

Beat: Politics

PRES. MACRON TALKED ON THE PHONE TO HIS UKRAINIAN COUNTERPART ZELENSKYY

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USPA NEWS - The President of the French Republic, Emmanuel Macron spoke by telephone with the President of Ukraine Mr. Volodymyr Zelenskyy, this Tuesday, January 24, 2023. The Head of State questioned President Zelenskyy on the situation on the ground and on Ukraine's needs, reiterating France's full readiness to respond to them. President Zelenskyy once again thanked France for the deliveries of anti-aircraft defense systems and for sending AMX-10 RC combat tanks. The Ukrainian President also thanked France for the continuous deliveries aimed at helping Ukraine get through the winter, in the wake of the international support conference organized in Paris on 13 December 2022. The two leaders also discussed the prospects for a return to peace in Europe. French President Emmanuel Macron reaffirmed his full support for the Ukrainian proposal for a ten-point peace plan, and his determination to support this initiative on the international scene." Source: French Presidency

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CURRENT CONTEXT IN UKRAINE

"Discussions must end with decisions", urges Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky about possible deliveries of Western heavy tanks to Ukraine, when Berlin and Washington could take the plunge on Wednesday according to several media.

"The allies have the required number of tanks" necessary for the Ukrainian army to overthrow the troops in Moscow, he said in his daily address published on social networks, hammering that "the needs are greater" than "five, ten or fifteen chariots". Five regional governors and four deputy ministers have been removed from their posts in Ukraine, the government announced on Tuesday after an alleged corruption scandal in the army.

According to Taras Melnychuk, government representative to Parliament, the governors of the regions of Dnipropetrovsk (center), Zaporizhia (south), Sumy (north), Kherson (south) and the capital kyiv will leave their posts, in addition to the vice- Minister of Defence, that of Social Policy and two Deputy Ministers of Territorial Development, who have been dismissed.

CURRENT CONTEXT IN FRANCE

Russian athletes should not be able to participate in the Paris Olympics in 2024, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky asks his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron.

"I particularly insisted on the fact that Russian athletes should not have their place at the Paris Olympics," the Ukrainian president said on Telegram after a telephone interview with the French head of state.

CURRENT CONTEXT IN USA

The United States would consider delivering thirty one (31) Abrams tanks by authorizing their delivery to Ukraine, two US officials told Reuters on Tuesday, adding that an announcement could come as early as this week.

CURRENT CONTEXT IN GERMANY

On Tuesday evening, two German media, Der Spiegel and the NTV news channel, assured that Chancellor Olaf Scholz would give the green light, probably on Wednesday, to the delivery by allied countries of Leopard heavy tanks insistently demanded by the Ukraine.

"Germany is sending Leopard tanks to Ukraine," tweeted the Liberal Democratic Party (FDP), a member of the government coalition led by Olaf Scholz.

"Germany has already received our request to accept the transfer of Leopard 2 tanks to Ukraine," Polish Defense Minister Mariusz Blaszczak said on Twitter, also appealing to Berlin to join "the coalition of countries supporting Ukraine with Leopard 2 tanks".

"I expressly encouraged partner countries that have Leopard tanks ready for deployment to train Ukrainian forces on these tanks," German Defense Minister Boris Pistorius told a press conference in Berlin with Jens Stoltenberg, the head of NATO, while Germany has not yet given its approval for their delivery to kyiv.

Source: AFP, France24

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