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**STATEMENT BY  
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1447th MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

19 October 2023

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

Mr. Chairperson,

The widely publicized campaign by Volodymyr Zelenskyy's armed formations aimed at attacking deep into the territory of the Russian Federation and launched on 4 June 2023 has failed completely. It was carried out with the active military, logistical, economic and information support of NATO countries and largely discredited their capabilities without producing any significant results. According to the Russian Ministry of Defence, the Kyiv regime has paid for its futile endeavours with colossal losses: in terms of personnel killed or wounded in action these losses have exceeded 72,000. Hundreds of tanks and 1,500 armoured vehicles of various types have been put out of action.

In order to save their lives, a large number of the Kyiv regime's fighters laid down their arms and handed themselves over to the Russian military and law enforcement authorities. Among them are quite a few who had undergone military training at training grounds in the United States of America, the United Kingdom and other European countries under the supervision of NATO instructors. The valuable information they provided is already being taken into account in the planning of combat operations within the framework of the Russian special operation. And not only that.

According to the Russian Federal Security Service, 17 training camps are operating in European Union countries under the auspices of intelligence services, where fighters from among the members of international terrorist organizations and mercenaries are being trained for the Kyiv regime. According to available information, members of 13 private military companies from European countries and nine foreign paramilitary proxy groups are currently engaged in combat operations against the Russian military. The Russian intelligence services have established the personal details of more than 800 mercenaries from 35 countries, and work is continuing to identify the others involved.

The Russian armed forces continue to carry out targeted strikes on places where Ukrainian armed forces commanders and foreign mercenaries are concentrated. At the moment, the Russian military grouping in the zone of the special operation is engaged in active defence in depth and is improving its positions along

the entire line of engagement. The commanders on the ground are aware of the Kyiv regime's intentions to conduct localized offensive operations – retaliation is envisaged.

We firmly reject the accusations that the Russian military is carrying out targeted attacks against the civilian population. We condemn the disinformation campaigns by the Kyiv regime and its Western sponsors, which regularly attempt to pass off their own actions as some sort of “crimes” by the Russian military. This includes the staged events and provocations in Bucha, Mariupol and Kramatorsk. And also the story of the shelling on 6 September this year of a market in Konstantinovka, a Russian city in the Donetsk People's Republic temporarily occupied by Zelenskyy's formations. At that time, without any facts or evidence, a torrent of false accusations descended on our country, not least in this room. After the facts had come to light, our opponents fell silent.

We understand that, given Mr. Zelenskyy's military failures, the risk of new provocations and staged events is extremely high. We warn against playing games with people's fates in order to achieve the immediate goals of the “sinking” regime in Kyiv, which seeks to draw attention to itself and create reasons for NATO countries to continue the provision of military supplies.

We regard the fake lamentations by representatives of the countries sponsoring the Kyiv regime about the suffering of the civilian population affected by the conflict as a cynical demonstration of double standards. The history of the aggressive actions of NATO countries in Yugoslavia, Iraq, Syria and Libya, and – just as importantly – the assessments of a number of recent events show that the West clearly divides people into categories – those whose suffering is worthy of attention and those whose suffering is not. For example, the water and energy blockade of Crimea and the socio-economic strangulation of certain areas of Donbas has not been condemned in the capitals of the countries sponsoring the Kyiv regime. Similar actions in relation to other regions in the world are being described today by Western officials as a violation of international humanitarian law akin to a war crime.

The Kyiv regime's Western sponsors also continue to ignore the numerous victims of the crimes committed by Ukrainian neo-Nazis. Over the past week, at least 39 civilians have suffered as result of the shelling of Russian territories – 14 of them perished, including two young children. Kyiv regime formations have fired more than 2,000 munitions, including cluster munitions, at peaceful targets.

The Kyiv regime's handlers in Washington, D.C., have repeatedly assured us that they have received written guarantees that Zelenskyy's formations will minimize the risks to the civilian population from the use of cluster munitions. As early as July of this year, this was publicly stated by the US President's National Security Advisor, Jake Sullivan, and the US Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, Colin Kahl. Last week, in the Kirovsky district of the city of Donetsk, a ten-year-old child was fatally injured when a cluster submunition detonated in the courtyard of his home. The boy lost his arm and died soon afterwards on the operating table, while doctors were battling to save his life. I should like to ask the representatives of the United States about the guarantees that your protégés in Kyiv gave you, promising not to use cluster munitions against the civilian population in urban areas. Or are you not interested in the life of that Russian boy simply because he was a citizen of Russia?

The supply of inhumane weapons and various types of long-range missiles to the Kyiv regime is a desperate attempt by the Western countries to drag out the death throes of that regime and prolong the proxy war against Russian statehood and the territorial integrity and unity of our country.

A huge number of people in Ukraine are unwilling to lay down their lives for the sake of the NATO puppets holding on to power in Kyiv. Nowadays, this is also recognized by the representatives of the Kyiv regime themselves. On 13 October, Deputy Minister of Defence Nataliia Kalmykova confirmed live on air

on the Rada television channel, I quote: “Hundreds of thousands of citizens are ... trying to avoid mobilization.” According to her, amendments to the legislation that will help “settle this issue” are being prepared at the moment. Once again, against the backdrop of tremendous losses in terms of troops, the Kyiv regime intends to mobilize “hundreds of thousands of citizens” who do not want to die in a “war down to the last Ukrainian”.

In that context, attempts to “suck dry” all available human resources through covert mobilization continue. The Ukrainian Ministry of Education and Science has issued a clarification stating that university students on leave of absence may be called up urgently for military service. According to the head of the public relations service of the Command of the Ground Forces of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, Volodymyr Fityo, the so-called territorial recruitment centres (in other words, military enlistment offices) have launched a “data update” campaign since 1 October: all persons liable for military service, including women with a medical education, have been ordered to present themselves for registration with the military authorities.

Fresh video footage from Lviv, Chernivtsi, Vinnytsia and Ternopil is circulating in the media: it shows Kyiv regime officers detaining civilians, beating and humiliating them in order to get them to agree to take part in combat operations. The situation at the territorial recruitment centre in Ternopil gave rise to such a powerful public outcry that the State Bureau of Investigation has initiated the relevant proceedings.

The Ramstein-format meeting of the group dealing with military supplies for the Kyiv regime held on 11 October in Brussels was very revealing. The military supply packages from Germany to the tune of 1 billion euros and from the United States worth 200 million dollars, announced after the meeting, provide for the shipment of individual air defence systems, equipment, materiel and a small quantity of ammunition. All of this is not capable of satisfying the Ukrainian armed forces’ “hunger for ammunition” or radically changing the situation on the line of engagement. The desperate attempts by NATO countries to prolong the armed confrontation and their instructions to the Kyiv regime to refrain from seeking a political and diplomatic settlement based on realistic approaches are merely dragging out the suffering of the civilian population and causing further casualties and destruction.

The military leadership of the NATO countries makes no secret of the fact that Zelensky’s resources for the supply of arms are coming to an end. The head of the NATO Military Committee, Admiral Rob Bauer, spoke about stocks running out in “half-empty or already empty warehouses in Europe”. During a recent briefing, John Kirby, Coordinator for Strategic Communications at the National Security Council in the White House, pointed out that on the Ukraine funding, the United States is “coming near to the end of the rope” and the aid “is not going to be indefinite”. A number of European States have already been thinking about curtailing military supplies to the Kyiv regime, while the leadership of some countries bordering Ukraine have announced the practical suspension of such supplies.

It is not uncommon for weapons sent to Kyiv to be sold on the black market. Owing to the massive scale of corruption in Ukraine, these weapons could surface anywhere in the world and fall into the hands of various paramilitary groups. We have cited specific examples on numerous occasions. The existence of the problem was recognized in the summer of 2022 by the heads of INTERPOL and Europol.

We have already mentioned the story of the discovery in July 2022 of a whole arsenal of weapons (sniper rifles, machine guns, assault rifles, explosives, and so on) in the Hungarian village of Rajka, 80 km from Vienna. The detained owner of the weapons informed the police at the time that they “had been supplied by the West to Ukraine”. They were “intended for Ukrainian armed formations, including the Azov nationalist battalion, but were then sold and delivered to EU territory”. The material in Finnish publications

about organized criminal groups in Finland, Denmark, Sweden and the Netherlands receiving NATO weapons intended for Ukrainian formations has also caused a stir.

Here we may recall the report by the Inspector General of the US Department of Defense made officially available to CNN journalists. The report deals with the United States' failure to track the fate of the military supplies to the Kyiv regime. It cites specific examples of the theft for resale on the black market of arms and equipment transferred to Kyiv between February and September 2022.

According to recent reports, a group of fighters with a Strela-2 man-portable air defence system, RPG-7 rounds, numerous small arms and grenades were detained in one of current hotspots on 8 October. The weapons bore the markings of the storage depots of the 128th Mountain Assault Brigade of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, stationed in Mukachevo in the Zakarpattia region. Apparently, international attention forced the Kyiv regime's intelligence services to conduct searches a few days ago among local officials and persons close to them in precisely that city. This included a former deputy of the Zakarpattia regional council, who supervised the collection of aid for the 128th Mountain Assault Brigade.

The mass dismissal of all regional military commissars in August this year in connection with cases of bribe-taking that had come to light is evidence that corruption is flourishing within the ranks of the Kyiv regime's Ministry of Defence. As is the charging of former Deputy Defence Minister Viacheslav Shapovalov (he resigned in January this year), who was in charge of logistic support. He is suspected of large-scale embezzlement and is facing up to 12 years in prison. Apparently, along similar lines, Mr. Zelenskyy also replaced the chairman of the interdepartmental commission on military-technical co-operation and export control and demanded that new staff for that commission be recruited within two weeks.

The aforementioned facts are accompanied by ludicrous attempts by the head of the Kyiv regime's military intelligence service, Kyrylo Budanov, to explain himself on the subject of weapons diversion from Ukraine and to present all this as some kind of Russian disinformation campaign.

No one can fail to have understood the true value of the words of the representatives of Mr. Zelenskyy and his team after the recent public revelations by the very same Mr. Budanov. In an interview with the Ukrainian publication NV, he admitted that the Defence Ministry's special forces had made at least three attempts to attack and seize the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant (NPP). The most recent such attempt involved several hundred people, including Vadym Popyk, commander of the so-called Foreign Legion. It is worth emphasizing that the actions of all these people, who approached the plant with weapons in their hands, jeopardized the security of the Zaporizhzhia NPP. I might mention, by the way, that the Kyiv regime's special forces were trained by British instructors.

I would remind you how representatives of the Kyiv regime and its Western sponsors have accused our country – in this room and on other international platforms – of creating threats to the physical nuclear safety of the Zaporizhzhia NPP. We also remember how Mr. Zelenskyy promised the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency that there would be no direct military attacks on the Zaporizhzhia NPP. That is why we should bear in mind here not only the candid confessions of the Kyiv regime's military leadership in its repeated attempts to seize the plant, but also the confirmed instances of the shelling of the Zaporizhzhia NPP using missile systems supplied by NATO countries.

Russia has mentioned all this many times on various platforms, including the OSCE. However, our opponents prefer to tacitly demonstrate their solidarity with the criminal actions against the Zaporizhzhia NPP. In reality, while the diplomats of the Kyiv regime and its Western sponsors spout their lies, the military and political leadership of Ukraine is carrying out malicious actions around the plant to

provoke tensions, endanger the safe operation of this facility and reduce the quality of life of the population in the peaceful settlements surrounding the Zaporizhzhia NPP.

One final point. The OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of North Macedonia Bujar Osmani, visited Kyiv on 16 October. We note that this trip did not contribute to bringing sustainable peace in and around Ukraine any closer, nor was it used to help unblock the consultations on a settlement, which the Kyiv regime unilaterally terminated in April 2022 and then prohibited altogether by law in October 2022.

We should also like to stress that, in addition to expressing solidarity with the Kyiv regime, which not all of the 57 participating States of our Organization authorized the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office to do, the provisions of Porto Ministerial Council Decision No. 8 of 2002 have also been flagrantly violated. In particular, these provisions call for the Chairperson-in-Office, when speaking on behalf of the OSCE, to express consensus positions agreed upon in our Organization. The public political assessments of the situation in and around Ukraine made by the Chairperson-in-Office in Kyiv do not have consensus support within the OSCE. Nor have the extrabudgetary project activities of a group of Western countries in Ukraine that the Chairperson-in-Office is promoting received any approval from all the OSCE participating States.

The Chairmanship has once again deliberately and demonstratively deviated from the consensus principle on which the OSCE's work is based and has gone beyond the framework of the common decisions approved at the ministerial level. We warn against the continuation of actions to destroy our Organization and usurp the powers collectively entrusted to it.

To conclude. The Russian special operation, whose objectives include the denazification and demilitarization of Ukraine, as well as the elimination of the threats to the security of the Russian Federation emanating from Ukrainian territory that have been created by NATO countries, will be continued until the goals set have been fully accomplished. Our country will confidently continue to pursue its course aimed at finding ways to strengthen pan-European security and Russia's sovereignty, protecting its values and upholding the historical truth, strengthening its authority in the international arena, and shaping a just and multipolar world order that is based on the Charter of the United Nations and the principles and norms of international law.

Thank you for your attention.