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**STATEMENT BY
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1423rd MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

18 May 2023

**On the ongoing crimes by the Kyiv regime and the dangerous policies of the Western
alliance countries to escalate tensions**

Mr. Chairperson,

We firmly reject the torrent of lies and disinformation, and no less so the attempts to discredit Russia's actions, which are being carried out in full accordance with Chapter VII, Article 51, of the Charter of the United Nations. We emphasize that our country is defending itself from the threats that NATO countries have for years been deliberately creating in relation to the security of the inhabitants of Ukraine, Donbas and the rest of Russia. Those who spread the false argument about some sort of "unprovoked aggression" are deliberately playing fast and loose with concepts, manipulating the facts and misleading the public.

After the February 2014 coup d'état, which was orchestrated, funded and organized from abroad, a number of Western countries embarked on nurturing a militarized puppet regime of a neo-Nazi persuasion in Kyiv that would be able to engage in military adventures involving its own population and neighbouring countries.

It was at that very time that the intensive military "beefing up" of Ukraine began, that is, regular arms deliveries with a view to systematically escalating tensions – something that continues to this day. What we are, in effect, dealing with here is the Kyiv regime being supplied with instruments for crimes against the civilian population of Donbas and other areas, crimes that continue to be committed even as we speak.

Under the supervision of Western "specialists", the Ukrainian Government drew up concrete military plans for offensive operations and rehearsed practical urban warfare operations. To this day, combat training courses funded by Western governments and involving instructors from NATO countries continue to be conducted, including for members of radical nationalist and neo-Nazi groups.

Significantly, the crimes committed against the civilian population by the Kyiv regime's armed formations and by neo-Nazi paramilitary units over many years – including crimes committed with the use

of NATO weapons – are deliberately glossed over. Those in the West stubbornly pretend not to notice them, but in fact what they are doing is to directly cover up these crimes.

The fact that the NATO countries methodically prepared the Kyiv regime for military actions of various degrees of intensity may be inferred from the admissions of officials. The ex-leaders of all the “Normandy format” countries, except Russia, and also the ex-Prime Minister of the United Kingdom have made public revelations from which it is clear that full implementation of the Minsk agreements was never on the West’s agenda. From the very outset, the Minsk agreements were a diplomatic ruse to prepare Ukraine for a high-intensity military conflict. The objective was by no means to achieve lasting peace, but to win time for the accelerated militarization of the Kyiv regime so as to then stir up armed confrontation with renewed vigour.

It is worth recalling what the Secretary of the National Security and Defence Council (NSDC) of Ukraine, Oleksii Danilov, said in an interview with the outlet Suspilne Novyny in January this year. He explicitly confirmed that, long before the start of the Russian special operation, the authorities in Kyiv had been “preparing society for war”. To quote Mr. Danilov: “When it is alleged that we were not preparing for war, I would point to the decisions of the National Security and Defence Council. If one begins analysing them, what they were about, how things happened, what processes were involved, then it is clear that insane preparations were going on.”

On several occasions we have drawn OSCE participating States’ attention to the copies of documents from the Kyiv regime’s military formations obtained in the course of the special operation, notably instructions and orders issued by the military leadership. From these it is clear that, in early 2022, Volodymyr Zelenskyy’s formations moved on to the final stage of operational co-ordination with a view to launching an attack on Russian citizens. Russia’s actions to protect Donbas and eliminate the threats to our people’s safety created by NATO member countries were an essential response measure that we were forced to take.

Nowadays those in the West are making no secret about the fact that they are using the Ukrainians to wage a proxy war against Russia in order to achieve geopolitical goals. For that reason, over there they are opposed to a diplomatic solution to the crisis, which would need to take into account the realities that have emerged, and they are also investing their own military potential in supporting the combat capabilities of Mr. Zelenskyy’s formations and in prolonging the hostilities.

It is the Kyiv regime’s Defence Minister, Oleksii Reznikov, who has spoken out on this most frankly and, what is more, on a number of occasions. He is on record as stating that the Ukrainian armed forces were “carrying out a NATO mission” in the struggle with Russia, for which the Alliance had been “preparing itself for decades”, and that they were engaged in military planning together with NATO representatives, which also covered the parameters for using the Western armaments supplied. No one has disavowed or repudiated these words.

The NSDC Secretary, Mr. Danilov, whom I mentioned earlier, has repeatedly stressed that the Kyiv regime’s goal is “the destruction of Russia as a State”. This statement by an official has likewise not been disavowed or repudiated by anyone, and over in the West they have not distanced themselves from it either.

The Chief of the Main Intelligence Directorate of the Kyiv regime’s Defence Ministry, Kyrylo Budanov, has publicly acknowledged that a terrorist war of annihilation is being waged against Russia and Russians, emphasizing that the Ukrainian intelligence services “have been killing Russians and ... will keep killing Russians anywhere on the face of this world”. That is, the goal is to exterminate an entire people. In one of his more recent interviews, Budanov confirmed that his branch of the intelligence services

was complicit in acts of terrorism in Russia. When asked which further public figures and, in particular, journalists might become targets for assassination by the Ukrainian intelligence services, he replied: “We’ve already managed to get lots of people. Cases occurring in public with high media resonance that are lapped up by society ...” And once again these remarks by an official have not been disavowed or repudiated by anyone, nor have they been condemned in the West. Not even concerns have been voiced.

On 15 May, there was yet another terrorist attack in the city centre of Lugansk. As a result of the activation of an explosive device in a public place, eight people were left injured, including a 17-year-old adolescent. Four of them are currently in a serious condition; one is in an extremely serious condition. Among the victims was the acting head of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Lugansk People’s Republic, Igor Aleksandrovich Kornet.

It should be recognized that the continuation of the non-autonomous Kyiv regime’s terror is in many respects due to the inaction of specialized international organizations. For example, there has been no condemnation by the OSCE leadership either for the terrorist attacks themselves, from which civilians and children are the first to suffer, or for Ukrainian officials’ admission that they are behind them. In these circumstances, expression of support for the Kyiv regime cannot be interpreted other than as solidarity with the methods used by it and with its aforementioned stated goals.

Several decades ago in Europe, Hitler’s criminal Nazi regime was nurtured with pretty much the same tacit consent of a great many people. That regime also sought to inflict a “strategic defeat” on our country. Today we may observe the indifferent, and at times even supportive, attitude of a number of OSCE participating States towards attempts to erase the memory of the Soviet Union’s victory over the Nazi evil – so as to clear the path for a new evil.

The present-day neo-Nazis in Ukraine are direct disciples of the Hitlerite butchers and of their henchmen. The Kyiv regime is a kind of “Frankenstein’s monster of Europe” – the product of a blood-drenched geopolitical experiment in the Commonwealth of Independent States area by a number of Western countries; a tool of NATO in a hybrid war against Russia. Western countries continue to provide political, military, financial and other support to that regime. The words uttered by representatives of these States about seeking in this way to defend OSCE values are nothing but brazen camouflage for the hybrid aggression against our country.

We must stress that it is not Russia which is supporting neo-Nazi militarized structures in areas contiguous with NATO countries. Russian weapons and ammunition are not being used to shell the territory of NATO countries. Our country is not proclaiming that its goal is to inflict a “strategic defeat” on any other State. It is entirely the other way round.

The Russian armed forces are continuing, in the course of the special operation, to systematically destroy the Kyiv regime’s military potential, built up in part from the weapon reserves of NATO countries. While the Ukrainian Government spouts outright fables about the miraculous efficacy of its existing anti-missile defence systems and about allegedly downed Russian hypersonic missiles, the Russian battle group continues to implement effectively the tasks set as part of the special military operation. Precision strikes are being carried out on the deployment sites of units belonging to the Kyiv regime’s armed formations and on storage sites for ammunition, weapons and equipment delivered from Western countries. A few days ago, launching stations for a US-made Patriot surface-to-air missile system – a weapon system manufactured by a group of companies led by Raytheon (United States) – were knocked out and destroyed near Kyiv using a Kinzhal hypersonic missile. This work will be carried on. In view of the megalomaniac plans of the US military-industrial complex, which is trying to turn the whole world into a market for its

wares, it is helpful to demonstrate in practice the poor tactical and technical characteristics of those wares, especially when compared with Russian weapon systems.

Mr. Chairperson,

On 15 May, the 132nd anniversary of the birth of Mikhail Bulgakov, a master of Russian literature and a native of Kyiv, was commemorated around the world. He, of course, comprehended perfectly the realities in which the territory of Ukraine had been mired under foreign military occupation during the First World War.

A hundred years ago, musing on the future of his home town in the sketch “The City of Kiev”, the great author wrote: “Beautiful and happy city. Overlooking the swelling waters of the Dnieper, all steeped in the verdure of chestnut trees, all besprinkled with sunlight. Now there is a mighty weariness in it after the awful years that rumbled over it. ... But I sense the stirring of a new life. It is being rebuilt, its streets will once again be busy and bustling, and above the river that Gogol loved the regal city will rise anew. And may the memory of Petliura perish.”

For the benefit of those who are not sufficiently conversant with our history, I would recall that Symon Petliura was one of the field commanders during the Russian Civil War (1917–1922) and Chairman of the so-called “Directorate” of Ukraine in 1919–1920. At first he was an advocate of historical unity with Russia, but subsequently, not without foreign military and financial support, he opted to cultivate the ideas of radical nationalism. The Ukrainian nationalist followers of Petliura “distinguished” themselves by particular cruelty during the pogroms against Jews in central and southern Ukraine. In 1921, Petliura, fleeing from justice, escaped to Poland and then to Austria, Switzerland and France – it was in France that his life came to an inglorious end.

History is cyclical, which is why the contemporary efforts by a number of Western countries to tear asunder the historical unity between Russians and Ukrainians will ultimately prove to be in vain. The only thing that the collective West will truly manage to achieve is to bleed Ukraine to death while falsely claiming that Western interference in its affairs is being undertaken for its own good.

We emphasize that Russia will continue to consistently defend its legitimate national interests for as long as it takes, and to protect its people by all available means. To prevent a large-scale escalation and achieve sustainable peace, it is essential that the supply of NATO armaments and mercenaries to Ukrainian territory and the use of these to kill Russians and Ukrainians be stopped; there must, further, be a cessation of hostilities with a view to saving lives and a return to substantive dialogue on a demilitarized and denazified future for Ukraine taking the current realities into account.

Thank you for your attention.