



Leaked Chat: US Allies on Alert

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The group chat among senior US officials regarding a planned attack in Yemen, in which a journalist was accidentally included, has been deemed by US allies as a **serious security breach**. The incident has raised significant concerns about sharing intelligence information with Washington and the security of joint military operations.

The conversation, which took place on the messaging app **Signal** and related to attacks against the Houthi rebels, was described as **“quite shocking”** by Neil Melvin, a security expert at the Royal United Services Institute. *“It seems that some of the highest US officials show a complete disregard for normal security protocols,”* he commented.

The **White House** and the **Pentagon** have denied that Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth disclosed classified information. However, beyond the leak, there is also concern about the **disparaging tones towards European allies** that emerged in the conversation. Vice President **JD Vance** complained about continually “saving” Europe, while Hegseth described European behavior as an example of **“pathetic parasitism”**.

An Increasingly Tense Relationship

These statements represent another blow to the already fragile transatlantic relationship, tested by Donald Trump's isolationist approach. The former president tightened immigration policies and, on several occasions, showed little interest in allied nations.

Trump even expressed the intention to **acquire Greenland** and turn Canada into the **51st American state**. Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney reacted by stating that his country will need to “take greater responsibility for its own defense.” The **European frustration** is palpable. French MEP Nathalie Loiseau ironically commented: *“If I were Putin, I would feel unemployed. The US administration reveals its own information.”*

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Canadian Prime Minister Carney called the incident *“a very serious matter”* that requires swift and concrete responses.

The United Kingdom, particularly exposed, closely shares its intelligence activities with Washington within the *Five Eyes* alliance. The Royal Air Force collaborated on the attacks on the Houthis, but British Minister Luke Pollard assured that personnel were not put at risk.

Ed Davey, leader of the British Liberal Democrats, stated that the Trump administration's inability to protect its information *“could soon put our intelligence at risk as well”*.

“This could put British lives at risk,” he said. According to Alex Clarkson of King's College London, **many of the experienced professionals who mitigated damage** in the first Trump administration are no longer there, allowing behaviors that were previously contained.

An Increasingly Distant America

The United States has supported European security since World War II, but criticism of the lack of European defense investments has grown stronger since the Obama administrations. Trump, however, pushed this frustration much further, proposing a **complete review of security agreements**.

During the last election campaign, he stated that Russia should “do what it wants” against NATO countries that do not meet military spending targets. For Max Bergmann, a former State

Department official, **the US now sees Europe as an adversary**: *"It is clear that it will be almost impossible to count on the United States for the defense of democracy in the world,"* also stated Kevin Casas-Zamora, secretary-general of International IDEA.

Yet, according to NATO leaders, American pressure and the war in Ukraine have had an effect: **most members now invest at least 2% of GDP in defense**. The possibility of a second Trump term and a rapprochement with Putin have **accelerated European defense plans**. The United Kingdom and France now lead a "coalition of the willing" for a possible ceasefire in Ukraine. Clarkson concludes with a note of hope for Europe: *"One should not underestimate the European military industrial capacity. The Americans may have awakened a sleeping giant."*

News link: <https://www.defensenews.com/news/pentagon-congress/2025/03/25/us-allies-alarmed-by-leaked-group-chat-about-houthi-attack-plans/>