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U.S. Shelves Plans for Business Deals With Russia to End Ukraine War – FT

By Reuters

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Vladimir Putin and Donald Trump. **Sputnik / Vyacheslav Prokofyev / Reuters**

The Trump administration has quietly shelved proposals to use business deals as an incentive for Russia to end the war against Ukraine after Moscow showed little interest in proposed energy and aviation ventures, the Financial Times reported on Wednesday.

Trump's special envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner told European officials that corporate tie-ups were no longer a core part of the U.S. pitch to Russia, the FT report said, citing five officials briefed on the change in tactic.

The White House did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment. Reuters could not immediately verify the report.

Top Russian and U.S. officials, including Kushner, held talks about selling ownership of the company that controls the Nord Stream gas pipelines to an American investor, Reuters

reported in October. The pipelines delivered natural gas to Germany before being blown up in September 2022.

Kushner, who has been trying to broker a truce between Russia and Ukraine and views doing business as central to securing peace, also floated post-war ideas such as U.S. companies investing in Russian oil projects and titanium production ventures, the FT report said.

Russian officials initially responded positively to the U.S. suggestions, but Russia has since cooled on the idea, as it insists on Ukraine giving up territory and making other concessions Kyiv considers unacceptable in exchange for peace, the report added.

"It was made pretty clear that the Russians were not in the market for this kind of thing," one of the officials told the FT.

In October, the Trump administration temporarily lifted U.S. sanctions on Russian fuel that were designed to deprive Moscow of revenue for its war on Ukraine after Russia agreed to supply diesel to global markets in an effort to lower fuel prices.

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