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## Trump, Putin hold talks for Russia-Ukraine ceasefire



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A high-stakes phone call between US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin commenced on Monday, aimed at reaching a ceasefire agreement between Moscow and Kyiv. A White House official confirmed the discussion, which Trump initially announced on Saturday via social media. The Kremlin later verified the planned talks the same day.

In his announcement, Trump stated that the call would also address trade issues alongside the primary focus on achieving a ceasefire. The conversation follows reports from CNN indicating that Trump began his diplomatic efforts on Monday with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy instead of Putin, despite Trump's prior announcement to contact the Russian leader first.

Trump had originally declared that he would speak to Putin at 10 a.m. (1400 GMT), followed by calls with Zelenskyy and NATO officials. The reported shift in schedule remains unconfirmed, as the White House declined to comment on whether the Trump-Zelenskyy call had taken place.

Describing the talks as crucial for ending what he called the "bloodbath" claiming over 5,000 soldiers weekly, Trump posted on Truth Social: "HOPEFULLY IT WILL BE A PRODUCTIVE DAY."

The call comes just days after Russian and Ukrainian delegations engaged in their first direct negotiations in over three years, held in Istanbul last Friday.

Diplomatic observers are closely watching the outcome of the Trump-Putin conversation, hoping it could pave the way for de-escalation in the conflict.