

Trump says call with Putin ‘went very well



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LOS ANGELES, May 19 – Former U.S. President Donald Trump said his phone call with Russian President Vladimir Putin “went very well,” signaling a possible new round of negotiations between Russia and Ukraine.

In a social media post following the two-hour conversation, Trump stated that both sides would “immediately start negotiations toward a ceasefire and, more importantly, an end to the war.” He emphasized that the terms of any agreement would be set solely by Ukraine and Russia, noting

that “only they know the details of a negotiation that nobody else would be aware of.”

Trump also highlighted potential future trade between the United States and Russia, suggesting that economic cooperation could follow a resolution. “There is a tremendous opportunity for Russia to create massive amounts of jobs and wealth,” he wrote. “Likewise, Ukraine can benefit greatly through trade during the rebuilding of its country.”

He said he had briefed several international leaders on the call, including Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, French President Emmanuel Macron, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, and Finnish President Alexander Stubb.

The announcement comes amid renewed efforts to de-escalate the conflict in Ukraine, though Trump’s direct engagement and the absence of U.S. preconditions or timelines—has raised questions among some European officials