

The OSCE Secretariat bears no responsibility for the content of this document and circulates it without altering its content. The distribution by OSCE Conference Services of this document is without prejudice to OSCE decisions, as set out in documents agreed by OSCE participating States.

PC.DEL/286/23
2 March 2023

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1413th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

2 March 2023

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

Mr. Chairperson,

In the course of the Russian special military operation, new evidence is coming to light of how military specialists from the United States of America and other NATO countries are directly involved, on the side of the Kyiv regime's formations, in the armed confrontation.

The story of John McIntyre, a former US serviceman who fought in the ranks of the so-called Foreign Legion of the Ukrainian armed forces and the Karpatska Sich nationalist battalion and turned himself in to the Russian law enforcement authorities, is remarkable. The documents, maps and other useful information that he provided to Russian law enforcement officers confirm not only the large-scale violations of the norms of international humanitarian law by Volodymyr Zelenskyy's formations, but also the fact that their actions on the battlefield are being co-ordinated by members of US defence and intelligence agencies.

US diplomats may shortly launch again into emotional outbursts replete with accusations about alleged "Russian propaganda", but we are dealing with plain facts: Russia is in the possession of detailed testimony by a US citizen that will serve as the basis for a legal assessment of the degree of foreign officials' involvement and complicity in the crimes of the puppet regime in Kyiv against the civilian population. Mr. McIntyre, incidentally, did not shy away from publicly reiterating his words, since in Moscow he gave an extended interview to Russian journalists from RT, a television channel that is being intensively blocked in the West because it publishes evidence of the NATO countries' unsavoury role in the light of their proxy war against Russia.

By the way, Mr. McIntyre also spoke about the monstrous acts of torture to which captives have been subjected by fighters from the Ukrainian formations – something that will probably be of interest to all those who are so fond of vividly depicting details of imaginary Russian "war crimes".

To the inhabitants of our country it is evident that certain Western countries are seeking to make what is happening out to be a conflict between Russians and Ukrainians, some sort of "aggression" by Russia against the population of Ukraine; that they are seeking to call into question our historical unity.

What is more, to portray their criminal and puppet-like regime in Kyiv as a victim of the purported “aggression”, while at the same time trying to justify or hush up the atrocities committed by that regime against the civilians of Donbas over many years. Unfortunately, the leadership of some international organizations, not least the OSCE, is joining in such propaganda.

On 24 February, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken literally said the following during an interview with the television company CBS: “I think viscerally most Americans don’t like to see a big country bullying another, and they just feel it’s wrong and want to do something about it.” It would be interesting to know whether by this he had in mind the military aggressions conducted, under spurious pretexts, by the United States and its allies against such small countries as Yugoslavia, Iraq, Libya and Syria, among others. Or are we again witnessing cheap moralizing from those who, as the saying goes, have a skeleton or two in their closet?

One need only look impartially at concrete facts in order to understand who is in reality interested in stoking conflict and fostering instability in our region. Over the past year, the combined “contribution” of a number of Western countries towards escalation of the armed confrontation in Ukraine, that is, the so-called direct military “assistance” from NATO member countries, has totalled 40 billion US dollars and, through the European Union, 12 billion euros, including 3.6 billion euros under the so-called European Peace Facility. All this significantly exceeds our State’s budgetary expenditure on defence. A multitude of NATO weapons (including heavy weapons), equipment, and military command, control and communication systems have been shipped to Ukraine. This notwithstanding, they have not led to a military breakthrough on the ground, nor will they be able to – they are merely dragging out the bloodshed.

Many of these shipments were made in violation of Western countries’ existing export control obligations, as acknowledged by officials from these countries themselves. Consider, for example, the recent admissions by the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Josep Borrell, who told the *Financial Times* that, at his initiative, the EU countries had “broken” a “taboo” and begun using the aforementioned European Peace Facility for such shipments. Significantly, the financing of the military provisioning of the Kyiv regime through this extrabudgetary mechanism is taking place in contravention of the European Union’s constituent documents and the programmatic objectives of the Facility itself, which was established in March 2021. Not to mention the commitments undertaken within the OSCE’s politico-military dimension.

Here it is also worth mentioning the statement made by US President Joe Biden on 23 February this year about the need for amendments to the system for the control of exports of US weapons and military equipment, the main purpose of those amendments allegedly being to ensure that such armaments are not used to commit violations of the norms of international humanitarian law, crimes against humanity, and so on. However, the US Government is not discomfited by the fact that it is its own military specialists who are co-ordinating strikes against purely civilian objects that are carried out using, for example, US-made HIMARS multiple-launch rocket systems. Suffice it to recall the shelling of a residential school for children in Perevalsk (Luhansk People’s Republic) on 14 September 2022 or the shelling of a hospital in Novoaidar (Luhansk People’s Republic) on 28 January 2023. In both places there were casualties – people killed and injured as a result of the US-made missiles that rained down on them. Yet, the international community heard no condemnation from the United States for these barbaric shelling attacks.

The lack of proper oversight over the weapons supplied, despite repeated inspections by specialists from the Pentagon, also raises serious questions. To cite a recent example: in late January/early February this year, US government auditors paid a visit to Kyiv. They, too, were trying to “track down” the military and financial assistance provided by the United States. We shall not now belabour the obvious: regular inspections for oversight purposes – accompanied, to boot, by talk about combating corruption – are not

necessary where everything is under proper control. That a problem does exist has been noted by the Inspector General of the US Department of Defense, Robert Storch, who during a congressional hearing on 28 February pointed out that reports were reaching the US Government of improper handling of the armaments transferred to the Kyiv regime.

Let us just say that we subscribe to the assessments made by the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 23 February this year: a considerable number of the weapons exported by the United States cannot be traced and even end up in the hands of terrorist organizations and extremist groups, posing a grave threat to international and regional peace and stability. And all this against a backdrop of handsome profits for US arms manufacturers, which in the context of the Ukrainian conflict have managed to increase their foreign arms sales by almost 50 per cent relative to 2021.

As we have already noted on several occasions, Russia will welcome specific initiatives aimed at bringing about a political and diplomatic settlement of the Ukrainian crisis that manage to take current realities into account. That being said, our country will continue to counter the destructive actions of certain Western countries that are steering Ukraine and using its people as cannon fodder in their geopolitical struggle with Russia. The West is consciously moving towards such escalation and just as consciously moving away from diplomatic contacts. A few days ago, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said that expanding the military support for the Kyiv regime was impossible without increasing the risk of escalation, but that “the biggest risk of all” for the North Atlantic Alliance would be a Russian victory. Evidently, Mr. Stoltenberg is naively trying to convince everyone that the “strategic defeat” of Russia he so desires is not fraught with any risks, whether for our country, for Europe or for the world as a whole.

An intriguing campaign was mounted by the Kyiv regime’s sponsors in Berlin last week. To mark the anniversary of the start of the special military operation, a Russian T-72 tank damaged in the fighting was installed in front of the Russian Embassy there. The inhabitants of Berlin and other German cities at once felt the urge to lay flowers and candles on and around that tank, which has become a symbol of the battle against neo-Nazism in Ukraine. It soon turned into a memorial. Mass rallies took place nearby, during which Germans demanded that the military support for the Kyiv regime be stopped and that efforts to facilitate a diplomatic settlement be initiated.

The very next day, so-called “pro-Ukrainian activists” abetted by the police destroyed all the flowers, literally trampling them underfoot. The police then set up a fence to prevent people from bringing new flowers. After that the tank was hastily removed so that Berliners and the residents of other cities who remember from history the tribulations that Nazism brought to Europe would not have the opportunity to commemorate those fighting against neo-Nazism today. There were similar campaigns in the Baltic cities as well, where the police even tried to stop people from laying flowers next to Russian military hardware.

Some words now about provocations – those being carried out and those in the making. We note the attempts by the Kyiv regime, faced as it is with a lack of success on the battlefield, to undertake high-profile “stunts” aimed at attracting further international attention. A few days ago, the spokesperson for Operational Command South of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, Nataliia Humeniuk, confirmed that the Ukrainian Government was massing forces along the Transdnistriean segment of the border with Moldova. We categorically warn the Kyiv regime not to attempt any military provocations in relation to Transdnistria.

One final matter. According to the Russian Ministry of Defence, on 10 February this year, a freight train arrived in the city of Kramatorsk (Donetsk People’s Republic, Russia), which is temporarily occupied by Ukrainian formations; in one of its wagons there was a cargo of chemicals that was being escorted by a group of foreign citizens. This cargo was unloaded at the Kuibyshev Iron and Steel Works in Kramatorsk, specifically 16 sealed metal boxes, eight of which bore a chemical hazard symbol, the inscription “BZ” and

marking corresponding to the class of toxic substances that cause temporary incapacitation. Five boxes were labelled “C-S-RIOT”, while three were labelled “C-R-RIOT” and had marking corresponding to the category of irritants. The consignment was subsequently transported by US-manufactured armoured vehicles to the combat line. Later, on 19 February, wagons containing shrapnel munitions that are capable of carrying submunitions filled with liquid irritants were unloaded in Kramatorsk.

The substance BZ is a standard chemical warfare agent of the US army and was widely used during the war in Vietnam. Although the US Government announced back in 1990 that it had completely destroyed its stocks of BZ, samples of the substance were kept and the ability to synthesize precursors of BZ at pharmaceutical production facilities was retained.

Moreover, in early 2023, the Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre drew up plans for a large shipment of personal protective equipment to Ukraine, including 600,000 ampoules of antidotes for organophosphorous agents, anticonvulsant drugs, and medications for the detoxification of mustard gas, lewisite and inhibitors derived from hydrogen cyanide and chloroacetophenone (750,000 vials).

The Kyiv regime and its handlers in Washington, D.C., are evidently willing to consider chemicals as a “Wunderwaffe”, that is, as weapons of last resort. It goes without saying that the use of such substances would be a violation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. We also recall that the United States, in derogation from the provisions of that Convention, has legislation in place allowing for the use of chemicals in the context of combat operations. All this is being accompanied by the stoking of an “information” campaign claiming that the Russian military is preparing to use chemical weapons – and this despite Russia having completely destroyed its stockpiles of chemical weapons back in 2017, as has been internationally verified.

We warn that in the event of provocations by the Kyiv regime’s formations or foreign mercenaries involving the use of toxic chemicals, Russia will use all available options to reliably determine their origin and bring to justice those guilty of violating the Chemical Weapons Convention.

In that regard, we invite you to study carefully a briefing given on 28 February this year by the Chief of the Radiation, Chemical and Biological Defence Troops of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation, Igor Kirillov, on the preparations by the West for large-scale provocations involving the use of toxic chemicals. We will circulate a full transcript separately.

Thank you for your attention.