As its war against Ukraine continues on the ground and in the air, Russia announces trilateral talks will resume Tuesday in Geneva.

UK Defence Intelligence map of the battlefield situation in Ukraine as of Feb. 13.

As the delegations of American, Russian, and Ukrainian officials met in Abu Dhabi on Feb. 4-5 to discuss the continuing differences among them in regard to the peace plans put forward by President Trump on Nov. 20 and President Zelenskyy on Dec. 23, Russia's war against Ukraine continued on the ground and in the air. And as the most recent British Defence Intelligence map of the battlefield situation in Ukraine indicated was the situation as of yesterday, the Russian forces continued to attack this week, as they had last week, south of Sudzha toward the Ukrainian city of Sumy and at a number of points along the long contact line between the Russian and Ukrainian forces in eastern and southeastern Ukraine stretching from the area to the east and south of Kupiansk to the area in Donetsk region still held by Ukrainian forces that includes the cities of Slovyansk and Kramatorsk, toward the city of Pokrovsk and the area around it, and in several locations along the contact line between the forces in the Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions of southeastern Ukraine.

There was a widely-shared presumption that the trilateral talks between American, Russian and Ukrainian officials that took place in Abu Dhabi would continue. But for a week after the Abu Dhabi talks, nothing was said about another round in the talks and there was a rising concern that, for whatever reason, they might not continue. However, that changed yesterday when Dmitri Peskov, President Putin's press secretary, announced that the next round of trilateral talks involving American, Russian, and Ukrainian officials will take place on Tuesday and Wednesday in Geneva. Peskov said the Russian delegation will be headed by Vladimir Medinsky, an aide to President Putin

who, among other things, led a delegation of Russian officials in earlier negotiations that took place in Turkey in 2022 and again last year. According to Russian media reports, its delegation will include more than a dozen individuals.

Soon thereafter, Dmitri Litvin, the Ukrainian presidential communications adviser, confirmed that the talks will indeed take place in Geneva on Tuesday and Wednesday and said the Ukrainian delegation will be led by Rustem Umerov, the Secretary of the National Security and Defense Council. Umerov subsequently said, "The President of Ukraine has determined the preliminary composition of the negotiating group. Along with me, the delegation will include Kyrylo Budanov, Andrii Hnatov, Davyd Arakhamia, Serhii Kyslytsia, and Vadym Skibitskyi." Budanov is the head of President Zelenskyy's office. Hnatov is the Chief of the General Staff of the Ukraine Armed Forces. Arakhamia is a member of the Rada and the leader of the deputies representing President Zelenskyy's party, Servant of the People. Kyslytsia is a former First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and First Deputy Head of the Office of the President. And Skibitskyi is Deputy Chief of Defense Intelligence. Umerov said, "We will work on substantive decisions within the framework set by the head of state. The goal remains unchanged — a sustainable and lasting peace. We are preparing for serious and responsible work."

Meanwhile, as yesterday's British Defence Intelligence map indicated, the war goes on in Ukraine. And importantly, it goes on not only on the ground but in the air, in the form of Russia's nightly attacks with drones and missiles on the electricity infrastructure and civilian population of Ukraine. Hopefully, the trilateral talks between the Ukrainian, Russian, and American delegations that will continue next week in Geneva will move both sides closer to a ceasefire and an end to Russia's war against the people of Ukraine.

David R. Cameron
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