

Trump Sets 50-Day Ultimatum for Russia Over Ukraine Peace Deal



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2025-07-23

1 min read

Faced with a 50-day deadline and the threat of sweeping tariffs, Russia may escalate its military campaign in Ukraine to gain leverage before talks.

Details. Trump's ultimatum was announced during a meeting with NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte on July 14.

- ▶ Trump stated that "100% secondary tariffs" would be imposed on Russian goods and any country continuing to trade with Russia if no deal is reached within 50 days.
- ▶ The Kremlin dismissed the 50-day deadline as "election posturing," but Russian media outlets warned that US economic escalation could prompt retaliatory trade measures and a renewed military push in Ukraine.
- ▶ Zelensky reportedly asked Trump to approve a US-backed strike on Moscow, but Trump refused, calling it "reckless" and claiming it would "drag America into World War III."

Context. Although Russian exports to the US account for only 3-5% of its total trade, secondary sanctions could impact major partners like China, which recently reached a tariff reduction deal with the US. This creates pressure for Beijing to influence Moscow's decisions.

- ▶ Trump's threat comes as NATO announces new weapons shipments to Ukraine, including air defence systems and long-range artillery.
- ▶ The 50-day deadline may push Russia to escalate offensives in Ukraine to improve its leverage. Reports suggest North Korean reinforcements are already arriving to support these efforts.