

Putin Backs Ceasefire 'Idea'—But Is He Really Serious?

Russian President Vladimir Putin has signaled an openness to a 30-day ceasefire in Ukraine, although he said further details must be discussed.

“So the idea itself is correct, and we certainly support it,” Putin stated during a news conference. “But there are issues that we need to discuss, and I think that we need to discuss it with our American colleagues and partners.

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“We agree with the proposals to halt the fighting, but we proceed from the assumption that the ceasefire should lead to lasting peace and remove the root causes of the crisis,” he said, adding that he believes “it would be good for the Ukrainian side to secure a ceasefire for at least 30 days.”

Putin aide Yuri Ushakov previously suggested that Russia would not accept the ceasefire plan. Ushakov said, “Moscow does not want a temporary truce; it is interested in a long-term settlement,” noting that the “temporary ceasefire in Ukraine is nothing more than a temporary respite for the Ukrainian military.”

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Ushakov added that “Russia seeks a long-term peace settlement in Ukraine that takes into account Moscow’s interests and concerns,” emphasizing that “Americans understand that

Ukraine's membership in NATO is out of the question in the context of a peaceful settlement."

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Earlier this week, Ukraine consented to a immediate 30-day ceasefire with Russia. U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, alongside National Security Advisor Mike Waltz, announced the agreement, stating, "We'll take this offer now to the Russians, and we hope that they'll say yes." Rubio emphasized that Ukraine's willingness to halt hostilities represents a significant step toward peace. He added, "We hope the Russians will reciprocate."

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