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**STATEMENT BY
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1465th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

14 March 2024

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

Madam Chairperson,

We continue to note the growing involvement of NATO member countries in the armed confrontation with Russia on the territory of Ukraine. The hybrid war declared by the Western alliance against the very foundations of our country is being waged through military, economic, legal, humanitarian and other means. The purpose of these actions is certainly not to help strengthen the statehood of any country in the OSCE area. The aim is to weaken Russia, to inflict the maximum possible damage on it and to hamper the development of our society and State.

Propaganda tools have been used for many years to disseminate Russophobic narratives in NATO countries. One of the goals is to erode the respectful humane attitude of the population of these countries towards Russia and its citizens. Russian military personnel, as well as State and public figures, diplomats, clergy of various religious denominations and members of the cultural and artistic community have been subjected to appalling dehumanization. Not only the media controlled by Western political elites but also pseudo-legal practices in the form of prepaid reports disseminated in the interests of a certain group of OSCE participating States have been employed for this purpose.

Representatives of the “Anglo-Saxon” world, who are waging a proxy war against Russia, are making a considerable effort to incite hatred among the inhabitants of Ukraine towards the Russian people and State. The information provided by Vladimir Buchok, a captured serviceman of the 24th Brigade of the Ukrainian armed forces, is quite remarkable. A video recording of his confessions was publicized in the media. He explained that, before being sent to the line of engagement, he had undergone a special course in the United Kingdom together with other mobilized Ukrainians, during which they had been taught not only how to handle weapons and combat tactics. The following is a direct quote from Mr. Buchok: “Psychologists worked on us to make us dislike Russian soldiers and all Russians in general. That we should kill them and treat them harshly if we took them prisoner.” Mr. Buchok’s words are confirmed by the testimony of many other captured Ukrainian soldiers.

In essence, we are dealing with the United Kingdom's deliberate policy of inciting violations of international humanitarian law, stirring up hostility and hatred and advocating war and the cruel treatment of both military personnel and civilians.

We recall that it was the United Kingdom and the United States of America who opposed a sustainable political and diplomatic settlement of the Ukrainian conflict on the basis of the draft agreement initialled by the head of the Ukrainian delegation, Davyd Arakhamia, in Istanbul on 29 March 2022 following consultations with representatives of Russia.

On 8 March, during a discussion in the Polish Sejm (Parliament), Foreign Minister Radosław Sikorski once again confirmed that "certain NATO countries" had already sent their military personnel to Ukraine. He did not list them. However, the fact is well known: we are referring to existing information that has long been confirmed about the presence in Ukraine of so-called instructors, operators of sophisticated NATO equipment and mercenaries who train, lead and fight together with the militants of Volodymyr Zelenskyy's formations. Mr. Sikorski's additional revelations were obviously prompted by the recent publication of conversations between officers of the German Bundeswehr, where they confirmed the presence of NATO military specialists on the battlefield and their direct involvement in the Ukrainian conflict.

The growing involvement of NATO countries in the developments in and around Ukraine significantly increases the motivation of the Russian servicemen in the zone of the special military operation and further strengthens the cohesion of Russian society as a whole. NATO equipment on the battlefield and foreign voices on Russian soil are historically a completely alien and unacceptable phenomenon, and their presence there will be brought to an end. Four US Abrams have been destroyed in the past two weeks. One German high-tech Leopard 2A6 in virtually undamaged condition was captured by the Russian military and sent for further study. A recent video published the other day by *The Sun*, showing how a British Challenger heavy tank failed to negotiate a section of track and got stuck in Russian black soil, is quite revealing.

On the morning of 12 March, Russian military personnel together with the Russian Federal Security Service prevented an attempt by Kyiv regime fighters to achieve a breakthrough into a number of areas in the Belgorod and Kursk regions. At least 230 neo-Nazis were killed and seven tanks and three US-made Bradley armoured vehicles were destroyed.

We note the increased efforts by representatives of the United Kingdom to involve EU Member States, primarily Germany, in the armed confrontation against Russian soldiers on Russian soil. The United Kingdom is now actively pushing the German authorities to provide the Kyiv regime with long-range missiles not directly, but within the framework of the so-called "circular exchange" among NATO member countries. British Foreign Secretary David Cameron and Secretary of State for Defence Grant Shapps are making real efforts in this regard. The schemes they are promoting are in fact not only about plans to transfer an additional batch of British Storm Shadow missiles to the Ukrainian armed forces, but also *de facto* about creating conditions for the transfer of German Taurus missiles to the Kyiv regime not by Germany but directly by the United Kingdom. German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock has already expressed support for the idea of such a "circular exchange". It appears that certain representatives of the German authorities arrogantly believe that the logistical schemes being devised by the United Kingdom will not ultimately translate into an increase in the level of Germany's involvement in the proxy war against Russia in Ukraine, and that there will be no consequences.

We note that the most extreme initiatives by the irresponsible leaders of a number of NATO countries do not enjoy the support of the other members of the North Atlantic Alliance. For example, French President Emmanuel Macron's message that there were "no limits and no red lines" with respect to Ukraine

and his attempts to form a coalition of those willing to send regular troops to take part in the Ukrainian conflict were met with rejection by many in Europe. NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg even advised President Macron to hold consultations and develop common approaches before making such vociferous statements. It is worth understanding that those for whom there are no limits to undermining our country's unity, security and sovereignty can expect the exact same in return.

The irresponsible and ill-considered statements by the leaders of certain Western countries are a consequence of their desperate realization that their proxy war against Russia is not yielding the expected results. The dreams of defeating our country on the battlefield and "tearing its economy to shreds" have not come true. The military allocations to and multibillion-dollar investments in the Russophobic Kyiv regime will never be repaid. And while in the United States they at least created jobs and boosted the economy through manufacturing, in Europe, real money was taken from the economic turnover. They will never be compensated and it will not yield geopolitical dividends.

Germany is now second only to the United States (which recently allocated another 300 million dollar "military package" to Ukraine) among the key military sponsors of the Kyiv regime since January 2022. According to German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, we are talking about a sum of at least 28 billion euros – and that is just military expenditure. Germany should finally take into account its historical experience and remember that Russia greatly contributed to the reunification of the country and to the conclusion of the Treaty on the Final Settlement with Respect to Germany in 1990 only on the understanding that it would no longer pose a military threat to the East. And all the more so on the understanding that we would never see German tanks or other weapons used to kill Russian people on our land under neo-Nazi slogans. We recommend that you study carefully the appeal of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation of 12 March 2024 in connection with Germany's involvement in the Kyiv regime's crimes against civilians and in the damage to civilian infrastructure on the territory of Russia. We repeat that Germany should think seriously about the consequences of demonstratively violating its State-forming principles.

We stress that the Ukrainians themselves are in no hurry to become involved in NATO countries' anti-Russian military adventures or to become cannon fodder for Zelenskyy's puppet regime.

A video filmed in the Zakarpattia region, three kilometres from the border with Romania, was made public on 7 March. It shows a bus carrying 34 Ukrainian young men who had paid 10,000 euros each to fixers to leave Ukraine illegally. That is, the bus was carrying "passengers" worth 340,000 euros. The "turnover" from just one such bus was more than, for example, the total amount of funds allocated at the end of February by the Lithuanian Government for the social support of more than 84,000 Ukrainian refugees (326,000 euros). And how many of these buses have travelled across the border?

During the detention of the aforementioned 34 people, Ukrainian border guards and intelligence services personnel demonstrated their true attitude towards their fellow citizens: they pointed weapons at them, beat them, forced them to lie on the ground and fall on each other, insulted them and committed other humiliating actions.

Two more Ukrainians were recently detained at the border with the Republic of Moldova, where they were trying to escape from Ukraine in an animal transport lorry. They had each paid 5,000 dollars to fixers in order to get into Moldova.

Authorities in the Lviv region (the region with the most intensive traffic flow between Ukraine and the European Union) have published fresh data revealing that over 1,700 men of conscription age, who

pretended to be drivers for various charitable foundations, used the “Path” (“Shlyah”) system to avoid mobilization and leave Ukraine for good.

Despite all of this, the leaders of the Kyiv regime are continuing to bank on the continuation of hostilities. Representatives of Western countries are lying when they claim that their puppets in Kyiv are ready for diplomacy. At the same time, they are trying to indoctrinate the international community with the monstrous message that Russia is seeking to “destroy Ukraine”. They are deliberately equating the neo-Nazi regime with Ukraine, thereby directly humiliating Ukraine itself and all its inhabitants. We emphasize that Russia seeks and will achieve the destruction of neo-Nazism in Ukraine, which not only poses a threat to neighbouring sovereign States, but is also directly harmful to the Ukrainians themselves and is leading society and the State to irreparable disaster.

On 8 March, at a press conference following talks with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Zelensky once again spoke out against any Russian involvement in the settlement process. In the worst traditions of the theory of racial superiority, he literally said the following: “We want to achieve a result – a just peace for Ukraine. Therefore, first, civilized countries of the world will develop a detailed plan and have results, and only then will they involve representatives of Russia – those who are ready for a just peace.” We are not going to comment on the ambitions of the ringleader of the neo-Nazi regime, who considers himself to be part of some “civilized group” in a dialogue with supposedly “uncivilized” Russia. We have already heard all of this in the speeches of the Nazis delivered in the first half of the twentieth century. Everything is obvious without commenting further.

Allow us to recall the words about Russia spoken by the Secretary of the National Security and Defence Council of Ukraine, Oleksii Danilov, on 1 December 2022. I quote verbatim: “When you say that we should sit down at the same table with these barbarians and talk about something with them, I think it will be unworthy of our people. We have shown the whole world that we should not be afraid of those who for 30 years and actively for the past 20 years have been scaring the world that they were so powerful, that they had to be reckoned with. They simply need to be destroyed so that they cease to exist as a country within the borders in which they exist.”

NATO countries are not only providing various kinds of support to this neo-Nazi regime, but are also actively pushing for the continuation of hostilities literally “down to the last Ukrainian”. The other day, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg (in the logic of George Orwell’s dystopia) said: “If we want a negotiated, peaceful, lasting solution, the way to get there is to provide military support to Ukraine.”

The goal of the Kyiv regime’s sponsors is obvious. And it is not to achieve a Ukrainian victory, but to try to weaken Russia. Ukraine and its people are just pawns in the geopolitical game against our country and our statehood. Today, a new slogan is being introduced in NATO countries: it is necessary, they say, “not to let Russia win” in Ukraine. Well, we can assure our opponents and adversaries that they will be deeply disappointed. Russia is certainly not going to lose.

The path to a sustainable political and diplomatic settlement of the Ukrainian conflict lies in the complete cessation of arms supplies by NATO countries to the Kyiv regime, the withdrawal of all foreign mercenaries, instructors and operators of NATO weapons from the territory of Ukraine, the reversal of the Kyiv regime’s decision to ban contacts with the Russian leadership on the question of a settlement, and ensuring the conditions for the genuine demilitarization and denazification of Ukraine. Of course, any contacts on the subject of a settlement must be organized with due regard for the legitimate interests of ensuring Russia’s unity and security – otherwise they are meaningless.

Our country's readiness for a political and diplomatic settlement is currently not reciprocated, and ultimatums in the form of deliberately unrealistic "formulas" continue to be put forward to Russia. We also note the unacceptability of the ideas that have been voiced about "freezing" the conflict, which the Western masters of the Kyiv regime are trying to pass off as some kind of concession to Russia. Given the well-known unscrupulous approaches of Western countries to the Minsk agreements, we are aware that such ideas are aimed at once again buying time for the neo-Nazi regime in Kyiv, allowing it to rebuild and strengthen its military potential and then re-embark on its anti-Russian military adventures with renewed vigour.

We stress the need for a comprehensive political settlement, which entails the full implementation of the tasks of demilitarizing and denazifying Ukraine. These tasks will be accomplished no matter what – whether through political, diplomatic or military means. The West must finally realize that it is playing not just on Russia's doorstep, but directly on Russian soil. And Russia will do everything to ensure that the long-term interests of the unity and security of our fatherland are guaranteed.

Thank you for your attention.