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**STATEMENT BY  
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1405th (SPECIAL) MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

13 January 2023

**On the ongoing crimes by the Kyiv regime and the dangerous policies of the countries  
from the Western alliance to escalate tensions**

Mr. Chairperson,

In the light of the shrill accusations levelled against our country today, and in view also of certain propagandistic fabrications, we should like to highlight the facts, which will help in understanding better what is happening. It is important to stop the flawed practice of fragmentary, opportunistic reasoning and selective focusing on topical issues torn out of context. Without a comprehensive analysis of cause-and-effect relationships it will hardly be possible to find ways out of the current situation.

Over the past few years, a number of Western countries, seeking to realize their geopolitical aspirations, have turned Ukraine into a tool for waging a proxy war against the Russian Federation, into a means of undermining Russian statehood and sovereignty. People are no longer trying to hide that, be it among the upper echelons of NATO, whose Secretary General, Jens Stoltenberg, in a manner reminiscent of George Orwell's dystopia, argues that arms supplies to Ukraine are the way to achieve peace, or in Washington, D.C., and Brussels, where high-ranking officials openly talk about their desire to inflict a military or even strategic defeat on Russia in the course of the events in Ukraine.

Highly telling are the self-revelatory remarks made last year by former German Chancellor Angela Merkel, former French President François Hollande and former Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko to the effect that the Minsk agreements were merely a means of winning time to strengthen the military capabilities of the Kyiv regime and enable it to ready itself for large-scale combat operations. The lie repeated over many years by the West, not least in the diplomatic arena, about looking for political and diplomatic ways of resolving the situation in and around Ukraine is becoming plain for all to see.

We would remind you that the Minsk Package of Measures of 12 February 2015 provided for a ceasefire and a renunciation of hostilities, direct dialogue between the Ukrainian Government and the representatives of Donetsk and Luhansk, and the development of Ukrainian legislation taking into account the interests of all the country's inhabitants at the time. The Package of Measures was endorsed by United Nations Security Council resolution 2202; it became part of international law and, thereby, binding.

The failure of the leaders of France and Germany to strive to make all that happen – despite the fact that they themselves had signed a declaration in support of the Package of Measures (Annex II to United Nations Security Council resolution 2202) – was yet another slap in the face for the world order based on the norms of international law that had been built up over several decades after the Second World War. As we can see, certain countries are now striving to replace that with some sort of “rules-based order”, where the rules can be changed as one goes along to suit one’s geopolitical agenda.

It is becoming clear today that neither the Kyiv regime, nor the so-called co-mediators France and Germany, nor the other political sponsors of the Russophobic regime in Kyiv had any intention in the first place to implement United Nations Security Council resolution 2202. The West created a cosy environment for the Kyiv regime to brazenly sabotage the Package of Measures over many years; it fostered monstrous forms of aggressive nationalism and the belligerent aspirations of radicals; it trained and armed members of neo-Nazi groups, and encouraged attacks on the civilian population and civilian infrastructure of Donbas – just as it encouraged, by the way, the destruction of everything Russian that is historically intrinsic to Ukraine. Nor should one forget about the Western-supported armed and anti-constitutional coup d’état in February 2014, as a result of which power was seized by those who laid the foundations in Kyiv for the current regime – a regime of a totalitarian and neo-Nazi stamp. At the same time, NATO engaged in systematic military assimilation of the territory of Ukraine, having no scruples about creating additional threats to the security of our country.

The West’s mendacity, hypocrisy, double standards and neocolonial aspirations with regard to Ukraine and Russia are today corroborated by real-life actions. It has long been impossible, of course, to speak of Ukraine having full sovereignty. Meanwhile, no condemnation is to be heard from the West for the utterances by the NATO puppets in Kyiv about their desire to “destroy Russia so that it no longer exists as a country within its current borders” (as the head of the National Security and Defence Council of Ukraine, Oleksii Danilov, said on 1 December during the Kyiv Security Forum). The representative of the Kyiv regime who spoke so emotionally today would, it seems, be happy to confirm here and now that Mr. Danilov’s stated goal of “dismembering and destroying Russia as a country” continues to be the priority in the actions of the current masters of Ukraine.

The United States of America and the United Kingdom, and also several of their NATO satellites, not only do not try to dampen but even encourage such sentiments, rendering political, financial and military support to those wishing to “destroy Russia”. This includes sending mercenaries and weapons, and providing military intelligence and target information, to be used to kill Russians and Ukrainians – both civilians and those who, enlisted in the ranks of the Russian armed forces or the militia, are defending their homes, families, culture and values, along with their right to a future. Simultaneously, the West sends the Kyiv regime public and non-public signals about the time for negotiations on a settlement not having yet come and how the situation must be resolved “on the battlefield”. We would remind you that Russia’s comments on the settlement process, which were sent to the Ukrainian authorities back in mid-April 2022 in response to their proposals, remain unanswered to this day.

Not only are the NATO countries involved in the conflict to varying degrees, but they are also doing everything possible to drag it out and intensify it, under the mistaken assumption that they can fully control and influence its level of escalation. Hypocritically grieving over casualties among the inhabitants of areas controlled by the Kyiv regime, they are doing everything to ensure that there are more such casualties in their determination to fight “down to the last Ukrainian”. Shipments of heavy weapons to the Kyiv regime have been announced this week, including tracked and wheeled tanks and rocket systems, along with armoured vehicles and other equipment. A further step has been taken towards escalation, with Ukraine having been assigned the role of a “training ground” for confrontation with Russia and the combat testing of various pieces of military equipment. The fact that Ukraine’s territory happens to be such a training and

testing ground was publicly acknowledged on several occasions in 2022 by the Kyiv regime's Defence Minister, Oleksii Reznikov.

It is also remarkable that the West's representatives are, at bottom, not bothered about the fate of the victims of the shelling attacks on the other side of the line of contact in the zone of hostilities carried out by members of the Ukrainian armed formations. We are not hearing a word of condemnation about the unceasing attacks on residential neighbourhoods and other non-military objects, about the regime's use of prohibited weapons against civilians, such as anti-personnel mines and cluster munitions.

There is no condemnation for the acts of torture and abuses against the civilian population, the extrajudicial reprisals and the killing of people suspected of being disloyal to the Kyiv regime – which means that, by the looks of it, these are all being encouraged. Everyone has seen but no one in the West has yet condemned the regular violations of the human dignity of women and children who are tied to lamp posts upon unfounded suspicions that they are guilty of some offence. All this is the fruit of a regime cultivated and propped up by its Western overlords.

The Russian leadership's proposal for a ceasefire on the eve of and during the Orthodox Christmas period was dismissed offhand by the Kyiv regime and its Western handlers. Although the Russian military complied with the prohibition on opening fire spontaneously, the Ukrainian armed formations continued to shell residential areas in the Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics and the Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions, while strikes were recorded in the Belgorod and Kursk regions. The city centre of Donetsk was repeatedly subjected to brutal shelling, which led to numerous casualties.

On Christmas Eve, the Zelenskyy regime undertook an unprecedented attack on Ukrainian Orthodoxy. Following a decision by the State authorities, the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (UOC) was denied access to two landmark sites of Russian Orthodoxy: the Dormition Cathedral and the Refectory Church in the Kyiv Monastery of the Caves. With the involvement of the authorities, a Christmas "service" was organized there; it was performed by members of the pseudo-religious structure (not recognized by universal Orthodoxy) that the political leadership of Ukraine created in 2018. To cap things off, President Zelenskyy at around the same time reportedly revoked the citizenship of more than a dozen UOC priests who remained loyal to the canonical Church. What is the OSCE doing about this? It is silent. Why, though?

The Kyiv regime continues to spread disinformation – not only in the course of today's special meeting of the Permanent Council, but also with its high-ranking officials as mouthpieces. This disinformation includes the fantasies by Defence Minister Reznikov about the borders in our country allegedly being closed from 5 January onwards, about a large-scale mobilization of the population and about "huge losses" in certain segments of the line of contact in the zone of hostilities.

Nor do they have any qualms about rehashing "tried-and-tested" provocations. On Christmas Eve, staff from the State Bureau of Investigation and the Ukrainian Security Service organized the digging up of graves in cemeteries in the population centres Kozacha Lopan, Velykyi Burluk, Shypuvate and Khatnie in the Kharkiv region, where local residents were buried who had died of natural causes at some point during the period when the Russian military was in those areas, that is, between 24 February and 6 September 2022. After being exhumed, the bodies of these people were additionally disfigured and thrown into specially prepared "pits" on the outskirts of these settlements to create false "evidence" of "acts of torture" and "executions" of civilians allegedly carried out by Russian military personnel. All this is being done not only to demonize Russia, but also to provide emotional backup for the requests for additional shipments of NATO weapons.

The aggressive anti-Russian strategy which nowadays is being blurted out by officials in the West was set forth in the most explicit terms in a joint piece dated 7 January that was penned for *The Washington Post* by former US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and former US Secretary of Defense Robert Gates. In particular, they pointed out: “We have a determined partner in Ukraine that is willing to bear the consequences of war so that we do not have to do so ourselves in the future.” In other words, two very well-informed former foreign policy and defence chiefs of the United States have confirmed that their country is using Ukraine for military purposes against Russia. Given that our country has no aggressive military plans with regard to the United States, this is a most telling observation.

It is becoming obvious that, as far as the West is concerned, the Ukrainians are just cannon fodder. However, the figures on losses are being deliberately concealed from both the Ukrainian and the Western public. A case in point is the slip of the tongue that the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, made one and a half months ago: her public estimate of the number of fighters killed from the Ukrainian formations upset members of the Zelenskyy regime, whereupon it was hastily edited out on the European Union’s official sites.

A few days ago, the former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, Vadym Prystaiko, who is now the country’s Ambassador to the United Kingdom, said in an interview with *Newsweek* that the Kyiv regime was willing to “sacrifice so many lives” to allow the West to realize “a unique chance ... of defeating the arch-enemy”. What is more, he added that the Kyiv regime was not advertising its “huge, indigestible” losses, that it was “losing people left and right”.

We will not ask what reasons an official from the Kyiv regime had for labelling Russia and the West as “arch-enemies”. Especially bearing in mind that, over the past few decades, Russia has not sought to pose military threats to NATO, which for its part has continued to move its military infrastructure closer to our borders in violation of guarantees that it had itself given. We shall just point out once again that Russia will continue to actively defend itself from the multilevel hybrid aggression being carried out by the irresponsible politicians of several NATO member countries, spearheaded by the United States and the United Kingdom, also with the help of their protégés in Kyiv, against the very foundations of the Russian Federation’s statehood and sovereignty, our country’s security interests and the prospects for the favourable development of our society and State.

In that regard, we must also emphasize that the objectives of the Russian special operation will be accomplished. Russia will continue to consistently defend, with all available means, its legitimate national interests, including the elimination of threats to the security of our country.

Thank you for your attention.