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**STATEMENT BY  
THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AT THE  
1524th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

12 June 2025

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

Mr. Chairperson,

Building on the Istanbul agreements of 2 June, a phased exchange of captive soldiers aged up to 25 years has started. The first two groups returned home on 9 and 10 June. Today it is planned to proceed with urgent “medical exchanges” of seriously ill and seriously wounded military personnel. We commend these practical results of the direct Russian-Ukrainian contacts. We once again express our deep gratitude to the authorities of the Republic of Belarus for facilitating the prisoner exchanges.

At the same time, representatives of the Kyiv regime refused, over several days, to collect the bodies of their fallen military personnel. We recall that the Russian side proposed to hand over to the Kyiv regime, on a unilateral basis, no fewer than 6,000 identified bodies of fighters from the Ukrainian armed forces. Refrigerator lorries were parked at the border for a number of days waiting for the process of taking custody of the bodies to begin. On 11 June, the process did get under way after all: 1,212 bodies were handed over to the Ukrainian side, while 27 bodies of our fallen fighters were handed over to the Russian side.

Nevertheless, Volodymyr Zelenskyy publicly rejected the idea of establishing local truces along the line of engagement to enable the bodies of soldiers killed on the battlefield to be collected and mutually handed over. All this is eloquent testimony to the true attitude of the Kyiv regime’s leadership towards those whom it sent off to fight for the sake of keeping itself in power. There is also a clearly practical aspect to this matter: pursuant to Decision No. 168 of the “Government of Ukraine” of 28 February 2022, the lump sum payment that is to be made to family members in the event of a soldier being killed in action is meant to be at least 15 million hryvnias. Accordingly, the sums that would need to be paid out are in the order of billions of euros. According to data from the International Committee of the Red Cross, as at April 2025, 400,000 enquiries had come in from relatives of Ukrainian military personnel who to this day are still officially reported missing.

It would seem to be a banal case of the Kyiv regime and its sponsors not wishing to face up to not only moral obligations but also financial ones. For them it would be far easier if there were no identified bodies at all and people were just reported missing on lists. Such an arrangement would make it possible to conceal information about the real number of losses among the Ukrainian armed forces both from the public

at home and from the NATO member countries that are the regime's creditors. We stress that the Russian side, building on the contacts that took place in Istanbul, is prepared and willing to engage in substantive work on resolving the aforementioned humanitarian issues as swiftly as possible.

Against this backdrop, the Kyiv regime, which is fully dependent on foreign military and financial "top-ups", refused on 2 June to pay out a sum amounting to 670 million dollars that has been due ever since 2024 on some of the securities it has issued. We are talking here about obligations vis-à-vis private investors deriving from bonds with coupons indexed to the rate of growth of the gross domestic product. This latest missed payment induced rating agencies to reiterate their assessment of Ukraine being in "restricted default" on its financial obligations. However, we shall not now dwell in detail on the absurdity of reviewing a bankrupt regime as part of any kind of credit rating.

Mr. Zelenskyy and his entourage continue to gamble on terrorist methods. These include the deliberate targeting of civilian infrastructure – something which both the Finnish Chairmanship and the Kyiv regime's sponsors are silent about in this room. In addition, the Kyiv regime's intelligence services are not letting up in their attempts to mount high-impact terrorist attacks deep inside the territory of the Russian Federation. The Russian Federal Security Service has arrested a Russian citizen in the Krasnodar territory who had been recruited through social media and who, at the behest of the so-called Security Service of Ukraine, was planning to set off an explosion in a crowded place using an improvised explosive device weighing 2.5 kg.

Over the past two weeks, the shelling of Russian territories by the Kyiv regime's militants has claimed no fewer than 203 civilian casualties, of whom 12 were killed and 191 were injured, including six children. All in all, the Ukrainian armed formations have fired more than 41,000 munitions at civilian objects since the start of 2025, resulting in 2,575 civilian casualties: 420 people have been killed, including ten children, while no fewer than 2,155 have been injured, including 114 minors. Our opponents today are silent about all these casualties, guided as they are by political motives and their striving to whitewash the Kyiv regime's criminal actions.

In response to the aforementioned attacks, the Russian armed forces have launched a series of precision strikes against industrial plants in territories controlled by the Kyiv regime that are involved in the manufacture of aircraft, missiles and armoured vehicles and the construction of ships, Ukrainian armed forces command posts and troop bases, sites where armaments and military equipment belonging to Mr. Zelenskyy's formations are concentrated, airfield infrastructure, and ammunition and fuel depots. We note in this regard the latest instances of air defence assets and electronic warfare systems being used incompetently by the Kyiv regime's militants.

The liberation of territories in Donbass and in the Kharkov and Sumy regions continues, including with a view to creating a "security zone" to protect the civilian population. In the course of their effective operations, units from the 90th Tank Division within the "Centre" force grouping have crossed the borders of the Dnipropetrovsk region and keep on advancing.

We emphasize that the leaders of a number of NATO member countries, above all the United Kingdom and Germany, are carrying on with their attempts to prime public opinion to a military clash with Russia being inevitable, irrespective of the events in Ukraine.

During a press conference ahead of the meeting of NATO Defence Ministers in Brussels on 4 June, NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte said that "NATO is the most powerful defence Alliance in world history. It's even more powerful than the Roman Empire, ... and more powerful than the Napoleon[ic] Empire." However, he forgot to clarify that the empires he mentioned to which he was comparing NATO

happened to pursue an annexationist policy as they sought to extend their supremacy over the European continent and the entire world.

Mr. Rutte should also have remembered the hegemonistic aspirations of Napoleon, who bit off more than he could chew in taking on Russia: he destroyed his empire as a result, ending his days in infamy and disgrace. In the twentieth century there was likewise another empire – one in which Nazi ideology held sway together with the Roman salute – that set its sights on destroying our State, on physically exterminating our country's population and seizing its territories and riches. Today, the expansionist alliance that NATO is proclaims officially, at the doctrinal level, that Russia is the “principal threat”, while its Secretary General, invoking Napoleon, said at the aforementioned event that it is necessary to, I quote, “make NATO a stronger, fairer and more lethal Alliance”. In other words, a lethal one after all, rather than a defensive one.

Speaking at a discussion forum in London on 9 June, Mr. Rutte expressed concern over the fact that, in the context of the special military operation and the daily expenditure of ammunition, Russia has been forced to replenish its arsenals by producing armaments. What is more, he made it clear in all kinds of ways that if the fighting in Ukraine were to stop, this would entail risks for NATO insofar as the Ukrainian conflict is allegedly diverting Russia's resources to a significant extent.

In that regard, one may recall a whole series of pronouncements by senior leaders of the NATO member countries, which we have cited on a number of occasions, to the effect that, in the Ukrainian conflict, the Alliance is waging a proxy war against Russia. All this is accompanied by specific military preparations in the NATO member countries themselves, by the official pursuit of militarization of their economies, by the bringing of NATO military infrastructure closer to Russia's borders, by war propaganda in the media sphere under the pretext of allegedly defending peace and certain principles and values. The main challenge entailed by such a policy line is the risk of large-scale military escalation that gets out of control, an escalation fraught with the most tragic consequences for our continent and for the world as a whole.

To wrap up. Russia reiterates its commitment and readiness to resolve the Ukrainian conflict by political and diplomatic means, including through serious, professional work on the proposals presented in Istanbul on 2 June regarding the parameters of a final settlement, the conditions of a ceasefire, and the sequence of steps and timelines for their implementation.

A settlement must be based on such elements as recognition of the geopolitical realities and the withdrawal of the Kyiv regime's armed formations from the constitutional territory of the Russian Federation, a neutral, non-aligned and non-nuclear status for Ukraine, its demilitarization and denazification, and measures to fully ensure the rights and freedoms of Russian-speaking citizens in Ukraine. We strongly warn those who advocate the militarization of Europe and the scaling-up of armed confrontation not to disregard initiatives that are aimed at achieving a sustainable peace, taking into account the interests of the region's sovereign States. Russia will continue to consistently defend its legitimate national interests for as long as it takes, and to protect its people by all available means.

Thank you for your attention.