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PC.DEL/1910/22
22 December 2022

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AT THE 1403rd
(SPECIAL) MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

22 December 2022

**On dangerous provocations by the Kyiv regime with the support of a
Western alliance of OSCE participating States, and on the regime's ongoing crimes
against the civilian population**

Mr. Chairperson,

The prominent Russian journalist and public figure Darya Dugina would have turned thirty on 15 December. She was vilely murdered in a terrorist attack prepared by the Ukrainian intelligence services on 20 August. This is just one in a whole series of monstrous crimes by the Kyiv regime, which, by the look of things, it intends to continue.

At the last meeting of the Permanent Council, we spoke about the brutal attack by the Ukrainian armed forces on Donetsk city centre that occurred on 15 December. Such instances of shelling continue. On 19 December, the Kalinin Hospital in Donetsk was hit, killing and injuring people. This morning Donetsk was shelled again and a supermarket and a school were hit. Do the Ukrainian armed forces persist in regarding such objects as military targets?

It would seem that the Ukrainian leadership has not had enough civilian casualties in the towns of Donbas that come under regular shelling from the Ukrainian armed forces. And now, in Kyiv, they are devising plans to carry out strikes on various major cities in other regions of Russia as well. This is clearly demonstrated by the plans of the Ukrainian military leadership to include detailed maps of cities in central Russia, and also Belarus and part of Moldova (Transdnistria), in the Ukrainian armed forces' Kropyvya (Nettle) software system – plans that are public knowledge.

This obviously fits in with the Kyiv regime's intentions to fight "until the final victory" or, as the Secretary of the National Security and Defence Council of Ukraine, Oleksii Danilov said on 2 December "Russia must be destroyed so that it no longer exists as a country". Against this backdrop, how should President Zelenskyy's so-called "peace initiatives" be perceived?

The West seems even to welcome this attitude by the Ukrainian Government. It understands it in a slightly different way, though: as a confrontation with Russia "down to the last Ukrainian". The United States of America continues to demand that all its satellite countries increase their contribution to the militarization of Ukraine. At the meeting of NATO Foreign Ministers in Bucharest on 30 November,

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken noted that the amount of military aid to Ukraine from NATO allies and partners over a period of ten months was in excess of 40 billion dollars. The day before, news came from Washington, D.C., that the Pentagon had allocated a further 2 billion dollars to Ukraine for military purposes. According to the White House, the new package will include Patriot air defence systems. This brings with it the danger of an escalation of the conflict and increases the risk of the US army being drawn into the hostilities directly.

Disturbingly, the military leadership in the United States is using arguments about the importance of restoring the US “leadership position”, which has been called into question, notably after its withdrawal from Afghanistan, as a justification for the need to support the Kyiv regime. In particular, former CIA chief General David Petraeus said: “Support for Ukraine is so important, especially coming after the withdrawal from Afghanistan to show that the US can and will lead the world and it has the will to do just that.” The incumbent US administration officials are not lagging far behind either – the US President’s National Security Advisor, Jake Sullivan, declared that the moment for peace talks has not yet come. The US National Security Council Coordinator for Strategic Communications, John Kirby, also made extremely destabilizing remarks, saying that the United States recognized Ukraine’s right to plan and conduct military operations in Crimea.

Europe still recklessly models itself on the United States. NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg continues his preaching that “the best way to achieve lasting, durable peace in Ukraine is to provide military support to Ukraine”. The European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Josip Borrell, recently announced that the European Peace Facility, through which arms are supplied to Ukraine, will receive an additional 3.5 billion euros. With these funds, European countries will have the “privilege” of supplying the Kyiv regime with their military equipment. Once neo-Nazi insignia have been affixed to it, this equipment will be involved in the killing of civilians in Russia and Ukraine.

Moreover, instead of addressing the real European security problems that are actually at the heart of the Ukrainian crisis, the European Union continues to persist in its unilateral restrictive measures against Russia. It is telling that in the “ninth package of sanctions” (decision of the Council of the European Union of 16 December), the European Union even trampled its own ideals regarding freedom of speech underfoot with the banning of a number of Russian television channels. Evidently, the leadership of the European Union believes that people living in EU countries do not need to have access to alternative points of view at all. People will question why their social and economic situation is deteriorating so rapidly because of the irresponsible anti-Russian policies of their governments, who care more about the much-vaunted “bloc-based discipline” (in practice, their obligations to the United States as its vassals) than about the welfare of their own citizens. A recent article by the Bloomberg news agency, which estimated the European Union’s losses as a result of the energy confrontation with Russia at 1 trillion dollars, is telling in that regard.

Against this background, the UK Government’s intention to conduct an audit of the aid provided to Ukraine is interesting. It is worth noting here a particular incident that occurred in the Ternopil region of Ukraine, where public utility employees discovered that the sewers were clogged with burned euro banknotes, which someone had clearly wanted to get rid of in a hurry. This information is perhaps of interest to the European taxpayers and auditors.

As for the OSCE, let us reiterate clearly that there needs to be a complete audit of the Ukrainian Government’s actions in violation of its OSCE commitments: war crimes against civilians, the suppression of dissent and political opposition in Ukraine, the depriving of entire population groups of their civil, linguistic, cultural and religious rights, and the nurturing of radical neo-Nazi movements. Russian representatives have repeatedly raised these issues in detail – all the information is available. For many

years, our Organization has proved unable to take up these issues, and all the problems were persistently pinned on Russia.

In the end, a special military operation was the only way to protect the population of Donbas from the abuses meted out by Ukrainian neo-Nazi formations and to eliminate large-scale threats to Russia's security. Its objectives will be achieved. The Russian Federation is open to discussing ways of resolving the Ukrainian crisis, if substantive proposals are received that take Russia's legitimate interests into account.

The OSCE leadership should finally take an objective look at what is happening, stop publicly trumpeting its support for the Kyiv regime while remaining silent about the regime's crimes, and ensure professional and equitable dialogue among the participating States. The sooner this happens, the better the chances are for starting to restore the reputation of the entire Organization that has been seriously damaged during the Polish Chairmanship. We trust that in 2023 the incoming Chairmanship of North Macedonia will make a real effort to reverse this extremely unhealthy trend.

Thank you for your attention.