mark Carney not what we need

By Conrad Black

Canada appeared last week to be undergoing a paroxysm over U.S. President Donald Trump. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau incited public fears three weeks ago by declaring before a microphone he knew to be open that Trump was serious about taking over Canada. A knowledgeable and worldly friend who always has perceptive opinions on world affairs wrote me last weekend expressing his concern that Trump was making a spheres of influence agreement with Russia that would permit President Vladimir Putin to absorb Ukraine while the U.S. took over Canada, Greenland and the Panama Canal Zone. None of this is happening. When he was first elected president eight years ago, many otherwise or apparently serious people made outrageous allegations, such as the national intelligence director, James Clapper, who declared that



Mark Carney gestures during a press conference following the second night of debate in the federal Liberal leadership race to replace Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, in Montreal, on Feb. 25. PHOTO BY ANDREJ IVANOV /AFP via Getty Images

Trump was a Russian intelligence asset who had been elected by Russian manipulation of the 2016 election. All of this was demonstrated to be utter fiction. And we have now, after Trump has surmounted corrupt political impeachments and prosecutions and assassination attempts, and won an uncontestedly fair election (and complete acquittal) from the majority of his countrymen, graduated to the point where his legitimacy as

president is accepted, but fantastic schemes of collusion with America's rivals and aggression against its allies are being imputed to him by people who know better.

This newspaper recently headlined on its front-page that Trump was behaving with "dishonour" in Ukraine. He is working out a peace that preserves 85 per cent of that country's territory and population, and assures that its revised borders will be guaranteed by Russia and the principal European NATO powers, that Ukraine can affiliate with the European Union when ready, and the United States will remain an ally in solidarity with the European guarantor-powers of post-war Ukraine, and military assistance will be replaced by massive reconstruction assistance. The U.S. will supply sophisticated military assistance in exchange for strategic minerals mined in Ukraine, which was President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's initiative. Wherein is the dishonour? There is none. I cannot be the only person in this country who has noticed that there was barely a peep about peace in Ukraine until Trump was inaugurated. There have been approximately 1.25-million casualties in that war, about half of them deaths, and as many as 10-million refugees, and there was no exit strategy except the West giving Ukraine sufficient ordnance and weaponry to avoid defeat but not to win, until there were no more Ukrainians alive to pull the triggers.

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