

Speech by Head of the Presidential Office Andriy Yermak at the U.S. Institute of Peace

Ladies and gentlemen, friends!

First, I would like to thank you for having me here. It's a great honor and pleasure to speak before the community that has been created for a great mission. "To promote international peace and the resolution of conflicts among the nations and peoples of the world without recourse to violence". It was in 1984, and it was 23:57 on the Doomsday Clock. One of the most serious crises of the Cold War era. But it turned out to be the last one. Soon, the Evil Empire was defeated.

Look, it's incredible. The law that established the Institute of Peace was signed by President Reagan. The one who "outlawed Russia forever." I used to see a contradiction in this. Now I know: there is none. Because peace is not just the absence of war. Peace is a guarantee of punishment for tyrants who contemplate aggression.

Today, the Evil Empire has returned from hell. It's bent on revenge. So, at the Institute of Peace, I have to speak about war. Ukraine has been fighting for its freedom for 649 days. We have broken the plans of the Russian blitzkrieg. We have stood firm. Ukrainians are immensely grateful to everyone who has helped us remain a sovereign and independent nation.

We will not forget this. We have a long memory. You know, my acquaintance, an old veteran, kept a can opener from a set of Lend-Lease spam throughout his life. Just as a reminder of the price our nations paid to overcome Nazism in the exhausting six-year war.

Now, we are facing a war of attrition again. The Evil Empire is reviving the Axis of Evil. It creates new crises, fans the flames of longstanding conflicts. The Middle East, Africa, possibly the Balkans... A rules-based world is under a DDoS attack. Their plan is a global war fought locally.

We can and must prevent this. We need to treat the disease, not its symptoms. Negotiations with terrorists always end in only fragile ceasefires. The key to peace lies in depriving their puppet masters of power.

The Peace Formula presented by President Zelenskyy is just about this. It offers a comprehensive response to the security challenges facing humanity. And it restores justice to the world. It's a Ukrainian formula, but the peace plan built on it has co-authors from around the world. We are turning goodwill into good action.

Say it's impossible? Well, bishop Milton Wright was a skeptic, too. Men will never fly, because flying is reserved for the angels, he said. And within a year, his sons took to the skies.

It took a year for our formula to take flight as well. In the first meeting of ambassadors regarding the Formula, 21 countries and an international organization were represented. In the tenth meeting held on Friday, there were 86. As a result of these meetings, mechanisms for implementing the Formula are being created.

They are finalized during meetings of security and foreign policy advisors. There have already been three, and the fourth is scheduled soon. With each meeting, we grow stronger. We get closer to the Global Peace Summit – a gathering of world leaders committed to achieving a just, sustainable, and comprehensive peace as quickly as possible. And we believe that this summit will take place very soon.

I need to emphasize: our goal is to fix the international relations system, to make it work based on the rule of law rather than the law of force. The Peace Formula has already become an international ecosystem. Now it is an integrated structure. And its elements are closely interconnected. It is a framework onto which executive mechanisms are mounted.

A just, comprehensive, and lasting peace is only possible as a result of collective will and collective efforts. Responsible states that respect international law should stay united and committed to save the world. The prevention of war can only be achieved through reliable multilateral security guarantees for Ukraine.

This is the foundation to build the future. Tyrants never stop on their own. They are stopped. It's not too late. The implementation of the Peace Formula will allow us to do that.

Thanks for your attention.