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**RIGHT OF REPLY BY
MR. ALEKSANDR VOLGAREV, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1502nd MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

12 December 2024

**On the escalatory steps in the Ukrainian conflict taken by a number of
NATO and EU member States**

Madam Chairperson,

I shall exercise my right of reply in connection with what has been said. The standard propagandistic fake stories that have become par for the course in the statements by representatives of certain Western countries have already been debunked by us on more than one occasion through all the facts and arguments that we have at our fingertips, and we see no point in dwelling on them in detail.

We shall now draw attention to a relatively new aspect raised in the statements by the representatives of the United Kingdom, the United States of America and Canada, namely the insinuations that Russia's actions pose a threat to nuclear security at nuclear power plants (NPPs). In that respect, the US representative seems to have gone altogether too far, having accused our country – unless we misheard her – of launching direct strikes on nuclear power generation capacities, that is, on NPP reactor units. There is also now a flurry of insinuations about the alleged deployment of a Russian unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) against a convoy transporting a team of experts from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) during the rotation of IAEA staff at the Zaporizhzhia NPP on 10 December.

In responding to all this, we must emphasize from the outset that the Kyiv regime is the only one hindering the stable operation of the Zaporizhzhia NPP and jeopardizing nuclear security at that facility and others. Since the end of the summer we have been seeing an increase in the use of UAVs to strike both at the perimeter and the infrastructure of the plant itself and at its satellite city, Energodar.

Moreover, the Kyiv regime and its armed formations are the only ones preventing the smooth and safe rotation of IAEA staff deployed to the plant. A ceasefire is announced for the duration of each such rotation, and that ceasefire is strictly observed by the Russian side. The same cannot be said of Mr. Zelenskyy's formations.

We would once again point out that detailed discussions on these issues must be held within the relevant forum, namely at the IAEA itself. However, with regard to the incident on 10 December in which a vehicle was attacked, we consider it important to note the following.

In general, this was not an isolated incident but part of a pattern with regard to IAEA staff coming under fire. On 10 December, experts from the IAEA Secretariat were attacked twice. At around 3 p.m., a vehicle in which they were travelling was attacked on territory controlled by the Kyiv regime. At 4.37 p.m., the Ukrainian armed forces launched a strike on a Russian convoy of vehicles that was returning from the village of Kamenskoye after having transported experts from the IAEA Secretariat to the line of contact.

We fully share the IAEA leadership's indignation over these provocative and reckless actions by the Kyiv regime, which not only continues to commit crimes by posing threats to, and carrying out attacks on, Russian nuclear facilities, but even decided to put at risk the lives of employees of an international organization and the lives of Russian military personnel responsible for the rotation.

In addition, we should also like to clarify that in Update No. 264 issued by the IAEA on 10 December 2024 it is noted that the driver of the vehicle that was damaged saw the kamikaze drone used in the attack "coming from behind", which means that the UAV flew in from territory controlled by the Kyiv regime.

We stress that these attacks, which could have led to lives being lost, testify to the Kyiv regime's utter disregard for the universally accepted norms of humanitarian law and for any agreements reached, and also to a shocking lack of respect for the challenging work performed by the staff of international organizations and for the immunity of those staff.

The Kyiv regime's actions were a blatant false-flag operation ahead of the extraordinary meeting of the IAEA Board of Governors that had been convened for today at the regime's initiative.

Thank you for your attention.