



Written by [Angeline Tan](#) on November 13, 2023

Orbán Says US Sabotaged Peace for Ukraine; Zelensky Says Ukraine Will Fight Without US Aid

On November 10, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán claimed that U.S. lobbying was significant in preventing Ukraine from signing a peace deal with Russia shortly after the conflict between the two countries intensified in February 2022.

Speaking with the national Kossuth Rádió, Orbán agreed with former German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder that the U.S. had undermined the Istanbul peace talks in March 2022.

“What the former German chancellor said is a well-known fact in the world of diplomacy,” Orbán said. “And we also know this from all kinds of reports and intelligence sources, that indeed in 2022 in Istanbul, where all kinds of covert negotiations took place, there was essentially an agreement, which — so says the diplomatic rumor — the Ukrainians did not sign on American instructions.”

In an interview last month, Schroeder [told](#) the newspaper *Berliner Zeitung* that the Ukrainians “were not allowed to” make peace, as they “first had to ask the Americans about everything.”

Moreover, Orbán highlighted that Europe had been attempting to contain the Ukraine conflict since the 2014 Crimean crisis, via ways such as the Minsk agreements.

“The Americans entered this game, and since then the direction is not isolation and localization, but expansion. More and more people are getting involved, more and more weapons are being delivered, more and more money is being spent, the Europeans are taking out more and more loans and sending them over to Ukraine, so I have to say that the conflict is becoming globalized,” the Hungarian leader said.

In May 2022, the Kyiv-based *Ukrayinska Pravda* [reported](#) that Boris Johnson, who was the British prime minister at the time, served as a messenger for the West when he visited Kyiv the previous month, “almost without warning.”

Johnson allegedly told Ukrainian leader Volodymyr Zelensky that there could be no talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin, and that even if Ukraine was open for some sort of deal with Russia, the West was not.

Recently, Johnson was hired by the Center for European Policy Analysis (CEPA), a Washington-based think tank funded by the U.S. government, NATO, and [Western military contractors](#), due to his



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“commitment to Ukraine’s victory.” Military-industrial complex firms such as BAE Systems, Lockheed Martin, and Leonardo, as well as NATO, the U.S. State Department, and the U.S. European Command, have been listed as supporters on the CEPA site.

In an interview with news outlet Reuters last week, Zelensky declared that Ukraine will not stop fighting Russia until it recaptures all the territories it considers its own, with a withdrawal of U.S. support not impacting Kyiv’s stance in this aspect.

When questioned if he was “worried” about potential amendments to U.S. foreign policy should Donald Trump emerge victorious in the 2024 U.S. presidential elections, Zelensky responded that Ukraine would continue its conflict with Russia without U.S. military and financial assistance.

Trump had previously maintained that he would have a peace deal between Moscow and Kyiv worked out “within 24 hours” if elected in 2024. In turn, Zelensky dismissed such statements by Trump as an attempt to “fix” the conflict for himself, allegedly with no concern for the “price” Ukraine would have to pay.

“If it will change your foreign policy, what can I say? Ok, we will fight without you,” Zelensky said, alleging that continuing Ukraine’s drawn-out conflict with Moscow is the will of the Ukrainian people. The Ukrainian leader then proceeded to claim that the only “real way to stop the war” was for Russian forces to pull out from all the territories claimed by Kyiv. Zelensky also maintained that he was certain that Moscow’s troops “will do it,” without providing more details.

Additionally, the Ukrainian leader posited that “any” U.S. president would help Ukraine if they knew “all the challenges and the result and the damage of the war.”

Earlier, in another interview with broadcaster NBC on November 5, Zelensky invited Trump to Ukraine, pledging to persuade the former American president in just “24 minutes” that he would be unable to strike any agreements with Russia. Trump declined Zelensky’s invite in a written statement to U.S. media outlet Newsmax.

Such a trip would create “a conflict of interest” at a time when Joe Biden’s administration was officially dealing with Kyiv, Trump declared.

Zelensky also insisted that Kyiv had a “plan” that would help it triumph on the battlefield and display some “results” by the end of 2023. The Ukrainian leader’s claims came amid his country’s dwindling summer counteroffensive that had incurred huge materiel and personnel losses on the Ukrainian side.

Recently, Ukraine’s top commander, General Valery Zaluzhny, [told](#) *The Economist* that the conflict between Moscow and Kyiv had entered a World War I-style stalemate in which Russia had an advantage owing to more resources.

On its end, the Pentagon admitted that it only had around \$1 billion left for military aid to Kyiv and would have to ration it from now on.

The Defense Department has urged Congress to overcome an impasse and approve the White House’s request for a \$106-billion aid bundle, which encapsulates funds for Ukraine, Israel, and Taiwan.

Washington has spent around 95 percent of previous funding for Ukraine, the Pentagon’s deputy spokeswoman Sabrina Singh revealed, adding that this amount exceeded \$60 billion. Only about \$1 billion out of that sum remained unspent, Singh said. The remaining money will be used to dispatch military equipment from existing stocks to Ukraine and replenish it with new orders.



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“We have had to meter out our support for Ukraine,” Singh told reporters, adding that, while the Pentagon will continue sending military aid packages, these packages are “getting smaller.”

Out of Biden’s \$106-billion request to congress, \$61.4 billion was meant as emergency funding for Ukraine.

Last week, the Republican-majority House of Representatives tried to separate aid for Ukraine and Israel by passing a \$14 billion standalone package for West Jerusalem. On November 7, Democrats in the U.S. Senate blocked the House bill, demanding that Republicans agree to the full package tabled by the Biden administration.

Last week, the U.S. State Department stated that the U.S. has spent some \$44.2 billion on military assistance to Kyiv since the conflict broke out in February 2022, adding that an additional \$3 billion had also been spent on it between 2014 and 2022.

On November 8, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) [testified](#) to the Senate that funding for economic and humanitarian assistance to Ukraine had run out as well. USAID Assistant Administrator Erin McKee divulged that Ukraine’s economic stability would be at risk unless the funding continued.

With a possible deadlock over Ukraine aid between Republicans and Democrats, and with the warmongers among the American and European elite continuing to fan the flames of tension between Moscow and Kyiv, Russo-Ukrainian peace will not likely be achieved anytime soon, with bullets and bombs doing most of the talking instead.



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