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FSC.DEL/392/26
21 October 2026

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

STATEMENT BY MS. IULIA ZHDANOVA, HEAD OF THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON MILITARY SECURITY AND ARMS CONTROL, AT THE 1150th PLENARY MEETING OF THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION

21 October 2026

Agenda item: General statements
Subject: Special military operation to demilitarize and denazify Ukraine

Mr. Chairperson,

At the previous meeting, the representative of the United Kingdom went to great lengths to convince us of the "defensive" nature of NATO's policy and, of course, of that of his own country; yet on that very same day, 14 October, his country welcomed the leader of the Kyiv regime, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, with open arms in London. Following that visit, it was announced that the British Government would provide him with the "necessary assistance" and would also "continue to develop innovative military solutions for use on the battlefield in Ukraine" – read as: "which could be used to launch attacks on Russia". Specifically, this involves modifying British weaponry to improve its compatibility with the systems being supplied to the Ukrainian armed forces by NATO and EU member countries. There is also mention of the United Kingdom's plans to speed up deliveries to the Kyiv regime of Martlet Lightweight Multirole Missiles worth 45 million pounds sterling. Not so long ago, the authorities in London confirmed the handover of blueprints for the independent assembly of SCALP/Storm Shadow cruise missiles at Ukrainian facilities, while the use of the Ukrainian-British Flamingo cruise missile continues. We wish to emphasize once again that the United Kingdom will not be able to evade its share of responsibility for the use of these missiles should this result in any consequences for the civilian population of the Russian Federation.

Given the allegedly purely "defensive" nature of NATO, let us also recall this story: on 16 October, General Roly Walker, Chief of the General Staff of the British Army, speaking to military personnel at Catterick Garrison in North Yorkshire, stated that his country might soon need soldiers to take part in combat operations, and even attempted to draw the political leadership's attention to the need for "a frank conversation" with the public about the sacrifices that may be required in the event of war. Meanwhile, in September, the UK Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Minister for Armed Forces), Louise Sandher-Jones, revealed that military exercises would take place on British soil in 2027, during which it is planned to mobilize a contingent of reservists, against the backdrop of the United Kingdom's "concerns" about a possible conflict with Russia. All this coincided with the odious remarks made by the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of the Netherlands, Dilan Yeşilgöz-Zegerius, to the effect that the Dutch Government regards Moscow as an "enemy", and the comments by the country's Prime

Minister, Rob Jetten, who acknowledged that these words were aimed at a domestic audience to justify increased military spending. Now, I should like to point out that our country has no plans to attack NATO member States, including the United Kingdom and the Netherlands. However, the latter is already testing camps for Russian prisoners of war. So, are they planning an attack on Russia?

As we have previously stated, evidence of Western complicity in the Kyiv regime's crimes against the civilian population is being documented by Russian law enforcement agencies. They are monitoring the illegal activities of all foreign mercenaries. And recently, a Russian court handed down prison sentences *in absentia* to two British soldiers of fortune, Alexander Moss (sentenced to 14 years) and James Richard Taylor (sentenced to 13.5 years), along with Georgian mercenary Tornike Kharamishvili (given 14.5 years), who had taken part in combat operations on the side of the Ukrainian armed forces. They have been placed on an international wanted list. We call upon the British authorities to stand on the side of justice and assist in the search for the criminals in question, who are most likely in hiding somewhere in Albion.

The stated aim of Zelenskyy's trip to London was to find an urgent solution to the issue of "defence support for Ukraine ahead of winter". In the meantime, the regime is not letting up in its campaign of terror against Russia's civilian population and infrastructure, including energy infrastructure. Twenty-two people became fatal casualties of the regime's crimes last week. More than 211 people were injured, including 13 minors. The highest numbers of casualties were recorded in the People's Republics of Donetsk and Lugansk and the Belgorod, Bryansk, Kherson, Kursk and Zaporozhye regions. In total, over 8,000 munitions were fired at civilian objects on Russian territory. The number of strikes by unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) is also on the rise – in September alone, over 15,000 UAVs were shot down over Russian territory, which amounts to around 500 devices per day.

In this regard, we would strongly recommend that all those present familiarize themselves once again with the official statement issued by the Russian Foreign Ministry on 3 October, which urged foreign nationals and diplomatic personnel to leave Kyiv, as Russian forces will continue to carry out systematic strikes against military targets in response to terrorist acts committed by the Ukrainian armed forces against the civilian population of Russia and our civilian infrastructure. This warning also applies to Western politicians and officials who are fond of making whirlwind visits to Kyiv by train from Poland.

Mr. Chairperson,

All in all, Zelenskyy's visit to London is very revealing. The Ukrainians themselves made no secret of its "urgent" nature. This is hardly surprising: scepticism is growing among European countries regarding the advisability of continuing to support Ukraine. After all, the corrupt nature of the regime is now obvious to everyone. I realize that it is somewhat awkward for those who support the Kyiv regime to speak out about this. After all, they themselves are the ones who have been nurturing this hydra. That is why we are going to tell you what is happening with the theft of European and US money in Ukraine.

To begin with, let me remind you that, since February 2022, the European Union and its Member States have already provided the Zelenskyy regime with a total of 231.5 billion euros. On 14 October, the European Commission announced the disbursement of a further tranche of 2.86 billion euros to the Kyiv regime as part of the military component of the loan to Ukraine for 2026–2027, totalling 90 billion euros. The Kyiv regime has demanded a further 70 billion euros from the European Union for next year.

At the same time, a whole system of corruption has been established in Ukraine, as evidenced by the close co-operation between members of various entities belonging to the State apparatus, including local government bodies, law enforcement agencies and the judiciary. These extralegal relations, which are in

effect being fostered at the State level, throw up major obstacles to the Ukrainian law enforcement authorities' efforts to investigate cases of corruption and bring the perpetrators to justice.

In June this year, the Prosecutor General's Office of Ukraine released information regarding the embezzlement of public funds by a number of officials, totalling over 26.7 million dollars. The largest instances of embezzlement were recorded in infrastructure projects and the energy sector. Following the investigations, around 130 criminal cases have been opened, with more than 250 people under suspicion. During the first six months of the year alone, 360 new anti-corruption proceedings were registered, 107 suspects were identified, and cases against 106 of them were referred to court. The sentences handed down to 76 people convicted of offences have come into force.

The New York Times, citing data from government audits in Ukraine, court records and Ukrainian news accounts, reports that seven of the Ukrainian armed forces' top ten military contractors have concluded new arms contracts, despite open criminal investigations for fraud, failures to deliver on earlier deals and corruption among senior management. According to the aforementioned news outlet, confidential reviews by the State Audit Service and the Ministry of Defence have revealed that, in 2024 alone, Ukraine lost 1.2 billion dollars to waste and mismanagement. Auditors found that the majority of companies had entered into agreements without holding licences to deliver weapons and military equipment, while 18 enterprises had received new orders without having fulfilled their previous obligations to the Ukrainian armed forces.

As part of investigations that have been ongoing since mid-2025, the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine (NABU) and the Specialized Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office (SAPO), both of which are controlled by Ukraine's Western overlords, regularly publish materials and audio recordings exposing corrupt schemes for the allocation of high-value government contracts, including in the military sector. In particular, in the case against businessman Tymur Mindich (a co-owner of the Kvartal 95 studio, an associate of Zelenskyy and his "financier", who left Ukraine a few hours before the search on 12 November 2025), recordings have been made public featuring conversations between a number of officials, indicating the illegal awarding of contracts to Fire Point LLC (one of Ukraine's leading developers and manufacturers of missiles and uncrewed weapons), the company's overpricing of its products, and the use of front companies to transfer financial assets abroad. The resulting damage amounts to tens of millions of dollars.

Since March of this year, NABU and SAPO representatives have also been conducting an investigation into illegal transactions by the State-owned company Ukroboronprom, as a result of which those involved embezzled more than 730,000 dollars and attempted to "illegally account for" approximately 400,000 dollars through foreign intermediary firms from the United Kingdom and Czechia.

Incidentally, on 19 August, the NABU and the SAPO released details of an investigation into a criminal organization that was operating under the protection of representatives of the country's legislative and executive authorities. In particular, an audio recording has been presented of conversations between the alleged suspects in the offence, involving the former deputy head of the Presidential Office, Iryna Mudra, along with sitting and former Members of Parliament (Vadym Stolar and Maksym Mykytas). According to the NABU, the management of Sense Bank (a Ukrainian bank) was also involved in a money laundering scheme involving approximately 3.4 million dollars. Investigators believe that the money in question may have been used, among other things, for putting up bail for former Energy Minister Herman Halushchenko (who is a defendant in the Midas case). At the same time, the head of the Anti-Corruption Action Centre, Vitaliy Shabunin, emphasized that the State financial monitoring body is deliberately concealing data on the financial transactions of corrupt officials, despite its duties and powers to uncover such transactions.

It is also worth noting that, during an investigation into the procurement of 3,400 UAVs for the State Service of Special Communications and Information Protection of Ukraine, losses amounting to 5.7 million dollars were identified. The cost of the equipment was inflated by 60 to 90 per cent; the participants determined the successful tenderers in advance and simulated competition through companies under their control. More than 4 million dollars have been seized from the suspects' overseas accounts, and around 380,000 dollars on Ukrainian territory.

Cases of corruption-related offences are also a chronic problem in the field of mobilization. In June and July, the State Bureau of Investigation carried out Operation "Honest Draft", inspecting more than 100 territorial centres for recruitment and social support (analogous to military enlistment offices), the results of which showed that:

– In the Odesa region, 13 draft officers and their civilian assistants have been detained and remanded in custody for forcibly recruiting civilians and extorting money from them under the threat of sending these individuals to the combat zone;

– Draft officer A. Litvinov of the territorial recruitment centre in the city of Zaporizhzhia has been charged with organizing fictitious employment for citizens liable for military service at enterprises in the Zaporizhzhia region that are authorized to exempt employees from conscription, allowing them subsequently to travel abroad freely. Twelve instances of such assistance have been identified. The fee paid to the accused in this case ranged from 6,000 to 15,000 dollars;

– Police lieutenant colonel V. Tarasova, head of the migration section at the Main Department of the State Migration Service for Dnipropetrovsk, has been detained on suspicion of committing a criminal offence as part of a group of individuals acting in collusion with staff from the territorial recruitment centre. She entered knowingly false information into databases of the Ministry of Internal Affairs regarding the dual nationality of men subject to mobilization and prepared decisions relating to their expulsion from the country. The cost of this "service" for draft evaders was 25,000 dollars. Criminal proceedings have been instituted in 26 cases;

– A criminal case has been opened against A. Dranik, chair of the military medical board of the district territorial recruitment centre in the city of Nikopol (Dnipropetrovsk region), on charges of abuse of office. In return for a payment of 20,000 dollars, the suspect assisted persons liable for military service in obtaining a disability rating by entering false information into the medical database. A total of 16 incidents have been identified in this criminal case.

I think everyone understands that this list runs to many pages.

I just want to remind you that all the billions of dollars and euros taken from Western taxpayers' pockets as aid for Ukraine are not going towards the country's "defence" or to help its people; they are going straight into the pockets of the corrupt Ukrainian establishment. We also strongly recommend investigating cases of unexplained wealth among various European experts and advisers who are overseeing the expenditure of these funds in Ukraine.

Mr. Chairperson,

Everything mentioned here once again confirms that the special military operation is justified; we have spoken on numerous occasions about the root causes of this operation. The leadership of the Russian Federation attaches the utmost importance to eliminating these causes. On 16 October, Russian President Vladimir Putin visited an auxiliary command post of the Joint Group of Forces and personally heard reports

from the front lines. All commanders were instructed to continue launching barrage attacks and waves of strikes against Ukraine's military-industrial complex facilities and logistics centres. In total, 12 barrage attacks were carried out in September and October, during which 30 enterprises belonging to the military-industrial complex and logistics centres involved in the production and storage of missiles and unmanned combat aerial vehicles were hit, along with 14 fuel, energy and transport infrastructure facilities. The objective of reducing Ukrainian industry's capacity to produce long-range weapons, including cruise and ballistic missiles, has been fulfilled.

In this context, we should like to reiterate that the goals of the special military operation can also be achieved through political and diplomatic means, provided that this process takes into account Russia's legitimate security interests. In any case, their achievement is inevitable!

Thank you for your attention.