President Volodymyr Zelensky's comments on Starlink/Starshield and ceasefire negotiations

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Note: The comments came via a series of posts on X/Twitter, published in the night of 25 October. They have been combined into a single narrative for this record.

Our conversation with the American side in Oslo was accompanied by three challenges. These were the shortage of air defense, restrictions on Starlink/Starshield, and restrictions on intelligence sharing from the United States of America. I am grateful to the Americans and our team that two of these issues – intelligence and Starlink/Starshield – have been resolved as of today.

The issue of air defense remains. There is progress on missiles for Patriot systems, but things are moving very slowly. More slowly than Russian missiles fly. You cannot say, "Yes, we will give the missiles to you," and then not deliver them for a month or two. It simply does not work that way.

Our security guarantees are our security guarantees. They cannot be dictated by the Russian side. Restrictions on our army and Ukraine's neutrality are not up for discussion. The territorial issue is a red line that can only be discussed at the level of leaders. The Americans have long been raising the issue of exchanging territories – they call it "land swaps." There are also other formats and proposals for discussion.

Everyone must understand. First, we are not exchanging anything for anything. We are ready for discussions. If it is the territorial issue, then it must be discussed at the level of leaders. Other issues – at the level of technical groups. So all of this can be discussed in November.

I would not want us to approach a meeting of the three leaders – Ukraine, the United States, and Russia – having lifted all sanctions on the Russian Federation. This is an important point. Sanctions were imposed for aggression, not for an opportunity to have a chat. So if we say that this is the end of the war, there is a certain order for lifting sanctions. I told the American delegation this because I have had this feeling for quite a long time: when we talk about Russia's loyalty, we should not buy it at such a price. Because without sanctions, we could find ourselves in a trilateral dialogue where we still do not know what will happen next, but the sanctions have already been lifted. And who will have the strength we had at the beginning of the war to impose all those sanctions again? To bring people together in such a way that we could secure more than 20 sanctions packages around the world. That is why I am very cautious about this.

[Transcribed from original by the Parley Policy Institute]

I do not want us to find ourselves at a meeting with Putin without tools – without sanctions, without money, or without frozen assets. Because then, as Mr. Trump said, we really would not have too many cards in our deck.

We are ready for trilateral talks between technical groups, which must yield a concrete result. The Americans asked me, "What specifics do you want?" I said, "Look, can the war end in November during a meeting of the technical group?" Without the leaders, it cannot be fully ended. Okay, if that is not possible, then give us an energy ceasefire, the sea, grain, an all-for-all exchange, or a meeting of leaders. Of course, that is a result. A result is an opportunity.

Energy, grain, people – these are concrete things, while a meeting at the level of leaders is an opportunity to have something concrete after our trilateral. This is what we are asking for and proposing. We are not demanding it, but proposing it to the American side. Then that would show seriousness. But if this is just a political trick and Putin is simply saying, "Yes, I'm ready," because he does not want escalation with America before the elections, then we will see very quickly in November whether it was a trick or not.

The American side proposed a ceasefire regime in the Oleshky area starting October 27. Because this cannot be just one day. It will last several days. Humanitarian missions must come there: the Americans, us, and the Russians. The Russians must clear the roads of mines, and we must see this and work on all of it there. I have given the Ombudsman the relevant instructions. We have also spoken with the Security Service and the military. Of course, Russia will do everything to demine the roads in such a way that these people go to Russia and stay there. They are not going to simply set people free. And some people will be evacuated to Ukraine one way or another – to the part we control. The main thing is to free these people from the blockade so they can live. Ideally, they should be able to achieve their goal and evacuate here, to us, to Ukraine, which will provide them with everything they need and support them.

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