



Trump, Carrot and Stick: Weapons for Ukraine and Tariff Threats for Russia

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On Monday, President Donald Trump outlined two strategic steps to pressure Russia to end the war in Ukraine, proposing new arms supplies to Kiev and threatening economic sanctions against Moscow if a peace agreement is not reached within 50 days. This approach marks a significant shift in Trump's handling of the conflict, as he has sought to distance himself from this war since taking office at the White House last January. However, with an increasingly exasperated attitude towards Russian President Vladimir Putin, Trump reiterated the need for direct U.S. involvement to protect Ukraine.

Weapons for Ukraine: A New Deal with Europe

In a meeting with NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte, Trump announced a plan that involves **the sale of American weapons to European states, which will then transfer them to Ukraine**. This strategy has piqued the interest of several nations, including Germany, Finland, Denmark, Sweden, and Norway, which could be the main suppliers. Among the weapons in

question are **the Patriot defense systems**, a key element for Ukrainian defenses against Russian missiles. The move aims to ensure continued U.S. support for Kiev without breaking the promises made during the election campaign, in which Trump expressed his intention to reduce American intervention in the conflict.

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Tariff Threats: A New Pressure Tool

In addition to arms supplies, **Trump threatened to impose severe tariffs on Russian exports** if a peace agreement is not reached **within 50 days**. The president spoke of 100% duties, defined as “secondary tariffs,” referring to sanctions against countries that purchase Russian oil, such as India and China. Although the United States conducts little direct trade with Russia, secondary sanctions could have a significant impact on the Russian economy, creating further pressure on Moscow to end the war.

Frustration Towards Putin

Behind the two measures lies Trump's growing frustration with Putin. Despite the complex and sometimes confusing relationship between the Russian president and Trump in the past, **Trump stated he is tired of Moscow's unfulfilled promises**. He explained that despite positive conversations, the war continues unabated. This new approach by Trump seems to be a clear signal of irritation, with the intent to force Putin's hand, bringing him to negotiate.

The Role of Europe in the New Strategy

Trump expressed a **growing appreciation for Europe's willingness to contribute more to the Ukrainian cause**. In the past, he was skeptical about European commitment, but he acknowledged that **European nations are showing a fighting spirit he had not initially perceived**. The plan involves transferring weapons, including short-range missiles, Howitzer shells, and medium-range air-to-air missiles, to NATO countries before reaching Ukraine, a move that serves the dual purpose of speeding up weapon delivery and avoiding political criticism in the United States.

The Crucial Role of Patriot Missiles

Patriot missiles have been identified as one of the most vital defense tools for Ukraine. Their role in protecting Ukrainian cities from Russian missiles is crucial, and Trump has acknowledged that the availability of these systems is one of Kiev's main concerns. The plan involves sending a "full complement" of weapons to further strengthen Ukrainian defenses.

Conclusions: A New Chapter in the Conflict

With the plan announced by Trump, the United States and Europe are collaborating more closely to support Ukraine in its fight against the Russian invasion. The move marks a new phase in the conflict, with intensified military support and the addition of economic sanctions as leverage. **Trump's growing frustration with Putin could be a sign of how the current administration intends to tackle the conflict more decisively,** hoping that the combination of advanced weapons and economic pressures can force Russia to negotiate a lasting peace.

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