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**STATEMENT BY
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1494th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

31 October 2024

**On the increasing military involvement of certain NATO and EU member States in
further confrontation in and around Ukraine**

Madam Chairperson,

The Western sponsors of the Kyiv regime continue to take and encourage actions aimed at escalating the Ukrainian conflict.

On 27 October, Russian military and security forces foiled an attempt by a sabotage and reconnaissance group to violate the Russian State border in the Klimovsky district of the Bryansk region. Four saboteurs were eliminated during the resulting clash, and the remnants of the group were hit by a missile and artillery strike during their retreat.

According to information from our country's competent authorities, the foreign fighters who were killed were found to have Western weapons, combat gear, communications equipment and personal items indicating that they were foreign nationals – in particular, written materials in English and Polish and a Canadian flag. A tattoo of the Second Battalion of the 75th Ranger Regiment of the US Army Special Forces was found on the body of one of those killed.

The facts show that, where proxy missions by the Ukrainian armed forces on behalf of the Western sponsors of the Kyiv regime are impossible for external reasons (including the unwillingness of the Ukrainians themselves to participate in the fratricidal conflict), NATO mercenaries are unmasking themselves by revealing their military presence in Ukraine.

NATO's "Anglo-Saxon" wing and the countries dependent on it continue to participate in the planning of the Kyiv regime's military operations using the high-tech capabilities available to the North Atlantic Alliance (including satellite and electronic reconnaissance and other means). They are training and supplying the regime with weapons, equipment and ammunition. All of this is with a view to prolonging the conflict and causing far greater casualties and destruction.

Last week, targeted and indiscriminate attacks by Volodymyr Zelenskyy's armed formations against the civilian population in Russian regions resulted in at least 95 civilian casualties, of whom 14 were killed

and 81 were injured, including six minors. The largest number of injured children was in Gorlovka in the Donetsk People's Republic, where, on 26 October, the Ukrainian armed forces fired 155 mm NATO artillery shells with cluster warheads at residential areas. In total, more than 4,000 civilians have suffered as a result of attacks by Kyiv regime militants in various regions of Russia since the beginning of the year.

It is evident that the Ukrainian armed forces are increasingly using Western weapons to shell civilian objects. The use of HIMARS multiple-launch rocket systems with cluster warheads has increased dramatically in the Belgorod region. Over the past week, at least 760 houses and apartments were damaged by such shelling in the Shebekinsky municipal district alone. Mines produced by NATO countries have contaminated significant areas of territory near populated areas where there are no military facilities. In the Kursk region – where the Ukrainian armed forces have lost over 27,500 troops – 11 HIMARS launchers, six US-made MLRS multiple-launch rocket systems and many foreign-made armoured personnel carriers and armoured combat vehicles used to commit crimes against civilians have been destroyed.

The other day, horrific footage was published of the killing of a group of civilians who were trying to escape from Chasiv Yar, a town in the Donetsk People's Republic that is temporarily occupied by the Ukrainian armed forces. Six civilians gathered their personal belongings and set off in the direction of the city of Artemovsk, which had already been liberated by Russian troops. They walked while holding white flags above their heads. Reconnaissance officers from the southern grouping of the Russian armed forces dropped a walkie-talkie to them and co-ordinated their movements towards safety. However, as they were being evacuated, the people were detected by Ukrainian armed forces drones, which began dropping ammunition on them. The unarmed civilians were already being hit by mortars and artillery. All of them were killed.

The blatant violations of international humanitarian law by Kyiv regime formations and foreign mercenaries continue to be hushed up by the OSCE leadership for political reasons. Instead of taking a realistic look at things, the Maltese Chairmanship has shamelessly breached its mandate, including in the Permanent Council, by repeating groundless accusations and politicized propaganda targeting an OSCE participating State.

This is not to mention the Kyiv regime's Western masters, who talk at great length about certain "principles" and "values" on which they hope to build a "rules-based world order". In reality, they promote a "world order without rules" or, even more specifically, a "world order based on Anglo-Saxon considerations of geopolitical expediency".

We draw special attention to the Kazan Declaration of the 16th BRICS Summit entitled "Strengthening Multilateralism for Just Global Development and Security". In particular, it contains a clear message that double standards are unacceptable and calls upon all States to act in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations in their entirety and interrelatedness.

The systematic violations of international humanitarian law committed by the armed formations of the Kyiv regime were the subject of an informal Arria-formula meeting of members of the United Nations Security Council in New York on 25 October. The event not only helped to raise awareness of the Kyiv regime's atrocities, but also generated a broad response from non-Western delegations. It was replete with evidence and eyewitness testimony that formed the basis for the work of Russian law enforcement and other agencies to ensure justice.

The Russian armed forces continue to methodically reduce the combat potential of the Kyiv regime's formations. The Ukrainian armed forces' actions in the Kursk region failed to slow down the Russian advance in Donbass. The liberation of the town of Selidovo in the Donetsk People's Republic has been

completed. Over the past week, Mr. Zelenskyy's militants have been driven from the following settlements: Novosadovoye, Serebryanka, Nikolayevka, Gornyak, Zoryanoye, Izmaylovka, Alexandropol, Katerinovka, Dobrovolye and Krugliakovka. There are reports that the Ukrainian armed forces have begun building defence lines near the city of Zaporozhye in preparation for a large-scale retreat.

The huge losses suffered by the Ukrainian armed forces are becoming increasingly difficult to conceal. As part of the new Canadian military "aid" package, 20 million Canadian dollars will be spent on sewing uniforms for 30,000 female soldiers. Among the Kyiv regime's unrealistic plans is the mobilization of another 160,000 people. In order to somehow motivate ordinary Ukrainians to stop hiding and to get in touch with the State authorities, Mr. Zelenskyy has come up with a populist initiative to make a one-time payment of 1,000 hryvnias (about 24 US dollars at the current exchange rate) to every resident of Ukraine starting from 1 December. According to the President of the Supreme Court of Ukraine, Stanislav Kravchenko, the number of desertions from the Ukrainian armed forces is on the rise. Verkhovna Rada (Ukrainian Parliament) deputy Anna Skorokhod confirmed that the number of deserters had long ago surpassed 100,000. The real number is much higher, of course. The ordinary people of Ukraine do not want to become cannon fodder and be killed or injured in a fratricidal conflict for the sake of keeping the NATO puppets in power in Kyiv.

We take note of the indifferent attitude of the OSCE leadership and its relevant structures towards the violation of the linguistic and cultural rights of a significant part of the population of Ukraine. The Kyiv regime continues to implement measures aimed at forcibly redrawing the ethnocultural identity of Russian-speaking citizens. The so-called Ministry of Education of Ukraine is actively promoting draft law No. 12086 on the complete prohibition of any form of use of the Russian language in primary and secondary educational institutions.

The authors of the draft law, which was introduced on 1 October 2024, do not even hide the fact that this is an attempt to forcibly change the linguistic identity of the majority of children. To that end, they referred to the findings of the monitoring carried out by State authorities for the period 2023–2024 (data collected by the "State Service of Education Quality of Ukraine" and the Office of the "State Language Protection Commissioner"), according to which some 60 per cent of pupils prefer to communicate with each other in languages other than Ukrainian.

As is well known, the educational process itself in the regime-controlled territories has not been conducted in the Russian language for a long time. Now, in violation of Article 10 of the Constitution of Ukraine (which "guarantees the free use, development and protection of the Russian language"), it has been proposed to ban children and teenagers from communicating in Russian in any form in educational institutions – under the threat of fines for their parents and teachers.

Once again, we ask ourselves: what benefits do the countless programmes to supposedly ensure the "rule of law" in Ukraine actually offer? This includes the ones being implemented under the OSCE banner using extrabudgetary funds. It is obvious that such programmes are an example of double standards and political bias. It is noteworthy that, in the NATO-controlled territories of Ukraine, English and the languages of EU Member States have been excluded from the planned restrictions in the field of education. Yet our opponents continue to harp on with a straight face about some kind of "Russian occupation". It is clear to see who the occupier really is.

In conclusion, we wholeheartedly reject the claims by the Western sponsors of the Kyiv regime that Russia is trying to exacerbate the Ukrainian conflict. It is the "Anglo-Saxon" radical wing of NATO that is really responsible for the current level of escalation, not least in view of their supply of increasingly advanced weapons to the Kyiv regime, their provision of high-tech NATO capabilities for strikes on

Russia's constitutional territory, their endless speculation about the use of Western weapons deep inside Russian territory, their encouragement of sabotage attacks in Russian regions by professional English-speaking military personnel and their sending of instructors and officers to command Kyiv regime formations.

The root cause of the current security crisis on the continent lies not in Russia's defensive actions but in the backsliding in terms of Western countries' fulfilment of their OSCE commitments. In particular, in terms of the course reaffirmed at the Istanbul Summit in 1999 and the Astana Summit in 2010 towards the creation of an equal and indivisible security community in the OSCE area. It was then assumed that no State or group of States should seek to ensure their own security at the expense of the security of others. This has been violated by several waves of NATO expansion, the deployment of the Alliance's military infrastructure near Russia's borders, the withdrawal of the United States and its allies from a number of key arms limitation and control treaties, and the organization of "colour" revolutions in the post-Soviet space.

All of this has created an obvious imbalance in the security sphere and unacceptable threats to the lives of Russian citizens and the progressive development of our country. The work on eliminating the threats created by NATO countries from the territory of Ukraine will be effectively completed.

To prevent the continent from sliding into an armed confrontation of greater scale and intensity, Western countries should immediately rethink their perception of the Ukrainian conflict and analyse in a rational and politically responsible manner not only the root causes of the conflict, but also the consequences of ignoring Russia's legitimate security interests.

Our country is open to any initiatives aimed at the rapid and peaceful resolution of the crisis, taking into account the legitimate security interests of the Russian Federation. The actions of NATO countries to militarize Ukraine and use it to geopolitically weaken Russia are currently standing in the way of this. The same can be said for the Kyiv regime's self-imposed ban of 30 September 2022 on contacts with the leadership of our country regarding a sustainable political and diplomatic settlement. As long as there is no change in this plan, the special operation will be continued by military means until the goals set have been fully accomplished.

Thank you for your attention.