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PC.DEL178/25
27 February 2025

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1510th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

27 February 2025

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

Mr. Chairperson,

We once again stress the lack of a reaction on the part of the Finnish Chairmanship to the facts made public by the Russian Federation regarding the crimes committed by the Kyiv regime's armed formations against the civilian population in Russian regions. The Russian Foreign Ministry's thematic report on the casualties in 2024, which we circulated at the OSCE as SEC.DEL/50/25, has been ignored. By hushing up the crimes of the Ukrainian armed forces and armed neo-Nazi groups, Finland is discrediting the institution of the OSCE Chairmanship.

We note that in Helsinki they have chosen a course of *de facto* complicity in the aforementioned crimes. On 31 January, the Finnish authorities decided to allocate an additional 198 million euros in "military aid" to Ukraine, providing it with weapons to commit further atrocities. In early February, the official website of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland published instructions for its citizens wishing to go and fight on the side of the Kyiv regime. Detailed advice was provided for those arriving in the zone of hostilities, a significant part which are being conducted on Russia's constitutional territory.

The fact that Finland does not intend to contribute to the search for a solution to the Ukrainian conflict with a view to achieving a sustainable settlement was confirmed last week by its President, Alexander Stubb. Speaking at the Munich Security Conference, he pointed out that, at this juncture, the Kyiv regime and its Western sponsors are in dire need of a truce in order to, I quote, "rearm Ukraine". In his opinion, Ukraine would have a position of strength at the future negotiating table in this way.

With regard to the aforementioned Munich Security Conference, we note that the Kyiv regime has once again demonstrated its use of the tactic of staged provocations ahead of major international events. In the early hours of 14 February, that is, the day before the conference opened, Volodymyr Zelenskyy's formations launched a combat drone attack on the containment structure (shelter) of the fourth power unit of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant (NPP), under the rubble of which active sources of ionizing radiation remain following the 1986 accident.

We would point out that the Chernobyl NPP, which was finally decommissioned in 2000, has not generated electricity for more than 24 years and is a civilian object. According to the information available, it is not being used as a base for military personnel, and there are no military objectives or troop concentrations of the Ukrainian armed forces in the vicinity. It is of no interest whatsoever as a target. Just like any other nuclear facilities in territories controlled by the Kyiv regime.

Mr. Zelenskyy's armed formations are the only ones that carry out attacks on such buildings. Attacks on the Zaporizhzhia and Kursk NPPs have become systematic. Now the Chernobyl NPP, located in the Kyiv region, has been added to that list. The irresponsible theatrics involving the use of an alleged Russian unmanned aerial vehicle was the latest reckless step by the Kyiv regime in its death throes, as it seeks new arguments and incentives for preserving support from its Western sponsors. The way Mr. Zelenskyy was quick to play up the Chernobyl NPP story at the Munich Security Conference leaves no doubt about this.

In addition to the clearly terrorist actions targeting nuclear facilities, Mr. Zelenskyy is blustering with his appeals to NATO countries to provide him not only with "as many missiles as possible" but also with nuclear weapons. Dragging out the armed conflict is the only way for the leader of the Kyiv regime to stay in power. That is why he has himself become an obstacle to the achievement of peace.

We would point out that this configuration is becoming more costly for the Ukrainians themselves with each day. According to the Russian Ministry of Defence, at least 590,000 members of the Kyiv regime's armed formations were killed or wounded in 2024 alone, and since the beginning of the special military operation the total losses among Ukrainian military personnel have exceeded 1 million people.

Wary of holding a presidential election, Mr. Zelenskyy, who has usurped power, has started clearing the political field in an attempt to eliminate his rivals. It is noteworthy that the "sanctions" imposed by him, which unlawfully restrict a number of political and civil rights of his opponents, such as former President Petro Poroshenko, have not elicited any reaction in the West. Those who are so eager to claim to be combating political repression are for some reason not outraged by the latest threat to democracy and political pluralism. They are not even bothered by the fact that those who call themselves the "authorities" of Ukraine are imposing "sanctions" against their own citizens – a practice of extrajudicial political reprisals that probably exists nowhere else in the OSCE area.

Every day, the President, whose "term has expired" and who has forfeited legitimacy, is searching for new arguments to justify his usurpation of power. First of all, he publicly argued that Ukrainians themselves "do not want to hold elections". He recommended that those who do want elections should change their citizenship. Then, confusing styles and switching to his former role as a comedian, he ended up explaining that he does not want to give up power until Ukraine becomes a member of the European Union and NATO as part of the implementation of some kind of "security guarantees". In other words, never. Finally, reacting to reports about the catastrophically low levels of confidence in him by the residents of the territories under his control, Mr. Zelenskyy started claiming that his policies enjoyed broad support among the population. At the same time, he left a lingering question unanswered: if his public approval rating really is high, why is the "president whose term has expired" so afraid of holding an election?

We would remind you of a simple truth: friendly relations among all our people, bound together by a common unbroken historical destiny, are the best guarantee of security for Ukraine. Every time, interference by extraregional forces, especially military interference, has occurred in our history, it has brought only the anguish of suffering and pain, death and destruction. And the puppet regimes installed in Kyiv have never been long-lasting – every time they were destined to collapse.

Here we recall the prophetic words of Mikhail Bulgakov, a master of Russian literature and a native of Kyiv. A hundred and two years ago, after many military upheavals, musing in the essay “Kiev – Town”, he wrote: “A beautiful town, a happy town. Above the overflowing Dnepr everywhere is green with chestnut trees and dappled with sunlight. Now the town is completely exhausted after those terrifying, tumultuous years. ... But I can hear the tremor of new life. It will be rebuilt, its streets will simmer again, and it will rise above the river loved by Gogol’, a majestic city once again. And may the memory of Petlyura vanish.”¹

For the benefit of those who are still not sufficiently conversant with our history, we would recall that Symon Petliura was one of the field commanders during the Russian Civil War (1917–1922) and Chairman of the “Directorate” of Ukraine in 1919 and 1920. At first he was an advocate of historical unity with the rest of Russia, but subsequently, not without foreign military and financial support, he opted to cultivate the ideas of radical nationalism in opposition to all things pan-Russian. Incidentally, the Ukrainian nationalist followers of Petliura “distinguished” themselves by particular cruelty during the pogroms against Jews in central and southern Ukraine.

In 1921, Petliura, fleeing from justice, escaped to Poland and then to Austria, Switzerland and France – it was in France that his life came to an inglorious end. Today, the analogies are so obvious that now, according to reports in the *New York Post*, the administration of US President Donald Trump has noted: for the current “dictator without elections” Volodymyr Zelenskyy, the best bet would be “to leave for France immediately”.

We note that, against this backdrop, instead of taking a realistic look at things and thoughtfully analysing the changing global geopolitical situation, the leadership of the United Kingdom, a number of EU countries and their protégés in Kyiv are still guided by approaches that overestimate their own capabilities and underestimate the objective reality. The consequence of this is a kaleidoscope of false expectations on the part of the Kyiv regime.

On 24 February, very telling debates and voting on draft Security Council and General Assembly resolutions on the Ukrainian crisis took place at the United Nations. The discussions, as well as the voting itself, confirmed the obvious: in the countries of the global majority and in the international arena as a whole, there has long been a call for the de-escalation of tensions in the context of the Ukrainian conflict. Against this backdrop, the United Kingdom and a number of EU countries did everything possible to frustrate the adoption of constructive proposals and dilute their peaceful essence. All of this fits in with the line chosen by these countries to prolong and escalate the armed confrontation in and around Ukraine.

Let us repeat: this shows that the authorities in London and in most capitals across continental Europe simply have no realistic, constructive ideas that could be useful in a potential settlement of the Ukrainian conflict. In other words, those in power there simply lack strategic vision when it comes to a way out of the conflict, and there are still those who want to beat the drums of war. Thus, a role for these States in the settlement process, which may start in the foreseeable future, is ruled out until their approaches are adapted to the geopolitical realities.

To sum up. Russia remains open to meaningful contacts, but only on condition that account is taken of our country’s legitimate interests with a view to ensuring long-term security and stability. It should be understood that attempts to weaken Russia by means of the Ukrainian conflict and inflict some kind of “strategic defeat” on it are doomed to fail. It is important to really grasp the danger of further escalation and to stop supporting the destructive actions of the Zelenskyy regime. As long as this situation is not fully

1 Translator’s note: English translation taken from
<https://kajetjournal.com/2023/10/22/emily-finer-kyiv-town-bulgakovs-guide-to-kyiv/>

understood, the Russian special operation will be continued by military means until all the tasks set have been accomplished.

Thank you for your attention.