



By: *Oleksandr Levchenko*

Zelenskyy's letter forced Putin to openly declare opposition to the peace solution



The public letter from the President of Ukraine, **Volodymyr Zelenskyy**, to Vladimir Putin is a significant development in the stalled diplomatic process to end Russian aggression against Ukraine.

Zelenskyy's direct invitation to Putin for a meeting marks a departure from the previous negotiation model, which clearly failed to produce results.

In essence, the appeal sought to obtain a clear answer regarding Russia's willingness to end the war and move towards a genuine negotiation process.

The open letter format was chosen deliberately, as it reduced the possibility of ignoring the appeal or avoiding a public response.

At the same time, the letter was addressed not only to Putin but also to representatives of the Russian political elite and Russian society as a whole.

A significant portion of Russian citizens continues to receive information primarily through state-controlled media, which shapes a particular perception of the causes and course of the war.

In this context, the open letter was an attempt to present an alternative perspective to a Russian audience.

Testing the Kremlin's willingness to engage in dialogue

Furthermore, the appeal aimed to remind Ukraine's international partners of the need to maintain focus on the Russian-Ukrainian war, which remains the largest armed conflict in Europe in recent decades.

It should also be noted that Putin has repeatedly declared his readiness for negotiations, while simultaneously placing responsibility for the lack of progress on the

Ukrainian side.

Putin effectively rejected the proposal for a personal meeting with the President of Ukraine

In this context, Zelenskyy's letter was a political move intended to test the Kremlin's genuine willingness to engage in dialogue.

During the plenary session of the St Petersburg International Economic Forum, **Putin** effectively rejected the proposal for a personal meeting with the President of Ukraine.

Putin's rejection

In response to a related question, he stated that he saw no practical value in such a meeting at present, arguing that Kyiv allegedly sought to use negotiations to halt the Russian offensive.

The Russian leader concluded his remarks by calling on Russian forces to continue military operations.

In addition, Putin revealed that intermediary contacts had taken place with the participation of a Russian businessman.

Russian president made it clear that he had no intention of abandoning the territorial claims previously declared by Moscow

According to him, this intermediary was billionaire **Roman Abramovich**, who had reportedly conveyed proposals from the Ukrainian side about organising negotiations.

Commenting on Russia's war objectives, the Russian president made it clear that he had no intention of abandoning the territorial claims previously declared by Moscow.

In particular, he reaffirmed Russia's intention

to secure full control of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions within their administrative borders.

Russian goals remain unattainable

At the same time, developments on the battlefield indicate significant difficulties in achieving these objectives, and a number of experts question whether they can be realised even in the medium term.

Thus, despite periodic statements about possible compromises or negotiations, the Kremlin's fundamental position remains unchanged: the Russian leadership continues to pursue its strategic objectives either through military means or by exerting political pressure on Ukraine and its partners.



Putin is not demonstrating readiness for a genuine peaceful settlement of the conflict

Putin's refusal to support Zelenskyy's proposal for a personal meeting and to explore ways to end the war is further evidence that the current Russian leadership is not demonstrating readiness for a genuine peaceful settlement of the conflict.

This again underscores the necessity of maintaining **international support** for Ukraine and continuing diplomatic efforts to achieve a just and lasting peace.

This is also confirmed in Zelenskyy's letter, in which he states that he is ready for a full ceasefire during the negotiation process and

expresses the desirability of involving representatives of the United States and European countries.

Putin's rejection of Zelenskyy's initiative confirms his fundamental opposition to a peaceful outcome, at the cost of significant losses in Ukraine, as well as on Russian soil due to Ukrainian attacks on military and energy facilities deep within Russia.

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