

UK Facilitates Ceasefire Negotiations Between Ukraine and US Amid Renewed Diplomatic Efforts

UK government sources have revealed that the United Kingdom played a pivotal role in facilitating discussions between Ukraine and the United States regarding a proposed ceasefire agreement with Russia.

This development comes as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky expressed his readiness to accept an immediate 30-day ceasefire, contingent upon the US convincing Russia to comply, following recent talks held in Saudi Arabia.

The negotiations have reportedly been driven by a concerted European effort, led by UK Labour Party leader Sir Keir Starmer, aimed at reinvigorating relations between the US and Ukraine. Sir Keir hailed the resulting agreement as a “remarkable breakthrough,” labeling it an “important moment for peace in Ukraine.”

In a significant policy shift, the Trump administration announced its intention to reinstate military aid to Ukraine and resume intelligence-sharing with Kyiv, following a prior suspension triggered by tensions between Donald Trump and Zelensky during a previous Oval Office meeting.

According to UK sources, last week Prime Minister Rishi Sunak’s National Security Adviser, Jonathan Powell, collaborated with US National Security officials, along with representatives from Germany and France, to craft a comprehensive plan for a ceasefire and subsequent steps.

Over the weekend, Powell visited Kyiv to engage directly with President Zelensky, aiding in the formulation of a written proposal that included measures for a temporary cessation of hostilities, prisoner exchanges, the return of Ukrainian children unlawfully taken by Russia, and the release of detained civilians.

This proposal was ultimately endorsed by both Ukrainian and American officials, paving the way for the discussions held in Saudi Arabia on Tuesday. Following these talks, Sir Keir congratulated the involved parties and emphasized the need for collective efforts to secure a lasting peace agreement for Ukraine.

He stated, “As both American and Ukrainian delegations have indicated, the ball is now in the Russian court. Russia must now agree to a ceasefire and an end to the fighting.”

In response to inquiries about the ceasefire proposal, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov remarked, “let’s not get ahead of ourselves,” indicating that Russia is engaged in a thorough review of the outcomes from the Saudi meetings before determining its stance on the

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proposed ceasefire.

The dialogue surrounding this ceasefire is critical, especially as military actions continue in Ukraine. Recent reports indicate missile attacks in Kryvyi Rih, resulting in civilian casualties, as well as assaults on maritime targets in Odessa, further complicating the situation on the ground.

Dame Emily Thornberry, a Labour MP and chair of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee, acknowledged the UK's significant contribution to the current state of affairs concerning the conflict in Ukraine, highlighting the legitimacy of the proposals aimed at halting violence. She remarked, "This is a step along the road towards peace, and we must appreciate what has been achieved so far."

Looking ahead, Sir Keir Starmer is scheduled to host a conference call with international leaders termed the "coalition of the willing," aimed at discussing peacekeeping initiatives intended to deter any future aggression from Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The primary goal of these European efforts is to place pressure on Russia, prompting it to consider whether it genuinely desires to pursue peace.

UK sources underscored that the responsibility now lies firmly with Russia: "Will they reciprocate and cease hostilities to allow for serious negotiations towards a lasting peace, or will they continue to perpetrate violence against innocent civilians?"

The ongoing conflict has inflicted heavy tolls, with estimates suggesting that hundreds of thousands, primarily military personnel, have perished or sustained injuries, while millions of Ukrainian civilians have been displaced since Russia's invasion began over three years ago.

As diplomacy continues to unfold, the international community remains vigilant, hoping for a resolution that brings an end to the suffering and instability in the region.