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**STATEMENT IN EXERCISE OF THE RIGHT OF REPLY BY  
MR. DMITRY POLYANSKIY, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE  
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1559th MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

26 March 2026

**On Ukraine**

Mr. Chairperson,

I should like to exercise my right of reply.

We have taken note of the vitriolic statement delivered by our British colleague on the anniversary of Crimea's reunification with Russia, a statement riddled with false and unfounded accusations. It is very gratifying that our successes are provoking such bitterness in the United Kingdom – it means we are doing everything right! I will not comment on the propagandistic clichés that were voiced. I should simply like to express the hope that my colleague, who spoke with such anguish about the unacceptability of border violations in Europe and referred to the Helsinki Final Act, will demonstrate the same principled stance today during the discussion of the agenda item relating to the anniversary of NATO's aggression against Yugoslavia.

Following yet another round of news from the “parallel universe” presented by the speakers before us, news designed solely to perpetuate the myth that Ukraine is an innocent victim heroically defending itself against a treacherous aggressor, we feel it is necessary to provide the real facts.

If our Western colleagues could bring themselves to take off their rose-coloured glasses for just a moment, they would see that they are dealing with a criminal regime that usurped power in Kyiv, a regime that as early as 2014 viewed the killing and terrorizing of civilians as a means to achieve its goals. Just like 12 years ago, women and children are dying at its hands, hospitals and schools are being destroyed, and its most sought-after targets are ambulances and vehicles displaying a “children on board” sticker. Someday, the people in your countries will realize that what the representatives in this room call “self-defence” is, in fact, war crimes committed with your connivance and using weapons manufactured by your own countries.

One of the most high-profile crimes was recorded almost exactly two years ago. On 24 March 2024, a horrific terrorist attack orchestrated by the Ukrainian intelligence services took place at the Crocus City Hall concert venue in the Moscow region, claiming the lives of 149 people and injuring more than 600. Escape routes to Ukraine had been arranged for the killers, but the plan failed: Russian law enforcement officers arrested the perpetrators, their accomplices and accessories, and two weeks ago, a court sentenced

15 of the 19 defendants in the criminal case to life imprisonment. It comes as no surprise that none of the Zelenskyy regime's sponsors have said a word about this; your humanity and compassion seem to wither away when it comes to Russia.

Meanwhile, the Zelenskyy clique, which you have been cheering on, is rapidly adding to its list of crimes. During the week of 16 to 22 March, 133 civilians, including ten children, suffered at the hands of Ukrainian Nazis. Fourteen people lost their lives and 119 were injured. Eighteen regions of Russia came under drone attack, many of which are hundreds of kilometres away from the front line.

However, the border areas remain the primary targets of your protégés' attacks. In the village of Smorodino in the Belgorod region, a post office and a shop came under fire. Four women were killed. In Krasnodar, a 25-year-old woman died in her apartment when a drone struck a high-rise building. In Novaya Kakhovka, a drone attacked an ambulance – a patient and three crew members were injured. In Zaporozhye, the driver of a medical vehicle was injured outside a hospital. In the Kherson region, drone operators struck a vehicle displaying a “children on board” sticker. A 14-year-old and a 16-year-old were injured.

The Kyiv regime's provocative strikes against the fuel and energy infrastructure of Russian towns and cities have continued – I mention this to make it clear why Ukraine has been subjected to “strikes in response”. I will touch on this topic again in our statement regarding another item on the agenda.

We have spoken on numerous occasions about Ukraine's other criminal “speciality” – telephone fraud. This country is crammed with all sorts of call centres, which do not even bother to hide what they are. You have not heard us because, as we have already stated in this room, anything that kills and harms Russian people is supported by today's Europe.

However, the “snake” you have gradually warmed in your bosom has grown so bold that it has begun to bite you. Officials, of course, remain silent on the matter, as in Europe one can either speak glowingly about Ukraine or not at all; yet news outlets in European countries are increasingly running headlines about the activities of Ukrainian criminals on their territory. Like a cancerous tumour, telephone fraud has spread from Ukraine to the European Union, with ever new schemes emerging to deceive gullible Europeans. The calls to the victims are coming from Ukrainian territory. Fraudsters from so-called call centres most often pose as employees of banks or investment platforms. The final stage of the psychological manipulation and suppression of the victim's will is controlled by a group located in a specific EU country. It is very difficult for Europeans to combat this, as these criminal networks, which generate enormous profits, are being protected at the very top of the Ukrainian Government. And as we can clearly see, the Ukrainian Government is untouchable within the European Union.

As a result, the sums stolen through criminal means amount to millions. For instance, special operations were conducted against Ukrainian fraudsters in the Polish cities of Katowice and Lublin, resulting in the arrest of over 60 people. Similar “cyberspecialists” were recently apprehended in Latvia as well.

As Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán – who was also targeted by fraudsters attempting to swindle him out of money – rightly pointed out, if Ukraine were part of the European Union, the criminals would have free rein. The response from Zelenskyy and his gang, who harbour a fierce animosity towards the Hungarian leadership, was not long in coming: it has recently emerged that the Ukrainian intelligence services were tapping the mobile phone of the country's Foreign Minister, Péter Szijjártó. The Hungarian Ministry of Justice has launched an investigation in connection with this.

But the European Union does not want to hear or know anything about this and remains prepared to shower Ukraine with money that is, in effect, unchecked. The problem is that this money is being spent not on aid for those in need, but on luxuries for those who are profiting from the war. For example, Bentley Kyiv (the Kyiv-based dealer in British luxury cars manufactured by Bentley) recently ranked third in Europe in terms of sales among all the brand's dealerships. Incidentally, a new Bentley in Ukraine costs upwards of 400,000 dollars. When announcing these figures, the automotive group's regional director, Mr. Richard Leopold, posted an enthusiastic comment on his account on the social media site "X" directed towards Ukraine: "What resilience!" Thank you, Mr. Leopold; we now understand the true meaning of the word "resilience", a word that our colleagues in this room so often use in reference to Ukraine.

And here is another example that clearly illustrates the true nature of the authorities in Kyiv. We note that their terrorist tentacles are increasingly reaching out to various hotbeds of instability around the world. Everyone is already aware of the involvement of Ukrainian "fighters" in the activities of terrorists of all shades in Africa. On 13 March, six Ukrainian nationals and one US citizen were detained at international airports in India. They crossed the border into Myanmar illegally in order to supply local armed groups with European-made drones and to train them in assembly, repair and electronic warfare. While complaining about the lack of air defence systems, Zelenskyy is readily sending Ukrainian drone specialists to the Middle East, thereby contributing to the escalation of a new regional conflict.

Since there is virtually no accounting for the weapons supplied to Ukraine, they are being stolen and could surface anywhere. That is why the Kyiv regime is keen to supply the global black market with these lethal goods. There is growing evidence that these are being widely used, in particular, by Latin American drug cartels, against whom the United States of America is fighting.

At this rate, we will soon have to start considering a new item on our agenda – Ukraine's efforts to undermine regional and global security. This will make a good homework assignment for the Swiss Chairmanship ahead of the upcoming spring recess!

Thank you for your attention.