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**STATEMENT BY
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1496th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

14 November 2024

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

Madam Chairperson,

First of all, attention should be drawn to the quite remarkable focus in today's statements by some of our opponents. The more vague and uncertain the prospects for the continuation of Western countries' political, military and financial support for Volodymyr Zelenskyy's regime become, the more our opponents concentrate on the humanitarian aspects of the crisis.

Today we have once again heard hackneyed clichés about “atrocities” by Russian military personnel, acts of torture and other violations of international humanitarian law that supposedly occurred in the conflict, and what is more only on one side. The methods involved in confecting pseudo-evidence for these are well known: the name of the game is dissemination of uncorroborated data collected by non-governmental organizations and certain bodies that call themselves “independent” only as a matter of form. Against this backdrop, the real crimes are being hushed up, insofar as bringing them to light would not have the political effect that the Kyiv regime's sponsors want.

Over the past two weeks, targeted and indiscriminate shelling of civilian infrastructure in Russian regions by the Kyiv regime's formations have resulted in no fewer than 153 civilian casualties, of whom 27 were killed and 126 were injured. On 11 November, a Ukrainian armed forces drone attacked special boarding school No. 25 in Gorlovka (Donetsk People's Republic): two employees of this educational institution were injured.

For many of those who have taken the floor today, it seems that Russian nationals simply do not exist or else they are second-class citizens. A line of thinking is at work that involves encouraging all sorts of crimes by the Kyiv regime's armed formations against the inhabitants of Russian regions. The speakers were also not bothered by the fact that such crimes are being committed with the aid of weapons supplied by NATO countries. For example, in the recently liberated village of Dalneye (Donetsk People's Republic), retreating Kyiv regime militants used a German Leopard tank to kill a group of civilians (a woman and three men) who had driven up to a private house in a car with a white flag affixed to it. Footage of the civilians

being killed by tank fire (from a distance of no more than 30 metres) on the house after they had entered it was captured by a Russian surveillance drone and published in the media.

We stress that all the casualties on both sides of the line of engagement are a source of untold suffering for our people. These casualties lie on the conscience of those who are deliberately prolonging the crisis, seeking to derive some geopolitical dividends from it as they hope to weaken Russia. It is no coincidence that the adherents of the “war party” and of scaling up the Ukrainian conflict continue today to champion the cause of sustaining the armed confrontation and even escalating it.

On 7 November, while in Budapest, Kyiv regime head Zelenskyy spoke out against an immediate ceasefire and the resumption of efforts to achieve a political and diplomatic settlement. As he put it, his regime needs “a sufficient quantity of weapons, not support in negotiations”. At the same time, he fantasized about buying hundreds of billions of dollars’ worth of NATO weapons courtesy of Russian sovereign assets held in Western jurisdictions. And he issued a reminder that a swift resolution of the conflict is definitely not part of the Kyiv regime’s plans.

By the way, when addressing a defence forum in Czechia on 10 November, the Chair of the NATO Military Committee, Admiral Rob Bauer, said that Russian nuclear forces were a key factor in deterring NATO from direct involvement in the Ukrainian conflict. He noted that North Atlantic Alliance troops would have been in Ukraine long ago, fighting against Russian soldiers, if Russia did not have nuclear weapons. Bearing in mind Admiral Bauer’s remarks, it should be made clear that Russia’s nuclear capability, the largest in the world, is an effective shield forged by many a hard-working generation to protect the security and legitimate interests of our fatherland. It fully lives up to its intended purpose.

As for the actions of the anti-Russian alliance in general, we believe it is important to recall the words of Russian President Vladimir Putin from his video address of 24 February 2022, delivered in connection with the start of the special military operation: “No matter who tries to stand in our way or all the more so create threats for our country and our people, they must know that Russia will respond immediately, and the consequences will be such as you have never seen in your entire history. No matter how the events unfold, we are ready. All the necessary decisions in this regard have been taken.”

The reality of domestic political processes in a number of Western countries is an indication of the strong public sentiment against interfering in conflicts far from their own borders, and likewise of “Ukraine fatigue”. Given the persistent yearning for peace, the tour of European countries on which Antony Blinken, while he still occupies the post of US Secretary of State, embarked the other day in an attempt to persuade those countries’ leaders to maintain their support for the puppet regime in Kyiv seems anything but a coincidence.

However, the asset of the “Anglo-Saxons” in their proxy war against Russia using the Ukrainians as a cat’s paw is gradually being depleted. They openly admit in Kyiv that the mobilization measures, even those implemented with particular brutality, are not having the desired effect – the Ukrainian armed forces are not replenishing their ranks in sufficient numbers. The head of the Temporary Investigative Commission of the Verkhovna Rada (Ukrainian Parliament) dealing with military personnel issues, Anna Skorokhod, said that the staff of military medical boards, who medically examine people rounded up by officers from the territorial recruitment centres (military enlistment offices), had been instructed to recognize as fit for military service all those who fall into the category of persons liable to conscription on account of their age. In other words, medical contraindications to being mobilized are henceforth simply not being taken into consideration; all those captured on the streets are guaranteed to be sent off to the meat grinder that is the battlefield.

According to the former deputy head of the Verkhovna Rada Defence Committee, MP Mariana Bezuhla, in view of the huge losses among the Ukrainian armed forces, the Kyiv regime's military commanders are taking emergency measures that consist in transferring anti-aircraft gunners, field medics and communications operators to infantry units.

Portable electronic warfare systems that jam mobile phone signals have begun to be installed in the territorial recruitment centre (military enlistment office) buses used to abduct individuals directly from the streets of towns and cities far from the front line. This is being done so that young people cannot ring up their relatives and inform them that they have been spirited off. From now on, when registering at military enlistment offices, 16-year-old lads are asked to immediately sign a form consenting to military service and to agree to undergo military training. Territorial recruitment centre officers have been officially authorized to enter houses, apartments and business premises, without the permission of their owners, to search for draft evaders.

According to the Kyiv regime itself, a further 500,000 people – far more than expected – will leave Ukraine by the end of 2024. Of course, the real numbers of those seeking to escape from the Kyiv regime by any means are much higher. Incidentally, over the past two and a half years, Russia alone has taken in some 6 million Ukrainian citizens who sought shelter in our country from the Zelenskyy regime. All of this eloquently gives the lie to our opponents' propaganda about some kind of "aggression" and "war to destroy identity" – as everyone knows, people do not go to their aggressors for refuge.

According to the information available, given the Russian military's successful advance in the Kursk region, in Donbass and in a number of other segments, along with the growing perception of Mr. Zelenskyy as damaged goods, the Kyiv regime's Western handlers are considering the possibility of organizing elections in Ukraine in the spring of 2025. It should not be forgotten that the Ukrainians were previously denied any electoral processes under the pretext of martial law, as a result of which Mr. Zelenskyy forfeited even his formal legitimacy back in May 2024 and usurped power with the blessing of his Western sponsors.

To conclude, at a meeting of the Valdai Discussion Club on 7 November, President Putin underscored that our country is ready for substantive work to achieve a sustainable settlement. However, such work should not be carried out on the basis of some kind of wish list, the exact title of which changes from month to month, but on the basis of realistic approaches, taking into account the agreements reached in Istanbul in March 2022. It is necessary to create conditions for a long-term settlement and not a shaky "truce", which the Kyiv regime's sponsors will at once, taking their cue from the Minsk agreements, hasten to use for the purposes of rearming and launching a new phase of armed conflict. So one cannot take seriously the numerous musings in the Western media and among political pundits, all put out there with very obvious aims in mind, on the prospects for some kind of "freeze" along the line of engagement – it will not happen.

It should also be understood that a resolution of the current crisis is possible only by eliminating its root causes, including those related to the destructive interference by extraregional forces in our country's life and their attempts to use Ukraine as a tool for proxy warfare against Russia. Russia will not accept any option for ending the conflict that leaves our country's security at risk. We believe that our opponents should finally give serious thought to these messages.

Thank you for your attention.