

'Zelensky's Dead End': Russian Media Downplays Ukraine-Trump White House Meeting

By [Anastasia Tenisheva](#)

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Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and U.S. President Donald Trump in the Oval Office on Monday. president.gov.ua

Russian state television and pro-Kremlin media downplayed the results of Monday's meeting between U.S. President Donald Trump, Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelensky and European leaders, saying Kyiv and Europe were powerless to influence U.S.-Russia talks on the war in Ukraine.

The talks at the White House, swiftly organized following President Vladimir Putin's meeting with Trump in Alaska, saw leaders of Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Finland, the EU and NATO gather to discuss their plan to end the war.

But for Russian media, the fact that Trump interrupted the talks to [call](#) Putin appeared more noteworthy than the meeting itself.

State television opened its Tuesday newscasts by describing the Putin-Trump call as productive, while portraying Zelensky's meeting with European leaders and Trump as one where "there was hardly any room for smiles."

State-run broadcaster Rossia 1 opened its news bulletin with remarks from Kremlin aide Yuri Ushakov on the Putin-Trump call, which he said was aimed at "beginning arrangements" for a meeting between Putin and Zelensky.

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Putin and Trump "expressed support for the continuation of direct negotiations between the delegations of Russia and Ukraine," Rossia 1 quoted Ushakov as saying.

State broadcaster Channel One also led its daytime broadcast with coverage of the Putin-Trump call, which took place just days after the summit in Alaska between the two presidents.

Putin and Trump "agreed to maintain close contact on Ukraine and other pressing issues," the host [quoted](#) Ushakov as saying.

Describing the White House meeting between Trump, Zelensky and European leaders, Rossia 1's correspondent said that "the decisions Western countries will have to make in the coming days promise nothing good either for themselves or for Kyiv."

Referencing the disastrous February meeting in which U.S. Vice President J.D. Vance criticized Zelensky for "not saying 'thank you' once," Channel One said: "Zelensky was so afraid of angering Trump that he thanked him almost without pause."

But while TV coverage appeared more newsy and restrained, the pro-Kremlin outlet Moskovsky Komsomolets [ran](#) the headline: "'At Least They Didn't Fight': Ukraine Reacts to the Outcome of White House Talks," describing the meeting between Trump and Zelensky.

Pro-Kremlin tabloid Komsomolskaya Pravda [published](#) an article titled "Zelensky's Dead End: Trump Clashed Hard with [German Chancellor Friedrich] Merz Over Ukraine at the White House and Called Putin."

"In the group photo, everyone looked gloomier than a thundercloud," the piece said.

"Zelensky occasionally flashed a 'diplomatic' smile, which gave off a rather unsettling impression," it added.

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Between his talks with Putin and Monday's meeting, Trump had pushed Kyiv to give up annexed Crimea and abandon its goal of joining NATO, two of Moscow's key demands.

He had also said there needed to be discussions on "the possible exchanges of territory"

