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United States Mission to the OSCE



Right of Reply to the Russian Federation on Russia's Ongoing Aggression Against Ukraine

As delivered by Ambassador Michael Carpenter
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
March 3, 2022

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Wow, so many words spoken, so many falsehoods. I don't know where to begin.

The Russian representative has just given us a textbook case of projection.

The respected journal Psychology Today defines projection as “the process of displacing one's feelings onto a different person or entity. The term is most commonly used to describe the process of attributing one's own unacceptable or offensive behavior to another.”

Look, colleagues, I get why the Russian representative doesn't want to talk about his country's bombing of Ukraine's civilian population. Then he'd have to talk about the hundreds of civilians – including the many women, children, and elderly – that the Russian military has killed. Then he'd have to talk about the orphanage, the children's hospital, the Holocaust memorial that his military has hit during the last week. How's that for “de-nazification”?

So, faced with such horrific facts, I get it, he obfuscates. He projects. He fabricates falsehoods and tries to pass them on as the truth. But no one – and I mean no one -- here is being fooled. Not one person in this room believes a single word of this. Not one. There is a saying: You can lie to anyone in the world, just can't lie to yourselves.

Russia's “Ministry of Truth” can censor this conversation inside Russia, but they cannot censor here, they can't censor it anywhere else. As a couple of my colleagues said, the UN General Assembly voted yesterday 141-5 against Russia, against Russian aggression, against Russia's war. Bravo for getting the North Koreans and the Syrians to vote with you though, that was a real diplomatic coup. It speaks volumes.

I have to say, I was reluctant to even take the floor to deign this intervention with a response because the facts really do speak for themselves. By the way, Kharkiv is one of the largest Russian-speaking cities in the world. Why is the Russian military killing its population? Why? Answer that for me.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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