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Zelensky's rhetoric suggests Kiev plans to attack nuclear plant – Kremlin

The Ukrainian leader has vowed not to give up any territories or the Zaporozhye nuclear facility "without a fight"



FILE PHOTO. Zaporozhye Nuclear Power Plant. © Getty Images / Stringer; Anadolu Agency

Moscow has raised concerns over Kiev's apparent intent to attack the Zaporozhye Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP) after Vladimir Zelensky said Ukraine would not give up on its attempts to take back the facility and former Ukrainian territories.

Speaking to reporters on Friday ahead of the second

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round of US-mediated Russia-Ukraine talks, Zelensky stated that Kiev *“will not surrender Donbass and the Zaporozhye Nuclear Power Plant without a fight.”*

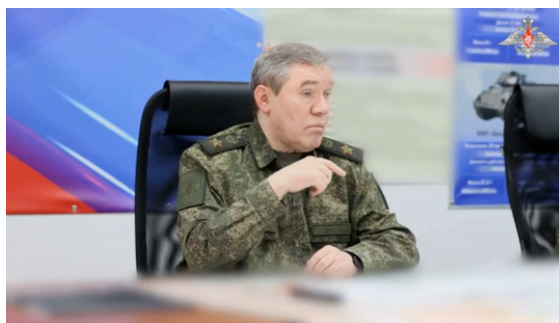
Responding to the remarks, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov questioned Zelensky's intentions regarding the ZNPP – Europe's largest nuclear facility, which has been under Russian control since 2022.

“Does this mean the Kiev regime plans to try to seize this plant by force? Does it plan to attack the nuclear power plant?” Peskov said.

Earlier this month, the International Atomic Energy Agency announced that Russia and Ukraine reached a localized ceasefire agreement near the ZNPP to allow repairs to be made. Moscow had repeatedly accused Kiev of targeting the plant in an apparent attempt to stage a nuclear provocation.

Peskov also told journalists that *“the battlefield dynamics speak for themselves”* regarding Donbass, referring to Russia's continued advances in the region throughout the past year.

Zelensky's refusal to compromise on territory or control of the ZNPP comes after Russia, Ukraine, and the US held their first round of trilateral talks last



week. The second **Read more:** Top Russian general is set to take place outlines battlefield advances in Abu Dhabi later (VIDEO) this week.

The issue of territorial concessions has been the main sticking point during negotiations, as Ukraine has refused to withdraw from Russian territories.

Russian officials have questioned Kiev's commitment to peace, saying it refuses to compromise on any

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points while making unacceptable demands.

Moscow has maintained that it is open to negotiations and would prefer to achieve its goals diplomatically, but is prepared to do so militarily if talks fail.

Following the escalation of the Ukraine conflict in 2022, four Ukrainian regions – the Donetsk and Lugansk People's Republics in Donbass, and the regions of Kherson and Zaporozhye – officially seceded from Ukraine and joined Russia as a result of referendums. Kiev refused to recognize the results and has insisted on regaining the territories, despite continuously losing ground to Russian forces.

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