



DAILY EXPRESS

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A visit to Ukraine by US team would revive peace talks



Volodymyr Zelensky and Donald Trump meet in Washington earlier this week



Lord Ashcroft
Guest columnist

war as a straightforward battle between aggressor (Russia) and victim (Ukraine) and right (Ukraine) and wrong (Russia).

President Trump’s son-in-law, who has joined Witkoff for many of the peace talks in the Middle East. Both have responsibility for the stalled peace talks between Ukraine and Russia yet, quite remarkably, neither has visited Ukraine. I would be confident that Witkoff is an astute negotiator when it comes to a huge real estate deal but his skills negotiating peace have been found wanting.

In an interview with Tucker Carlson, the far-right influencer and podcaster, in March 2025, Witkoff talked about his role in the Middle East. He said: “Now I want to get up close and personal. That’s why I went to Gaza. I was the first US official to go to Gaza in 22 years. But how would you implement a peace deal if you didn’t go to the place where the peace deal was being implemented?”

I know Witkoff has turned down several invitations to visit Ukraine over the past two

years. Similarly, Kushner has never visited Ukraine during the all-out war which has now left an estimated 1.5 million people dead or injured.

Of course, not all Republican politicians are narrow-minded and some have indeed visited Ukraine to show their support.

Those visitors included Republican Senator Lindsey Graham, who died earlier this month. Along with Democrat Senator Richard Blumenthal, Graham was behind the Russia Sanctioning Act which, if passed, will broaden the scope of sanctions against Moscow.

Keith Kellogg, a highly decorated, retired three-star US Army general and a staunch Republican supporter, visited Ukraine four times last year in his role as President Trump’s Special Envoy.

I interviewed Kellogg last year and discovered he is indeed sympathetic to Ukraine given that he, like me, sees the

HAVE visited Ukraine 15 times during the all-out war and my next visit is already arranged. I have seen how whole families have been wiped out by missile and drone attacks on civilian targets, I have heard countless accounts of the torture of prisoners of war and I have visited the scenes of horrific war crimes.

I realise US politicians are busy but, if they took time to make just a single visit to Ukraine, I feel confident most of those who have opposed aid packages for Ukraine would realise they’ve made a mistake.

Indeed, I would happily accompany Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner to Ukraine because I believe they would, like Laura Loomer, see the error or their ways in accepting Russian propaganda rather than seeing the truth at first hand.

● Lord Ashcroft KCMG PC is an international businessman, philanthropist, author and pollster. Visit lordashcroft.com. Follow him on X/Facebook @LordAshcroft

‘They are resilient in the face of relentless Russian bombing’