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Compromise on Ukraine Still Elusive After Meeting With U.S. Delegation, Kremlin Says

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Foreign policy adviser Yury Ushakov (left), U.S. special envoy Steve Witkoff (middle) and President Vladimir Putin. **Alexander Kazakov / Russian Presidential Press and Information Office / TASS**

Kremlin foreign policy adviser Yury Ushakov said Wednesday that peace talks in Moscow with U.S. special envoy Steve Witkoff and President Donald Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner failed to produce a compromise to end the war in Ukraine, though he called the discussions "useful" and "constructive."

The nearly five-hour meeting, attended by President Vladimir Putin, was Witkoff's sixth trip to Russia this year and focused on a revised U.S. peace proposal drafted with input from Ukrainian officials.

That framework had been seen by some as a possible breakthrough, but Ushakov's cautious tone suggested Moscow and Kyiv remain far apart in negotiations that have dragged on since Trump began his second term in office.

“A compromise solution hasn’t been found yet, but some of the ideas the Americans proposed look more or less acceptable, though they still need to be discussed,” Ushakov told reporters. “Some of the wording they suggested doesn’t work for us.”

Neither side revealed the precise details of the talks.

Asked directly whether the meeting with Witkoff and Kushner had brought Russia and Ukraine any closer to reaching a peace settlement, Ushakov said only that the two warring countries were “certainly not further” apart than before, adding that “there is a lot of work to be done.”

He also stressed that the issue of Ukrainian territory remains “the most important” for Moscow, a clear indication that Putin is unlikely to soften his stance on Russia gaining total control of the Donbas region of eastern Ukraine, where Russian forces allegedly captured the key city of Pokrovsk over the weekend.

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The Kremlin official described the meeting late Tuesday as an opportunity to discuss in detail the prospects for future talks, adding that Witkoff and Kushner “promised” to travel to Kyiv to brief Ukrainian officials.

He said both sides agreed to continue negotiations but offered little on the prospect of a new summit between Trump and Putin. A meeting between the two leaders was originally expected to take place in Hungary in October, but was abruptly canceled after Trump questioned whether high-level talks could yield progress.

“As for a possible meeting at the presidential level, that will depend on the progress we’re able to make through the persistent work carried out by our aides and representatives,” Ushakov said.

He also hinted that Tuesday’s talks covered far more than Ukraine, saying that those present discussed “vast prospects for future economic cooperation” between the U.S. and Russia.

“This had been discussed many times at earlier meetings as well,” Ushakov told reporters. “But this time, we emphasized that if we genuinely want to work together — and there are enormous opportunities — then it’s time to show some real commitment.”

The Moscow Times reported in April that the Kremlin ordered major Russian corporations to prepare proposals for economic cooperation with Washington following Trump’s election last year. According to government and business sources, Moscow has sought to link business deals to Ukraine peace talks as a way to push Trump toward a settlement more favorable to Russia.

Russian Direct Investment Fund CEO Kirill Dmitriev, who also serves as Putin’s economic envoy, attended the peace plan discussions at the Kremlin on Tuesday. Before the sit-down, he was seen showing Witkoff and Kushner around Moscow, according to images shared by state media.

In a post on X, Dmitriev called the meeting with the two Americans "productive."

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Despite the latest flurry of diplomacy, triggered by the leak of an initial 28-point plan drafted by U.S. and reportedly Russian officials, there is little sign that either Moscow or Kyiv has shifted their positions.

Putin said last week that a meeting with Witkoff was necessary to discuss details of the American plan, but in the same breath warned that Russian forces would continue their advance in the Donbas region if Ukraine refused to accept his conditions for a ceasefire.

At the same time, Ukraine has indicated that it is not willing to hand over territory it currently controls to Russia.

Trump initially gave Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky a hard Thanksgiving deadline to accept the latest U.S. peace plan, but later backed away, a pattern that has become common in his attempts to deliver on his promise to end the war.

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