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## UKRAINE CALLS FOR PATH INTO NATO AFTER RUSSIA MASSES TROOPS

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President Volodymyr Zelenskiy called on NATO on Tuesday to lay out a path for Ukraine to join the Western military alliance, after days in which Russia has massed troops near the conflict-hit Donbas region.

Zelenskiys comments drew an immediate rebuke from Moscow, which said Kyivs approach to NATO could further inflame the situation in Donbas, where violence has increased in recent days.

The Pentagon, perhaps due to the sensitivities, flatly declined a request to comment on Zelenskiys request at a news briefing.

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