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### **Trump's aid freeze shakes Ukraine as peace talks stall**



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Ukrainians have voiced deep concerns over U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to pause military aid, a critical lifeline in their fight against Russia. The move follows a tense meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, as Washington pressures Kyiv to negotiate peace with Moscow.

While Ukraine remains grateful for U.S. assistance, Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal reaffirmed that any peace deal must include security guarantees and reject Russian territorial occupation. Kyiv and its allies fear Trump's approach may favor Moscow, which they argue cannot be trusted to uphold truces.

A White House official stated the aid freeze is under review, pending Ukraine's commitment to negotiations. However, on the battlefield, Ukrainian forces warn that a prolonged suspension could allow Russian advances. Soldiers emphasize that without sufficient arms and intelligence support, their position becomes increasingly vulnerable.

The decision also unsettles European allies, with Poland confirming NATO was not consulted before the announcement. Meanwhile, Russia welcomed the move, believing it could pressure Ukraine into further concessions.

Despite growing uncertainty, the EU has proposed an €800 billion defense plan, while the UK reaffirmed its commitment to Ukraine. Experts warn that Trump's policy shift could embolden Russia's demands, but Kyiv insists on a settlement on its own terms.

As tensions rise, both Trump and Zelenskyy remain open to a minerals deal that could be a first step toward potential negotiations. However, Ukrainian officials stress that their sovereignty and security must not be compromised.