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**STATEMENT BY
MR. ALEKSANDR VOLGAREV, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1497th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

21 November 2024

On the Holodomor in Ukraine

Madam Chairperson,

Today we have once again witnessed how representatives of the Kyiv regime and some of its Western handlers continue to cynically manipulate world history and grossly distort obvious facts. We reiterate the groundlessness of attempts to cast the Ukrainian people in the exclusive role of a “martyr” in the context of the extensive food shortage faced by hundreds of thousands of people in other republics of the former USSR in the 1930s. Conceived in the West, the notion of a Holodomor with an exclusively Ukrainian face is easily belied by historical facts – facts that we shall now cite.

We should like to emphasize that the mass famine of the early 1930s in the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic did not have ethnic overtones; it was not directed against any individual people, nor was it in the least aimed at exterminating any particular nationality. As shown by archival documents, this tragic famine was caused by severe drought and by forced collectivization and dekulakization of the peasantry, which were being implemented across the entire Soviet Union. Millions of Russians, Kazakhs, Tatars, Bashkirs and members of other nationalities living in the Middle and Lower Volga regions, the Northern Caucasus, the Central Black Earth region, the Southern Urals, Western Siberia and Kazakhstan fell victim to it.

Let us provide some statistics. A comparison of the findings of the population censuses of 1926 and 1937 reveals that over those 11 years the number of inhabitants in, for example, the Saratov region of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic decreased by 23 per cent, with corresponding decreases of 14.3 per cent in the Kursk region, 7.8 per cent in the Kuybyshev region, 4.1 per cent in the Northern Caucasus and 2.1 per cent in the Voronezh region. In other words, decreases in the numbers of those very inhabitants to whom, according to the US representative’s cynical claims, food supplies were transferred that had been taken away from the Ukrainians.

In view of this, the attempts by representatives of the Kyiv regime and its Western handlers to monopolize this tragedy for the purposes of novel interpretations of the past are completely untenable. It is fair to ask what lies behind such approaches: banal ignorance of history or deliberate segregation on the basis of nationality? Also belonging to the realm of fantasy are the attempts to portray the tragedy as a form

of artificial leverage to “repress” the Ukrainians’ “national identity” and even to describe what happened as a “genocide against the Ukrainian people”.

As for that last point, we would remind you that, with reference to the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the events of those years cannot be said to constitute an act that involved “deliberately inflicting” on a given population group – in this case Ukrainians – “conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part”. Not to mention the fact that the aforementioned Convention is aimed at preventing the crime of genocide and, in principle, does not have a retrospective component. Accordingly, no provision is made therein for events that took place on the territory of the USSR in the 1930s, or indeed any other events that occurred before it was signed, to be assessed on the basis of the Convention.

Madam Chairperson,

Bearing all this in mind, it is completely wrong that a number of participating States should be attempting to draw a parallel between the so-called Holodomor and the present day, to equate the issue of ensuring food security with a common tragedy of the Soviet people. If one delves into history, though, one can discover much more striking analogies. The Western handlers of the Zelenskyy regime were themselves in many respects responsible for the massive food shortage that arose in the USSR. We would remind you that, in the 1930s, amid extensive crop failures and widespread famine, Western countries refused, in foreign trade transactions, to accept anything other than grain as payment for machines and equipment. In this they were guided not by humanitarian considerations, but simply by the selfish striving to hold up the Soviet Union’s industrialization.

The situation today in the territories controlled by the Kyiv regime is reminiscent of those terrible developments. Western companies have not only become the *de facto* owners of Ukraine’s agricultural land. In order to top up their countries’ grain reserves, they are actively exporting agricultural produce, showing little concern for the needs of the population in Ukraine itself. This is accompanied by attempts to blame Russia for food supply crises both within Ukraine and in the world as a whole. In practice, speculation about the threat to global food security supposedly posed by the Russian special military operation is used to justify the Kyiv regime’s criminal actions. The narratives articulated by Western countries’ representatives do not square with relevant assessments by the World Food Programme and the International Grains Council indicating that there are currently no signs of a crisis in the global food market, where, incidentally, Ukraine by no means accounts for the principal share.

In our view, it is downright cynical to exploit a tragic mass famine for current political ends. We are dealing here with a manifestation of profound disrespect for the memory of hundreds of thousands of other people who died of hunger. We call for a stop to this selective approach towards international law and to political interpretations of such law undertaken out of opportunistic considerations. Facts warrant objective analysis, as opposed to being commandeered in attempts to falsify history, including through the promotion of dubious concepts.

Thank you for your attention.