

Politics

Zelenskyy's White House meeting ends in blowup with Trump and Vance over Ukraine's future

By [Kathryn Watson](#), [Jennifer Jacobs](#), [Weijia Jiang](#), [Olivia Rinaldi](#)

Updated on: March 1, 2025 / 8:03 PM EST / CBS News

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Later in the day, high-level administration sources confirmed to CBS that there have been discussions about whether U.S. will keep sending military aid to Ukraine after the Oval Office clash between Mr. Trump and Zelenskyy.

"They are fortunate it is not off already," a senior U.S. official said to CBS News on the status of U.S. aid to Ukraine.

The meeting veered into tense exchanges after Vance said during the course of the meeting that the world has reached this point in part because of the Biden administration's actions, and said it was time for diplomacy.

Zelenskyy challenged Vance on this point, noting there had been other ceasefire agreements Russian President Vladimir Putin had broken — and not just during the Obama administration. During Mr. Trump's administration Putin violated the Minsk ceasefire agreements, which had been signed by both Russia and Ukraine. And Zelenskyy pointed out that he had signed an agreement with Putin over the exchange of prisoners, "but he didn't do it."

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Zelenskyy asked Vance if he'd ever been to Ukraine.

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"You don't know that, Mr. Trump argued. You don't know that. Don't tell us what we're going to feel. We're trying to solve a problem. Don't tell us what we're gonna feel, because you're in no position to dictate that. You're in no position to dictate what we're going to feel. We're going to feel very good."

"You don't have the cards right now," Mr. Trump said, as Zelenskyy continued to interject and disagree. "With us, you start having cards. Right now, you don't have your playing cards, your playing cards – you're gambling with the lives of millions of people. "You're gambling with World War III. You're gambling with World War III."

"Have you said 'thank you' once, this entire meeting? No, in this entire meeting, have you said 'thank you,'" Vance said.

Zelenskyy kept a measured tone throughout the entire exchange, even as Mr. Trump and Vance at times raised their voices.

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"You have to be thankful, Mr. Trump said. You don't have the cards. You're buried there, people are dying, you're running low on soldiers."

Zelenskyy said Ukraine wants the war to end but must have security assurances along with any sort of ceasefire agreement.

Amid the chaos, a reporter asked – what if Russia violates a ceasefire?

"What if anything?" Mr. Trump responded. "What if a bomb drops on your head right now? Okay."

Earlier in the meeting, Zelenskyy said the war would entail talks on security and

"Just cease fire on his own side"

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"We had a very meaningful meeting in the White House today," Mr. Trump wrote on Truth Social. "Much was learned that could never be understood without conversation under such fire and pressure. It's amazing what comes out through emotion, and I have determined that President Zelenskyy is not ready for Peace if America is involved, because he feels our involvement gives him a big advantage in negotiations. I don't want advantage, I want PEACE. He disrespected the United States of America in its cherished Oval Office. He can come back when he is ready for Peace."

Zelenskyy was spotted leaving the White House at 1:41 p.m.

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High-level sources with the Trump administration told CBS News that Ukrainian officials reached out Friday afternoon to senior White House officials desperate to get the deal back on track. However, they were told that would not happen today. Mr. Trump was unwilling to talk to Zelenskyy further today, the sources said.

When Rubio and Waltz went into the Roosevelt Room of the White House to ask Zelenskyy to leave, they made it clear that any further engagements Friday would be counterproductive, the sources said, adding that Waltz told Zelenskyy that he had made a tremendous mistake and a disservice to Ukraine and to the U.S.

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What to know about Zelensky's White House visit

Mr. Trump mentioned earlier this week that the U.S. had reached a deal with Zelensky on a broad framework for sharing Ukraine's mineral resources, and that the Ukrainian leader was coming to the White House because he "would like to sign it together with me." Negotiations over the minerals continued despite public tension between the two leaders in recent days. Mr. Trump appeared to blame Ukraine for the war Russia started and labeled Zelensky a "dictator," while declining to say the same of Russian President Vladimir Putin.

One Ukrainian official told CBS News Kyiv hopes the signing of the agreement would ensure the continued flow of security support that Ukraine needs. Mr. Trump said Thursday the deal would help pay back American taxpayers for supporting Ukraine over the past three years.

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President
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Getty Image

In a post on X Wednesday, Zelenskyy wrote, "Peace and security guarantees are the key to ensuring that Russia can no longer destroy the lives of other nations." He added, "For me and for all of us in the world, it's important that U.S. support is not stopped. Strength is needed on the path to peace."

Mr. Trump spoke with Putin earlier this month and said the Russian leader wants an end to the war. Last week, the president said he trusts Russia to negotiate in good faith, as to

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"You should have never started it, you could have made a deal," Mr. Trump said of Ukraine last week.

Top Trump administration officials have also been reluctant to criticize Putin. National security adviser Mike Waltz didn't answer directly when a reporter asked him if Mr. Trump views Putin as a dictator. He also sidestepped a question about who bears more responsibility for the war, Russia or Ukraine.

Referring to Mr. Trump, Waltz replied, "His goal here is to bring this war to an end, period."

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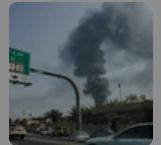
"If to achieve peace, you really need me to give up my post, I'm ready," Zelensky said at a forum marking the three-year anniversary of Russia's full-scale invasion.

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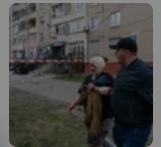
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