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### **Trump condemns Putin's remarks on Zelensky, warns of new tariffs**



Published on March 30, 2025

Document Date: Wed, Apr 02 2025 09:47:56 pm

Category: ,English,International - ,Snippets

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U.S. President Donald Trump expressed strong anger over Russian President Vladimir Putin's comments questioning Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky's legitimacy. In a phone interview with NBC News, Trump warned of potential tariffs on Russian oil if Moscow hinders efforts to end the war in Ukraine.

"I was very angry, pissed off when Putin questioned Zelensky's credibility," Trump stated. He emphasized that any interference in peace negotiations would have consequences.

Putin, speaking on Friday, argued that Ukraine's current government lacks legitimacy for signing a peace deal, citing the postponement of the 2024 elections due to martial law. He suggested that a temporary government under international supervision might be necessary before meaningful negotiations could take place.

"If Russia is responsible for prolonging this war, I will impose secondary tariffs on all Russian oil," Trump said, signaling economic retaliation if peace talks stall due to Moscow's actions.

Since returning to office, Trump has made ending the war in Ukraine a priority, holding talks with representatives from both sides despite ongoing tensions. His administration faces scrutiny over its approach to the conflict, particularly in light of international efforts to resolve the crisis.

Trump's comments mark a significant shift in U.S. rhetoric toward Russia, suggesting a tougher

stance if diplomatic efforts falter.