

Russia rejects Trump's ceasefire ultimatum as tensions rise



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MOSCOW KYIV July 16— Russia has firmly rejected US President Donald Trump's 50-day ultimatum for a ceasefire in Ukraine, calling the threat of severe tariffs unacceptable and counterproductive.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov reaffirmed Moscow's commitment to a

diplomatic solution but warned that its objectives in Ukraine remain unchanged. He stated that if diplomacy fails the special military operation will continue and urged Washington and NATO to take Russia's position seriously.

Speaking on Tuesday Trump denied encouraging Ukrainian strikes deep into Russian territory. He clarified that he is not taking sides in the conflict and advised Ukraine not to target Moscow with long-range weapons.

Despite his denial Trump announced expanded arms support to Ukraine through NATO including Patriot missile systems expected to arrive within days. He also warned of economic retaliation if Russia does not agree to a ceasefire within 50 days. US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick later explained that the reference to 100 percent secondary tariffs meant broad economic sanctions.

In response the Russian Foreign Ministry condemned the planned arms deliveries accusing NATO countries of escalating the conflict and lacking genuine interest in peace.

Meanwhile Ukraine's parliament has extended the country's wartime status and military mobilization for another 90 days through November 5. Lawmakers also approved a temporary withdrawal from the Ottawa Convention signaling the potential return of anti-personnel landmines as the conflict escalates.

With diplomacy faltering and military support increasing the standoff between Moscow and

Washington continues to deepen with no clear path to resolution.