



United States Mission to the OSCE

The Russian Federation's Ongoing Aggression Against Ukraine

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires Katherine Brucker
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
October 31, 2024

As I am taking the floor for the first time today I would also like to express our condolences to the delegation and the people of Spain on the terrible loss of life following the devastating flash floods. Our thoughts are with you.

Two weeks ago, I warned the Permanent Council that Russia's cooperation with the DPRK undermined security in the OSCE region.

We now believe the DPRK has sent around 10,000 soldiers to train in eastern Russia. It is reasonable to assume these troops will augment Russian forces near Ukraine over the next several weeks. A small number of DPRK soldiers are already present in Russia's Kursk Oblast, near the border with Ukraine.

We are increasingly concerned that Russia intends to use these soldiers in combat or to support combat operations against Ukrainian forces in Kursk.

We do not yet know whether these soldiers will enter into combat alongside the Russian military, but this is an acute and highly concerning probability.

Let's be clear, if DPRK soldiers do enter into combat, this would demonstrate Russia's inability to sustain its own troop levels; its growing desperation; and a dangerous expansion of its war against Ukraine.

Russia's turn to a pariah state for assistance showcases Moscow's growing reliance on these partners and its continued flaunting of international law, including relevant UN Security Council resolutions. We believe that Russia's training of DPRK soldiers involving arms or related material is a direct violation of Security Council Resolutions 1718, 1874, and 2270. DPRK soldiers providing or receiving any training or other assistance related to the use of ballistic missiles or other arms would violate Resolutions 1718, 1874, and 2070. This is on top of Russia's and the DPRK's ongoing UN arms embargo violations.

Madam Chair, if DPRK soldiers deploy into combat against Ukraine, this would be profoundly reckless and destabilizing on the part of Russia. We are consulting closely with our allies and partners over how we would respond and are reviewing a full range of additional policy options.

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