President Volodymyr Zelensky comments related to the Russia-Ukraine peace process

X (Twitter) • 16 February 2026

(Posted at 1127 hours)

This is a big mistake to allow the aggressor to take something. It was a big mistake at the very beginning, starting with 2014. And even before that, during the attack and occupation of parts of Georgia. And even before that, when Chechnya was occupied, with total destruction and one million casualties – both killed and wounded.

Many mistakes were made. That's why now I don't want to be the President who will repeat the mistakes made by my predecessors or other people. I'm not just speaking about Ukraine. I'm speaking about the leaders of different countries that allowed an aggressive country like Russia to come onto their territory.

Because you can't stop Putin with your kisses or flowers. I never did it and that's why I don't feel that it's the right way. My advice to everybody – don't do that with Putin.

Otherwise, there will be a first step, then in five years, he will rebuild his military, increase the number of soldiers, his army will be well trained. Because he has lost a lot of well-trained people. He is losing 30–35 thousand people per month now.

Can you imagine this in the 21st century? Can you imagine – he's losing 35,000 each month? I'm not sure that he knows about it.

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(Posted at 1138 hours)

Total sanctions means total. President Trump took strong steps sanctioning Lukoil and Rosneft. We are thankful to him. He can sanction all of their energy, in particular nuclear energy. And it will be a powerful message to the Europeans.

Europeans have done a lot. But they haven't yet sanctioned Russian nuclear energy, Rosatom, the persons and their relatives, their children, who live off their money in Europe, in the United States, who pay with these profits for their education at European universities, who own real estate in the United States. A lot of real estate. They financially support children and relatives everywhere.

[Transcribed from original by the Parley Policy Initiative]

Fuck away to Russia. Go home. You don't respect anybody in the United States. You don't respect the rules. You don't respect democracy. You don't respect Ukraine or Europe. Go home.

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(Posted at 1245 hours)

When you want to get compromises from people who are under attacks and who are not aggressors – what do you give them? They don't trust anybody. They don't trust anybody because we had Budapest Memorandum. That was security guarantees. We gave up our nuclear and other weapons. A lot of aircraft – dozens of jets. We gave them up and received security guarantees of sovereignty and independence.

In the end, we don't have those weapons, and we don't have security guarantees. Nobody saved our independence. It's true. And that's why it's understandable why people have no trust. They don't live in a fantasy world. They are realistic, and they lost a lot: their families, their houses, and their way of life.

That's why people have to see what the security guarantees will look like. What if Russia comes? Many of them aren't asking, "What if they come?" They are asking, "What will happen when they come again?" Because they are sure that the Russians will come again. And they simply say, "No, we will not run away. We just want to hear what it means. What is the price? What do the security guarantees from the world leader – the United States of America – mean?"

And our American friends, they are preparing security guarantees. But they said – first this swap of territories, or something like that, and then security guarantees. I think – first, security guarantees. Second, we will not give up our territories because we are ready for compromise. What kind of compromise are we ready for? Not for the compromise that gives Russia the opportunity to recover quickly and come again and occupy us. This is an important thing.

This is how we see the priorities. But in any case, security guarantees will work only after a vote in Congress. So what is there to be afraid of? I don't understand. We can sign the document on security guarantees for Ukraine with the leaders. It will be a strong signal for people – America will help and support you, Europeans will be together with you if Russia comes again. And then you can talk to Ukrainians about what they are ready for.

I said this in my interview with Politico. Ukraine is grateful to everyone who listens to us, supports us, and does everything possible – through support and diplomacy – to help end this war with dignity.