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Russia, China and U.S. Summit Under Discussion, Kremlin Says

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Xi Jingping, Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin. **REUTERS**

Russia said Tuesday that discussions are underway to organize a trilateral meeting between President Vladimir Putin, U.S. President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping in China later this month.

"We hope it'll be finalized in the coming days. Of course, the main organizing force here is our Chinese friends as the host party," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters during a daily briefing.

Putin and Trump are expected to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Shenzhen, China on Nov. 18-19.

A source familiar with the talks to organize a trilateral meeting told the Financial Times that Washington and Moscow were both pressing Beijing to agree to the sit-down, during which the three leaders would discuss the war in Ukraine.

Publicly, China's Foreign Ministry has said only that it is "in communication with relevant parties regarding the meeting between the Chinese and Russian heads of state" without mentioning a separate meeting with Trump at APEC.

German President Frank-Walter, who met with Xi last Friday, said that the Chinese leader "seemed confused" when asked about a possible trilateral meeting with Putin and Trump and emphasized the need for Europe to be involved in any discussions about the war in Ukraine.

A source familiar with the Kremlin's thinking told the FT that Russia does not expect substantive negotiations on Ukraine during the proposed meeting in China. Moscow reportedly believes that Beijing wants to take credit "once a peace settlement is in sight."

Elsewhere on Tuesday, Russian Defense Minister Andrei Belousov arrived in Beijing for high-level talks with Chinese military officials, during which he hailed the "unprecedentedly high" strategic partnership between both countries.

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