

Russian, Ukrainian and U.S. Negotiators Gather in Abu Dhabi for Second Round of Talks

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A Russian delegation of Russian negotiators in Abu Dhabi. **Valery Sharifulin / TASS**

A second round of talks between Russia, Ukraine and the United States has begun in Abu Dhabi, with negotiators from the three countries expected to hold a series of meetings between Wednesday and Thursday.

Ahead of the talks, Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov [told](#) reporters during a Wednesday briefing that the "doors for a peaceful resolution" to the conflict, which is approaching its fourth anniversary, "remain open."

"Our position is crystal clear," Peskov said. "So long as the Kyiv regime does not take the appropriate steps, the special military operation will continue."

President Vladimir Putin has insisted that Ukraine hand over the eastern Donbas despite not controlling all of the territory. Ukrainian leader Volodymyr Zelensky has rejected the idea

outright despite coming under pressure from the Trump administration to make a quick deal. The first round of trilateral talks, held last month, failed to yield a breakthrough.

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The talks come a day after Russia launched a large-scale missile and drone barrage against Ukraine's energy infrastructure, cutting power and heating as temperatures plunged well below freezing. Zelensky said the attack cast doubt on Russia's commitment to diplomacy.

Thousands of people in Russia's Begorod region were also without power and heating on Wednesday following a Ukrainian air attack there the night before, local officials said.

This week's peace talks were postponed from the weekend due to what the Kremlin described as scheduling issues among the three sides.

Ukraine's delegation is led by Security Council Secretary Rustem Umerov. Russia is represented by military intelligence chief Igor Kostyukov, who has been sanctioned by Western countries over his role in the invasion.

At the previous round of talks in Abu Dhabi last month, the U.S. delegation was led by President Donald Trump's special envoy Steve Witkoff.

AFP contributed reporting.

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