

*CBS Mornings*

09/23/25

7:30:36 a.m.

35 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Marco Rubio on Palestinian State & War in Gaza]

TONY DOKOUPIL: President Trump and other world leaders are gathering in New York for the U.N. General Assembly this week. This morning, President Trump is delivering a speech on what the White House calls the renewal of American strength around the world. For more on that and other questions, we're joined now by Secretary of State Marco Rubio who will be with the President today. Mr. Secretary, thank you very much for joining us. Let's begin with the news around recognition of a Palestinian state. A number of U.S. allies have taken that step. I know you think the timing right now is reckless. Could you explain to those foreign ministers and also, to the American public why you see it that way?

(....)

7:32:34 a.m.

14 seconds

DOKOUPIL: Yeah. People don't want to reward Hamas. They want the hostages back. They want humanitarian relief. When you talk about it, the President getting involved in it, I imagine that means peace and stability in the region for Israel and for the Palestinians. Does that mean the U.S. is still a backer of a two-state solution? Do you see a path for that?

(....)

7:33:46 a.m.

28 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Marco Rubion on War in Ukraine & Russian Aggression]

DOKOUPIL: Yeah. No, I understand. The Israelis want security. The Palestinians want dignity and there's got to be a path forward. Let's move onto the other subject top of mind today and that's Ukraine and Russia. In the last two weeks, you have had drones or jets from Russia fly into Polish air space then into Estonia, and now our NATO allies are saying if this happens again, we're going to shoot these things down. If that happens, is the U.S. prepared to participate in shooting down Russian jets?

(....)

7:35:12 a.m.

27 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Marcio Rubio on Strikes on Boats From Venezuela]

DOKOUPIL: Understood. I want to talk on two more topics. You mentioned intercepting rather than shooting down the Russian jets. It brings up in my mind, the question of what to do with these drug boats — alleged drug boats coming from Venezuela. Very worthy goal of stopping the illegal flow of drugs into the U.S. I think the question a lot of people have as the U.S. has exploded three boats now in international waters, why not just stop them and board them to stop the flow of drugs?

(...)

7:36:30 p.m.

2 minutes and 8 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Secretary Marco Rubio Joins *CBS Mornings*]

DOKOUPIL: Mr. Secretary, as I hear you speak your mind, I ask you questions freely. It reminds us that all around the world, if you ask people what America represents, freedom is what comes to mind, freedom of speech in particular. We're at this moment with the issues around late night television and what comedians are saying where people on the left think the White House is cracking down on free speech, rescinding the First Amendment, and then you've got people on the right saying that's just not the case. Can you level set for us? What is this administration's view of the First Amendment and its boundaries?

RUBIO: Yeah, and look. I'm focused on foreign policy. That's my job as secretary of state. There's a tradition you don't get involved in domestic political debates. We all have opinions. I think the administration — I stand by whatever the administration has said on this and continues to say through our spokespersons, through the other relevant actors that are involved in these decisions, but there's been a long tradition in the office of secretary of state —

DOKOUPIL: But Mr. Secretary —

RUBIO: — that you focus solely on international issues, not domestic, and that's — again, if I wasn't in this role, I would give you my opinion and people probably know what it is, but my job is to focus on international policy.

DOKOUPIL: — alright, Mr. Secretary, I would just say that a lot of people see how we treat free expression in this country as related to our reputation around the world, and therefore does touch your purview. But I do hear you.

RUBIO: Yeah, well, let me tell you something. I think people on your station, other stations, they say nice things about us, they say terrible things about us every single day. No country in the world do people express themselves more freely. Some people say people express themselves too much. Everyone has an opinion. And you hear about it within milliseconds because of social media. And that's fine. That's who we are. No one is going to jail in America this morning

because of an X post or Instagram post. There are countries around the world where people are being arrested for speaking their mind or saying something people don't like. So, I think — I'm not sure we should — we're in any position to be lectured by anyone around the world on free speech.

DOKOUPIL: Well, that is true. I appreciate your time this morning, Secretary of State Marco Rubio. Thank you very much.

RUBIO: Thank you.