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FSC.DEL/141/24  
25 April 2024

ENGLISH  
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY  
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RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON MILITARY  
SECURITY AND ARMS CONTROL, AT THE 1075th PLENARY MEETING  
OF THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

24 April 2024

**Agenda item: General statements  
Subject: Special military operation to demilitarize and denazify Ukraine**

Mr. Chairperson,

Ten years ago, in April 2014, the regime that came to power after the anti-constitutional coup d'état in Kyiv unleashed a war against the population of south-eastern Ukraine. Those whom the putschists had dubbed "separatists" and "terrorists" tried, literally with their bare hands, to stop the Ukrainian armed forces' tanks that were moving in on them. Shortly afterwards, the new authorities in Kyiv, whom the West continues invariably to hail as "democratic", set about simply crushing citizens who did not agree with their policies: they began bombing residential buildings in Snezhnoe and using multiple-launch rocket systems to shell neighbourhoods in Slavyansk. During the many years of failed negotiations in the Normandy format, the Kyiv regime's Western partners, in violation of the Minsk agreements, supplied it abundantly with weapons and military equipment for a full-scale offensive against Donbas. In February 2022, this regime headed by the self-styled "president of peace" Volodymyr Zelenskyy decided to settle the matter once and for all.

The Russian Federation's decision to conduct a special military operation to protect the population of Donbas – a decision taken in full compliance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations – thwarted the plans of the Ukrainian-Western "conglomerate". Whereas right until the summer of 2023 NATO policymaking circles had kept harping on about their intention to "inflict a strategic defeat on Russia", once the Ukrainian counteroffensive collapsed and Russia gained control over the Ukrainian armed forces' largest fortified area, namely Avdeyevka, they have begun talking about how the Kyiv regime is faced with an "impasse on the front line". This was not something that had been reckoned with by the EU and NATO countries that staked their economies, their citizens' welfare and their international reputation on confrontation with Russia. To quote the US entrepreneur Elon Musk, the West currently has "no exit strategy, just a forever war where kids die in trenches from artillery or charging machine guns and snipers through minefields".

It is not surprising that, in these circumstances, irresponsible statements have increasingly begun issuing forth from European capitals about a potential conflict between the NATO countries and Russia,

which is fraught with the risk of nuclear powers directly clashing with one another. Already in October 2023, UK Secretary of State for Defence Grant Shapps noted that British troops would be deployed to Ukraine. And in March of this year, the former Ambassador of Ukraine in London, Vadym Prystaiko, disclosed information about plans that have existed since 2022 for establishing a “coalition of the willing” to bring NATO soldiers into the territory of that country. Such statements, which continue to grow in number, should not be brushed aside.

Against this backdrop, it is small wonder that the White House is no longer openly banking on a chimeric victory by its vassal the Kyiv regime, but rather on the Ukrainian armed forces holding out at least until the election in November so as not to spoil President Joe Biden’s image. The approval of a bill on financial aid to the tune of 61 billion dollars by the United States Congress is also intended first and foremost to cater to the interests of the American ruling elites, which make no bones about the fact that the earmarked funds will go chiefly to the US military-industrial complex. Across the ocean they are again acting according to the mottoes “war down to the last Ukrainian” and “everything for the sake of confrontation with Russia”.

According to incoming reports, the new deliveries of NATO weapons to the Kyiv regime were conditional on the adoption of a harsh mobilization law in Ukraine to make up the tremendous losses of the Ukrainian armed forces, which have amounted to almost half a million personnel since the start of the special military operation. Here it is fitting to recall some remarks by the Alliance’s Secretary General, Jens Stoltenberg, who said that “when it comes to men, that’s for Ukraine to provide” and that NATO allies would “do our part when it comes to material”. Another self-revelatory statement was one made by the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Josep Borrell, when he implied that the West was fighting not for Ukraine but against Russia. The criminal authorities in Kyiv are themselves happy with such a state of affairs by the looks of it. In particular, the regime’s ringleader openly stated in an interview with NBC News that he was serving foreign interests in this conflict: “The US Army now does not have to fight protecting NATO countries. Ukrainians are doing that. And it’s only ammo that the civilized world is providing, and I think it’s a good decision.” However, are the citizens of Ukraine willing to defend Western interests on the battlefield?

Colleagues can now see on the screens the violent methods used to recruit men into the ranks of the Ukrainian armed forces. The military recruiters are not exactly handling them with kid gloves. In violation of all regulations and laws, these men are being literally hauled off the street as if they were wanted criminals and dispatched straight to the front line, where their only chance of survival is to surrender to the Russian military. It is not surprising that, according to survey data from the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology, only 8 per cent of respondents were willing to enlist voluntarily in the Ukrainian armed forces. Moreover, even in the Office of the President of Ukraine it is being openly confirmed that the morale of Ukrainian troops and citizens has been dampened by the battlefield losses. All this is encapsulated by a quotation attributed to a certain US statesman: “You may fool all the people some of the time; you can even fool some of the people all of the time; but you can’t fool all of the people all the time.”

And even so, on 16 April Mr. Zelenskyy signed a draconian law intensifying the mobilization, a law that quite simply obliterates the rights of Ukrainian citizens. Under this law, which paves the way for calling up even people with disabilities, Ukrainians face penalties for non-compliance up to and including revocation of driving licences and the forcible transportation of offenders to territorial manning centres. At the same time, the Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has banned the provision of consular services to all men of military age abroad except for the processing of documents for their return to the country, where they face mobilization. Leading international media outlets, including *The New York Times* and *Deutsche Welle*, are already sounding the alarm and warning of the catastrophic consequences of lowering the age of conscription in Ukraine.

Given that the Kyiv regime continues to prepare the groundwork for the mobilization of women as part of its implementation of the concept of “gender equality” among military personnel, one shudders to think of how they will go about press-ganging women in order to dispatch them to the front line. This is what one might call “finishing off the citizens of Ukraine, American style”. It would be interesting to hear from our colleagues at the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) how such methods, which go hand in hand with the most flagrant human rights violations, can be reconciled with the logic, goals and objectives of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 on women and peace and security, which they are promoting at the FSC?

For us it is also clear that the new US military aid package will merely spur the Kyiv regime on to carry out further terrorist acts against the civilian population of the Russian Federation. In order to justify strikes on our country’s inhabitants and civilian infrastructure, the authorities in Kyiv claim that they are targeting military objectives. Very often, as in the case of Belgorod, the Ukrainian armed forces use indiscriminate cluster munitions for their shelling, deliberately firing such shells into residential areas. More than a thousand civilians have fallen casualty to strikes by Ukrainian militants since the start of 2024. However, over in NATO and the European Union they simply turn a blind to this. It is evidently because they just so happen to be co-ordinating the launching of strikes by the Ukrainian armed forces, whom they are supplying with reconnaissance data.

In particular, we have yet to hear any response from Western “civilized society” to the killing of Semyon Eremin, a Russian correspondent for the Izvestia multimedia information centre, as a result of a drone attack by the Ukrainian armed forces while he was going about his professional duties. Or to the Ukrainian armed forces’ strike on a hospital in Gorlovka using US-made precision-guided missiles fired from HIMARS multiple-launch rocket systems, which caused 13 civilian casualties and damaged a blood transfusion unit. Maybe, though, Western delegations consider the Ukrainian armed forces’ strikes on rescue personnel and their use of drones to pick out fire and medical teams – all of which have become typical terrorist practices of the Ukrainian neo-Nazis – to be in accordance with international humanitarian law? Things have already got to the point that the head of the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU), Vasyl Maliuk, is openly stating what the Ukrainian neo-Nazis in that entity are specifically engaged in, namely the assassination of people on the territory of our country, including the politician Ilya Kiva and the journalists Darya Dugina and Vladlen Tatarsky, along with the attempts on the lives of the writer Zakhar Prilepin and the head of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Lugansk People’s Republic, Igor Kornet. So where, then, is the international community’s response to these acts of Ukrainian terrorism?

On the basis of the evidence that is being gathered by the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation, Russian courts continue to hand down sentences to Ukrainian militants who have committed serious crimes. Under the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings, we have also presented Ukraine with a demand for the immediate arrest and extradition of all those implicated in a number of acts of terrorism on Russian territory, including the SBU head. In addition, Russia intends to provide the International Court of Justice with evidence of the crimes perpetrated in Donbas by military personnel from the Ukrainian armed forces and by Ukrainian nationalists.

In connection with this, we should like to highlight the following. The European Union continues to focus its efforts on looking around the whole world for suppliers of arms to Ukraine, especially of Soviet and Russian models of heavy weapons, along with artillery shells. Any countries receiving such requests from the Europeans must not only be mindful of the need for strict compliance with end-user certificate provisions but be aware as well that any weapons and ammunition sold to EU and NATO countries could also be used against the civilian population of the Russian Federation. That being said, in view of the Kyiv

regime's rampant corruption, it cannot be ruled out that all this hardware may eventually find its way back to the supplier countries, though this time ending up in the hands of local militants and terrorists.

Mr. Chairperson,

A turning point has been reached in the zone of the special military operation and what is now unfolding is a trend that cannot be reversed, be it by new packages of Western military aid or by further "human wave attacks" and counter-attacks by the Kyiv regime. The Russian army continues to push the enemy back from occupied lines. Only recently, the settlements of Pervomayskoye, Bogdanovka and Novomikhailovka in the Donetsk People's Republic passed to the control of Russian troops. The area controlled by these is being expanded at Berdychi and Georgiyevka. Moreover, the front line is being straightened along segments in the direction of Svatovo and Kremennaya in the Lugansk People's Republic with a view to further liberating the territory of that republic. At the behest of the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, robotic platforms, sophisticated unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and advanced weapons systems are being developed so as to ensure a vigorous response to threats to our country's national security posed by the United States of America and its allies.

The armed forces of the Russian Federation continue to intensify their wave of attacks using long-range precision-guided weapons against logistics centres, defence industry establishments and facilities for the storage of Western weapons in Ukraine. Russian air defence and anti-missile defence troops are steadily going about their work: since the start of the fighting they have destroyed more than 22,000 UAVs and around 6,000 rockets, including over 3,500 US-manufactured HIMARS rockets and 360 Czech-made Vampire rockets, along with some 2,000 other air targets. There are ongoing systematic efforts to eliminate NATO-standard armoured combat vehicles, air defence systems and tanks – a task that our fighters are embarking on with particular relish. Thus, a solemn ceremony was recently held at the headquarters of the Moscow Military District to present awards to soldiers taking part in the special military operation who have knocked out Leopard 2 tanks. According to *The New York Times* and the Spanish newspaper *El País*, these tanks proved to be quite useless on the battlefield. We have no doubt that similar reports will soon be coming in about other Western weapons systems as well.

Once again we vehemently state that further involvement by the United States and its allies in the Ukrainian conflict will be most decisively counteracted. Among other things, this refers to the plans for crudely stealing frozen Russian assets, for which Congress is giving the Biden administration the green light. The United States will have to answer for that decision. We will take response measures that correspond to our interests and that are not time-limited. One way or another, any frantic attempts by the Western "conglomerate" to save Volodymyr Zelenskyy's neo-Nazi regime will be doomed to failure. The objectives and tasks of the special military operation will be fully accomplished.

Thank you for your attention.