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## Alaska Summit Between Putin and Trump Raises Ceasefire Hopes

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Russian President Vladimir Putin and former U.S. President Donald Trump are scheduled to meet at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson on 15 August 2025 in a closely watched summit aimed at addressing the ongoing war in Ukraine. The meeting will be the first high-profile face-to-face discussion between the two leaders since Trump left office in 2021, drawing attention from governments, analysts, and the public worldwide.

President Trump has described the upcoming talks as a "big meeting," suggesting it could serve as an early step toward a broader peace process. He has indicated that a future

trilateral summit involving Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy remains a possibility but cautioned there is a 25 percent chance the talks could fail. In such a case, Trump noted, further economic sanctions on Russia could be considered.

President Putin, for his part, has praised Trump's "energetic and sincere efforts" to seek a resolution to the conflict. Reports suggest he will use the summit to propose expanded economic cooperation, presenting the talks as an opportunity for both peace and commercial benefit.

The decision to exclude Ukraine from the initial discussions has caused unease in Kyiv and across Europe. Ukrainian officials maintain that no meaningful agreement can be reached without their direct participation, citing the diplomatic principle, "Nothing about Ukraine without Ukraine." President Zelenskyy has reiterated that Ukraine will not accept any territorial concessions and must be represented at all stages of negotiation.

European leaders have publicly voiced opposition to any potential land-for-peace arrangement that could result in Ukraine relinquishing control over parts of Donetsk or the broader Donbas region. The summit's announcement has also sparked protests in Anchorage, where pro-Ukraine demonstrators have gathered to criticize what they see as sidelining Kyiv in critical peace talks.

Observers note that the Alaska meeting carries both opportunities and risks. If successful, it could open the door to direct negotiations involving all parties and potentially de-escalate a conflict that has strained global energy markets and security alliances. However, if Ukraine remains excluded, critics warn the outcome could tilt in Moscow's favor, raising concerns about the credibility and fairness of any deal.

The summit's results may ultimately shape not only the course of the Ukraine war but also broader U.S.-Russia relations and the perceived effectiveness of high-stakes diplomacy.