



## “No Such Thing As No Fly Zone Lite”: Pentagon Rejects Zelensky’s ‘Close The Sky’ Request

### Description

USA/UKRAINA/SLOVAKIA: Thankfully it’s looking like a WW3 showdown between two nuclear armed superpowers will be avoided, for now. Following Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky’s emotional plea to US Congress on Wednesday urging a West-imposed no-fly zone over the country to stop Russia – for which he was met with a standing ovation from US lawmakers from the House and Senate – US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin weighed in Thursday stating the Pentagon’s rejection of a no fly zone.

Reiterating that the US will not “close the skies” over Ukraine as Zelensky requested, he stressed this is because **“a no-fly zone means you’re in a conflict with Russia.”**

“From a US perspective, our President, President Biden, has been clear that we would not have US forces fighting in Ukraine. **Having said that, we’ll do everything within our power to support Ukraine in their efforts to defend their territory,**” [Austin said](#) while on a trip to Bratislava, Slovakia where he met with top defense officials there.



*Slovakia's Defense Minister Jaroslav Nad and US Secretary of Defense Austin, in Bratislava, via Reuters*

“We’ve also stated enforcing a no-fly zone actually means that you’re in combat, you’re in a fight with Russia, and that’s one of the things that we have said, **that our President said we weren’t going to do, get in a fight with Russia,**” he explained.

“So what this really means is that in order to control the skies, you have to shut down the air defenses there on the ground. **And some of those air defense systems are in Russia and so, again, there’s no easy or simple way to do this. There’s no such thing as a no-fly zone light. A no-fly zone means you’re in a conflict with Russia.** So from a US perspective, we’re, again, our position remains that we’re not going to do that,” he added.

The comments came also the day after the Biden administration signed off on sending armed drones to Ukraine – an action in and of itself Russia may see as a huge US escalation. Moscow has vowed it will treat any external military shipments into the country as a “legitimate target”.

Austin stipulated after rejecting the possibility of a no fly zone: “So our goal has been to continue to reinforce those things that have worked for the Ukrainian forces,” he said.

by Tyler Durden

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