

Nato official suggests Ukraine could give up land in exchange for membership

Kyiv angrily rejects proposal from secretary general's chief of staff, saying it would reward Russian aggression

Ukraine could give up territory to Russia in exchange for Nato membership and an end to the war, a senior Nato official has suggested, prompting an angry reaction from Kyiv.

Stian Jenssen, the chief of staff to the Nato secretary general, Jens Stoltenberg, said at an event in Norway on Tuesday that while any peace deal would have to be acceptable to Ukraine, alliance members were discussing how the 18-month war might be brought to an end.

"I think that a solution could be for Ukraine to give up territory, and get Nato membership in return," Jenssen told his audience, noting that discussions about Ukraine's postwar status were continuing in diplomatic circles.

Ukraine, however, has consistently called for a restoration of its internationally recognised pre-2014 borders and is engaged in a counteroffensive in an attempt to recapture large parts of its territory seized by Russia.

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