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**STATEMENT BY  
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1512th MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

13 March 2025

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

Mr. Chairperson,

The Finnish Chairmanship continues to violate its collectively agreed mandate and to use the OSCE platform to advance politicized propaganda directed against Russia. To that end, the authorities in Helsinki have no qualms about ignoring all the violations of international humanitarian law with regard to the civilians of our country who have fallen victim to the criminal actions of the Kyiv regime, actions planned and organized with military support from abroad.

On 9 March, commenting on developments in the Middle East, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland issued a statement to the effect that “civilians must be protected under any circumstances”. As was emphasized, under any circumstances. The complete hollowness of Finland’s rhetoric and its political double standards manifested themselves yet again within a day, when the Kyiv regime used unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) to attack civilian objects on the territory of a number of constituent entities of the Russian Federation. The Russian air defence assets that were on standby intercepted and destroyed 337 drones, but some of them managed to get through and hit civilian objects in the Moscow region. There were fatalities and several injured, including three children, two of whom had not even reached their third birthday. We particularly stress that, in order to inflict greater damage, these UAVs were packed with submunitions, including ball bearings with a 7 mm diameter.

While in Moscow on 11 March, OSCE Secretary General Feridun Sinirlioğlu was able to familiarize himself on-site with the consequences of that attack. We note that the Finnish Chairmanship, for all the talk about civilians having to be “protected under any circumstances”, could not bring itself to utter a single word about the Kyiv regime’s actions that had led to civilian casualties. Or about the 96 other civilian casualties that occurred last week in various Russian regions, among them ten people who were killed, including one minor, and 86 who were injured, including two children.

The UAV attack of 11 March was carried out with the direct assistance of States participating in the “drone coalition” set up at the initiative of the United Kingdom (which used the zeal of, ostensibly, Latvia as a formal cover for all this). Apart from the United Kingdom and the Baltic States, the “drone sponsors” of

the Kyiv regime include several EU countries and also Canada, Australia and New Zealand. They all bear their share of the responsibility for assisting the Kyiv regime in committing crimes against the civilian population by means of UAVs.

Lurking behind the rhetoric of the Kyiv regime and its sponsors about an alleged striving for peace are, in fact, all too obvious plans to militarize the European continent, consolidate the anti-Russian paradigm in political and military development and prepare for the waging of an armed conflict of high intensity. In early March, a plan for rearming the EU Member States (“ReArm Europe”) was announced that envisages around 800 billion euros being mobilized to meet military needs, including through loans and the diversion of funds from social spending. All this implies deliberate actions to trigger tensions and military confrontation in Europe, something that is fraught with most tangible tragic consequences.

Officials in several NATO countries have long since stopped hiding the fact that, through the Kyiv regime’s formations, they are waging a proxy armed conflict against Russia. They are not even ashamed to state in public that one of the goals is to drag out the conflict in order to weaken Russia, to arrest the development of our country. This was expressed quite bluntly by the head of Germany’s Federal Intelligence Service, Bruno Kahl, in an interview with Deutsche Welle on 8 March, where he once again tried to scare the Europeans with “a likely Russian threat”. He said that a swift resolution of the Ukrainian conflict would not be beneficial, as it would, I quote, “enable the Russians to focus their energy on where they actually want to, namely on Europe”. And that a continuation of the armed confrontation in and around Ukraine over the next few years was in the interests of certain EU countries.

From this and other pronouncements by Mr. Kahl one may infer that dragging out the conflict in Ukraine is perceived as a means of maintaining control over nationalistically oriented elites in European countries and as an opportunity to implement measures for the mobilization and militarization of the EU Member States. Significantly, in that very same interview he admitted, in effect, that one of Russia’s principal concerns – one that is shaping its current actions – was NATO’s eastward expansion since the late 1990s and the bringing of the North Atlantic Alliance’s military infrastructure near the Russian borders.

However, Mr. Kahl, evidently for tactical reasons, “forgot” about the words of his compatriot Manfred Wörner, who, giving a speech as NATO Secretary General in Brussels on 17 May 1990, affirmed that “the very fact that we are ready not to deploy NATO troops beyond the territory of the Federal Republic [of Germany] gives the Soviet Union firm security guarantees.” As is known, taking advantage of the break-up of the USSR, the North Atlantic Alliance subsequently undertook several waves of expansion and absorption in an attempt to alter the balance of power and demolish the existing European security architecture. Moreover, even though it recognized Russia as the USSR’s legal successor, NATO decided not to keep the promises that had previously been made to the Soviet Union. Not even the NATO-Russia Founding Act of 1997 could help to stabilize the situation. NATO military infrastructure was moved, and continues to be moved, right next to Russia’s borders, posing a series of threats to the security of our country, while at the same time Russia itself is openly declared an adversary.

This has manifested itself especially starkly in Ukraine, where officials have repeatedly stated that since 2014 their goal has been to “carry out a NATO mission” in the struggle with Russia, for which the Alliance had been “preparing itself for decades” (Defence Minister Oleksii Reznikov on several occasions in 2022 and 2023), and also to “destroy Russia as a State” (as the Secretary of the National Security and Defence Council of Ukraine, Oleksii Danilov, put it in 2022).

In this connection, we emphasize the relevance of all the stated objectives of the Russian special military operation with regard to eliminating the threats projected by certain NATO countries from the territory of Ukraine.

The Russian armed forces continue to effectively degrade the combat potential of the Kyiv regime's formations. Over the past week, no fewer than 24 population centres and 259 square kilometres of territory have been liberated in the Kursk region alone as a result of active, co-ordinated operations by various units. According to data from the Russian Ministry of Defence, in the course of the fighting on the Kursk front the enemy has in total lost more than 66,300 military personnel, 391 tanks, 307 armoured infantry fighting vehicles, 269 armoured personnel carriers, 2,780 armoured combat vehicles, over 1,000 artillery pieces and mortars, 52 multiple rocket launchers (including 13 US-made HIMARS and seven US-made MLRS systems), 25 surface-to-air missile launchers and a lot of other equipment and weaponry. During the liberation of Malaya Loknya, an almost intact M1A1SA Abrams tank was captured as a trophy. Hundreds of Ukrainian terrorist fighters have surrendered to the Russian law enforcement authorities.

As the Ukrainian armed forces beat a chaotic retreat, new facts are coming to light regarding the crimes committed by Ukrainian neo-Nazis against the civilian population. We shall yet have occasion to talk about these later on.

On a separate note: in light of the speculation let loose in a number of Western countries about "peacekeepers" in the Ukrainian conflict, we must stress that the deployment of foreign military contingents is not what is needed to achieve a sustainable settlement in this proxy war that is being waged against Russia by several NATO countries. Such ideas are divorced from reality, cannot be accepted by our country and multiply the risks of the conflict being scaled up and extended geographically. Instead of such speculations, what is required is a thoughtful approach that should be based on eliminating the root causes of the Ukrainian crisis, which was a consequence of the foreign-inspired armed coup d'état that took place in Kyiv in February 2014. These root causes are widely known.

Our country's position on the parameters for a settlement, which it is important to make into a sustainable one, has not changed since the start of the special military operation. Specific proposals to ensure a political solution to the crisis in and around Ukraine were outlined during the meeting of 14 June 2024 between the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, and senior officials from the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In our country we are ready for constructive co-operation with those responsible members of the Western elite who genuinely want to de-escalate and stabilize the security situation on the European continent and in the world. With those who are ready to work substantively on all proposals the true goal of which is a long-term settlement of the Ukrainian conflict, taking into account our country's legitimate security interests.

When it comes to protecting its interests, Russia is prepared to – and will – use all the means and resources at its disposal, including, without question, military ones.

Thank you for your attention.