

# President Trump Delivers Remarks in a Bilateral Meeting with the President of Ukraine

December 28, 2025

No.	Transcript
1	The President: Well, thank you very much.
2	We had a terrific meeting. We discussed a lot of things.
3	As you know, I had an excellent phone call
4	with President Putin that lasted for over two hours.
5	We discussed lot of points.
6	And I do think we're getting a lot closer, maybe very close.
7	The President and I just spoke to the European leaders.
8	They were President Emmanuel Macron of France,
9	President Alexander Stubb of the Republic of Finland,
10	President Karol Nawrocki of the Republic of Poland,
11	Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store of the Kingdom of Norway,
12	Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni
13	of the Italian Republic, Prime Minister Keir
14	Starmer of the United Kingdom, of Britain,
15	and Northern Ireland.
16	Chancellor Friedrich Merz, the Federal Republic of Germany,
17	Secretary General Mark Rutte,
18	the North Atlantic Treaty Organization,
19	NATO, President Ursula von der Leyen
20	of the European Commission.
21	We spoke to all of those great leaders.
22	They're all great leaders,
23	and we had a great talk with them after we were completed.
24	We thought it was appropriate to speak with them.
25	And our meeting was excellent.

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26	We covered, somebody would say, 95 percent.
27	I don't know what percent,
28	but we have made a lot of progress on ending that war,
29	which is really the certainly the most deadly war
30	since World War II,
31	probably the biggest war since WWII.
32	And I want to thank Steve Witkoff, who's here,
33	and I'd like to thank Jared, who is here someplace.
34	Thank you, Jared. And thank you, Steve.
35	What a great job you've done. Jared Kushner, Steve Witkoff.
36	And Marco Rubio is here. Thank you, Marco.
37	And Pete Hegseth is here, doing a --
38	those two people are doing an unbelievable job.
39	And the four people on this one are doing --
40	I don't think anybody could do it,
41	and we'll see if it gets done, but it's very close, certainly.
42	Nobody would even have a chance of getting it
43	to where it is right now.
44	Nobody would have thought that was possible.
45	So I just want to say we've done very well.
46	We've had discussions on just about every subject.
47	And that includes with President Putin before.
48	And we went into great detail,
49	and we likewise went into detail today.
50	And it was an honor to have you at Mar-a-Lago and have lunch.

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51	I hope you enjoy the food.
52	Your people enjoy the foods, I can tell you that.
53	Your big, strong people. Your general over there.
54	It looks like central casting. I want to also, by the way,
55	speaking of generals, we have a great general.
56	General Raising Caine, who is here someplace.
57	Thank you, General. Thank you very much. He's great.
58	So, Mr. President, maybe you want to say a few words,
59	and then we'll speak over the next couple of weeks.
60	We'll speak probably quite a bit,
61	but we'll speak tomorrow.
62	Thank you so very much, appreciate it.
63	President Zelenskyy: Thank you so much.
64	Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you for everything.
65	Dear colleagues, first of all,
66	I would like to thank President Trump
67	for a great meeting at this amazing place
68	in his home in Mar-a-Lago.
69	And we had really great discussions on all the topics,
70	and we appreciate the progress that was made
71	by American and Ukrainian teams in these recent weeks.
72	Special thanks to Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner,
73	and thank you for their engagement and full commitment
74	and also to our team,
75	and first of all to Rostem Umerovian,

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76	General Gnatov, and to all our teams.
77	And we discussed all the aspects of the peace framework,
78	which includes, and we have great achievements,
79	20-point peace plan, 90 percent agreed,
80	and U.S.-Ukraine security guarantees, 100 percent agreed.
81	U. S.- European-Ukrainian security
82	guarantees almost agreed,
83	military dimension 100 percent agreed.
84	Prosperity plan being finalized
85	and we also discussed the sequencing
86	of the following actions.
87	And we agree that security guarantees
88	is a key milestone in achieving lasting peace,
89	and our teams will continue working on all aspects.
90	We also had a joint productive call with European leaders,
91	like President Trump said already,
92	and a lot of leaders, including NATO and the EU.
93	And we agreed that our teams will meet
94	in upcoming weeks to finalize.
95	All discussed matters and we agreed with President Trump
96	that he will host us -- and maybe in Washington --
97	European leaders and Ukrainian delegation
98	yes in January and Ukraine is ready for peace
99	and once again would like to thank President Trump
100	for a warm welcome and substantial discussion.

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101	Thank you, Mr. President.
102	The President: Any questions, please?
103	The Press: (inaudible)
104	the U.S.-Ukraine security guarantees,
105	what number are we on right now?
106	The President: Well, I think we're --
107	look, you know, you can say 95 percent,
108	but I don't like to say percentages.
109	I just think we are doing very well.
110	We're very -- we could be very close.
111	There are one or two very thorny issues, very tough issues,
112	but I think we're doing very good.
113	We've made a lot of progress today,
114	but really we've made it over the last month.
115	This is not a one-day process deal.
116	This is very complicated stuff.
117	But I think when the President says 95,
118	I think, you know, it could be close to 95 percent.
119	Yeah, please, in behind you.
120	The Press: Do you agree on the so-called free trade zone
121	on Donbas? How to separate the sites,
122	how to make the separation line, who will be responsible?
123	The President: The word agreed is too strong.
124	I would say not agreed,
125	but we're getting closer to an agreement on that.

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126	And that's a big issue.
127	Certainly, that's one of the big issues.
128	And I think we're closer than we were probably.
129	It's unresolved, but it's getting a lot closer.
130	That's a very tough issue,
131	but one that I think will get resolved.
132	Yeah, please.
133	The Press: The next (inaudible)
134	is coming from Moscow,
135	even after this topic has been put in.
136	Can you assure us that you have received
137	a written or a formal --
138	The President: Well, what was the issue?
139	You have to tell me. What did they say?
140	The Press: (inaudible)
141	The President: Well, that's what they've been asking for.
142	And, you know, there's a dispute about that.
143	So they're going to have to iron that out.
144	That's an issue they have to iron out.
145	But I think it's moving in the right direction.
146	The Press: (inaudible)
147	The President: If something doesn't happen?
148	You mean if something doesn' Go ahead.
149	You were going to finish your question.
150	The Press: (inaudible)

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151	The President: Well, we'll see. Look, we will see.
152	But I don't want to talk about that
153	because I think we're getting pretty close.
154	Yes, please.
155	The Press: (inaudible)
156	what is your take on Donbas status?
157	Are you prepared to (inaudible)?
158	President Zelenskyy: We spoke about 20 points plan
159	and I'm happy that really our teams are very close to results
160	and I agree with President Trump that our teams work not one day,
161	not one week, more than one month,
162	beginning from Geneva, then two meetings in Miami,
163	then we had Berlin and now we have Mar-a-Lago.
164	So this is very difficult question.
165	You know our position,
166	so we have to respect our law and our people
167	and we respect the territory which we control.
168	And, of course, our attitude is very clear.
169	That's why President Trump said this is a very tough question.
170	And of course we have
171	with Russians different positions on it.
172	The Press: (inaudible)
173	President Zelenskyy: No, when we speak about referendum,
174	we spoke that it's one of the key.
175	We can have referendum on any kind of points of this plan.

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176	I said that we can use referendum like for the plan,
177	or we cannot use referendum. It's one the key, we can,
178	I mean this possibility of parliament
179	to vote according to the law or to have a referendum,
180	it doesn't matter, I'm in this referendum,
181	if the plan will be very difficult for our society,
182	very difficult, of course our society has to choose
183	and who has to vote because it's their land,
184	not the land -- not of one person,
185	it's the land of our nation for a lot of generations.
186	The President: You'll probably have to get their plan approved
187	by Parliament or by referendum of the people.
188	You would think that they want --
189	I know they had a poll that it's 91 percent
190	in favor of ending this war, so they want to end it.
191	Like everybody wants -- Russia wants it ended,
192	everybody wants it to end, so -- and we want it ended.
193	I want it ended because I don't want to see
194	so many people dying.
195	We're losing, you know, massive numbers of people --
196	the biggest by far since World War II.
197	So we want to it ended. Absolutely.
198	The Press: You said at the top that you plan
199	to speak again tomorrow, is that correct?
200	The President: I might.

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201	I mean, it depends on what happens tomorrow.
202	If there's an additional something to add,
203	otherwise there's no reason to. We're in the process.
204	Jared and Steve are working very hard to get something done.
205	And if there's something that comes up, I'd speak.
206	But otherwise, I don't think there's any reason to.
207	The Press: In your mind sir, what are what are the thorniest
208	issues still unresolved after?
209	The President: Well, I think the land.
210	You're talking about --
211	some of that land has been taken.
212	Some of that is maybe up for grabs,
213	but it may be taken over the next period
214	of a number of months.
215	And are you better off making a deal now?
216	Look, let me tell you, they have been very brave.
217	They fought very hard and continue to fight very hard
218	and do tremendous damage.
219	But Russia would like to see it ended.
220	Ukraine would like to see it, and I think it's time to end.
221	And a lot of very brave people,
222	a lot people that are dead right now, unfortunately,
223	because I've said, and nobody's disputed it,
224	that if the election weren't rigged and stolen, 2020,
225	you wouldn't have had this war. It would have never happened.

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226	And it didn't happen for four years.
227	Never was even thought to happen.
228	And I spoke with President Putin.
229	I got along with him very well, despite the Russia, Russia,
230	Russia hoax, which was a total hoax.
231	He used to say, what is going on over there?
232	But it was a total hoax, as he knew and as I knew.
233	But I spoke to him, and we'd talk about Ukraine.
234	I've said it before. It was the apple of his eye,
235	but he wasn't going to do anything about it.
236	He didn't do anything about it until I was gone.
237	And then a lot of really bad statements were made by people,
238	by a lot of people, I guess,
239	but by a certain president that we had,
240	who was a disaster. Yes.
241	The Press: (inaudible)
242	anticipate going to Ukraine if you can get to an agreement.
243	And --with --
244	The President: I'd have no problem with doing it,
245	you know, I have no problem with it.
246	If we don't anticipate it, we'd like to get the deal done
247	and not necessarily have to go.
248	I've offered to go and speak to their Parliament.
249	And, you, know, if that would help.
250	I don't know if that will help. I think it would probably help.

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251	But I don't even know if that's --.
252	President Zelenskyy: You're welcome to.
253	The President: Yeah, no, I know.
254	So I'm not sure that it would be really necessary.
255	But if it would help save 25,000 lives a month,
256	or whatever it may be.
257	I would certainly be willing to do that.
258	Yeah, please go behind you. Are you -- where are you from?
259	The Press: (inaudible)
260	The President: Good. I had a feeling. Good.
261	The Press: (inaudible)
262	The President: One what?
263	The Press: (inaudible)
264	The President: Yeah, we discussed that at length today.
265	As you know, it's in pretty good shape.
266	It can start up immediately, almost immediately.
267	And it's one of the things I discussed with President Putin,
268	and they were talking about the nuclear plant
269	that's probably the biggest in the world,
270	just about the biggest anywhere in the world.
271	Can you believe that?
272	And President Putin is actually working with Ukraine
273	on getting it open.
274	He's been very good in that sense.
275	He wants to see that open.

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276	And he hasn't hit it with missiles,
277	hasn't hit it anything.
278	It's a big danger to do that for everybody.
279	But they're working together to try and get it out.
280	It can open very quickly. It's in pretty good shape.
281	And the people there have been there for years.
282	The people there running it.
283	You know, they have 5,000 people in that plant.
284	Can you believe it?
285	I learned that today. Five thousand people.
286	It's the biggest plant of its kind in the world.
287	And they're work together to get it open.
288	They could maybe get it opened quickly.
289	That's a big step when he's not bombing that plant.
290	That's big step.
291	The Press: In the readout from Moscow,
292	they talked about the creation of some working groups.
293	Can you tell us about what those working groups entail and also,
294	if you wouldn't mind,
295	what is the message that you will give to Putin
296	when you speak to him after your meeting?
297	The President: So, the working group
298	is going to be composed of Steve,
299	Steve Wichoff, Jared Kushner,
300	General Raisin Caine, Marco Rubio,

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301	and a few other people that we're going to put on to it.
302	I think Pete Hegseth should be in that working group.
303	He knows the territory very well,
304	he's been fantastic at what he's doing.
305	And they may add one or two people,
306	and likewise, Ukraine's going to have some very good people
307	that were at lunch today that enjoyed the lunch today a lot.
308	More than they thought, right?
309	But do you want to say who may be on your working group?
310	President Zelenskyy: We are now, as I said,
311	that we work with Steven, Jared, we worked
312	and worked our Rustam Omerov
313	and also Deputy Minister Gislits and also General Gnatov
314	and they will continue work in this group
315	and of course if we will go further
316	and I hope that really we will have decisions in January
317	as I've said about all these documents,
318	six documents and of course we will continue work on this
319	so they know what to do. Yes.
320	The President: And that working group,
321	by the way, importantly,
322	will also then be working with Russia, okay?
323	Because to work with ourselves
324	doesn't really solve much of a problem.
325	So they'll be working with Russia.

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326	Yeah, please.
327	The Press: This morning, you weren't a deadline guy.
328	How long do you think it'll take to get this last little bit,
329	as you say, finished? What are we talking about?
330	The President: If it went really well,
331	you know, maybe a few weeks,
332	and if it went poorly longer and if went really poorly,
333	it's not going to happen. That would be a shame.
334	There's that chance also.
335	You know, it's possible it doesn't happen.
336	But, you, know, in a few week
337	we will know one way or the other, I think.
338	But if it weren't really well. But it could also go poorly.
339	I mean, you could have something where one item
340	that you're not thinking about is a big item.
341	It breaks it up.
342	Look, it's been a very difficult negotiation.
343	Very detailed. It's funny, I settled eight wars.
344	Some were going on for 35 years,
345	and we got them settled in a couple of days.
346	Some of them, one was going on.
347	For 37 years, I've settled in one day.
348	But this is a very complex one.
349	The Press: With the luck, what --
350	The President: No, I think we'll get it done.

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351	I don't want to say when,
352	but I think we're going to get it done.
353	Yes, ma'am. Speaker 10 Mr. President,
354	you in the past have suggested a trilateral meeting
355	between both Presidents Putin and Zelensky,
356	is that something that is also on the docket?
357	The President: I see that happening,
358	sure, at the right time.
359	I saw a very interesting President Putin today.
360	I mean, he wants to see it happen. He wants to it.
361	He told me very strongly. I believe him.
362	Don't forget, we went through the Russia, Russia,
363	Russia hoax together.
364	And he'd call me. I'd call him and say,
365	can you believe the stuff that they're making up?
366	And it turned out we were right. They made it all up.
367	And despite that, we didn't get into wars,
368	and we didn't get into problems,
369	but we weren't able to trade very much or any of that,
370	which was a shame because, you know,
371	a lot of success could have been had by trading with Russia.
372	They have great land, great minerals,
373	and other things,
374	and we have things that they want very badly.
375	But the Russia, Russia, Russia hoax,

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376	which was a terrible made-up fictional thing
377	by Crooked Hillary
378	and by Adam Shifty Schiff and bad people, sick people.
379	They made it up. It was all a made-up hoax.
380	But it kept us really from dealing with Russia.
381	It kept Russia dealing, you know,
382	from dealing with us, so. But despite that, we got along.
383	I don't know. I think we're going to get there.
384	I know I know him very well.
385	I think we are going to get there
386	Speaker 10 (inaudible)
387	discuss any time, location, meeting place?
388	The President: Yeah, we're discussing a lot of things.
389	No, we -- look, I was on the phone with him for almost,
390	I guess, two and a half hours. They're just telling me now.
391	It's a long time. We discussed a lot things.
392	We didn't talk about the weather.
393	We weren't talking about how --
394	what a beautiful day it is in Palm Beach, Florida.
395	Speaker 11 President Trump, President Zelensky mentioned
396	maybe a meeting with European leaders back in Washington.
397	Would that be in the next few weeks?
398	The President: In Washington or someplace, yeah.
399	These leaders that I just read, these are great people.
400	You know, they've spent a lot of money on helping Ukraine.

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401	And look, they're doing it for themselves also,
402	meaning their country, because Ukraine
403	is a very important country for them, in particular.
404	For us, it's very important. To me, it is the lives that,
405	you know, we're thousands and thousands of miles.
406	We're protected by a thing called the Atlantic Ocean.
407	In lots of other places, to be honest.
408	And they're not. You know, they're right there.
409	But we're working together with them, as we should be.
410	But I'm doing it to save lives.
411	You know we're not spending any money.
412	Biden gave \$350 billion away.
413	And the President was nice enough to give us a contract
414	to take out rare earth and things.
415	So we'll see how that all works out.
416	We have a contract, but we appreciated that.
417	It was very good. But we'll how that works out,
418	but if you think about it, we're going to have --
419	I really believe we're probably, Mr. President, closer than --
420	by far closer than ever before, with both parties.
421	We had some times when he was close
422	and President Putin wasn't.
423	Then we'd have President Putin was close and he wasn't --
424	you saw that in the White House, Mark.
425	But I think they both want to see it happen.

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426	The Press: In your conversation with --.
427	The Press: You've said that -- you've said multiple times
428	that you want to stop the killing.
429	And nearly a hundred American citizens
430	(inaudible) what's your message to (inaudible)
431	whose loved ones died fighting?
432	The President: Well, look, I mean,
433	the message is so obvious. It's what a shame.
434	They died in a country, a foreign country.
435	And some are celebrated people. They're very celebrated.
436	But so sad that a thing like that would happen.
437	Yes, ma'am.
438	The Press: Obviously, security is a major issue
439	for the Ukrainians.
440	Did you offer any promises, any assurances today?
441	The President: Well, we want to work with Europe,
442	and Europe is going to take over a big part of it,
443	as you can imagine. You know, they're right there,
444	but we're going to help Europe 100 percent,
445	like they'd help us.
446	Yes, ma'am. You were going to say something?
447	The Press: Yeah, I was just going to ask,
448	when your term is finished --.
449	The Press: Andrea Shalom with Reuters.
450	The President: That's what I thought.

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451	The Press: So, in your conversation
452	with President Putin,
453	did you discuss what responsibility Russia
454	will have for any kind of reconstruction of Ukraine
455	post an agreement?
456	The President: They're going to be helping.
457	Russia is going to helping.
458	Russia wants to see Ukraine succeed.
459	Once -- it sounds a little strange,
460	but I was explaining to the President,
461	President Putin was very generous
462	in his feeling toward Ukraine succeeding,
463	including supplying energy, electricity,
464	and other things at very low prices.
465	So a lot of good things came out of that call today.
466	But they were in the works for two weeks with Steve
467	and with Jared and Marco and everybody.
468	The Press: Did Putin agree to a ceasefire
469	to allow a referendum to take place?
470	The President: Not a ceasefire,
471	and that's one of the points that we're working on right now.
472	No, not a cease fire.
473	He feels that, look, you know, they're fighting and to stop
474	and then if they have to start again, which is a possibility,
475	he doesn't want to be in that position.

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476	I understand that position,
477	the President feels strongly about that or something,
478	but I think we're finding ways that we can get around that.
479	But I understand President Putin from that standpoint,
480	you have to understand the other All right.
481	And, you know, I'm on the side of peace.
482	I'm the side on stopping the war.
483	So, but I think that's a problem
484	that's going to get solved, yeah.
485	The Press: Would people who live outside of Ukraine,
486	who fled during the war,
487	be allowed to participate in the referendum?
488	President Zelenskyy: What do you mean,
489	people who have lived?
490	The President: The people that left.
491	President Zelenskyy: If we speak about the people who are abroad,
492	who are not on the territory of Ukraine,
493	you mean that in Poland, in Germany,
494	we have millions of people.
495	Yeah, they have a referendum in the same of elections,
496	the same way how people come and vote.
497	They have rights for this, and of course they have to come.
498	That's why if we will come to referendum,
499	yes, if we come to such decision,
500	people will need infrastructure for this and it's not simple

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501	and that's why we spoke about it,
502	it can't be in one day, very quickly,
503	it's difficult because we need infrastructure.
504	When you have millions of people you have to build it in Europe,
505	mostly in Europe for today.
506	The Press: President Trump,
507	I know you've sounded an optimistic note here,
508	but what happens in a few weeks if things sputter?
509	What are you prepared to do?
510	The President: And they keep dying. It's no good.
511	But if things don't happen, they keep fighting,
512	and they keep dying.
513	And we don't want that to happen.
514	He doesn't want it to happen,
515	President Putin doesn't want it happen either.
516	Okay? Thank you very much, everybody.
517	Appreciate it. Great. Thank you. I don't know.
518	Was it a good lunch? There's no lunch.
519	He walked in, he said, this place is gorgeous.
520	I don't think he wants to go to the White House anymore.
521	That's the problem.
522	President Zelenskyy: I'm ready to go to the White House.
523	The President: It is.
524	The White House is a very special place.
525	And so is this. I hope you enjoyed it.

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526	Thank you very much. Thank you so much.
527	The Press: Thank you, sir.