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Putin Invited to Join Trump's 'Board of Peace'

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Vladimir Putin and Donald Trump. **kremlin.ru**

The White House has invited Russian President Vladimir Putin to join a "Board of Peace" aimed at resolving global conflicts, the Kremlin said Monday.

"President Putin received an invitation through diplomatic channels to become a member of this Board of Peace," top spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters during a press briefing.

"At the moment, we're looking at all the details of this proposal, and we hope to discuss all of the nuances with the Americans," Peskov added.

Trump later confirmed he had sent an invitation to Putin. Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko, a key ally of the Kremlin leader, was also asked to join the initiative.

On Friday, the Trump administration announced the formation of a "Board of Peace," conceived to oversee the rebuilding of Gaza after more than two years of heavy Israeli bombardment.

The board's members include U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner and Ajay Banga, head of the World Bank.

The initiative would be chaired for life by Trump and would start by addressing the conflict in Gaza, Reuters reported, citing a draft charter. The board would then be expanded to deal with other conflicts as a new international peacekeeping body.

Invitations to join the "Board of Peace" were sent to around 60 countries this weekend, but only Hungary, whose Prime Minister Viktor Orban is a close Trump ally, has officially signed up for the initiative.

The U.S. is inviting countries to join as permanent members if they pay $1 billion within the first year of joining, Reuters reported.

A mandate for a "Board of Peace" was authorized by the UN Security Council in November, but it would focus solely on the conflict in Gaza. Russia and China abstained from voting on the resolution, arguing that it did not give the UN a clear role in mediation efforts.

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