

# Trump cancels Russia meeting over tensions with Ukraine

By YURAS KARMANAU and  
VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV  
Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine — The president of Ukraine is urging NATO to deploy warships to the Sea of Azov, a proposal that has been sharply criticized by Russia as a provocation that could worsen tensions between the two countries following a weekend confrontation in the waters off the Crimean Peninsula.

U.S. President Donald Trump said today he was canceling a planned meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin at the G-20 summit in Argentina because Moscow has not released the Ukrainian vessels and sailors it seized.

In an interview published earlier today with the German daily Bild, Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko laid out his hope that NATO would “relocate naval ships to the Sea of Azov in order to assist Ukraine and provide security” against Putin’s expansionist ambitions.

The Russian coast guard fired on and seized three Ukrainian vessels and their crews on Sunday. Russia alleged the Ukrainian vessels had failed to obtain permission to pass from the Black Sea into the Sea of Azov through the Kerch Strait. Ukraine insisted its vessels were operating in line with international maritime rules in the strait, which separates Russia’s mainland and the Crimean Peninsula that it annexed from Ukraine in 2014.

While condemning the Russian action, NATO is not expected to send ships to the area, a deploy-



AP Photo/Evgeniy Maloletka

Ukrainian tanks are being transported in Urzuf, south coast of Azov sea, eastern Ukraine.

ment that could trigger a confrontation with Russia. A 2003 treaty between Russia and Ukraine stipulates that permission from both countries is required for warships from anywhere else to enter the internal sea.

NATO spokeswoman Oana Lungescu said the alliance already has a strong presence in the region, and that NATO ships routinely patrol and conduct exercises in the Black Sea, especially those from Bulgaria, Romania, and Turkey, which border the sea.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said early

today that she plans to press Putin at the upcoming G-20 summit in Argentina to urge the release of the Ukrainian ships and crews and to de-escalate the situation.

“We can only resolve this in talks with one another because there is no military solution to all of these conflicts,” she said.

It was not clear whether Merkel knew of Poroshenko’s call for NATO’s deployment when she spoke.

Trump tweeted his decision to cancel a meeting with Putin this weekend. Trump, who was en

route to Buenos Aires for the G-20 summit, said he would not be meeting Putin because “the ships and sailors have not been returned to Ukraine from Russia.”

The Kremlin said it has not been notified of a cancellation. Russian news agencies quoted Dmitry Peskov, Putin’s spokesman, as saying that the Kremlin only learned of the cancellation from Trump’s tweet.

Peskov said the cancellation means that Putin will have “a couple of more hours” for “useful meetings” with other leaders of the world’s 20 largest economies.

The Ukrainian government said Russia has blocked commercial traffic to and from Ukrainian ports on the Sea of Azov, which Russia quickly denied.

“Putin wants nothing less but to occupy the sea,” Poroshenko said. “The only language he understands is the unity of the Western world.”

Putin on Wednesday criticized the West for what he described as connivance with Ukraine’s “provocation.”

“The authorities in Kiev are successfully selling anti-Russian sentiments as they have nothing else left to sell,” he said. “They can get away with whatever they do. If they want to eat babies for breakfast today, they will likely get served too.”

In response to Sunday’s events, Ukraine has imposed martial law in parts of the country. Putin accused Poroshenko of provoking the naval incident in a bid to impose martial law to shore up his sagging popularity and sideline competitors ahead of a presidential election in March.

## WORLD IN BRIEF

Associated Press

### Cohen pleads guilty to lying to Congress

NEW YORK — Michael Cohen, President Donald Trump’s former lawyer, made a surprise appearance before a federal judge in New York today and pleaded guilty to lying to Congress to cover up that he was negotiating a real estate deal in Moscow on Trump’s behalf during the heat of his campaign for the Republican presidential nomination.

Trump called Cohen a “weak person” who is lying to get a lighter sentence.

The charge was brought by Special Counsel Robert Mueller, who is investigating Russian interference in the presidential election, and was the result of his cooperation with that probe.

Flanked by his lawyers, Cohen admitted making false statements about the project in 2017 to Senate and House intelligence committees, which at the time were investigating possible connections between the Trump campaign and Russia.

His comments made clear that his communications with Trump about the project were much more frequent than he had suggested.

Cohen told the judge he lied about the timing of the negotiations, his communications with people in the company and in Russia about the deal, and other details to be loyal to Trump and consistent with Trump’s “political messaging.” Cohen and prosecutors referred to Trump as “individual one” throughout today’s proceedings and said he lied “to be loyal to Individual One.”

Among other lies, Cohen said he told Congress that all discussions about building a Trump Tower in Moscow had ended by January 2016, when they had actually continued until

June of that year.

He said he also lied about his contacts with Russian officials and lied when he said he never agreed to travel to Russia in connection with the project and never discussed with Trump plans to travel to Moscow to support the project.

### Officials: Man killed brother, family members at New Jersey mansion

FREEHOLD, N.J. — A New Jersey tech executive was charged today with killing his brother and the brother’s family as a result of a business dispute and then setting fire to their mansion and his own house in an attempt to cover up the crimes.

Paul Caneiro, 51, was charged with four counts of murder as well as arson and two weapons violations in the deaths of his 50-year-old brother, Keith, along with Keith’s wife, Jennifer, and their two children, at their Colts Neck estate, about 50 miles south of New York City.

“This one is the most brutal case I’ve seen in my experience here,” said Monmouth County Prosecutor Christopher Gramiccioni.

Caneiro’s motive “was financial in nature,” stemming from two businesses — a computer systems company called Square One and a pest control business — he and his brother jointly ran in Asbury Park, the prosecutor said.

Caneiro had already been under arrest on a charge he set fire to his own home 10 miles away in Ocean Township, while his wife and two daughters were inside. The second fire was a “ruse” intended to make it appear the extended family was a target, the prosecutor said. He said there was no evidence he intended to kill his own family. They escaped without injury.

Keith Caneiro was shot numerous times on the lawn of his mansion in Colts Neck, an afflu-

ent horse country town that’s home to rock star Bruce Springsteen, and where former “Daily Show” host Jon Stewart and his wife operate an animal sanctuary.

Paul Caneiro shot his brother on the lawn of the mansion, went inside and killed the rest of the family, and then set a fire in the basement in the early morning hours of Nov. 20, the prosecutor said. He then returned to his own home and set gasoline ablaze outside both ends of the building.

### World leaders arriving to pivotal G-20 summit in Argentina

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina — World leaders began arriving in Buenos Aires today for the summit of the globe’s largest economies, with attention expected to focus on issues including a trade war between the United States and China, a new North American trade deal and the conflict in Ukraine.

Heads of state from Italy, Canada, South Korea, Singapore and Turkey were among the first in the country, joining the French president

and Saudi crown prince who arrived the previous day.

The meeting could be a defining moment for the Group of 20, for better or for worse, said Thomas Bernes of the Centre for International Governance Innovation, a Canada-based think tank focusing on global governance.

“The G-20 Leader’s Summit is at risk of falling into disarray with the summit being overshadowed by items not on agenda, such as the United States and China trade war, Russia’s aggression against Ukraine and the presence of the Saudi crown prince,” Bernes said. “The true test will be whether the other members of the G-20 will act resolutely or whether will witness the crumbling of the G-20 as a forum for international economic cooperation.”

The crown prince, Mohammed bin Salman, has been accused by Human Rights Watch of war crimes in Yemen and responsibility for the gruesome slaying of newspaper columnist Jamal Khashoggi inside the Saudi consulate in Istanbul last month. On Wednesday, Argentine legal authorities took initial action to consider a request from Human Rights Watch to prosecute him for alleged crimes against humanity, a move apparently aimed at embarrassing him as he attends the summit.

Give a  
**Gift Subscription**  
to The Daily Astorian

Buy a Gift Subscription to The Daily Astorian  
and receive the book “A Pictorial History of Astoria – The Early Years,  
second edition” (\$39.95 value) FREE.

Annual subscription \$135.00 • 6 month subscription \$70.82  
(Carrier delivered price. Ask about mail subscription rates.)

TO SUBSCRIBE AND RECEIVE YOUR FREE BOOK CALL:

**800-781-3214**



**Leinassar Dental Excellence**  
Trusted, Caring and Affordable Dental Care

Hear what loyal and new patients alike are saying...

*The minute I walked into the dental office, I felt welcome and comfortable. Dr. Leinassar was very thorough in his explanation of the various dental procedures I might incur. He took his time and made sure I was informed of my options. Will definitely be starting my dental work soon. Thank you Dr. Leinassar and staff for being so helpful.*

- Susan C.



JEFFERY M. LEINASSAR  
DMD, FAGD

503 325-0310 • 1414 Marine Drive, Astoria

www.smileastoria.com

## CONCEALED CARRY PERMIT CLASS



MULTI-STATE

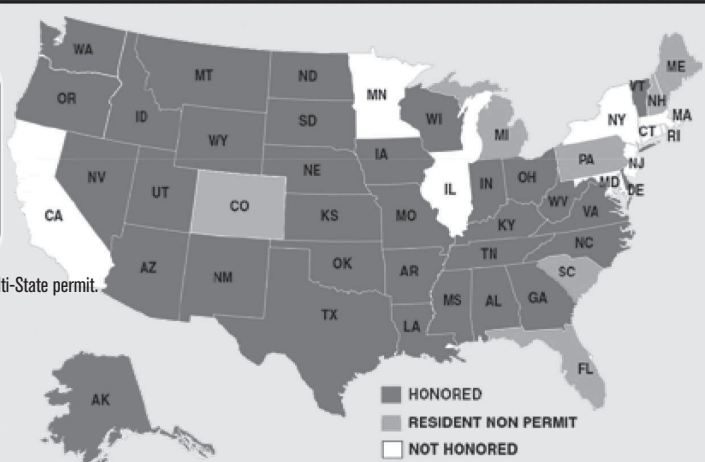
MULTI-STATE  
Oregon Included no-fee  
\$80

OREGON ONLY  
\$45

Required class to get an Oregon or multi-State permit.

Class includes:

- Fingerprinting & photo
- Oregon gun laws
- Washington gun laws
- Interstate travel laws
- Interaction with law enforcement
- Use of deadly force
- Firearm / ammunition / holster selection



**December 14<sup>th</sup> • 6p.m.**  
Best Western • 555 Hamburg Ave • Astoria

For more information: [www.FirearmTrainingNW.com](http://www.FirearmTrainingNW.com)  
FirearmTrainingNW@gmail.com | 360-921-2071