

**Per Youtube Communication:
URGENT! Zelensky came out with IMMEDIATE STATEMENTS. He responded to TOUGH
QUESTIONS. Hear it FIRST TRANSCRIPT: August, 29, 2025**

- 1 As for the front, the situation is more or less normal.
- 2 The situation is under control. The Pokovsk direction is the most serious one today.
- 3 There is an accumulation, a concentration of the enemy there, up to 100,000 as of the morning.
- 4 They are preparing offensive actions in any case.
- 5 It is important that we know and control this. In both Kark and Donetsk regions,
- 6 we are conducting active operations and it is not easy for the enemy today.
- 7 As for Kupansk, the search operations are quite successful. 30 enemy subversive reconnaissance groups have
- 8 been destroyed over the past two days. The summ direction is fine. We are
- 9 slowly pushing the enemy out there. Zaporisia, no changes. Basically, I
- 10 think it's dangerous there because they are amassing their airborne forces and this group is quite large.
- 11 The situation in Dinypro is normal. It's under control. I think so far that's it
- 12 concerning the front.
- 13 If you have any additional questions, I will answer them. As for the negotiation process, our team is currently working.
- 14 Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Switzerland, United States of
- 15 America.
- 16 In other words, apart from the US, the global south was my assignment to Yarmmach for this week.

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- 17 There is a bilateral track. All these countries where our delegation is. They all helped with the exchange of
- 18 prisoners of war and the return of children and the return of some prisoners who were taken prisoner by
- 19 Russians who are citizens of other countries.
- 20 And all these sites are being worked on by our team and the results are good.
- 21 I will receive a full briefing on Saturday evening. As for these countries as potential venues for future meetings
- 22 at the level of leaders in a bilateral or trilateral format,
- 23 As for the United States of America, by the way, next week there will be a European track. Now there is the global
- 24 south and next week the European track.
- 25 I think that we will organize it at the level of leaders because some points need to be clarified regarding security
- 26 guarantees. I want us to follow the same path to
- 27 understand each other. So I think we will be at different venues. We will have several meetings.
- 28 I think at the level of leaders, I would call it our Washington group and other groups of European leaders will meet.
- 29 Mr. President, I would like to start with an event that will take place tonight, I believe, in New York where
- 30 our team will meet with Mr. Witco. Will it be just Wititov? And in fact, the question is what was
- 31 the plan of our negotiating delegation to go there? And as you have already announced, the main issue is guarantees.
- 32 So what do you expect after this meeting? Do you expect to understand exactly the format of the United States

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- 33 participation in future guarantees for Ukraine after this meeting?
- 34 Thank you for your question. We have a few questions with the American side.
- 35 The first question is the Pearl program. We buy weapons from the United States.
- 36 We have Denmark, Norway, and Sweden with 500 million, Germany with 500 million,
- 37 and Canada during our meeting on August 24th with Carney decided on 500 million.
- 38 Belgium confirmed 100 million this morning. We want this corridor to work a little faster.
- 39 This is the number one question. Question number two, Russia is demonstrating its
unwillingness to
- 40 engage in diplomacy by first of all attacking civilian infrastructure, killing our civilians and
our children.
- 41 We urgently tried to convene the UN Security Council. Thanks to our partners, we
collected nine votes.
- 42 We have succeeded. The Prime Minister will represent Ukraine today. She will represent
Ukraine at the UN Security
- 43 Council regarding these attacks on Ukraine by the Russian Federation.
- 44 Prime Minister Julius Verenko will also have separate meetings with US businesses,
investments, and as we
- 45 already know, potential investors.
- 46 As for the track, the head of the office will meet with Witkov just as we agreed with
President Trump.
- 47 Witkov, Rubio, and JD Vance is joining in. That's what we agreed with him.
- 48 From our side, Yermach Umarov and Kisliche are involved.

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- 49 He and Vitkov will meet today. I think Witkov and Yermach will meet today
- 50 and they will say exactly what we agreed with President Trump. Where are we in this coordination of
- 51 preparing our meetings as for coordination with other
- 52 countries? Um is now communicating separately with the Turkish side.
- 53 We are working in several areas regarding security guarantees. Why we are organizing a European track
- 54 next week for example is because we need everything to make architecture understandable to everyone.
- 55 Then we want to connect with President Trump in the same way during one meeting next week and tell him how we see it.
- 56 Mr. President, could you please be more specific about security guarantees?
- 57 There is an article in Politico that says that European countries are proposing a buffer zone. How do you see
- 58 it? I have heard this repeatedly from
- 59 Europeans and Americans. I just tried to explain it to my colleagues, some of them as to friends.
- 60 Some, by the way, understand all this very well. Only those who do not understand the state of the war today,
- 61 the state of technology propose a buffer zone of 40, 50, 60. I even heard a
- 62 proposal for 100 km. This is a completely different story.
- 63 Today, heavy weapons are 10 plus km apart because everything is hit by drones.
- 64 This buffer zone, I call it the dead zone, some call it the gray zone, already exists.

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65 There is no need to delay anything to stall for time to be led by any clauses,
66 conditions, additional conditions from Russia or some other dreamers. The buffer zone
exists if Russia wants to
67 have a greater distance from us. They can move deeper into the temporarily occupied
territories of Ukraine that
68 they have occupied and settle there. We don't need anything for this. Drones burn
everything out.
69 If the sides order drones to clear everything within 20 kilome, it'll be 20. If it's 40, it'll be
40. The
70 commanders have the corresponding weapons, so no need to pull anything back. It's
71 already been held back. Look at the front line of the Russian army. Where are the
armored vehicles?
72 Where are the tanks there? There is nothing left. No one is moving forward because
everyone is losing equipment.
73 day, night, at any time. So, it's just unnecessary talk.
74 It was after 2014. It was in the Minsk process. There was another war. There was the
ATO, another war, other forces,
75 and there were no technologies that were even close to these ones.
76 Then there was an agreement to disengage the troops. We remember how the
disengagement of troops ended. We
77 withdrew the equipment. They withdrew the equipment, but it didn't lead to anything. But
that's another part of the
78 story. Now, it is what it is. Did you only ask
79 about the buffer zone? About your vision of security guarantees?
80 I won't tell you all the details. I believe that the following blocks are important for Ukraine.
The first block

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- 81 is what everyone understands. Our army. In my opinion, this block consists of
- 82 funding for the number of personnel that we have today.
- 83 The ability to finance the army in the amount that defends our borders today.
- 84 No one says more because no one else will give more. But we cannot say less because we are not going to conduct the
- 85 relevant experiments. So the army, it is about the personnel.
- 86 Next, weapons for this army. Three tracks that need to be supported and funded.
- 87 And this requires partners. The first track is domestic. Our production facilities, drones, technologies, etc.
- 88 The second track is European production, air defense, artillery, etc.
- 89 The third track is American weapons. American weapons are a corridor called Pearl through NATO. How to finance
- 90 But separately the agreement on American weapons that we need strengthening the army and as part of the security
- 91 guarantee. As I said we have done our homework. We handed this agreement over to the US. This concerns the first part
- 92 security guarantees
- 93 our army. The second part we have always wanted NATO.
- 94 No one on the NATO side wants to or let's just say they are not giving it to us yet and that's why there is a NATO
- 95 like so my approach to this is very clear
- 96 if it is not NATO we are told that it is as strong as NATO but not NATO in other

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- 97 words in the second and third steps we need to understand what our partners are willing to do
- 98 because that's what an alliance is like and so this part I want to discuss it with partners next week in Europe, but
- 99 without our military.
- 100 There were consultations of the general staffs, consultations of the chiefs of the main commands, consultations of
- 101 national security advisers and in my opinion, we need to get the leaders involved immediately to reach an
- 102 agreement and only then move on to the military, the NSA, etc.
- 103 This is what I see because the issues are such as boots on the ground and so on. This can only be discussed at the
- 104 level of leaders. Who is ready and what is ready for? This is my philosophy for the second
- 105 block. The third block is crucial sanctions. It's also security guarantees.
- 106 What are security guarantees? Let's say Russia attacks us again from the sea.
- 107 Who will defend what and how? From the sky, which partner is ready to do what?
- 108 And on the ground, from Bellarus, from Russia, what difference does it make? Who is ready to do what? Where to
- 109 support Ukraine? To answer these questions, they are very simple. Maybe the answers are more
- 110 complicated really because we need to agree. But in answering these simple questions,
- 111 we need to see who is ready to provide what to Ukraine
- 112 and for how long. That's why the sanctions are in the third block.

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- 113 And I believe that Russian assets are important because they are the restoration of our country, energy,
- 114 communications, etc. This is also part of our security guarantees. These are the blocks I see.
- 115 This is general. I'm not talking about the geopolitical part which is definitely the EU and when Ukraine
- 116 becomes a full member. These are also security guarantees primarily economic ones.
- 117 Do you feel strong European support for Ukraine or does it depend on the US president's stance?
- 118 Thank you. Of course, Europe's support depends on the position of the United States.
- 119 In what sense of the word we have seen even when America was a little bit there was such a moment.
- 120 Yes, it was not easy. Europe was with us. But what does it depend on? If America as it is now signals security
- 121 guarantees and involvement, Europe provides even more.
- 122 they are more confident. This is also understandable. It is very important for their internal society, for their people
- 123 to understand that Europe is not alone, but with America. This is about the same for Ukraine. It
- 124 is important for Ukrainians to know that Ukraine is not alone in this war, but that Europe is with us. It is important
- 125 for Europe to know that they are not alone. The US are with them.
- 126 In fact, this is a trilateral alliance and it is very important to us.
- 127 So far, I believe that our support is quite strong. I am interested in the question of your
- 128 meetings with Putin. Do you see any signals from the Russian side that a meeting is actually being prepared

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- 129 because Mertz is already openly saying that Putin most likely does not want to meet with you and is doing everything he
- 130 can to avoid meeting with you? And a second clarifying question on the same topic. If Russia tries to stall again
- 131 and for example proposes the format of a Lavro Yermach meeting in Istanbul, would that suit you and the Americans or would
- 132 you agree to a lower level of talks than between you and Putin?
- 133 Thank you for the question. Let's start with Istanbul. Lavro Yermach or Lavro Ciga Yermach
- 134 Ushakov. there is a corresponding counterpart or Umearov Madinski.
- 135 I don't see a big difference on the Russian side because they operate in the same political corridor.
- 136 To be honest, I don't see a big difference here either because we work as a team.
- 137 Therefore, they can offer a new level. What for? We have seen these signals in the media. What is the purpose? I
- 138 believe that this is an artificial postponement of the meeting of the leaders because they want to show the United States that they are
- 139 constructive, the Russians. They are unconstructive unfortunately
- 140 because people are dying and they want to find ways to delay what
- 141 the delay in imposing sanctions. the delay in the American sorry the kurfuffle
- 142 because Americans they don't take kindly to being played with and not playing fair
- 143 and they understand that a postponement may also affect the American side America may give more weapons for
- 144 example it may be a statement or it may be actions

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- 145 for example 3,000 missiles today. Yesterday was a strike. Today we will give the Ukrainians 3,000 missiles.
- 146 There are questions about when they will come, but nevertheless, this is pressure.
- 147 I have always said that sanctions mean pressure. If Ukraine signs a contract with the US
- 148 for billions of dollars for fighter jets, air defense, and so on, this is also pressure.
- 149 When Ukraine receives them and when Ukraine can use them, this is also pressure.
- 150 That's why sanctions and related things are pressure. Tariffs on third countries are also pressure on Russia. The issue
- 151 of volume secondary sanctions could be a blow to the Russian economy. We want this very much. Our partners are
- 152 hesitant. Of course, they want to have some kind of diplomatic connection with the Russians.
- 153 That's why Russians will do everything they can to avoid meeting I think they got something because they
- 154 had a meeting with the United States of America.
- 155 And it is clear that if a trilateral meeting had been proposed at once, there would have been more chances for a
- 156 trilateral meeting before the bilateral one between the United States and Russia.
- 157 It is what it is. It was not our decision. But nevertheless, today we have what Trump has proposed.
- 158 Let's make it bilateral and then trilateral. The reasons are different. I
- 159 think the American president has his own view on this, but we support one format or another.
- 160 Is Putin already preparing for this meeting? Your meeting is not like putting two chairs together. It is very

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- 161 serious. Are there any signs that he is already preparing to meet?
- 162 I think there are two parallel processes going on. They are thinking in parallel about how this meeting is possible.
- 163 They do. But above all, they will do everything to prevent this because they will do everything to
- 164 prevent our meeting from taking place. But if this is how the puzzles are going to fit together, both the global south
- 165 and the United States must play their part. Now, in order for the puzzles to fit together, they need to be ready.
- 166 For example, when there are such ultimatum statements from Pesco that we want this old story denatification, what
- 167 can we see in this?
- 168 First of all, yes, it looks like a postponement because the conditions are the same. But I think it's also about
- 169 preparing their society because they have a radicalized society
- 170 that sees no point in our meeting.
- 171 It's from NHK. Related to the previous question, what do you think is necessary to bring Putin
- 172 to the negotiation table? What do you think it's necessary to bring? And the second question is US
- 173 President Trump has made a statement suggesting reluctance to attend the Ukraine Russia meeting if it happens.
- 174 But how does Ukraine plan to involve the US to end this war? But how do Ukraine plan to involve the
- 175 United States to end this war?
- 176 America's great desire is needed and Putin will be at the negotiating table.

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- 177 This is the first thing and second Russia has no desire to end the war. So
- 178 the question is they do not want to realize at the level of their leadership that this war is causing them serious
- 179 losses. And we are not just talking about political losses. They have already lost face.
- 180 Today we are talking about losses to their economy. Unfortunately, they don't feel it yet.
- 181 Although everyone has already realized that there are definitely bad things going on with the economy.
- 182 And everyone is watching this not because they are worried about what will happen to Russia, but because they are
- 183 worried about how much longer they can finance their army. If the analysts are right that they spent half of their
- 184 budget this year on the war or half of their taxes, I think
- 185 These are just serious scary numbers. I'm not confirming it.
- 186 It's that there are some such signals today. I can't say for sure, but still there is no smoke without fire.
- 187 So I think we need to pay attention to this. There are secondary sanctions, tariffs, other things, sanctions on
- 188 certain products, sanctions on certain companies, and the shadow fleet is not completely eliminated. Although good
- 189 steps have been taken, but there is still a lot to be done, including energy pricing policy, nuclear, and sanctions.
- 190 All this will definitely happen anyway. I don't know how many packages it will take.
- 191 Yesterday I spoke with the president of the European Commission, Ursula Fonder Lion. The 19th package is now being
- 192 considered and this is good news.

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- 193 These sanctions cannot go alone because Europe is not enough. And so Europe is now synchronizing with
- 194 the United States of America. It is important that they started working together.
- 195 We need the United States to take strong steps.
- 196 They can. They are the most powerful in sanctions policy. This will affect regarding Putin. The war will end
- 197 anyway.
- 198 He's not going anywhere. Yes, you can still find reasons.
- 199 Not now. There is no denification, illegitimacy of the government and so on. But still these reasons are useless.
- 200 No one supports them in the world. There is no global support.
- 201 They are aggressors for everybody. Still 150 countries the UN 143 voted. So
- 202 you can't ignore that. That is they are guilty for this war and the guilty party must end the war
- 203 and it will happen anyway in one format or another the war will be over.
- 204 It's about the negotiating table. Did you say anything else?
- 205 President Trump has made statements that he doesn't want to be involved. No, I had a very good conversation with him
- 206 and he understands that it's not a simple way and I don't know in what case he answered this way that you said. I
- 207 think that maybe the question was about a trilateral meeting, a potential trilateral meeting. The question was
- 208 about trilateral meeting potential trilateral meeting and that's why he thinks that force is bilateral because it's clear that Trump

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- 209 wants to have success for him for the United States to have success for him for the United
- 210 States and he understands that maybe during the first meeting he will not succeed but
- 211 I'm sure if all of us will be strong so we can have a successful moment for the people so we can have successful
- 212 moment for for for the people finish the war. And of course, it's
- 213 understandable that ceasefire is not just and lasting peace, but it's a big step forward. Thank you. We do not yet
- 214 have security guarantees in the form of documents, but Ukraine definitely has security guarantees in the form of
- 215 people, people who are either already involved
- 216 in the defense of the country or who may potentially be involved. And the other day on your initiative, the government
- 217 allowed men aged 1822 to cross the state border. My first question is, do you
- 218 think there will be more benefits here or can we still have potential negative consequences from such a decision?
- 219 And why does this decision not mention men who are 22, 23, 24 years old? And
- 220 can we expect any decisions regarding them in the future? There are statistics that we have had
- 221 for probably 2 years now. And it is getting worse.
- 222 There are fewer and fewer boys graduating from school in Ukraine.
- 223 It was a wide range of consultations primarily with the military
- 224 and with educators. We really need if we want to keep Ukrainian boys in Ukraine, we really need them to graduate from

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- 225 school here first.
- 226 and to prevent their parents from taking them out without graduating from school.
- 227 And this is very bad because it is at this age in high school that they lose touch with Ukraine.
- 228 Today it is a fact because if it was a matter of a month, two, three, we would still be thinking
- 229 when we saw that this was a serious trend and we were talking about thousands.
- 230 I'm not talking about hundreds of thousands but the question is about thousands and we see this issue growing.
- 231 The decision was made. We looked at the age, talked to the military command. We absolutely understand that this age, the
- 232 university age, the student age, that children can easily graduate from schools not only in Ukraine, but that it
- 233 is important to enter Ukrainian universities,
- 234 not abroad, but in Ukraine. And what's important is to complete these higher education programs in Ukraine.
- 235 Therefore, from the point of view of all these areas, all these issues, the answer was found which had no impact on
- 236 the defense capability of our state.
- 237 Could there be a negative impact with concerns that these young men might leave and not return?
- 238 We see that there are no mass departures.
- 239 There are analysts. Some people say that those who really wanted to leave probably already left. But we have to
- 240 find a balance in the state not to lose either education or the educational level of our children.

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- 241 Not to lose the boys when they are still at school, but to give them the opportunity to study here, to grow up in
- 242 Ukraine and remain Ukrainians. because we believe that a large percentage will return after the war. But we need to
- 243 work for this. If a child does not finish school in his
- 244 or her home country and leaves, i.e. some he or she leaves as a young adult, the risks of not returning are very
- 245 high. That is why the decision was made.
- 246 I would like to ask you, we see that Russia is not showing signs of wanting to meet obviously publicly, not publicly
- 247 it seems either. Do we have a deadline agreed with our
- 248 partners by which we are waiting for them to say yes, no, we'll continue
- 249 and we are waiting for two or three weeks. Then we hope for sanctions from the US for the supply of weapons. Is
- 250 there any understanding of the times a dialogue with President Trump?
- 251 Each of us must be responsible for what we say and what we are willing to do. I think we spoke bilaterally with the
- 252 president of the United States and then with the Europeans that we reaffirm these platforms.
- 253 And let's agree with you, how long are we waiting? Basically, we had the same question as you. How long are we
- 254 waiting? Waiting for what? We are waiting for some strong steps from the United States towards Russia.
- 255 Because you just offered it to us and we immediately agreed. What else can you expect from us? We
- 256 have agreed. Russia has not yet agreed. And then it came from the president.

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- 257 Okay, we'll be ready in a couple of weeks. It means when we spoke it means two or three weeks. Couple of weeks.
- 258 It means when we spoke it means two three weeks. Just to remind everyone through your
- 259 camps that two weeks will be on Monday and we will remind everyone. Two weeks will be on Monday.
- 260 A few more clarifying questions about security guarantees. You have mentioned that the next week
- 261 will be fruitful in terms of meetings with international partners. when we can expect the security
- 262 guarantee to be presented and will it be formalized in a certain document
- 263 as well as questions about the presence of a foreign contingent in Ukraine.
- 264 Do we already have confirmation from partners? Do we know which countries and how much they are willing to provide?
- 265 We have no confirmation. We have no specifics yet because I believe that confirmation is when a country speaks
- 266 with specific numbers about what it is ready to do.
- 267 Theoretically, we understand several countries that are ready to take such steps. There are expected countries and
- 268 there are very unexpected ones. I'll say this, but not for intrigue. I'm just sharing what we have.
- 269 I have outlined these basic things about security guarantees to you.
- 270 We will present them to our colleagues. In any case, there will be a dialogue and there will be arguments. And this is
- 271 normal freedom of speech and so it will happen. I can't tell you the date.
- 272 We want to build the infrastructure first and understand what the choreography of this will be as the

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- 273 partners say and this is very important. I want to
- 274 talk about this in the next week or so and then I think in a little while we will understand who is ready for what.
- 275 What we want is for these security guarantees from European countries, the key ones at least, and from the United
- 276 States of America to be supported by parliaments and Congress.
- 277 Yes, we want legally binding security guarantees. We do not want the Budapest memorandum.
- 278 We do not want the Minsk agreements. We want Assyria. We've spoken to many people who have expressed that great
- 279 deal of fatigue with the war, especially after the attacks we saw in Kev yesterday. Many people we've spoken to
- 280 have said that they don't feel the diplomatic efforts will work, that they won't yield in real results. Could you
- 281 address those concerns to those of your people who say they are tired of the war, but feel that diplomatic efforts
- 282 will not lead anywhere? from your people who say they are tired of the war and feel an urgency for it to be over but
- 283 feel that diplomatic efforts are really not going to go any let's try to answer your questions and analyze it logically there are two ways
- 284 to end the war military or diplomatic we all understand that Russia cannot occupy
- 285 us today.
- 286 We all understand that Ukraine cannot fully restore all of its territories with weapons. Today
- 287 they lack the strength. We lack the strength. Therefore, when we talk about what society and people believe in, I
- 288 believe that today the diplomatic way is less killing, less loss, and faster than the way of war. In my opinion, this is

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289 true.