

WEBVTT

00:00:03.260 --> 00:00:09.800

<v SPEAKER_1>Hello again, and welcome to Global Exchange, part of the Canadian Global Affairs Institute's Podcast Network.

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<v SPEAKER_1>I'm your host, Colin Robertson.

00:00:12.360 --> 00:00:30.800

<v SPEAKER_1>On this episode, recorded on August the 18th, I talked with CGAI fellow Andrew Rasiulis and Latvian Ambassador Kaspars Ozoliņš about the implications for Canada and the frontline states of the meeting in Anchorage last Friday between Russian President Vladimir Putin and US.

00:00:30.800 --> 00:00:33.080

<v SPEAKER_1>President Donald Trump.

00:00:33.080 --> 00:00:43.680

<v SPEAKER_1>CGAI fellow Andrew Rasiulis served in the Canadian Armed Forces and then in the Department of National Defence, where his work focused on Eastern Europe.

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<v SPEAKER_1>Andrew continues to both write and provide commentary on NATO and Ukraine for CGAI and many other media.

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<v SPEAKER_1>Ambassador Kaspars Ozoliņš has served as Latvian Ambassador to Canada since 2022.

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<v SPEAKER_1>With a background in security policy, he has served in Sweden, the United States, and is Ambassador to the Czech Republic, Croatia and Denmark.

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<v SPEAKER_1>He also represented Latvia in the trilateral Latvia-Russia OSCE Commission.

00:01:15.280 --> 00:01:17.320

<v SPEAKER_1>Welcome, Andrew and Kaspars.

00:01:17.320 --> 00:01:18.400

<v SPEAKER_2>Thank you very much.

00:01:18.560 --> 00:01:19.080

<v SPEAKER_2>Good morning.

00:01:19.080 --> 00:01:19.560
<v SPEAKER_3>Good morning.

00:01:19.560 --> 00:01:21.040
<v SPEAKER_3>Thank you.

00:01:21.040 --> 00:01:42.680
<v SPEAKER_1>For listeners, Donald Trump rolled out the red carpet, or I should say American soldiers rolled out the road red carpet, while Donald Trump clapped on the arrival of President Putin last Friday, with the display of F-35s and a stealth bomber going over the skies as Mr.

00:01:42.680 --> 00:01:44.700
<v SPEAKER_1>Putin landed in Anchorage.

00:01:44.700 --> 00:01:45.920
<v SPEAKER_1>The two then got into Mr.

00:01:45.920 --> 00:01:53.440
<v SPEAKER_1>Trump's limousine, also known as The Beast, and headed off nearby to the US Air Base for three hours of discussion.

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<v SPEAKER_1>Less than had been predicted.

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<v SPEAKER_1>The subsequent news conference did not include media questions.

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<v SPEAKER_1>Putin began, and at length, complaining to continuing to speak of root causes and the need to integrate Ukraine's eastern province, the Oblast as we are known, and Andrew will speak to this, into Russia and his rejection of the Zelensky government, Ukrainian membership in NATO and the European Union, and to not allow any NATO nation's military presence in a significantly disarmed Ukraine.

00:02:28.080 --> 00:02:32.520
<v SPEAKER_1>Putin also invited Trump to come to Moscow for their next session.

00:02:32.520 --> 00:02:33.240
<v SPEAKER_1>A glum Mr.

00:02:33.240 --> 00:02:44.480
<v SPEAKER_1>Trump declared that there had been, quote, many, many points that we agreed on, but then declared, quote, there is no deal until there is a deal, unquote.

00:02:45.220 --> 00:03:12.080

<v SPEAKER_1>On the central questions of halting the war in Ukraine, he said on True Social Sunday that, quote, it was determined by all that the best way to end the horrific war between Russia and Ukraine is to go directly to a peace agreement, which would end the war and not a mere ceasefire agreement, which oftentimes do not hold up, unquote.

00:03:12.800 --> 00:03:18.600

<v SPEAKER_1>It's a reversal of the position that he'd previously taken and puts him in alignment with President Putin.

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<v SPEAKER_1>With Putin shaking his head in agreement, Trump also raised the trope that Russia did not interfere in the US election process and said, if he had been president in 2022, there would not have been an invasion.

00:03:32.480 --> 00:03:47.500

<v SPEAKER_1>President Vladimir Zelensky and other EU leaders will meet President Trump in Washington in the Oval Office later today in a collective bid to find a way to end Moscow's invasion and secure US security guarantees for Kiev.

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<v SPEAKER_1>That remains to be seen.

00:03:49.300 --> 00:03:50.260

<v SPEAKER_1>So let's get started.

00:03:50.260 --> 00:03:51.900

<v SPEAKER_1>And Andrew, you start us off.

00:03:51.900 --> 00:03:55.720

<v SPEAKER_1>Who are the winners and losers from this summit?

00:03:55.720 --> 00:03:59.160

<v SPEAKER_2>Well, I would prefer to look at who wins by how much.

00:03:59.160 --> 00:04:11.740

<v SPEAKER_2>So I would say that it's a three-quarter win for Russia in the sense that they have the negotiations preceding the ceasefire now in play.

00:04:11.740 --> 00:04:13.860

<v SPEAKER_2>That was a major Russian position.

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<v SPEAKER_2>On the other hand, the Russians appears over the weekend.

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<v SPEAKER_2>We'll see what happens this afternoon.

00:04:19.160 --> 00:04:28.340

<v SPEAKER_2>But it appears to have made a major concession to a Ukrainian demand for some kind of a security guarantee, legally binding security guarantee.

00:04:28.340 --> 00:04:51.980

<v SPEAKER_2>And it's coming out now based largely on Vitov's statements over the weekend that basically the Russians are saying, you know, if they get this, that and the other thing, they will agree to some kind of a non-NATO, but legally binding bilateral guarantees for Ukrainian security coming from, for example, the United States or other European states, or potentially Canada as well.

00:04:51.980 --> 00:04:57.740

<v SPEAKER_2>So that's why I would say three quarters Russia wins and one quarter Ukraine wins.

00:04:58.140 --> 00:05:04.240

<v SPEAKER_2>But the game is certainly not over and we're going to see the next play this afternoon in a few hours.

00:05:04.240 --> 00:05:13.820

<v SPEAKER_1>No, and given that we are going to see the next play in a few hours, and of course this has gone on, well, arguably since 2014 and then in 2022 with the major invasion.

00:05:13.820 --> 00:05:21.100

<v SPEAKER_1>Kaspars, I'd be interested in your assessment of what this means for the frontline states and for the European Union.

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<v SPEAKER_1>Certainly I was struck by the Foreign Minister Lavrov showing up with the CCCP T-shirt, which couldn't have inspired much confidence in frontline states when you think that CCCP stands for the old Soviet Union.

00:05:35.880 --> 00:05:36.740

<v SPEAKER_1>And certainly Mr.

00:05:36.740 --> 00:05:41.220

<v SPEAKER_1>Putin in Anchorage looked pretty confident.

00:05:43.500 --> 00:05:56.440

<v SPEAKER_3>Yes, indeed, the different angles count to assess the outcome of the meeting and I'm not going to dwell into the sweaters that were used by Lavrov and I do not know if that was his own choice or not.

00:05:56.440 --> 00:06:05.740

<v SPEAKER_3>But to the gist of this conversation, let me stick to the key issue to us, which is peace in Ukraine.

00:06:05.740 --> 00:06:14.460

<v SPEAKER_3>The European Union, including frontline states, which all are part of the EU and NATO, want to see the senseless aggression to come to an end.

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<v SPEAKER_3>End meaning negotiated solutions towards sustainable, long-term peace that is achieved with Ukraine at the table.

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<v SPEAKER_3>Here we didn't see Alaska meeting as a singular event that would change the course of the war.

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<v SPEAKER_3>Yes, we had a certain expectations of the meeting, of which most relevant were met, and even one new positive surfaced as was alluded by my colleague Andrew.

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<v SPEAKER_3>So first US is in the game.

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<v SPEAKER_3>President Trump demonstrated leadership in attempt to end Russia's aggression in Ukraine, and apparently will continue to do so after Alaska as well.

00:06:55.640 --> 00:07:01.360

<v SPEAKER_3>Seems that no deal was reached behind the closed doors over the head of Ukraine.

00:07:02.840 --> 00:07:14.860

<v SPEAKER_3>It is also welcome that possible security guarantees of the US were discussed, details of which need to be better understood in further consultations.

00:07:16.900 --> 00:07:25.340

<v SPEAKER_3>The EU countries would definitely welcome article type of security guarantees, especially if the US is on board.

00:07:26.480 --> 00:07:33.940

<v SPEAKER_3>The other thing I could mention is that nothing was said about lifting of sanctions, although I assume Russian president have raised them.

00:07:35.180 --> 00:07:52.500

<v SPEAKER_3>And one important thing for EU and frontline states is that US continued to brief, consult and listen to Ukraine, European Union and NATO partners prior and after the summit, which is very welcome and important for us.

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<v SPEAKER_3>US president understands that future peace deal directly affects European security and therefore I expect he will regularly continue to draw on wisdom and advice of European leaders.

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<v SPEAKER_3>For the European Union and Alaska summit means more coordination and resolute European action, more military support, more sanctions against Russia.

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<v SPEAKER_3>EU and NATO countries will have to continue to apply peace through strengths approach.

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<v SPEAKER_3>That approach is implemented through national efforts, Ukraine contact group, coalition of willing, NATO support mechanism and the EU efforts.

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<v SPEAKER_3>EU has introduced already 18 rounds of sanctions and is discussing 19th round.

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<v SPEAKER_3>These sanctions work.

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<v SPEAKER_3>They are limiting sources of revenue for Russia to continue to wage war and they need to be tightened.

00:08:59.660 --> 00:09:08.000

<v SPEAKER_3>According to some estimates due to sanctions, Russia paid 450 billion euros in lost revenues.

00:09:10.360 --> 00:09:19.700

<v SPEAKER_3>Putin may believe that he bought the time and he may believe that the Western support and solidarity with Ukraine will gradually abate.

00:09:21.220 --> 00:09:33.100

<v SPEAKER_3>I would say in the fourth year of war, I would be ready to assert that collective European resolve in support of Ukraine will outlast Russia's ability to wage this senseless war.

00:09:33.100 --> 00:09:38.980

<v SPEAKER_3>Putin has miscalculated in the past and I hope he is miscalculating again.

00:09:40.020 --> 00:09:46.220

<v SPEAKER_1>Kaspars, that's quite important, especially your last statement that you felt that the resolve is still there amongst the European Union.

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<v SPEAKER_1>I mean, obviously, there are outliers like Hungary, but as you're talking about another round of sanctions, it seemed to be absent from any of Mr.

00:09:54.920 --> 00:10:03.720

<v SPEAKER_1>Trump's pronouncements, which had been in previous weeks talking a lot about some form of sanction on Russia if the war didn't end.

00:10:03.720 --> 00:10:05.140

<v SPEAKER_1>That's not there.

00:10:05.140 --> 00:10:12.060

<v SPEAKER_1>If the United States doesn't proceed with further sanctions, you still think the European Union will as well.

00:10:12.060 --> 00:10:17.760

<v SPEAKER_1>And it would be the 27, if not all the members of the European Union.

00:10:17.760 --> 00:10:20.500

<v SPEAKER_3>Well, we have succeeded so far.

00:10:20.500 --> 00:10:29.580

<v SPEAKER_3>So all 27 countries have been able to be behind 18 rounds of sanctions, which is very, very important.

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<v SPEAKER_3>And that is also telling about the unity of the European Union.

00:10:35.240 --> 00:10:47.680

<v SPEAKER_3>And then, of course, we are trying to find all different ways to make those sanctions work and to be able to pass next round of sanctions.

00:10:47.680 --> 00:11:01.940

<v SPEAKER_3>And as I said, we believe that they have worked and we believe that they need to be tightened and they need to be continued regardless of other countries.

00:11:01.940 --> 00:11:06.700

<v SPEAKER_1>And you think that will happen, regardless of what takes place in Washington today?

00:11:06.700 --> 00:11:11.780

<v SPEAKER_3>It has happened so far and I'm pretty sure that will happen.

00:11:11.780 --> 00:11:17.680

<v SPEAKER_1>Andrew, the talk about a ceasefire seems to have disappeared from Mr.

00:11:17.680 --> 00:11:23.240

<v SPEAKER_1>Trump's language, but there's also a secession of hostilities, there's a peace agreement.

00:11:23.240 --> 00:11:26.900

<v SPEAKER_1>So what do you think is the most likely now that we're going to...

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<v SPEAKER_1>are we forgetting about ceasefire or is that still an option?

00:11:30.820 --> 00:11:32.800

<v SPEAKER_1>What are the options that we should be looking at?

00:11:33.420 --> 00:11:39.080

<v SPEAKER_1>And is there going to be a division between the United States and the European Union and Canada and the rest?

00:11:39.080 --> 00:11:41.840

<v SPEAKER_1>And what does this say about NATO?

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<v SPEAKER_2>Well, there are clearly the two options.

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<v SPEAKER_2>I mean, the Russian option, basically the United States through Trump have accepted the Russian proposal of negotiate a comprehensive settlement and then follow that up with a ceasefire.

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<v SPEAKER_2>The reports are that Zelensky and the Europeans coming to Washington will, at least in their opening statements, talk about sticking to the ceasefire first, you know, on conditional 30 day or whatever it is, and then follow it up.

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<v SPEAKER_2>If that's the case, then I think we'll have a non-starter

and that basically the war will continue because the Russians are not going to move back from their position.

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<v SPEAKER_2>So we have to wait and see this afternoon where that goes.

00:12:27.940 --> 00:12:34.460

<v SPEAKER_2>But in terms of let's assume that there's progress, let's assume that they start to talk about a settlement.

00:12:34.460 --> 00:12:40.440

<v SPEAKER_2>So then you get down to the first thing order of business will be the line of demarcation.

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<v SPEAKER_2>The Vytkov proposal that he came back with from Putin in Moscow, which is coming out more and more on the air now, is that basically Putin has proposed, if the Ukrainians withdraw from Dnesk Oblast and give up that fortress belt, then the Russians will give up on their demand that the Ukrainians recognize the Russian acquisition of all of the other two oblasts below, that is, Zaporizhzhia and Khurshchad.

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<v SPEAKER_2>So the Russians have said they would then freeze their line of contact where their Russian troops are today.

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<v SPEAKER_2>So that's kind of a starting point on the territorial thing.

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<v SPEAKER_2>The other key point about the territory is the issue of recognition.

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<v SPEAKER_2>So there are reports somewhere out there that said that the United States and Trump could de jure, that is by law, recognize some of the acquisitions, whether it's just Crimea or maybe Donetsk and Luhansk, we have to wait and see.

00:13:44.180 --> 00:13:45.840

<v SPEAKER_2>But there's some movement there.

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<v SPEAKER_2>Ukrainians clearly are not going there.

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<v SPEAKER_2>They at best, they will go only de jure, de facto, which

they've said that for months now, because it's obvious to everyone that the Ukrainians lack the military potential to drive the Russians out of all the 20% of Ukraine that the Russians occupy, particularly Crimea.

00:14:06.020 --> 00:14:09.840

<v SPEAKER_2>So that's going to be the territorial side of the equation.

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<v SPEAKER_2>And the other one now will be on the status of West Ukraine or the part of the Ukraine that's left.

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<v SPEAKER_2>This is a sovereign country.

00:14:16.860 --> 00:14:20.200

<v SPEAKER_2>Its relationship to NATO and the security guarantees.

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<v SPEAKER_2>And there we have that critical issue now about bilateral security guarantees.

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<v SPEAKER_2>And we're already seeing some interesting debates going on about what that could mean.

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<v SPEAKER_2>Would that mean Western boots on the ground, American boots on the ground, French boots on the ground?

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<v SPEAKER_2>The Italians, Meloni has already said, you know, in her tweets, things that she disagrees with Macron about troops on the ground.

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<v SPEAKER_2>The Italians are not prepared to put boots on the ground.

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<v SPEAKER_2>The French are, the British are.

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<v SPEAKER_2>I think the Germans are ambivalent as well.

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<v SPEAKER_2>And the Americans are certainly not clear at all.

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<v SPEAKER_2>I think the Americans are reluctant to do so.

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<v SPEAKER_2>So therein, Colin, lies a huge discussion.

00:15:04.440 --> 00:15:06.820

<v SPEAKER_1>Yes, that will go on now.

00:15:08.080 --> 00:15:12.560

<v SPEAKER_1>The idea of further sanctions, Andrew, do you think the Americans, do you think Mr.

00:15:12.560 --> 00:15:16.880

<v SPEAKER_1>Trump basically wants to move beyond sanctions?

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<v SPEAKER_1>Because he had been threatening sanctions in previous weeks, but there was no reference since Anchorage.

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<v SPEAKER_2>No, I think the Americans lack the appetite for that because the secondary sanctions, everybody applied a bit of that to India.

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<v SPEAKER_2>But the real big one there, the elephant in the room, is China.

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<v SPEAKER_2>And if you slap on sanctions, 50 percent, 100 percent, whatever those numbers that Trump has floated, again, on China, that's imports to the United States.

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<v SPEAKER_2>That will have a huge blowback on the American economy.

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<v SPEAKER_2>I don't think he's in any great hurry to do that.

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<v SPEAKER_2>Rather, he'd rather see progress on negotiating than enter the war, which he now does see.

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<v SPEAKER_2>So he does see that.

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<v SPEAKER_2>So he's pushed off any potential sanctions coming from the United States right now.

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<v SPEAKER_1>Kaspars, let me turn to you on the idea of boots on the ground.

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<v SPEAKER_1>Where would Latvia and the other front-line states be on that one?

00:16:12.380 --> 00:16:27.220

<v SPEAKER_1>Of course, there's the Canadian presence within Latvia as part of Operation Reassurance, but of course, that's all part of the NATO support for and presence in front-line states as deterrents to Russia.

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<v SPEAKER_1>So I'd be interested in where you would see the idea of having troops as part of a security guy guarantee actually on the ground in Ukraine.

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<v SPEAKER_3>So indeed, that issue was discussed from the beginning of this year within the framework of Coalition of the Willings, so we know roughly where countries stand.

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<v SPEAKER_3>But of course, we first have to discuss and negotiate the secession of hostilities, ceasefire, so before we can get some meaningful conversation on peace agreement and then how do we enforce it on the ground.

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<v SPEAKER_3>So basically, someone said already in the spring that by discussing troops and boots on the ground, we are putting the car before the horse.

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<v SPEAKER_3>But definitely, consultations have taken place among the militaries as well.

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<v SPEAKER_3>So we have expressed our position and one of the, of course, let's say cornerstones in our position is that we have a battle group on our soil in Latvia.

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<v SPEAKER_3>So it's there to deter the Russian aggression or defence or defend against it.

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<v SPEAKER_3>So that requires a certain level of forces.

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<v SPEAKER_3>But of course, there are options and there are opportunities for us to look at the other ways we can, we can support Ukraine.

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<v SPEAKER_3>And I think the, the idea that came on top of, on the, in the conversations mostly was related to continued training of Ukrainian, Ukrainian forces.

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<v SPEAKER_3>So I think this is something that, that is relatively easier to, to decide on, because we are doing it in a, in a great length.

00:18:30.720 --> 00:18:46.220

<v SPEAKER_3>But other, other, other options, they need to be sort of looked at and discussed as situation evolves and as we are progressing towards eventual agreement on the ending of the war in, in Ukraine.

00:18:48.460 --> 00:18:50.500

<v SPEAKER_1>Kaspars, stay with me for a minute.

00:18:50.500 --> 00:18:55.420

<v SPEAKER_1>The, the idea, the, the, the sight of seeing Mr.

00:18:55.420 --> 00:18:57.680

<v SPEAKER_1>Trump clapping as Mr.

00:18:57.680 --> 00:19:03.140

<v SPEAKER_1>President Putin came down that red carpet on Friday was in many ways chilling.

00:19:03.140 --> 00:19:21.060

<v SPEAKER_1>And it, just a further indication of the distancing of the US as leader of NATO from the rest of the Allies, and just the whole norms of, of diplomacy with, with Putin and indicted war criminal from the International Criminal Court.

00:19:22.220 --> 00:19:32.480

<v SPEAKER_1>Does this mean, what, what do you think in Eastern Europe and the frontline states now, without US leadership, can NATO sustain itself?

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<v SPEAKER_3>Well, I would not draw direct, let's say, conclusions from the way Trump welcomed Putin to, to US presence in NATO.

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<v SPEAKER_3>So I think the other way around.

00:19:49.580 --> 00:20:11.160

<v SPEAKER_3>So we had in the recent NATO Summit in Hague, statements by the, by the US representatives that, that Russia is a threat and the US is let's say concerned and interested in, in, in our collective defence and security in the Euro-Atlantic area.

00:20:11.160 --> 00:20:24.040

<v SPEAKER_3>We have gotten that kind of confirmations also during our bilateral and trilateral Baltic visits to Washington that we had at several levels in, in the past months.

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<v SPEAKER_3>So I would not draw that, let's say, I would not jump that quickly to that, to that conclusion.

00:20:30.260 --> 00:20:38.780

<v SPEAKER_3>So with regard to conversations in Alaska, well, we are talking war and peace and this is a serious matter.

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<v SPEAKER_3>It is fourth year of war and there is no probably elegant and dignified way out of this hell wrought by Russian dictator.

00:20:48.500 --> 00:20:56.220

<v SPEAKER_3>There is only one perspective I look at the matter and namely, if it helps Ukraine in reaching its goal.

00:20:58.120 --> 00:21:06.860

<v SPEAKER_3>This time, President Trump leads the effort and in the war, and in his own way.

00:21:07.960 --> 00:21:22.820

<v SPEAKER_3>I agree that isolation of Russian leadership is an important element and was an important element in the strategy of EU and NATO countries during the past three and a half years, to put pressure on an aggressor.

00:21:24.220 --> 00:21:33.820

<v SPEAKER_3>Most of these countries, EU and NATO countries, have contractual obligation against the ICC to detain the culprit, but not the US.

00:21:33.820 --> 00:21:39.820

<v SPEAKER_3>That doesn't mean that the US and the EU countries cannot work together in advancement of peace efforts.

00:21:40.680 --> 00:21:48.380

<v SPEAKER_3>In fact, as we discussed and you mentioned several times, so they are meeting today in Washington and will keep working

together.

00:21:48.380 --> 00:21:58.820

<v SPEAKER_3>So I'm betting on strong, let's say, mutual understanding on how to deal with this conflict.

00:21:58.820 --> 00:22:08.020

<v SPEAKER_3>There will be, of course, because of this is the most, the largest, let's say, military conflict after the Second World War.

00:22:08.020 --> 00:22:19.300

<v SPEAKER_3>So I guess there will be ups and downs down the road, but I think we will have an upper hand at the end together, US, European countries and Ukraine.

00:22:20.660 --> 00:22:28.640

<v SPEAKER_1>Kaspars, do you think this still keeps the door open for Ukraine to join NATO and the EU, or probably the EU and then NATO?

00:22:28.640 --> 00:22:30.520

<v SPEAKER_1>Or is this a step back?

00:22:34.900 --> 00:22:38.500

<v SPEAKER_3>Well, we have to say, one step at a time.

00:22:38.500 --> 00:22:43.820

<v SPEAKER_3>So we were discussing right now Alaska, ceasefire and whatnot.

00:22:45.080 --> 00:22:48.180

<v SPEAKER_3>But that doesn't exclude the other ways and other options.

00:22:48.180 --> 00:22:56.880

<v SPEAKER_3>So we are working collectively, European, EU countries, NATO countries on a multiple front to help Ukraine.

00:22:57.760 --> 00:23:01.940

<v SPEAKER_3>Some are advancing a little bit better than the other ones.

00:23:01.940 --> 00:23:10.340

<v SPEAKER_3>Regarding membership into the European Union, it is clear that Ukraine's future is with the European Union.

00:23:10.340 --> 00:23:16.900

<v SPEAKER_3>We see the reforms and accession to the European Union is in the interest of European security.

00:23:16.900 --> 00:23:18.820

<v SPEAKER_3>That process has started.

00:23:19.960 --> 00:23:28.100

<v SPEAKER_3>Ukraine was granted candidate status and it is assessed to be ready to commence accession negotiations.

00:23:28.100 --> 00:23:35.680

<v SPEAKER_3>Lots of preferences to start negotiations as soon as possible and together with another candidate, Moldova.

00:23:37.040 --> 00:23:39.300

<v SPEAKER_3>There are many chapters to negotiate.

00:23:41.160 --> 00:23:46.140

<v SPEAKER_3>European Commission and presidencies are helping Ukraine to prepare.

00:23:47.920 --> 00:23:59.420

<v SPEAKER_3>And we hope to make decision as soon as possible to launch the first round of negotiations on the first chapters.

00:23:59.460 --> 00:24:01.980

<v SPEAKER_3>So, on NATO, we had also a discussion on NATO.

00:24:01.980 --> 00:24:15.820

<v SPEAKER_3>So, one thing is we have commitments since 2008 towards Ukraine, that the future of Ukraine is in NATO.

00:24:15.820 --> 00:24:21.400

<v SPEAKER_3>But first, we have to get past the hurdle that we have right now.

00:24:21.400 --> 00:24:36.740

<v SPEAKER_3>And in that sense, sort of the last announcement, or let's say, a risk of alluding to security guarantees provided by the US to Ukraine is step into that direction.

00:24:36.800 --> 00:24:48.520

<v SPEAKER_3>So, not as direct right now as we are speaking in regards to accession to European Union, but still, I remain hopeful.

00:24:50.960 --> 00:24:54.400

<v SPEAKER_4>Hi, I'm Dave Perry, the President and CEO of the Canadian Global Affairs Institute.

00:24:54.400 --> 00:24:59.000

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00:24:59.000 --> 00:25:07.860

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00:25:15.920 --> 00:25:36.120

<v SPEAKER_1>In the last weeks, there have been demonstrations in Kyiv about since Ukraine's overturn, when President Zelensky appeared to be weakening the anti-corruption provisions that are essential before Ukraine can join the European Union.

00:25:36.120 --> 00:25:42.000

<v SPEAKER_1>Are you satisfied that Ukraine is making the necessary steps forward?

00:25:42.000 --> 00:25:51.800

<v SPEAKER_1>Because this would have been something that other Eastern European countries had to deal with after their independence from the Soviet Union.

00:25:52.800 --> 00:25:55.540

<v SPEAKER_1>I mean, there have been lessons learned that you would have observed.

00:25:55.540 --> 00:25:59.860

<v SPEAKER_1>Do you think that Ukraine is making the necessary steps forward?

00:26:00.940 --> 00:26:01.860

<v SPEAKER_3>Well, definitely.

00:26:01.860 --> 00:26:08.060

<v SPEAKER_3>Otherwise, the European Commission would not have recommended to start accession negotiations.

00:26:08.060 --> 00:26:12.480

<v SPEAKER_3>So Ukrainians are really progressing on many, many issues.

00:26:12.480 --> 00:26:18.960

<v SPEAKER_3>And we know that some of the issues are more difficult during the negotiations than the other ones.

00:26:19.040 --> 00:26:25.700

<v SPEAKER_3>So this is why the recently European Union, let's say, a change, is tactic.

00:26:25.700 --> 00:26:30.980

<v SPEAKER_3>And they typically want to start right now negotiations from justice and home affairs issues.

00:26:30.980 --> 00:26:34.180

<v SPEAKER_3>And this is precisely one of the issues you are alluding to.

00:26:34.220 --> 00:26:41.900

<v SPEAKER_3>And basically, the decision by the Parliament was reversed in Ukraine.

00:26:41.900 --> 00:26:51.940

<v SPEAKER_3>So I guess Ukraine is still having the, let's say, good track record for starting accession negotiations.

00:26:51.940 --> 00:27:10.660

<v SPEAKER_3>The other thing is that the European Union has, since times that we joined European Union, and that's 21 years ago, many things have changed and there is a lot thicker, let's say, binders of Aki that Ukraine has to implement.

00:27:10.660 --> 00:27:23.040

<v SPEAKER_3>So everybody was patting the Central European countries on their shoulder when we were able to clear that route through the adopting Aki.

00:27:23.040 --> 00:27:28.180

<v SPEAKER_3>I was, as you mentioned at the very beginning, I was ambassador to Croatia as well.

00:27:28.180 --> 00:27:43.940

<v SPEAKER_3>And when they joined the European Union in 1st of July, 2013, I was thinking to myself, well, they have gone through the war, through the reforms, unable to qualify for the European membership.

00:27:43.940 --> 00:27:45.420

<v SPEAKER_3>Look at the Ukraine.

00:27:45.440 --> 00:27:57.840

<v SPEAKER_3>Ukraine is in the defensive war and is still able and capable to pursue reforms and prepare itself, at least for starting accession negotiation.

00:27:57.840 --> 00:28:00.900

<v SPEAKER_3>So it's huge achievement what one country can do.

00:28:01.080 --> 00:28:08.920

<v SPEAKER_3>But of course, they can do it only together with the

Western countries, with the European Union and NATO.

00:28:08.920 --> 00:28:10.520

<v SPEAKER_3>We have succeeded in the past.

00:28:10.520 --> 00:28:12.160

<v SPEAKER_3>We ourselves succeeded.

00:28:12.160 --> 00:28:15.080

<v SPEAKER_3>Other countries in Central Europe succeeded.

00:28:15.080 --> 00:28:25.440

<v SPEAKER_3>And we believe that the security and prosperity of Europe, we have to help Ukraine to pass that threshold as well.

00:28:25.440 --> 00:28:26.160

<v SPEAKER_1>That's encouraging.

00:28:26.160 --> 00:28:31.840

<v SPEAKER_1>And Andrew, the United States is leader of NATO and of the free world.

00:28:31.840 --> 00:28:33.620

<v SPEAKER_1>It's taken a hit.

00:28:33.620 --> 00:28:38.420

<v SPEAKER_1>What does that imply for the rest of us?

00:28:38.420 --> 00:28:45.100

<v SPEAKER_1>You see the trooping to Washington today to support President Zelensky necessary.

00:28:45.100 --> 00:28:56.520

<v SPEAKER_1>But it really is in some ways quite shocking that it has to come to that, because you wonder where the United States is going under, Mr.

00:28:56.520 --> 00:28:56.780

<v SPEAKER_1>Trump.

00:28:56.780 --> 00:28:58.100

<v SPEAKER_1>Or maybe we don't wonder anymore.

00:28:58.100 --> 00:29:06.880

<v SPEAKER_1>We sort of have a good sense that it, as our Prime Minister has said, it's a fundamental shift and we just have to recognize it.

00:29:06.880 --> 00:29:08.200

<v SPEAKER_2>Exactly, Colin.

00:29:08.200 --> 00:29:16.840

<v SPEAKER_2>I think this is all a reality check for everyone, particularly for the liberal international rules-based order types.

00:29:16.840 --> 00:29:22.140

<v SPEAKER_2>As a real politiker, I'm just sort of saying, well, it's more reality coming to the fore.

00:29:22.140 --> 00:29:26.120

<v SPEAKER_2>I mean, the international rules-based order still exists and will continue to exist.

00:29:26.120 --> 00:29:34.080

<v SPEAKER_2>But the realist school has always said that that system is based on power relationships upholding it.

00:29:34.080 --> 00:29:43.120

<v SPEAKER_2>So underneath is always the power, there's the military power and the interests of states, of their national interests.

00:29:43.120 --> 00:29:48.300

<v SPEAKER_2>So we're seeing just sort of a less of a veneer, and we're seeing what's underneath.

00:29:48.780 --> 00:29:50.980

<v SPEAKER_2>I don't think there's a real change in the world.

00:29:50.980 --> 00:29:54.680

<v SPEAKER_2>It's just the shape and size, the appearances are different.

00:29:54.680 --> 00:29:56.160

<v SPEAKER_2>They're more stark now.

00:29:56.160 --> 00:30:04.360

<v SPEAKER_2>We're getting a reality check that the world is based on realpolitik and on great power politics.

00:30:04.360 --> 00:30:21.020

<v SPEAKER_1>Do you think the European Union with support from like-minded like Canada, you look to the Indo-Pacific, Japan, Korea, Australia, New Zealand, for example, will be sufficient if the United States is not leading?

00:30:21.020 --> 00:30:32.400

<v SPEAKER_2>Well, the United States is not going to lead in the sense of the post-1945 thing of the liberal, the American sort of liberal small-l liberal internationalist perspective.

00:30:32.400 --> 00:30:34.220

<v SPEAKER_2>I think they're moving away from that.

00:30:34.220 --> 00:30:48.080

<v SPEAKER_2>They're going back to more of a traditional American, not complete isolationism, but America first, certainly, with a primary emphasis on the Western Hemisphere and American sphere of influence.

00:30:48.080 --> 00:30:55.940

<v SPEAKER_2>They will have friends and allies, and I think friends perhaps is the long-term allies, and those allies will come and go.

00:30:55.940 --> 00:31:03.460

<v SPEAKER_2>But the Americans are not the policemen of the world any longer, and they're not sort of going to look after everybody else.

00:31:03.460 --> 00:31:06.280

<v SPEAKER_2>The Americans expect others to look after themselves.

00:31:06.280 --> 00:31:09.540

<v SPEAKER_2>They can do that in coalitions with the United States.

00:31:09.980 --> 00:31:14.200

<v SPEAKER_2>But again, the United States will be looking at it from what's in their interest to do so.

00:31:14.200 --> 00:31:17.780

<v SPEAKER_2>So if Canada wants to partner with the United States, sure.

00:31:17.780 --> 00:31:19.960

<v SPEAKER_2>But there has to be an American interest in that.

00:31:19.960 --> 00:31:22.660

<v SPEAKER_2>Understandably, there is a Canadian interest in that.

00:31:22.660 --> 00:31:24.500

<v SPEAKER_2>But there will be a mutual interest.

00:31:24.500 --> 00:31:30.500

<v SPEAKER_2>But we cannot depend on the Americans to sort us out and save our bacon, as it were.

00:31:30.500 --> 00:31:31.380

<v SPEAKER_1>No.

00:31:31.380 --> 00:31:36.660

<v SPEAKER_1>Kaspars, would you agree with Andrew's, as he put it, his realism approach?

00:31:40.800 --> 00:31:47.300

<v SPEAKER_3>Well, I would guess there is a lot of truth in what Andrew was saying.

00:31:47.300 --> 00:31:48.200

<v SPEAKER_3>Certainly so.

00:31:48.200 --> 00:31:56.080

<v SPEAKER_3>We see that we in Europe have to take more responsibility for our security.

00:31:56.080 --> 00:32:03.660

<v SPEAKER_3>So we have been sort of lucky so far to be in a strong alliance that is led by NATO.

00:32:03.660 --> 00:32:05.660

<v SPEAKER_3>So we'll still have an alliance.

00:32:05.660 --> 00:32:09.780

<v SPEAKER_3>It still will be led by the United States.

00:32:09.780 --> 00:32:14.420

<v SPEAKER_3>But we will have to do our part in that equation.

00:32:14.420 --> 00:32:18.220

<v SPEAKER_3>And helping Ukraine is one of the parts in that equation.

00:32:18.220 --> 00:32:25.460

<v SPEAKER_3>And building our own defence forces, defence capabilities, defence industries and other parts of that equation.

00:32:25.460 --> 00:32:40.980

<v SPEAKER_3>So if we will succeed in that, so I guess that will help us to sort of stay together and address issues that may come at us in the future as well.

00:32:40.980 --> 00:32:48.200

<v SPEAKER_1>But it underlines the importance of collective security with every nation doing its part, does it not?

00:32:48.200 --> 00:32:49.240

<v SPEAKER_3>Exactly.

00:32:49.240 --> 00:32:50.160

<v SPEAKER_3>Exactly.

00:32:50.160 --> 00:32:52.420

<v SPEAKER_3>And this is what is understanding.

00:32:52.420 --> 00:32:55.700

<v SPEAKER_3>I think this is what is clear understanding with the NATO.

00:32:55.700 --> 00:33:06.620

<v SPEAKER_3>Otherwise, you would not have been able to make a decision that was made this NATO summit in Hague on defence expenditure.

00:33:06.620 --> 00:33:09.420

<v SPEAKER_3>So I think it's quite remarkable.

00:33:09.420 --> 00:33:14.840

<v SPEAKER_3>We are there, lastly, at the 3.5 percent already this year.

00:33:14.840 --> 00:33:22.220

<v SPEAKER_3>But for the other countries to make a commitment, it's quite reassuring to me.

00:33:23.340 --> 00:33:25.500

<v SPEAKER_1>My last question, and I'm going to start with you, HE.

00:33:25.500 --> 00:33:29.020

<v SPEAKER_1>Kaspars, before Andrew comes in, before I ask you what you're reading.

00:33:29.020 --> 00:33:39.380

<v SPEAKER_1>Is there more you would like Canada to do to support Ukraine and NATO allies, particularly in Eastern Europe, beyond what we're already doing?

00:33:39.380 --> 00:33:48.240

<v SPEAKER_3>Well, for Canada's support to Ukraine in achieving just and lasting peace is a very strong and long-term priority.

00:33:48.240 --> 00:33:58.740

<v SPEAKER_3>Decision of Canadian government to provide additional \$2 billion of military aid and \$2.3 billion loan to Ukraine are the latest examples of that.

00:34:03.300 --> 00:34:13.660

<v SPEAKER_3>I also know that, let's say, requirements and the capability gaps in Ukraine are fairly big, and we need to step up on that one.

00:34:13.660 --> 00:34:35.180

<v SPEAKER_3>So the Baltic States have committed to spend 0.25 percent of their GDP on military support to Ukraine, and somebody calculated if every NATO country would spend that a portion of the GDP, Ukraine would have been in a much different position.

00:34:35.220 --> 00:34:38.460
<v SPEAKER_3>So basically, it's way to go.

00:34:38.460 --> 00:34:40.400
<v SPEAKER_3>This is something that we have to do.

00:34:40.400 --> 00:35:00.300
<v SPEAKER_3>So more concretely, one new and very concrete support stemmed from decision of President Trump in July to sell critically important weapon systems to Ukraine through allied purchases.

00:35:00.300 --> 00:35:06.480
<v SPEAKER_3>This new initiative requires additional funding from the member states in support of Ukraine.

00:35:06.480 --> 00:35:16.820
<v SPEAKER_3>And I'm sure that Canada is considering its contribution for that as well, and that will be one very welcome thing.

00:35:18.880 --> 00:35:23.080
<v SPEAKER_3>You asked also on the eastern flank.

00:35:24.620 --> 00:35:34.660
<v SPEAKER_3>Well, operational assurance is Canada's contribution to bigger collective NATO effort to reinforce its eastern flank.

00:35:36.980 --> 00:35:47.980
<v SPEAKER_3>Canadians not always know that there are eight multinational brigades established on the eastern flank, and with the accession of Finland to NATO, ninth brigade will soon be set up.

00:35:47.980 --> 00:35:49.560
<v SPEAKER_3>So Canada is not alone.

00:35:49.560 --> 00:35:52.800
<v SPEAKER_3>It is a collective long-term effort.

00:35:52.800 --> 00:36:04.600
<v SPEAKER_3>And but to the credit of Canada, it was the first among all countries to launch a brigade, and it is working towards full operational capability of brigade next year.

00:36:04.600 --> 00:36:05.560
<v SPEAKER_3>So it's not done yet.

00:36:05.680 --> 00:36:10.100
<v SPEAKER_3>We are not there yet, but we have to keep working on that.

00:36:10.100 --> 00:36:20.260

<v SPEAKER_3>And the goal, of course, of all eight multinational brigades is to serve as deterrents and defence force if and when needed.

00:36:20.260 --> 00:36:25.600

<v SPEAKER_3>And for deterrents to be effective, it has to be credible along the entire eastern flank.

00:36:25.600 --> 00:36:27.680

<v SPEAKER_3>And currently we are not there yet.

00:36:27.680 --> 00:36:31.380

<v SPEAKER_3>We don't have all necessary capabilities for that.

00:36:31.380 --> 00:36:38.400

<v SPEAKER_3>And therefore we have to work nationally and together as allies to close those capability gaps.

00:36:38.400 --> 00:36:41.100

<v SPEAKER_3>They are known, those capability gaps are known.

00:36:41.100 --> 00:36:46.560

<v SPEAKER_3>It's air and missile defence, long-range precision fires, munition and others.

00:36:47.580 --> 00:36:58.680

<v SPEAKER_3>We, on some of those capabilities, last year, is already awaiting delivery of some of those capabilities.

00:37:01.760 --> 00:37:18.360

<v SPEAKER_3>That has brought our defence spending, as I mentioned, to 3.5 percent already, but we are ready and willing to go higher to fulfil our Article 3 commitments, and we hope that the other countries will do the same.

00:37:21.120 --> 00:37:28.300

<v SPEAKER_3>So we do count on every NATO country, including Canada, to play their part in closing these essential gaps.

00:37:28.300 --> 00:37:31.380

<v SPEAKER_3>I think that is the most important thing.

00:37:31.380 --> 00:37:38.340

<v SPEAKER_1>Certainly my impression is there's very strong support within Latvia for the NATO presence.

00:37:38.340 --> 00:37:38.980

<v SPEAKER_3>Oh, exactly.

00:37:38.980 --> 00:37:40.220
<v SPEAKER_3>There is no doubt about it.

00:37:40.440 --> 00:37:53.760
<v SPEAKER_3>So I have mentioned to you many Canadians that when we do opinion polls on the most trusted institutions of my country, so the armed forces of Latvia falls in top three.

00:37:53.760 --> 00:37:57.580
<v SPEAKER_3>So which is very high popular support.

00:37:57.580 --> 00:38:14.360
<v SPEAKER_3>In my country, we see the NATO troops that are in Latvia, and we have like 12 or 13 nations right now under the Canadian wing in the brigade, and we all of them see as a friend.

00:38:14.360 --> 00:38:17.720
<v SPEAKER_3>We see them as one of our own.

00:38:17.720 --> 00:38:22.900
<v SPEAKER_3>So there is no distinction between our armed forces and international ones.

00:38:22.900 --> 00:38:43.060
<v SPEAKER_3>So when we see on the National Day Military Parade, all nations presenting their troops and equipment, so that brings tremendous, let's say, relief and reassurance and pride of my compatriots.

00:38:43.060 --> 00:38:48.700
<v SPEAKER_3>So they are really, really welcomed and viewed very positively in my country.

00:38:48.700 --> 00:38:54.840
<v SPEAKER_1>Andrew, you, of course, were there earlier this year, and that was, I think, the impression you left with as well.

00:38:55.360 --> 00:39:02.840
<v SPEAKER_1>Just to continue that, your impression, but also, is there more Canada can and should be doing?

00:39:02.840 --> 00:39:13.240
<v SPEAKER_1>Kaspars talked about the 0.25% that the frontline states are devoting purely to arm support for Ukraine, the purchase of arms.

00:39:13.240 --> 00:39:19.320
<v SPEAKER_1>Is that something Canada should adopt, although arguably we're probably fairly close to that anyways?

00:39:19.320 --> 00:39:27.240

<v SPEAKER_2>In terms of Ukraine, I think we have to wait and see, from my personal perspective, the outcome of the meeting in Washington today.

00:39:28.040 --> 00:39:30.840

<v SPEAKER_2>And which pathway we're going to go.

00:39:30.840 --> 00:39:41.060

<v SPEAKER_2>Are we going to be on a pathway for a resolution of the war through a peace negotiation and settlement that Russia will participate in along with Ukraine?

00:39:41.060 --> 00:39:43.820

<v SPEAKER_2>And that there would be prospects for a real settlement?

00:39:43.820 --> 00:39:49.240

<v SPEAKER_2>In that case, I would say Canada should do everything it can to support that pathway.

00:39:49.300 --> 00:39:59.440

<v SPEAKER_2>And you know, Prime Minister Carney has already thanked President Trump for his initiative to try to establish peace and for his potential of American security guarantees.

00:39:59.440 --> 00:40:03.780

<v SPEAKER_2>So I think Canada should do everything it can to support that process.

00:40:03.780 --> 00:40:15.260

<v SPEAKER_2>On the other hand, if there's a failure of the system and the Ukrainians insist on ceasefire first, then there will be no peace negotiations and there will be no prospects for peace.

00:40:15.800 --> 00:40:24.480

<v SPEAKER_2>In that case, there will be more war and in my sense, prospects for success on the Ukrainian side will be not very high.

00:40:24.480 --> 00:40:35.680

<v SPEAKER_2>I think the Russians will prevail and I think Canada, in that case, would be better off by providing humanitarian assistance for Ukraine because militarily, we would be wasting our effort in my assessment.

00:40:35.680 --> 00:40:40.460

<v SPEAKER_2>I realize that's contrary to most opinion, but that's the way I see it.

00:40:40.460 --> 00:40:48.100

<v SPEAKER_2>On the NATO side, whatever outcome we have in Ukraine, there will be a Cold War too of some sort.

00:40:48.100 --> 00:40:51.060

<v SPEAKER_2>It depends on the extent of the settlement.

00:40:51.060 --> 00:40:57.400

<v SPEAKER_2>So the Canadian commitment as part of the NATO's Eastern flank will definitely be required.

00:40:57.400 --> 00:41:00.940

<v SPEAKER_2>And as Kaspars has outlined, Canada is doing a superb job.

00:41:00.940 --> 00:41:03.020

<v SPEAKER_2>I was there last March.

00:41:03.020 --> 00:41:06.640

<v SPEAKER_2>We are, I think, the Canadian Brigade that's leading.

00:41:06.680 --> 00:41:09.020

<v SPEAKER_2>We've already reaching Brigade status.

00:41:09.020 --> 00:41:11.820

<v SPEAKER_2>Let me say a few more things that we need, but we are ahead.

00:41:11.820 --> 00:41:16.020

<v SPEAKER_2>We are the leading Brigade group in NATO's Eastern flank.

00:41:16.020 --> 00:41:18.700

<v SPEAKER_2>I think Canadians could take pride in that.

00:41:18.700 --> 00:41:22.560

<v SPEAKER_2>Canadians, Canada is going to be spending more on its defence.

00:41:22.560 --> 00:41:31.220

<v SPEAKER_2>I think the Prime Minister quite correctly is not obsessed with numerical numbers on expenditures rather than capabilities.

00:41:31.220 --> 00:41:32.900

<v SPEAKER_2>And I think that's very important.

00:41:33.120 --> 00:41:40.140

<v SPEAKER_2>Canada should spend to get maximum capability to do what we can do with our relative resources in play.

00:41:40.140 --> 00:41:49.760

<v SPEAKER_2>So I think we're on a good track in terms of Canada's defence expenditures with Carney and our deployments to Latvia.

00:41:49.760 --> 00:41:50.060
<v SPEAKER_1>All right.

00:41:50.060 --> 00:41:54.340
<v SPEAKER_1>My final question, and I'll let you lead on this, Andrew, because you're always reading or streaming something.

00:41:54.340 --> 00:41:56.500
<v SPEAKER_1>What are you reading or streaming these days?

00:41:56.500 --> 00:41:56.740
<v SPEAKER_2>Okay.

00:41:56.740 --> 00:41:58.760
<v SPEAKER_2>So I picked up a good new book.

00:42:00.420 --> 00:42:08.020
<v SPEAKER_2>The World of the Cold War, 1945-1991 by Vladislav Zubok.

00:42:08.020 --> 00:42:15.300
<v SPEAKER_2>He's a Professor of International History at LSE, London School of Economics.

00:42:15.300 --> 00:42:25.800
<v SPEAKER_2>He spent like 10 years, he was born in the Soviet Union, spent 30 years in the Soviet Union or Russia after, and then in Great Britain or in the West.

00:42:25.800 --> 00:42:32.240
<v SPEAKER_2>He's writing this book on the Cold War, from the perspective of the Soviet Union, of the USSR.

00:42:32.240 --> 00:42:35.220
<v SPEAKER_2>What did they see when the Cold War started?

00:42:35.220 --> 00:42:38.400
<v SPEAKER_2>Most of our Cold War stuff is a Western perspective.

00:42:38.400 --> 00:42:41.200
<v SPEAKER_2>Well, how did the Russians see it or the Soviets see it?

00:42:41.200 --> 00:42:42.220
<v SPEAKER_2>That's what this book is about.

00:42:42.220 --> 00:42:44.080
<v SPEAKER_2>I'm already a third of the way through it.

00:42:44.080 --> 00:42:45.200
<v SPEAKER_2>It's fascinating reading.

00:42:45.200 --> 00:42:48.320

<v SPEAKER_2>It's stuff I've never really thought about very much.

00:42:48.320 --> 00:42:53.920

<v SPEAKER_2>When you look at it, how the Russians, how to solve and see the Berlin Airlift, all that sort of stuff.

00:42:53.920 --> 00:42:55.600

<v SPEAKER_2>So it's very interesting.

00:42:55.600 --> 00:42:55.920

<v SPEAKER_1>All right.

00:42:55.920 --> 00:42:58.680

<v SPEAKER_1>The World of the Cold War from the Russian perspective.

00:42:58.680 --> 00:42:59.220

<v SPEAKER_1>Excellent.

00:42:59.220 --> 00:43:00.220

<v SPEAKER_1>Thank you.

00:43:00.220 --> 00:43:03.440

<v SPEAKER_1>Kaspars, what are you reading or streaming these days?

00:43:03.440 --> 00:43:04.020

<v SPEAKER_3>When?

00:43:04.020 --> 00:43:05.500

<v SPEAKER_3>Well, roughly in the same two.

00:43:06.080 --> 00:43:18.280

<v SPEAKER_3>And what I'm trying to listen as much as I can is basically the podcasts in China to have some very basic flavor of what the issues there.

00:43:18.280 --> 00:43:25.540

<v SPEAKER_3>And especially I like those interviews that I was Chinese scholars, as opposed to Western experts on China.

00:43:25.540 --> 00:43:39.480

<v SPEAKER_3>So let's say three podcasts that I'm paying my attention to is like Seneca Podcast, The China Power of CSIS and the German and the German think tank on China, which is Merrick's.

00:43:41.680 --> 00:43:54.420

<v SPEAKER_3>Regarding books, I'm reading right now the historians Noah Harari book, Nexus.

00:43:54.420 --> 00:44:08.320

<v SPEAKER_3>I guess you have probably you have you have read it already, which is written as a philosophical history of information networks from prehistoric times to artificial intelligence era.

00:44:08.320 --> 00:44:19.560

<v SPEAKER_3>So he sounds at the very outset like pessimistic about human ability to process wealth of information into truth that gives one wisdom over power.

00:44:19.840 --> 00:44:26.300

<v SPEAKER_3>So there are two ways how people use the information when they when they get it.

00:44:26.300 --> 00:44:41.400

<v SPEAKER_3>So I expect to read yet whether there is some hope that in the age of artificial intelligence that path from information to wisdom is expected to be any straighter than in the past.

00:44:41.400 --> 00:44:59.420

<v SPEAKER_3>And the other thing is what I want to read in the book, if the, how grown artificial intelligence will be towards self-correction that is inherent for the fully democratic societies and scientific institutions.

00:44:59.420 --> 00:45:01.400

<v SPEAKER_3>So not there yet, but I'm-

00:45:01.400 --> 00:45:03.380

<v SPEAKER_1>No, something more interesting.

00:45:03.380 --> 00:45:08.520

<v SPEAKER_1>Noah Harari's Nexus and the podcasts on China, which are something we should all listen to.

00:45:09.260 --> 00:45:13.140

<v SPEAKER_1>Well, thank you both, and thanks for listening to this episode of The Global Exchange.

00:45:13.140 --> 00:45:19.160

<v SPEAKER_1>We were joined today by CGAI fellow Andrew Rasiulis and Latvian Ambassador Kaspars Ozoliņš.

00:45:19.160 --> 00:45:23.120

<v SPEAKER_1>You can find the Canadian Global Affairs Institute on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.

00:45:23.120 --> 00:45:32.000

<v SPEAKER_1>The Global Exchange is brought to you by our team at the Canadian Global Affairs Institute, and my thanks go out to our

producer, Jordyn Carroll, and to Drew Phillips for providing our music.

00:45:32.000 --> 00:45:33.480

<v SPEAKER_1>I'm Colin Robertson.

00:45:33.480 --> 00:45:35.460

<v SPEAKER_1>Thanks for joining us today on The Global Exchange.