Kremlin: Russia and US postpone summit at French request

Russian President Vladimir Putin, listens during a meeting in the Kremlin in Moscow, Russia, Wednesday, Nov. 7, 2018. The Kremlin said Wednesday that Russia and the U.S. have agreed not to hold a full-fledged meeting of President Vladimir Putin and U.S. President Donald Trump in Paris, bowing to the French concern that the summit would distract public attention from the Armistice Day 100th anniversary. (Alexei Nikolsky, Sputnik, Kremlin Pool Photo via AP) (Alexei Nikolsky)

President Donald Trump pauses as the crowd cheers during a rally at Show Me Center, Monday, Nov. 5, 2018, in Cape Girardeau, Mo.. (AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster) (AP)

MOSCOW (AP) — The Kremlin said Wednesday that Russia and the United States have agreed not to hold a summit in Paris to avoid diverting attention from weekend commemorations marking the 100th anniversary of World War I's end.

Russian President Vladimir Putin and U.S. President Donald Trump expect to see each other briefly but won't have a full-scale meeting during the centenary Armistice Day events, Kremlin foreign affairs adviser Yuri Ushakov said.

Ushakov said France conveyed concern that a Putin-Trump summit would steal the limelight from the Paris observances. Officials from the U.S. and Russia decided to delay the meeting until the end of the month, when both leaders expect to attend a Group of 20 summit in Argentina.

Trump said Monday he "probably" would not be meeting with Putin in Paris, but will meet with him during the G-20.

When U.S. National Security Adviser John Bolton visited Moscow last month, he and Russian officials also talked about the presidents visiting each other's countries, according to Ushakov.

"A possible exchange of visits to Moscow and Washington was discussed, but there was no specific talk about the issue yet," he added.

Bolton said last month that Putin was invited to visit Washington next year, but a date had not been set.

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