

Inside The Trump-Zelenskyy Meeting: Key Takeaways and Reactions

President Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy met yesterday in the Oval Office for a tense but measured exchange focused on Kyiv's request for Tomahawk cruise missiles.

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Zelenskyy pressed hard for long-range U.S. systems to blunt Russia's offensives and raise the cost of aggression, but Trump—fresh from a phone call with Vladimir Putin and ahead of a planned Budapest meeting—offered no firm commitment.

He cited concerns over U.S. weapons stockpiles and the need to preserve diplomatic leverage, signaling that the decision remains under review. The meeting underscored Washington's delicate balancing act between arming Ukraine and avoiding direct escalation with Moscow.

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Looking ahead, the immediate horizon for the Russia-Ukraine war will likely hinge on Trump's next diplomatic steps.

A prospective summit could shape the course of weapons policy and determine whether Washington leans toward coercive

pressure or negotiated restraint.

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Meanwhile, both Kyiv and Moscow appear to be repositioning for winter—Ukraine seeking renewed Western aid, Russia betting on attrition and political fatigue in the West.

If the Tomahawk decision tips either way in the coming days, it may define the strategic tone for the next phase of the conflict.

Lt. Col. Robert Maginnis U.S. Army (retired), has authored nearly three thousand articles and is the author of twelve books.