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**STATEMENT BY
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1444th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

28 September 2023

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

Mr. Chairperson,

The Ukrainian formations' attempts at offensive operations in the Russian Federation's territory in Donbas and the Dnieper Lowland, undertaken with large-scale military, logistic, financial and intelligence support from NATO countries, remain unsuccessful.

Given its military setbacks, the Kyiv regime continues to assail the civilian population (over the past week alone, 10 people have been killed and 59 injured as a result of the shelling of civilian infrastructure), and also to carry out terrorist attacks far away from the zone of the Russian special military operation. These attacks are intended, above all, to provoke a public outcry and intimidate the civilian population. In practice, though, they are incapable of having any effect on the co-ordination and efficiency of the work of the Russian force grouping deployed in the zone of the special military operation.

The Russian armed forces continue to systematically destroy the military potential of Volodymyr Zelenskyy's formations, which was built up with the participation of NATO countries. Last week, according to the Russian Ministry of Defence, over a dozen group strikes were carried out on aircraft repair facilities, deployment points for foreign mercenaries and training sites for sabotage groups of the Ukrainian armed forces. Moreover, part of the stock of cruise missiles and depleted uranium munitions supplied from NATO stockpiles was obliterated. Russian Defence Ministry data indicates that, all in all, at least 479 airplanes, 250 helicopters, 7,191 unmanned aerial vehicles, 438 anti-aircraft missile systems, 12,170 tanks and other armoured combat vehicles, 1,155 multiple rocket launcher vehicles, 6,557 field artillery pieces and mortars, and 13,449 units of special military equipment have been destroyed since the start of the Russian special operation. The actions taken to demilitarize the Kyiv regime will be continued until the goals set have been fully accomplished.

Mr. Zelenskyy's Western handlers realize that their gigantic investments in combat operations against Russia have not paid off as desired. Only three months ago, declarations were being made at all levels in Washington, D.C., that the NATO countries had provided the Kyiv regime with "everything it needs for a successful summer offensive" and that they were "expecting to see results". Today the rhetoric

has changed: through the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Mark Milley, as their mouthpiece, the US authorities are noting the lack of any significant results from the Ukrainian formations' offensive operations, acknowledging those formations' inability to push the Russian military back and announcing that the fighting will be "very long, hard and bloody".

The obvious dissatisfaction with the outcomes of Mr. Zelenskyy's summer campaign is reflected in the promises made by the United States of America to send new military supplies to Ukraine (for example, tanks of the Abrams type, ATACMS long-range missiles and further batches of depleted uranium rounds). These are without doubt dangerous steps towards a heating up of tensions both in the Ukrainian conflict and in the pan-European space as a whole. However, the aforementioned military goods will meet with the same fate as those already delivered: they will go up in flames and be destroyed on the battlefield, for they have no place – and will never have any place – on our lands.

Documentary evidence of incapacitated German Leopard tanks and other NATO armoured vehicles has already made its way around the globe multiple times. The Western elites are evidently keen to see charred Abrams tanks on the plains of Russia – this longing of theirs will be fully satisfied. Significantly, Kyiv regime officials themselves admit that these tanks "will not live very long" in ordinary combined-arms combat on the front line, as the chief of Ukrainian military intelligence, Kyrylo Budanov, mused in an interview with The War Zone on 22 September.

In the NATO countries themselves, the public's rejection of reckless schemes to provide military supplies to the Kyiv regime, which is "drowning" (as Polish President Andrzej Duda put it), continues to grow – it is no longer possible to hide that. Inner contradictions are intensifying there as those countries' socio-economic problems become exacerbated. All this is a consequence of the misguided geopolitical decision to bank on combating Russian statehood using as a cat's paw the press-ganged inhabitants of Ukraine, who are literally being led off to be slaughtered. The Ukrainian people have, in effect, been chosen to serve as cannon fodder.

Losses among the Ukrainian armed formations' personnel are unprecedented: all told, 71,000 casualties since the intensification of their attempts to conduct offensive operations this summer. In September alone there were more than 17,000 casualties. If this rate is maintained, it would mean that by the end of the year, Mr. Zelenskyy's troops would need several more tens of thousands of mobilized men to make up the deficit in their ranks. Such an annual turnover of personnel is equivalent to the population of a major regional capital like Poltava. It is worth recalling here that, according to official data, not more than 20 per cent of all the men mobilized in that city in the autumn of 2022 remain in action – the rest have been killed or wounded. The statistics of the Ukrainian Ministry of Social Policy indicate that, over the past year and a half, more than 300,000 persons have been declared disabled. We stress that all this is the price of the refusal by the Kyiv regime, pressured by its Western handlers, to engage in diplomatic contacts aimed at bringing about a settlement on the basis of realistic positions; the price of chimerical fantasies about inflicting some sort of "strategic defeat" on Russia courtesy of the Ukrainians.

According to US Assistant Secretary of Defense Mara Karlin, Ukraine today is merely, I quote, "a laboratory of learning for military innovation" (she said this on 20 September this year during an appearance at the Ronald Reagan Institute). In that regard, it is also worth recalling how Kyiv regime officials have repeatedly emphasized that they had made the territory of Ukraine available to NATO as a training ground for the testing of various weapons under combat conditions (as was stated on several occasions by the recently stepped-down Defence Minister Oleksii Reznikov). Do the forcibly mobilized Ukrainians themselves, who are being thrown into battle, know that they are "expendable material" in the geopolitical experiments of the United States and its NATO satellites?

We will never tire of reminding the US representatives, as they continue hypocritically to talk about “supporting the sovereignty of Ukraine”, who it is in fact that destroyed what was left of that sovereignty. The US Government nowadays does not even try to conceal its direct external steering of the non-independent Kyiv regime – an arrangement put in place after the 2014 coup d’état and the advent to power of that regime.

On 24 September this year, a memorandum of understanding between the Ukrainian and US Governments was published (its text is available on the website of the US Embassy in Kyiv), whereby the US Government intends, “subject to the availability of funds”, to provide financial assistance in exchange for the meaningful implementation of specific requirements regarding changes to the governance structure of key State-owned enterprises in the energy sector – specifically the Gas Transmission System Operator of Ukraine and the National Nuclear Energy Generating Company “Energoatom” – including the establishment of the notorious mechanism of “supervisory boards” at these companies. As shown by the working practices of such boards in other State-owned enterprises, Ukrainian citizens sitting on them by no means play a decisive role; rather, the key decisions are made by foreigners who are not accountable in any way to the Ukrainian people.

On 25 September, the Ukrainian media published a copy of a letter from the White House’s Deputy National Security Advisor for International Economics, Mike Pyle, to the Ukrainian Government and a group of financial sponsors of the Kyiv regime. Running to several pages, this document contains a list of conditions that must be fulfilled if the cash injections from the United States are to continue, notably demands for “rebooting” the composition of high courts, including the judges of the Supreme Court and the Constitutional Court; “restructuring” the work of the Defence Ministry and strategic enterprises, as well as the activities of the intelligence services, the National Police, the State Customs Service, the Office of the Prosecutor General, the State Border Guard Service and other government agencies; reorganizing the governance of major State-owned enterprises and amending the system of tariff regulations for the country’s citizens; implementing specific instructions for “revamping” the operating principles of law enforcement agencies, including changes to staff numbers and to the procedures for the recruitment of personnel; and so on. It is clear that the issuing of such ultimatums is a result of Mr. Zelenskyy’s recent disastrous visit to the United States.

The demands that the United States and other Western countries are dictating outright to the Kyiv regime, bypassing the opinion of the Ukrainian people, are in no way compatible with Article 5 of the Constitution of Ukraine. Pursuant to that article, the people are the sole source of power in Ukraine and the bearers of sovereignty, with any usurpation of State power being unacceptable. That is why every time some representative of the US authorities mounts a podium to declaim unconvincingly on “supporting the sovereignty of Ukraine”, it is worth remembering how – that is, by means of which instruments and levers – the system of external administration over the puppet regime in Kyiv operates.

Reality has shown that the attempts at using Ukraine to combat Russian statehood and isolating our country in the international arena are not bringing success to their originators. The blitzkrieg of sanctions launched by the United States and its allies has failed. Our country continues to successfully develop mutually beneficial partnerships with countries in Asia and the Global South. The European countries’ severing, at the US Government’s behest, of economic ties with Russia is doing far greater harm to the Europeans themselves than to our country. Incidentally, one of the elements of this strategy was the act of sabotage involving the blowing-up of the Nord Stream 1 and Nord Stream 2 gas pipelines in the Baltic Sea. On 26 September we marked the first anniversary of that terrorist attack. The truth about it is something that those in Washington, London and other capitals would prefer to suppress altogether.

One year on, we are seeing nothing but ludicrous attempts by the Anglo-Saxons to shift all responsibility for what happened on to certain individuals linked to the Kyiv regime, which has evidently been assigned the role of a scapegoat in this whole affair. This is confirmed by the co-ordinated thematic campaign in Western media. It is simply not possible to speak of any expeditious, transparent or objective investigation. This is something that the United Nations Security Council was able to see for itself at its meeting on 26 September, which was convened at Russia's insistence. During that meeting, the representatives of Western countries, which have undertaken to conduct a so-called investigation, once again preferred to say nothing meaningful about the true causes of what happened to the gas pipelines.

One final point. At the Permanent Council's last regular meeting, the US Permanent Representative, Michael Carpenter, accused Russian representatives of spreading, I quote, "racist lies". He did not like the point made, one backed up by facts, that the leader of the neo-Nazi regime in Kyiv, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, was celebrating Nazis and their accomplices and singing the praises of modern-day neo-Nazis in Ukraine. According to him, an ethnic Jew could by definition not do that kind of thing. The response to all these speculations by the US Permanent Representative was not long in coming. A few days ago, Mr. Zelenskyy himself once again demonstrated to his enthusiastic admirer the US Permanent Representative, and to the entire international community, who he really is.

In the Canadian Parliament on 22 September, Mr. Zelenskyy, joined by Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, applauded a Nazi and war criminal, the 98-year-old Yaroslav Hunka, who was a member of the Galicia Division, a punitive Waffen-SS outfit (after emigrating to Canada his surname was no longer spelled as Gunko but as Hunka or Gunka). To raucous applause from those assembled, the Speaker of the House of Commons presented this Nazi as a "veteran from the Second World War who fought [for] Ukrainian independence against the Russians". The fact that such a figure had "fought against the Russians" in the German-occupied territory of the Soviet Union proved sufficient for the Canadian authorities and parliamentarians to turn a blind eye to his devotion to the ideas of Nazism. This criminal was given a place of honour inside Parliament and treated to a standing ovation. Let us, for the time being, put aside the question why Nazis and their accomplices feel so at home in Canada, and why a gesture of direct rehabilitation of Nazism was made in full view of the world – we will speak about this separately and more than once.

At present, we wish to recall that the SS was declared a criminal organization on the basis of the work performed by the Nuremberg Tribunal between 1945 and 1946. The units that formed part of the SS structure, including the Galicia Waffen-SS Division, were involved in numerous crimes and punitive campaigns against the civilian population. Among these crimes was the brutal killing (including massacres) of civilians – Russians, Belorussians, Ukrainians, Jews, Poles, Slovaks and members of other nationalities. The aforementioned Yaroslav Hunka joined an SS division of his own accord, for ideological reasons.

The bottom line is that, in Ottawa on 22 September, Mr. Zelenskyy, who calls himself Jewish, applauded a Nazi from an SS outfit that took part in the brutal killing of Jews and people of other ethnic origins. Maybe the US Permanent Representative Mr. Carpenter would also be ready to lead, together with Mr. Zelenskyy, a round of applause for this Nazi, simply because he "fought against the Russians"?

Surely it must be on account of these attitudes that, year after year at the United Nations, the United States and representatives of the Kyiv regime vote against a resolution on combating the glorification of Nazism, neo-Nazism and other practices that contribute to fuelling contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance?

Perhaps that is why over in the United States they are pleased with how the leader of the Kyiv regime, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who calls himself Jewish, is celebrating – in this case in Ukraine itself – the

Nazi accomplices Stepan Bandera and Roman Shukhevych, encouraging the dismantling of monuments to those who fought against Nazism, and facilitating the incorporation and embedding of adherents of neo-Nazi ideology into all government agencies and all parts of the security apparatus without exception?

And maybe the United States and its satellites are sponsoring the Kyiv regime, supplying it with inhumane types of weapons and fostering crimes against the civilian population for the very reason that they want to promote the diffusion and cultivation of Nazi and neo-Nazi ideas in Ukraine and beyond?

In closing, we emphasize that the approach taken by a number of NATO countries, which consists in encouraging neo-Nazism in Ukraine and deliberately exacerbating tensions in the Ukrainian conflict, is an extremely dangerous one and is generating new threats. 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 created by NATO countries with the help of the puppet regime in Kyiv, will be continued until the goals set have been fully accomplished. Our country has all the necessary resources and capabilities for that. The Kyiv regime's sponsors will be presented with an "itemized bill" for their murderous Russophobia. It will have to be paid with interest.

Russia will confidently continue to pursue its sovereign course aimed at meeting its security needs, protecting its values and upholding 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.