

Lavrov and Rubio Discuss Putin-Trump Summit

By [AFP](#)

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The White House / flickr; Russian Foreign Ministry

Russia's top diplomat, Sergei Lavrov, and U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio discussed preparations for an upcoming summit between Vladimir Putin and Donald Trump in a call on Monday, both sides said.

Rubio "emphasized the importance of upcoming engagements as an opportunity for Moscow and Washington to collaborate on advancing a durable resolution of the Russia-Ukraine war," Principal Deputy Spokesperson Tommy Pigott said in a statement.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said earlier that he was ready to join if invited, but neither Moscow nor Washington mentioned Zelensky in their statements.

The Kremlin said earlier it had "no details" about whether Zelensky would attend.

Diplomatic efforts to end Russia's three-and-a-half-year invasion have stalled since Trump

and Putin met for peace talks in Alaska in August.

The two announced last week that they would meet in Budapest for a second round of talks, but it was not clear whether Zelensky — who was shut out from the previous meeting — would attend.

French President Emmanuel Macron on Monday welcomed the planned summit, but said Ukrainians and Europeans should be included.

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