

Trump, Putin begin Alaska talks seeking Ukraine peace path



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ANCHORAGE, Aug. 15—U.S. President Donald Trump welcomed Russian President Vladimir Putin to Alaska on Friday for high-stakes closed-door talks aimed at ending the Russia-Ukraine war.

The two leaders met on the tarmac in Anchorage with a red-carpet greeting, deplaning simultaneously before walking together to a stage for a brief photo opportunity. As they

approached, a stealth bomber and four fighter jets conducted a ceremonial flyover. Shortly after, Trump and Putin entered the U.S. presidential limousine, “The Beast,” en route to the summit venue.

According to the White House, the discussions will begin in a three-on-three format. Trump will be joined by Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Special Envoy Steve Witkoff, while Putin will bring two senior aides. This will be followed by an expanded working lunch with additional officials.

Speaking earlier to Fox News, Trump said he would “walk away” from the summit if no progress is made. He added that any territorial adjustments between Ukraine and Russia would be for Kyiv to decide, reaffirming he is “not here to negotiate for Ukraine.”

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who has rejected any territorial concessions, said Trump expressed readiness to offer security guarantees. Asked about such guarantees, Trump said they were possible “along with Europe and other countries,” but “not in the form of NATO,” reiterating that Ukrainian membership in the alliance “is not going to happen.”

The summit comes amid heightened diplomatic activity, with international stakeholders watching closely for signs of a breakthrough. Both leaders are under pressure to show progress toward a ceasefire and a framework for lasting peace.

