

## After Trump call, Putin agrees to partial ceasefire & negotiations



Last Tuesday, Secretary of State Marco Rubio, accompanied by National Security Adviser Mike Waltz and U.S. Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff, met in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia with Andriy Yermak, the Head of Ukraine’s Presidential Office; Andrii Sybiha, Ukraine’s Foreign Minister; and Rustem Umerov, Ukraine’s Defense Minister, and agreed on a 30-day ceasefire in the war in Ukraine, subject to Russia’s acceptance. After the meeting, Rubio said the proposal would be delivered directly to Russia through multiple channels and arrangements were made for Witkoff to meet with President Putin in Moscow. A month earlier, Witkoff had met with Putin and had negotiated the release of Marc Fogel, a teacher who had been held for more than three years on drug charges. He had also arranged a phone call between Putin and President Trump. He was sent to Moscow again last week to discuss the proposed ceasefire with Putin and did so for more than three hours. After he returned to the U.S. and reported back on his conversation, Trump called Putin today and they discussed his concerns about the ceasefire for two and a half hours.

This afternoon, the White House issued the following statement:

“Today, President Trump and President Putin spoke about the need for peace and a ceasefire in the Ukraine war. Both leaders agreed this conflict needs to end with a lasting peace. They also stressed the need for improved bilateral relations between the United States and Russia. The blood and treasure that both Ukraine and Russia have been spending in this war would be better spent on the needs of their people.”

“This conflict should never have started and should have been ended long ago with sincere and good faith peace efforts. The leaders agreed that the movement to peace will

begin with an energy and infrastructure ceasefire, as well as technical negotiations on implementation of a maritime ceasefire in the Black Sea, full ceasefire and permanent peace. These negotiations will begin immediately in the Middle East.”

“The leaders spoke broadly about the Middle East as a region of potential cooperation to prevent future conflicts. They further discussed the need to stop proliferation of strategic weapons and will engage with others to ensure the broadest possible application. The two leaders shared the view that Iran should never be in a position to destroy Israel.”

“The two leaders agreed that a future with an improved bilateral relationship between the United States and Russia has huge upside. This includes enormous economic deals and geopolitical stability when peace has been achieved.”

David R. Cameron  
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