Trump 'very frustrated' and Zelensky must strike minerals deal, says adviser



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky needs to return to the negotiating table and strike a deal on US access to Ukraine's critical minerals, White House national security adviser Mike Waltz has said.

Wednesday, Zelensky rejected US demands for a share of its rare earth minerals - a "deal" Trump said would reflect the amount of aid the US had provided to Ukraine during its war with Russia.

The comments, made at a White House briefing on Thursday, overshadowed a meeting in Kyiv between Zelensky and Keith Kellogg, the US chief envoy to Ukraine.

Waltz said the White House was "very frustrated" with Zelensky after he levelled "unacceptable" insults at US President Donald Trump earlier this week.We presented the Ukrainians really an incredible, and a historic opportunity," the adviser said, adding that it would be "sustainable" and "the best" security guarantee Ukraine could hope for.But Zelensky had refused the offer, saying: "I can't sell our state."

Waltz's comments in the White House news briefing came shortly after the conclusion of Zelensky's meeting with Kellogg in Kyiv, after which the Ukrainian leader announced he was ready to make an "investment and security agreement" with the US to end the war in Ukraine.The meeting was hailed as "productive" by Zelensky - but it more closely resembled an awkward political date.As the senior members of Donald Trump's team continued to engage directly with Moscow, the retired general had said he was in Kyiv to "listen".

But it soon became apparent he wouldn't speak, publicly that is, after a news conference was cancelled at the last minute.it was a US decision, with Ukrainian sources claiming they believed Kellogg had been "sidelined" by the White House.The meeting with Kellogg had been of huge importance to Kyiv, given that officials are relying on the special envoy to relay its needs to Washington.

In a post shared on X, the Ukrainian president said he and the US special envoy had "a detailed conversation about the battlefield situation, how to return our prisoners of war, and effective security guarantees".