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PC.DEL/1176/22
9 August 2022

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1385th (SPECIAL) MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

9 August 2022

On the military attacks by Ukraine against the civilian population and critical infrastructure with the direct support of the United States of America and its allies in the ranks of the OSCE participating States

Mr. Chairperson,

First of all, we express our objection to the nature of last week's visit by the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Zbigniew Rau, to Ukraine, during which he was accompanied by the Secretary General of our Organization. In the course of that visit, serious violations of the Chairmanship's mandate and of the norms governing public statements on behalf of the OSCE were allowed to happen. On top of the fact that the Polish media coverage of the visit was conducted in a confrontational anti-Russian tone, during the contacts in Kyiv certain OSCE programmes on Ukraine were announced that had not been discussed, let alone approved by the Permanent Council. This is unacceptable. We call on the Chairmanship and the Secretariat's senior officials to adhere strictly to our Organization's norms and practice, and not to undermine its authority.

The OSCE's prestige has suffered a heavy blow as a result of the complete silence of its leadership on the Kyiv regime's monstrous war crimes, the number of which grows daily. We shall give a detailed account of them today.

Not a single word of condemnation has been directed by the Organization at the Ukrainian Government, which mounted a massive extrajudicial execution of its own soldiers who had decided to lay down their arms. At 12.20 a.m. on 29 July, the Ukrainian armed forces deliberately carried out a strike on a pretrial detention centre in Olenivka (Donetsk People's Republic). Inside the compound were 193 fighters from Ukrainian armed formations who had surrendered, including fighters from the Azov nationalist battalion. As a result of the shelling, 50 of them were killed and 73 were injured. Eight staff members of the detention facility were also hurt. Examination of the damage sustained by the building clearly indicates that the missile was fired from the north-west. Characteristic fragments were found: these are munitions used in US-made HIMARS missile systems.

It is worth mentioning, in particular, that when the Azov fighters surrendered on 20 May, the Ukrainian side insisted on their being placed in the pretrial detention centre at Olenivka. On 28 July, that is,

on the very eve of the shelling, a video confession relating to the Azov fighters' crimes was published. This extrajudicial execution by the Kyiv regime of its own military personnel is a war crime, to which no statute of limitations applies. They did not want to leave any witnesses alive. A further objective was to intimidate other Ukrainian military personnel intending to lay down their arms.

The circumstances point to the direct involvement of the United States of America in the launching of strikes from HIMARS multiple-launch rocket systems against military and civilian targets, including Olenivka. This is explicitly confirmed by the words of a representative of the Main Intelligence Directorate of the Ukrainian Ministry of Defence, Vadym Skybytskyi, to the effect that before using HIMARS systems to launch strikes, the Ukrainian military consults with its handlers in the United States. In an interview with the British newspaper *The Telegraph*, Mr. Skybytskyi said that there was "a level of consultation between intelligence officials of both countries prior to launching missiles". Moreover, the United States could "stop any potential attacks" if over in Washington, D.C., they were "unhappy with the intended target".

On 1 August, the Ukrainian armed forces fired 12 missiles from HIMARS multiple-launch rocket systems at Pervomaisk in the Luhansk People's Republic. The result is, no doubt, to the satisfaction of the Ukrainian Government's Western sponsors – that is, of all those who spoke under the first agenda item. The US military did not bother to prohibit that strike. After all, such "military facilities" were hit as five apartment blocks, the enterprise Pervomaiskugol, a pension fund office, the Zarya municipal culture and leisure centre and the Yunost sports school.

We must warn about the baneful nature of such steps taken at a time when supplies to the Ukrainian Government are being stepped up of the most destabilizing and long-range systems, together with ammunition for them, and real-time intelligence data is being provided at an intensive level. By acting in this way, the United States and its allies are making themselves not only accomplices in the war crimes of the Ukrainian armed forces and nationalist formations, but also *de facto* parties to the conflict, with all the negative consequences that this entails.

The Kyiv regime apparently feels that such carnage among the civilian population and its own soldiers is insufficient. It has decided to raise the stakes and effectively hold the whole of Europe to ransom by carrying out strikes on the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant and creating the risk of a large-scale nuclear disaster. We would remind you that on 18 and 20 July the plant was already subjected to attacks by the Ukrainian armed forces using unmanned aerial vehicles. These attacks were repeated on 7 August, but on this occasion using 220 mm calibre Uragan multiple-launch rocket systems. It so happens that this occurred at the same time as the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons took up its work in New York. The Ukrainian armed forces did not use HIMARS systems, evidently guessing that they would not actually get the green light from Washington, D.C., for a strike on such a target. Inside the impact zone were a storage area for spent nuclear fuel and a unit of the automated radiation environment monitoring system. The fragmentation submunitions of the missile landed within 400 metres of an operational reactor. Shortly before the attack, namely on 5 and 6 August, as a result of the Ukrainian armed forces' shelling of Enerhodar, the city closest to the nuclear power plant, municipal infrastructure was damaged, leading to a partial blackout at the plant.

It is most surprising that there has been no reaction by political circles in Western countries to these extremely dangerous "adventures" by the Ukrainian Government. Being on the other side of the ocean, the United States evidently considers itself to be safe. But surely in the European capitals they must realize the risks of "a new Chernobyl"? If there should be an accident at the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, the populations of the Kyiv, Zaporizhzhia, Kharkiv, Poltava, Kherson and Odessa regions of Ukraine, the People's Republics of Donetsk and Luhansk, and border areas in Russia, Belarus, Moldova, Bulgaria and Romania would find themselves inside the radioactive contamination zone. In the event of contamination of

waterways, the Black Sea and the Bosphorus Straits could become unnavigable for a long time, while the coastlines of Abkhazia, Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania and Türkiye would be contaminated by a high level of radiation. We call on the OSCE, the United Nations, the International Atomic Energy Agency and everyone who is able to bring influence to bear on the Kyiv regime to exert as much pressure as possible on the latter. The attacks by Ukrainian armed formations on the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant may unequivocally be described as nuclear terrorism.

Significantly, some international human rights organizations have finally begun to pay attention to the criminal actions of the Ukrainian armed forces. Even such an entity as Amnesty International, which it would be hard to suspect of pro-Russian sympathies, has released a report that points out explicitly that Ukrainian armed formations are setting up combat positions near civilian objects, thereby endangering the civilian population. The report says, among other things, that “[t]he Ukrainian government should immediately ensure that it locates its forces away from populated areas, or should evacuate civilians from areas where the military is operating.” Russian representatives have repeatedly – not least here at the Permanent Council – cited numerous specific facts concerning the Ukrainian armed formations’ use of the civilian population as human shields and their setting up of combat positions and military depots in schools, hospitals and shopping malls. This problem has already reached such “critical mass” that it is no longer possible to ignore.

The Kyiv regime’s reaction to the report is telling. President Zelenskyy accused Amnesty International of an attempt to “shift responsibility on to the victim”, while a scandal broke out in Kyiv itself that led, *inter alia*, to the resignation of the head of that non-governmental organization’s local branch, Oksana Pokalchuk, who had evidently not managed to strike out from the report all aspects that were awkward for the regime. Essentially, the Ukrainian President has signalled that he does not consider himself bound by the norms of international humanitarian law.

We expect that international organizations and human rights defenders will pay attention to other facts concerning the Ukrainian Government’s war crimes as well. The Ukrainian armed forces have intensified the terroristic practice of remote mining of areas that are at a considerable distance from the combat zones. On 8 August, PFM-1 Lepestok mines were scattered over Donetsk (specifically the city’s Kirovskyi district). This brutal campaign is clearly directed against the civilian population. With their plastic body, mines of that type require very little pressure to detonate; they pose a lethal danger to children. Where is the Western countries’ reaction to such actions by the Ukrainian armed forces? By the way, Ukraine has ratified the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (Ottawa Convention). Is the fiendish logic again at work whereby Ukraine is allowed to get away with everything?

While the Kyiv regime is carrying out strikes against the civilian population and critical infrastructure, Western countries are merely ramping up their military assistance to Ukraine.

In early August, there was a veritable cascade of announcements from Washington, D.C., about further military “beefing up” of the Ukrainian Government. First of all, the allocation of an additional 550 million dollars was announced in a press statement from the White House dated 1 August. Then, on 8 August, it was the turn of the Pentagon to announce yet another “support package”, which is worth a staggering 1 billion dollars. All in all, the level of funding spent by the United States on defence support for the Ukrainian Government during Joe Biden’s presidency is thus already approaching 10 billion dollars. The new packages will comprise missiles for HIMARS multiple-launch rocket systems, tens of thousands of 155 mm calibre artillery shells, 120 mm mortar systems and tens of thousands of rounds of ammunition for them, more than one thousand anti-tank systems, explosives and other sundry military equipment. What is more, in Washington, D.C., they emphasize that the Ukrainian armed forces are using these rocket systems and howitzers “effectively”. Just how effectively was described by us earlier.

The Slovak Minister of Defence, Jaroslav Nad', reaffirmed, following talks with the UK Secretary of State for Defence, Ben Wallace, his intent to continue rendering military assistance to Ukraine through the transfer of Soviet-made equipment. This refers to shipments of armoured infantry fighting vehicles, tanks, and Igla and Kub air defence systems. The Slovak Government is toying with the idea of handing over eleven MiG-29 fighter jets to Ukraine.

North Macedonia, by the looks of things, is very busy preparing for its Chairmanship of the OSCE next year – namely, by supplying arms to the Ukrainian Government. Shortly after handing over ten T-72 tanks as a gift, it sent the Ukrainian Government four Sukhoi Su-25 aircraft.

Germany, too, continues to invest in “peace” in Ukraine. The German Government has approved a major deal involving the Krauss-Maffei Wegmann and Rheinmetall corporations to supply the Ukrainian Government with a hundred Panzerhaubitze 2000 self-propelled howitzers worth 1.7 billion euros. According to information from the German Federal Ministry of Defence, the Ministry's head, Christine Lambrecht, has made the decision to hand over to the Ukrainian armed forces 16 Biber armoured bridgelayers and a “CBRN [chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear] defence package” to deal with the consequences of radioactive, biological and chemical contamination. The Ukrainian Government has also been promised three MARS II intermediate-range multiple-launch rocket systems together with the ammunition for them, seven Gepard self-propelled artillery units and shells for them, and a further three Panzerhaubitze 2000 self-propelled howitzers (in addition to the seven such howitzers already handed over). Additionally, the German Government is involved in the funding of military supplies from third countries, including 20,000 howitzer shells from Norway; eight FH70 55 mm calibre howitzers, Unimog trucks and Wolf off-road vehicles from Estonia; and 33 M113 armoured personnel carriers from Denmark.

Many military supplies are being financed from the European Peace Facility. Perhaps it is now time to rename it the “War-Sponsoring Facility. The Facility's objective is becoming increasingly obvious, namely to see to it that as many people as possible are killed in Ukraine. This very much brings to mind certain dark pages of history – the process was referred to at the time as the conquest of Lebensraum in the east.

And to conclude, we shall now consider how the Ukrainian authorities themselves treat civilians. A number of countries continue to indiscriminately accuse Russia in this room of running some mythical “filtration camps” and of “terrorizing” the population in the liberated territories. Yet, the Western representatives have no desire to go into what is really happening in the areas that are still under the Ukrainian Government's control. More's the pity: you ought to read about what is taking place in Mykolaiv, where real reprisals against the city's inhabitants began a few days ago. The municipal authorities have imposed a curfew and organized a door-to-door search of all apartment buildings in order to identify disloyal residents. The Ukrainian media are themselves writing about this. As the head of the Mykolaiv regional council, Hanna Zamazieieva, said, “they are going straight to people's flats, checking every single person, checking their papers and mobile phones – they are checking everything.” Anyone can be arrested, even just for ringing up relatives in Russia. The Gestapo in its day operated using exactly the same methods. But why, then, is no condemnation of such practices to be heard from Germany? Is Ukraine allowed to make use of European experience even of that kind?

We once again emphasize that the Russian special military operation is aimed at protecting Donbas, denazifying and demilitarizing Ukraine, and eliminating threats to the security of the Russian Federation created by the West on Ukrainian territory. These objectives will be accomplished fully, in spite of the exertions by the Western alliance and the convulsions of the Kyiv regime in its death throes.

Thank you for your attention.