
Russia Expects Ukraine to Return to Peace Talks Eventually



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ANKARA, Nov. 14 – Russia has indicated that Ukraine will “sooner or later” need to return to peace negotiations from a “much worse position,” Russian presidential spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Thursday, a day after Kyiv announced the suspension of talks aimed at ending the war ongoing since 2022.

Peskov responded to comments from the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry, asserting that the situation for Kyiv is “deteriorating day by day” and that Ukraine will eventually be compelled to reengage in dialogue with Moscow.

Ukrainian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergiy Kyslytsya told The Times on Wednesday that Ukraine has formally paused the peace talks due to a lack of meaningful progress during rounds held earlier this year in Istanbul. He added that Kyiv is seeking assistance from allies to arrange a direct meeting between President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Russia’s Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said Moscow had made “specific proposals,” particularly regarding prisoner exchanges, which remain largely unfulfilled. She claimed Kyiv met “less than 30%” of the commitments linked to a planned swap of 1,200 individuals, reflecting, in her view, a “lack of desire for peace.”

The three renewed rounds in Istanbul focused on prisoner and civilian exchanges, with both sides exchanging memorandums outlining their positions on ending the war. Russia continues to call for a permanent resolution to the conflict, whereas Ukraine and its Western allies favor freezing hostilities along current lines before negotiating a settlement.

The ongoing suspension of talks underscores the persistent stalemate in diplomatic efforts to resolve the nearly three-year war.

