Western Fracture: Failure of Peace Talks in London

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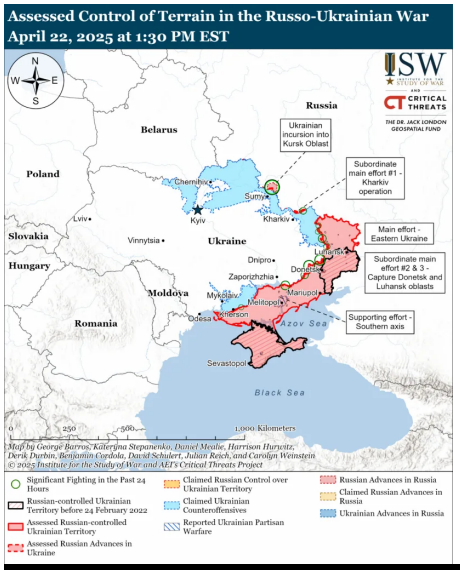
The London summit, intended to mark an important step towards peace in Ukraine, was canceled due to deep differences between Ukraine and its Western allies. The situation, succinctly described by the President of the United States, Donald Trump, at the end of a chaotic day, was marked by the postponement of scheduled meetings, including crucial ones between foreign ministers. The cause of this failure lies in the internal friction within the Western alliance, particularly regarding the peace proposal put forward by the United States. **The central divergence was the issue of Crimea, which Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky reiterated he does not recognize as part of Russia.**

The United States, represented by Secretary of State Marco Rubio and special envoy Steve Witkoff, chose not to participate in the summit, citing the lack of tangible progress in resolving the crisis. This decision was influenced by Zelensky's statements, emphasizing the impossibility of legally accepting the Russian occupation of Crimea. Zelensky's words carried considerable

weight, leading to the cancellation of participation by other European countries, including France and Germany. The French President, in a statement, reiterated that the issue of Ukraine's "European vocation" remains fundamental for Europe, but failed to reconcile the divergent positions between the United States and European capitals.



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The Reasons for the Fracture: Rejection of Trump's Peace Plan

The peace plan presented by Trump, which includes recognizing Crimea as part of Russia and freezing territorial borders, was rejected by Ukraine and its European allies. The proposal envisaged that, in exchange for a resolution to the conflict, Kiev would cede part of its territory, including Crimea. However, despite pressure from the United States, the proposal was not seen as fair by the Ukrainian leadership, which vetoed any agreement that implied the loss of territories. The negative reaction was all the stronger as the American plan did not provide adequate compensation for Ukraine, but focused on concessions to Russia.

The main issue remains Crimea, which Moscow annexed in 2014, an act that Kiev and the international community have never recognized. Trump reiterated that Crimea "was lost years ago," trying to downplay the importance of such annexation to initiate peace negotiations. The Ukrainian president rejected this view, calling Trump's statement, which echoed Washington's position, harmful to the negotiations. Despite the differences, the White House insisted on the need to resolve the crisis, trying to force Kiev into a compromise that could mark the end of the

conflict.

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The Military Consequences and the Stagnation of the Conflict

The military situation in Ukraine remains critical, with the war continuing to inflict heavy losses on both sides. While Ukrainian forces resist, Russian troops advance slowly but steadily. **The difficulties in the supply of weapons and ammunition, the erosion of Ukrainian forces, and the growing shortage of military resources are determining factors in the slowdown of operations on the ground.** The losses, both in men and materials, are significant, with over 940,000 Russian soldiers killed or wounded since the beginning of the conflict. Furthermore, Russia has increased its military capacity thanks to supplies from North Korea, while Ukrainians struggle to replace their damaged equipment.

Despite the intensification of clashes, Ukraine does not seem able to regain the lost territories, and its forces are reviewing defensive strategies. **General Oleksander Syrsky has ordered the withdrawal from some regions, such as Sumy and Kharkov, to concentrate forces on the main front, but this could lead to the abandonment of crucial territories under Russian control.** Additionally, the scarcity of military support from European countries, which are unwilling to provide troops or sufficient resources to turn the tide of the conflict, is worsening the situation.

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The inability of Kiev to obtain the necessary military support to counter the Russian offensive and the increasing difficulties on the logistical and communication fronts raise questions about Ukraine's future ability to sustain the conflict without significant compromises. Ukraine's resistance, although supported by some Western nations, does not seem sufficient to tip the scales in its favor, while the war drags on with its dramatic implications for the civilian population and the entire region.

In summary, the failure of the London summit highlighted the mediation difficulties between the United States and Europe, with Kiev's position remaining immovable on the territorial issue. With the conflict continuing to inflict severe losses, both human and military, the possibility of a peace agreement seems increasingly distant. Unfortunately, the international response does not seem capable of decisively resolving the crisis, leaving Ukraine to face a long and painful battle.

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