# Russian President Putin's Ceasefire Proposal Rebuffed by Ukraine Amidst Territorial Sovereignty Concerns



On Friday, Russian President Vladimir Putin proposed an immediate ceasefire and negotiations to end the war in Ukraine, contingent on Ukraine meeting several demands. These conditions include Kyiv surrendering the entirety of four regions—Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson, and Zaporizhzhia—abandoning its NATO membership aspirations, and demilitarizing. Putin also called for lifting Western sanctions against Russia.

Ukrainian officials, including President Volodymyr Zelensky and presidential adviser Mykhailo Podolyak, dismissed Putin's proposal. They described it as an "absurd" offer aimed at forcing Ukraine to admit defeat and relinquish its sovereignty. Zelensky reiterated that peace could only begin after Russia withdraws from Ukrainian territory and emphasized the historical parallel to Hitler's tactics in World War II.

Putin's remarks came ahead of a peace conference in Switzerland, set to attract representatives from over 90 nations to discuss issues such as food security and nuclear safety in Ukraine. NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg also rejected the proposal, highlighting that it seemed more aggressive than genuine.

Russia's stance follows its controversial annexation of four southeastern Ukrainian regions and Crimea in 2014. Moscow's demands include fulfilling Ukraine's neutral status and protecting Russian-speaking populations within Ukraine.

The situation remains tense, as Ukraine insists on full territorial integrity and accountability for Russian actions, signaling a prolonged conflict.