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Trump, Zelensky discuss Ukraine's power plants and ceasefire prospects

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US President Donald Trump held an hour-long call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, marking their first direct conversation since a tense White House meeting last month. The call, which followed Trump's discussion with Russian President Vladimir Putin, covered ceasefire negotiations and potential US involvement in Ukraine's power sector.

According to the White House, Trump and Zelensky discussed the possibility of US assistance in operating Ukraine's nuclear power plants, with Trump suggesting that American ownership could provide better security and stability. However, Zelensky later clarified that the discussion was focused only on the Russian-occupied Zaporizhzhia nuclear facility.

The leaders also addressed a proposed 30-day ceasefire, which Ukraine and the US support but Putin has rejected. Zelensky indicated he was open to a partial ceasefire that would halt attacks on critical infrastructure but warned that Ukraine would retaliate if Russia violated the agreement.

Trump described the call as a step toward aligning Ukraine and Russia's positions. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio confirmed that Trump agreed to help Ukraine secure additional air defense systems, particularly from European sources. Both sides also committed to closer intelligence-sharing as the battlefield situation evolves.

While the dialogue signals progress, challenges remain. Putin has insisted on halting military aid

to Ukraine as a condition for a ceasefire, a demand Kyiv's Western allies have dismissed. Despite ongoing strikes, both sides exchanged 175 prisoners in a rare sign of cooperation.

Technical teams from the US and Ukraine are set to meet in Saudi Arabia in the coming days to advance discussions.