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# Current Intelligence Report Circular

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**CLASSIFICATION: DECLASSIFIED AND APPROVED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE**

**Report Topic:** Political, military, and economic developments inside Ukraine

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## Defensive and offensive strategies in Ukraine

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ON 29 MAR Russia launched a cruise missile and hit a nine-story building that housed the Mykolaiv region's administration. This attack counteracts the "progressive" nature of the peace talks and increases doubts by Ukrainians about whether the talks will produce a breakthrough. Russia claims that it will drastically reduce the attacks in Kyiv and Chernihiv. As Russian troops continue to advance, Ukrainian forces repel them outside the capital and other cities. Counterattacks from Ukrainian forces have taken place in Makariv, Kyiv, Kharkiv, Mykolaiv, and Kherson. Additionally, the Zelensky Administration has claimed that Ukraine will accept neutral status —it will not join military alliances, including NATO, or host military forces, in return for security guarantees from other countries. Civilians in the southeastern city of Zaporizhzhia are volunteering to provide hand-made camouflage nets and bulletproof vests to supply the army. Zelensky announced that Ukraine will not scale back "defensive efforts" in the face of attacks by the Russian military, which has significant potential to continue attacks on Ukraine. Although Russia is cutting back operations near Kyiv, this is not contributing to the end of the war. END

### CMCD Note

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Russia has attacked an administration building in Ukraine on the same day of peace talks in Turkey between the two countries. In the past week, Ukraine has had successful counterattacks in areas that were under Russian control. We assess with moderate confidence that Ukraine will continue to launch successful counterattacks. President Zelensky announced that Ukraine will accept a neutral status, which we assess with moderate confidence will assist the peace talks.

### Sources

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BBC – Zelensky: 'Positive' signs from peace talks, but Russian threat remains

<https://www.bbc.com/news/live/world-europe-60890199>

BBC – Mykolaiv residents react to building strike on day of peace talks

<https://www.bbc.com/news/live/world-europe-60890199>

BBC – Which parts of Ukraine do Russian troops control?

<https://www.bbc.com/news/live/world-europe-60717902/page/2>

BBC – What is the 'neutral status' Ukraine is proposing?

<https://www.bbc.com/news/live/world-europe-60890199>

BBC – In pictures: The volunteers making protective gear for Ukraine's soldiers

<https://www.bbc.com/news/live/world-europe-60717902>

BBC – Mykolaiv attack: Number killed rises to nine

<https://www.bbc.com/news/live/world-europe-60717902>