# Witkoff & Kushner meet with Putin in Moscow

President Putin meeting Saturday with Presidential envoys Jared Kushner & Steve Witkoff.

On Friday, President Trump told reporters he was sending Jared Kushner and Steve Witkoff to Moscow and Kyiv with a “proposal to end the war” in Ukraine. He said they would meet with President Putin in Moscow on Saturday and with President Zelenskyy in Kyiv on Sunday. He said, “I sent Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner, two great negotiators. They’ve done a great job, and we sent them over to see whether or not we can get something done. And there may be a good chance that we’ll do it. They’re bringing with them a proposal to end the war.” He didn’t say anything about the proposal and whether, like the one issued after he and Putin met a year ago in Anchorage, it would involve Ukraine giving up a substantial portion of its territory that is now held by Russian troops, which was the primary reason Ukraine refused to agree to last year’s proposal. He said only, “We have an idea for peace.”

Just hours before Trump's announcement, a Russian drone struck the headquarters of Ukraine's SBU security service in central Kyiv. Notwithstanding that attack, which President Zelenskyy said was aimed at the office of the SBU’s acting chief, he said in his evening address there would be a ceasefire in regard to air strikes by Ukraine during the Witkoff-Kushner visit: "There will be no airstrikes on our part, and Russia must reciprocally ensure a ceasefire -- without its own airstrikes -- for the duration needed to conduct these talks."

Upon their arrival in Moscow Saturday afternoon, Witkoff and Kushner went immediately to the Kremlin and met with President Putin, who was accompanied at the meeting by Presidential Aide Yury Ushakov and Special Presidential Representative for Investment and Economic Cooperation with Foreign Countries and CEO of the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) Kirill Dmitriev. The following is the report posted on President Putin’s site on what he said in opening of

the meeting: “Colleagues, I heartily welcome you to Moscow. The situation we are to sort out today is, of course, a difficult one. But before we begin, I would like to ask you to convey my best wishes and words of gratitude to the President of the United States, Mr. Trump. While he realizes that he is facing a difficult situation, he nevertheless does not stop his efforts to resolve it and to contribute to the settlement of the Russian - Ukrainian conflict. Today, we will discuss all its components and all its aspects, and for our part, we are also ready to inform you about our view of the situation.”

“As you informed us, I know that you are planning to go to Kiev after visiting Moscow. In any case, of course, no matter what happens next, contacts of this kind are certainly always beneficial. And here, of course, the quality of mediation and trust in those who are engaged in it are very important. I’d like to tell you that we find it comfortable to work with you, and, of course, we have a very high level of trust during this work. We are glad to see you. Welcome.” Subsequently, Witkoff said, “I want to thank you for endorsing the no-shoot policy in Kiev and in Moscow for these three days that allowed us to be able to come here in a safe manner.” Putin responded, “We received this request through official channels – both through the intelligence services and through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs – to stop the strikes on Kiev. I issued the respective orders, and since midnight on September 5 these strikes on Kiev have not been carried out. I would like to note that the Ukrainian side has also significantly reduced – by an order of magnitude – the strikes on the territory of the Russian Federation, including Moscow. The Ukrainians authorities have published their call for a broader three-day truce, but we have never agreed on this with them. Yet we will do everything in our power to ensure the safety of the negotiation process and the mediators, represented by you and, perhaps, by those accompanying you.”

At that point, the discussion turned to the war. Here’s the summary of the meeting posted on Putin’s site by his foreign policy aide Yury Ushakov: “Colleagues, as you know, at the instruction of the President of the United States, his representatives Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner visited Moscow on September 5 to continue the dialogue on resolving the crisis in Ukraine and to discuss other pressing issues. This was their eighth visit to our country.”

“President Vladimir Putin received the US representatives. At the very beginning of their conversation, he publicly praised this channel of mediation and the role played by the American negotiators. He also conveyed his best wishes to President Donald Trump and thanked him for his efforts to advance a settlement in Ukraine, as well as for his sincere desire to help achieve a swift and mutually acceptable outcome.”

“What else can be added to what the President himself has already said? The conversation lasted more than three hours – three hours and ten minutes, to be precise. It was substantive, constructive, exceptionally frank, and conducted in an atmosphere of trust. The discussion, which covered extremely serious matters, continued both during the working portion of the meeting as well as in an informal setting over dinner.”

“As regards the substance of the discussions, the Russian side provided clear and comprehensive assessments of the situation developing in the course of the special military operation. In particular, the Russian side highlighted the significant advances made by the Russian armed forces in the combat zone, expressed confidence that the set objectives would be achieved, and, obviously, stressed the need to address all the root causes of the conflict.”

“Our President reaffirmed his commitment to continuing joint work with the American side to seek political and diplomatic solutions. Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner, for their part, undertook to draw on the observations and assessments conveyed to them personally by the Russian President regarding possible avenues toward a lasting and peaceful settlement of the conflict in Ukraine during their meetings in Kiev tomorrow.”

“Incidentally, our American colleagues had made considerable preparations for this trip. In addition to reiterating their traditional interest in bringing the hostilities to an early end, they put forward a number of considerations concerning possible ways of reaching a settlement.”

“It is also worth noting that the Americans took particular note of a point emphasized by our President: namely, that the Kiev regime has already ceased to conceal its true nature, having begun the reburial of some of the most prominent Nazi criminals.”

“The talks were not confined to an exchange of views on resolving the Ukrainian crisis. Economic issues were also discussed, including the prospects for major Russia-US projects that could be mutually beneficial to both sides.”

“Overall, it can be said that the talks were timely and highly beneficial to both sides. It was confirmed that the Presidents of our countries will further maintain personal contact, and that the work conducted through Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner will also continue.”

Following the meeting with Putin, Witkoff and Kushner and their staff had planned to fly from Moscow to Kyiv. But they were unable to do so because Ukrainian airspace has been closed to flights from Moscow for nearly five years. As a result, they were forced to fly to Poland and then had an 11-hour train ride from Rzeszów to Kyiv, where they were greeted by President Zelenskyy. Zelensky, while waiting for them, noted that, “Unfortunately, through their strikes, the Russians demonstrated that they could not land and use an aircraft, although our airports remain operational." A direct flight from Moscow would have taken an hour..

David R. Cameron
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