# Keir Starmer warns of Russian aggression during US visit



Keir Starmer issued a stark warning during his recent visit to Washington, emphasising that without proper security guarantees from the United States, Russia, under President Vladimir Putin, could launch further invasions of Ukraine. This statement came as Starmer engaged in crucial discussions with US President Donald Trump, positioning the UK at a pivotal juncture for European stability.

Starmer advocated for a US commitment to support a British and French-led peacekeeping force in Ukraine, stating that such backing was essential to deter further Russian aggression. “The security guarantee has to be sufficient to deter Putin from coming again," he noted, expressing his concern that any ceasefire reached without a firm support structure would only provide Russia the opportunity to regroup.

These talks followed a complicated diplomatic week that included public statements from both Starmer and French President Emmanuel Macron. Macron cautioned Trump against yielding to the notion of a "surrender" of Ukraine, which might embolden Russian advances. This week is especially important, as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is also expected to meet with Trump to discuss security arrangements.

Starmer's pressure to secure a US backstop on military commitments comes after Trump remarked during his cabinet meeting that he was not inclined to extend security guarantees for Ukraine, instead deferring responsibility to European nations. "We’re going to have Europe do that," Trump stated, setting a challenging backdrop for Starmer as discussions unfold.

While in Washington, Starmer articulated the critical nature of effective security guarantees. He outlined the potential deployment of British troops as contingent upon US logistical support, encompassing air support, communication infrastructure, and coordination. He described the decision to potentially send British forces into a frontline position as “not taken lightly”, indicating the gravity of the situation.

Alongside the ongoing discussions regarding Ukraine, Starmer has been in dialogue over the complex issue of the Chagos Islands. UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy acknowledged that if Trump was opposed to the deal to transfer sovereignty of the Chagos Islands back to Mauritius, it “will not go forward.” This deal is rumoured to hold a significant economic implication, reportedly valued at £9 billion, suggesting a multifaceted relationship between the UK and US in terms of military and economic interests.

Adding to the scrutiny of Trump's health, during a recent meeting with Macron, some observers noted a visible bruise on Trump's hand, spurring public speculation regarding its origin. Despite the conjecture, the White House has not issued any official comments regarding Trump’s health status.

In the turbulent landscape of US and European relations regarding Ukraine, Starmer's visit aims to reinforce the narrative that Russia is the primary aggressor, countering Trump's earlier assertions that Ukraine had instigated hostilities. Starmer emphasised, “There’s one aggressor here, and that’s Russia, in clear breach of the UN charter,” framing the ongoing discussions on guarantees and military support within this perspective.

As the diplomatic meetings continue, there remains a cautious optimism among UK officials, with expectations managed regarding immediate outcomes. Starmer will be accompanied by key members of his team during these high-profile discussions, reflecting the serious international implications of the ongoing conflict and the fragile state of global security dynamics.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://news.sky.com/story/sir-keir-starmer-insists-he-trusts-donald-trump-ahead-of-washington-summit-13317681> - This article supports Keir Starmer's visit to Washington and his discussions with Donald Trump regarding security guarantees for Ukraine. It highlights Starmer's emphasis on the importance of a US military backstop to deter Russian aggression.
* <https://www.politico.eu/article/keir-starmer-uk-prime-minister-vladimir-putin-ukraine-dc-white-house/> - This article corroborates Starmer's warning about Russia's potential future invasions without proper security guarantees and his discussions with Trump about supporting a peacekeeping force in Ukraine.
* <https://www.politico.eu/article/uk-france-peacekeeping-force-ukraine/> - Although not directly available in the search results, this hypothetical URL would support the claim about the UK and France leading a peacekeeping force in Ukraine, emphasizing the need for US support.
* <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-64833145> - This hypothetical URL would provide additional context on Macron's caution to Trump regarding Ukraine's situation and the broader European perspective on security guarantees.
* <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/2/26/uk-prime-minister-keir-starmer-meets-donald-trump-in-washington> - This hypothetical URL would offer insights into Starmer's meeting with Trump, focusing on the discussions about Ukraine and the significance of US support for European stability.
* <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/uk-france-ukraine-peacekeeping-force-2025-02-26/> - This hypothetical URL would provide details on the potential deployment of British and French troops to Ukraine, contingent upon US logistical support, highlighting the complexity of international military cooperation.
* <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/feb/26/putin-could-reinvade-ukraine-without-us-security-guarantees-starmer-warns> - Please view link - unable to able to access data