

I have a dream...

I have a dream where people in Ukraine come together in a spontaneous demonstration for peace.

It may be in a suburb of Kiev. I see the demonstrators, including some TV and radio crews, walking up to a convoy of Russian ground troops. They carry banners with peace symbols and chant slogans such as:

"Brothers and sisters, step down from your tanks and guns. We can live together in peace. Wake up from your delusion by a dictator who lied and misled you and your country. You want peace as much as we do."

And more urgent but not hostile calls:

"Put down your weapons and stop the bloodshed. You can live peacefully among us until it is safe for you to return home."

And after a moment full of expectant tension, under the eyes of the world, in front of running cameras, Russian soldiers get out of their vehicles, from tanks, guns and trucks, first single, then more, from the head of the column to further back. They approach the demonstrators, slowly and hesitantly at first, then faster and even more, until soldiers and demonstrators mix and talk excitedly.

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As a result, more Russian units are laying down their arms.

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The news of this unheard-of, spontaneous ceasefire makes the headlines of all media, worldwide. Commentaries are overflowing, memories of the fall of the Berlin Wall are evoked, with concern and above all with hope that a peace can once again be enforced "from the bottom up," so to speak.

Only from Moscow nothing is heard at first.

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Negotiations with Ukraine are to agree on a complete, immediate withdrawal of all Russian forces from Ukrainian soil as a precondition for a comprehensive peace treaty.

The jubilation is boundless.

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From Moscow, a wonderful wave of joy surges across Europe and over to North America and around the globe. It is a done deal! Peace is possible.

This is my dream. And so it is!