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## Senate Presses Mike Waltz Over 'Signalgate' as He Seeks U.N. Post

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Michael Waltz, a former adviser to President Trump, appeared before the Senate this week as lawmakers scrutinized his nomination to become the United States ambassador to the United Nations. The confirmation hearing centered on Waltz's role in the so-called "Signalgate" controversy and his future approach to international challenges, including Russia's aggression in Ukraine.

Trump had previously reassigned Waltz from his position on the National Security Council, framing the move as an elevation rather than a demotion. “You could make a good argument that it’s a promotion,” Vice President JD Vance remarked, highlighting that the ambassador role carries significant visibility and prestige, even though President Trump has scaled back its influence compared to when former South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley held the post.

The appointment also comes with the customary residence in New York City, a perk traditionally extended to America’s top diplomat at the United Nations.

Beyond questions over past internal disputes, the Senate hearing focused on how Waltz would handle mounting tensions abroad. During a White House meeting with North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Secretary-General Mark Rutte, President Trump issued a stark ultimatum to Russian President Vladimir Putin, threatening 100 percent secondary sanctions if Moscow fails to end the war in Ukraine within 50 days. Such sweeping sanctions would effectively force other nations to halt trade with Russia or risk severe penalties themselves, a measure Trump described as necessary to “end the bloodshed swiftly.”

The hearing underscored a broader shift in U.S. foreign policy priorities, emphasizing accountability for adversaries and a more transactional approach to alliances. While some lawmakers expressed skepticism over Waltz’s involvement in “Signalgate,” others noted his experience could strengthen America’s posture at the United Nations, particularly as geopolitical rivalries intensify. The Senate is expected to vote on his nomination in the coming weeks.