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**STATEMENT BY
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1542nd MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

13 November 2023

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

Mr. Chairperson,

Support for corruption and for human rights violations, justification of neo-Nazism and pandering to war crimes continue to be the anti-Russian alliance's tools in Ukraine.

The failure of Western countries' attempts to justify, by invoking lofty democratic ideals, their support for the Kyiv regime – a regime that combines radical nationalism with rampant corruption – is now becoming manifest. The latest corruption scandals surrounding Energoatom vividly attest to the moral degeneration of the Ukrainian ruling elite. It is particularly cynical that the West continues to bankroll this decaying regime and that international institutions turn a blind eye to theft and abuses, which have become an integral part of the Ukrainian State system. The level of lawlessness in Ukraine is already such that even Western media outlets have started to overcome previous taboos and to openly talk about what had long been obvious to everyone else in the world, namely the fact that the Kyiv regime is mired in corruption. A case in point is the publication by the French satirical magazine *Charlie Hebdo* of an eloquent drawing that depicts Volodymyr Zelenskyy surrounded by piles of money and broken banknote-counting machines.

However, geopolitics are evidently more important to the NATO countries than stewardship of their taxpayers' money. The Western elites persist with their deliberate efforts to exacerbate the politico-military crisis in Europe, building on the situation in and around Ukraine. They continue to bank not on diplomacy, but on inflicting a "strategic defeat" on our country. Rather than lucidly analysing Russia's interests, they are imputing to our country a desire to be at war forever. One gets the impression that a key principle of diplomacy is being consciously ignored in Western capitals, namely that a lasting peace is possible only when it takes into account the legitimate interests of all parties. Instead of that, we are seeing the stubborn touting of patently unrealistic conditions for a settlement that are based on the illusion of it being possible to return to the status quo of 2014. Such an approach is not just unconstructive – it is extremely dangerous. The refusal to look for solutions that would allow the interests of all parties to be taken into consideration and the rhetoric about the need to deliver a "staggering defeat" to Russia are merely leading to further escalation.

Of great concern is Germany's destructive role in the escalation of military confrontation in Europe. The authorities in Berlin are relentlessly ramping up their military supplies to the Kyiv regime. According to the latest information, Germany plans to increase the volume of its aid to the Kyiv regime to a record 11.5 billion euros next year. These funds are being earmarked for the supply of, *inter alia*, artillery and armoured vehicles and for the procurement of drones on a massive scale. Such steps are being taken while Germany is beset by a growing economic crisis, while social discontent is rising among its citizens and while that country is destroying its own industry. The resulting impression is that the German leadership suffers from historical amnesia in that it has forgotten how the militarization of Europe can lead to the most tragic consequences.

Nevertheless, despite its efforts, Germany will be hard put to capture "pole position" from the United Kingdom in the stoking of confrontation. It is the British political elites and intelligence services that have become the main driving force behind the escalation of the Ukrainian conflict. One of the most outrageous examples was the derailing of the negotiation process that had begun to take shape in 2022. The then British Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, personally visited Kyiv in order to dissuade the Ukrainian leadership from continuing to engage in dialogue with Russia. That move reveals the true goal of the authorities in London: they have no use for peace in Ukraine. What suits them is permanent confrontation that weakens both continental Europe and Russia.

The recent scandals at the BBC that led to the resignation of its senior managers clearly demonstrate that the British media have long since ceased to be a vehicle of objective information and turned into a tool of State propaganda and systematic disinformation. In view of how the BBC cooked up a fake story about Donald Trump, there is nothing to be amazed at in the role played by the British State broadcaster in covering the Ukrainian conflict. At the urging of the UK authorities, it has become a factory for the manufacture of Russophobic narratives, a platform for the justification of neo-Nazi formations and an instrument of information warfare against Russia. We may recall, for example, the staged event in Bucha, for which the corresponding "information package" was cobbled together by none other than the BBC.

In addition to propaganda, the United Kingdom is systematically preparing military actions aimed at destabilizing the situation in Europe. According to *Military Watch Magazine*, a US publication, the Royal Marines are conducting exercises in the immediate vicinity of Russia's borders. These British special forces are rehearsing operations in the eastern Baltic Sea that involve capturing Russian oil infrastructure, including oil rigs and shipping. The *Military Watch Magazine* team also cites Lieutenant General Rob Magowan, a Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff, who revealed that the Royal Marines had been carrying out high-risk operations in Ukrainian territory since April 2022. All such actions are part of the United Kingdom's systematic strategy to escalate the Ukrainian conflict.

Let us now turn to the topic of neo-Nazism. At the last meeting of the Permanent Council, the distinguished Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom scrambled to defend the Ukrainian authorities and denied that these were encouraging manifestations of neo-Nazism. It was particularly interesting to hear this given the startling images showing Mr. Zelenskyy presenting decorations to military personnel wearing Nazi chevrons. We find it difficult to believe that our British colleagues, whose professionalism is hard to call into question, have not seen those images. Or the images showing a Ukrainian armed forces soldier who a few days ago was admitted to a Polish hospital in the city of Rzeszów for treatment and who was sporting a swastika tattoo – something that sent shock waves through Polish society. At international organizations, including the OSCE, Russian representatives have repeatedly disseminated material containing graphic evidence of how neo-Nazis are extensively embedded in Ukraine's security apparatus. It is difficult to get one's head around the fact that the fringe ideas of Oswald Mosley from a century ago are now regarded in the United Kingdom as an acceptable means in the geopolitical struggle.

Instead of whitewashing Ukrainian war criminals, our British colleagues would do better to pay attention to the massive crimes committed by Mr. Zelenskyy's formations against the civilian population. Every week the Ukrainian armed forces launch approximately 3,500 strikes against civilian objects in Russia. Such strikes claimed 53 civilian casualties during the week of 3 to 9 November, of whom 45 people were injured and eight killed. There were six children among the casualties. The Ukrainian armed forces fired around 3,500 munitions against civilian objects, including projectiles from multiple rocket launchers and artillery shells of 152 mm and 155 mm calibre (some of these munitions were equipped with cluster warheads), and made extensive use of mines, grenades and combat drones. Four adolescents were injured in the Lugansk People's Republic, a 75-year-old woman was killed by a kamikaze drone in the Zaporozhye region, a 76-year-old female resident of the Kherson region was killed as the result of a drone strike, and a 12-year-old boy was injured in the Belgorod region.

Judging by the statements coming from Kyiv, they have no intention over there of stopping the terror against the civilian population. We note some frank remarks made by Ukrainian Defence Minister Denys Shmyhal in an interview with the Latvian television channel LTV on 9 November that testify to how the Kyiv regime has consciously chosen terrorist methods of warfare. He bluntly stated that "this war will not end until Russia feels the pain of war", emphasizing that strikes on civilian infrastructure, including oil refineries, were necessary to achieve that. Such statements serve as direct confirmation of a systematic strategy consisting of strikes against civilian objects, refusal to engage in a diplomatic settlement process as a matter of principle, and the openly proclaimed tactic of intimidation of the civilian population. Moreover, the Kyiv regime is receiving comprehensive support from its Western partners – the memorandum signed with Latvia on setting up joint ventures to manufacture drones essentially legalizes terrorist activities.

The Russian Federation has consistently called for a political and diplomatic settlement of the Ukrainian crisis on the basis of clear and fair principles. Our position remains unchanged and transparent. There must, first of all, be a complete withdrawal of Ukrainian troops from the People's Republics of Donetsk and Lugansk and from the Kherson and Zaporozhye regions. The status of these territories, and also of Crimea and Sevastopol, as constituent entities of the Russian Federation needs to be definitively enshrined in international treaties. Secondly, there must be guarantees to fully safeguard the rights and freedoms of Russian-speaking citizens in Ukraine, which includes putting a stop to the persecution of the canonical Ukrainian Orthodox Church. Thirdly, there must be a legally enshrined neutral, non-aligned and non-nuclear status for Ukraine, including guarantees of its non-accession to NATO. Of particular importance is the denazification of Ukraine. Minister for Foreign Affairs Sergey Lavrov has highlighted that what is required here is an approach similar to the Nuremberg war trials: those guilty of war crimes against the peoples of Ukraine and Russia must be brought to justice.

Russia has repeatedly stated its readiness to engage in meaningful dialogue regarding the settlement process, in which its security interests must, naturally, be taken into account. However, in response the West is presenting us with ultimatums and continuing to pursue the military subjugation of our country. As long as Russia's diplomatic overtures fail to elicit a constructive response, the special military operation will be continued until its tasks have been fully accomplished.

Thank you for your attention.