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**STATEMENT BY
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1492nd MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

17 October 2024

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

Madam Chairperson,

Over the past two weeks, the Russian military has liberated several important population centres. In the Donetsk People's Republic, the Ukrainian armed forces have been completely dislodged from the city of Ugledar and Russian troops have entered the city of Dzerzhinsk. The Kyiv regime's formations have retreated in various important segments along the entire line of engagement.

Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who had been forcing his fighters to hold their positions at the cost of huge personnel losses for the sake of maintaining the "background effect" required for his trip to the United States of America, has suddenly changed his rhetoric. After the Ukrainian armed forces' withdrawal from Ugledar, he claimed that for him the lives of Ukrainian fighters were "more important than any buildings".

In Ugledar itself, Russian troops have discovered more than a hundred civilians whom Ukrainian military personnel had been using as human shields by taking cover behind them. We would remind you that "combat in an urban environment" is not an invention of the Ukrainian armed forces, but a specific warfare tactic that NATO instructors were actively inculcating. It was precisely such a combat set-up that, long before the start of the Russian special military operation, was assiduously rehearsed by the Kyiv regime's militants as part of the command and staff exercises held annually in Ukraine, such as "Rapid Trident" and "Joint Endeavor", among others. Nowadays, the Ukrainian armed forces' tactic of setting up combat positions in civilian objects that they have captured is the main reason for the devastation in population centres.

Against a backdrop of manifest setbacks suffered by the Ukrainian armed forces in Donbass and in the Kursk, Kharkiv and Zaporozhye regions, the leadership of the Kyiv regime continues to go on about having some sort of "victory plan". As Mr. Zelenskyy himself stated, the key point in that "plan" is for NATO security guarantees to be extended to the territory controlled by the Kyiv regime. Or, speaking plainly, for the NATO countries to be drawn into the hostilities against Russia, with all the negative consequences that such an escalation would entail for Europe and the whole world.

In the NATO member States themselves it is gradually beginning to be realized that the West's anti-Russian strategy, with all its military, economic and international political components, has proved unsuccessful. It would have been so much more reasonable to take our country's legitimate concerns into account and engage in substantive dialogue regarding mutual security guarantees on the basis of the proposals put forward by Russia in December 2021 than to try in vain to talk to Russia from a position of strength.

The Kyiv regime's woeful situation and the outlandishness of Mr. Zelenskyy's ideas for a military escalation have forced the NATO countries to indefinitely postpone the Ramstein-format meeting at the level of Heads of State and Defence Ministers that had been scheduled for 12 October. Nor did much good come of the visit paid to Washington, D.C., by the Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, Anatolii Barhylevych, and Deputy Prime Minister Olha Stefanishyna, who went there after Mr. Zelenskyy in order to try to convince the US politico-military leadership that some sort of "victory plan" really does exist.

The Kyiv regime was ultimately given to understand that continuing the military provisioning of its formations has become a clear driving factor of domestic political and domestic economic instability in Western countries.

The so-called "peace summit" on the "Zelenskyy formula" that had been planned for November will not be taking place either – on account of the clearly unrealistic nature of that formula and its inability to bring peace to the region. What is more, over the past few weeks, the narrative in the West has started signalling the wisdom of thinking about acknowledging the current geopolitical realities. Remarkably, Jens Stoltenberg has suddenly turned out to be one of the most active apologists for such an approach – before stepping down from the post of NATO Secretary General (on 1 October 2024), he had been in the habit of calling for an unyielding line on that matter. All this confirms yet again that the official ideological constructs parroted by all kinds of talking heads in the West for the "benefit" of the public do not square with a sober and thoughtful assessment of the current state of affairs.

Against this backdrop, the Kyiv regime is undertaking desperate attempts to make up for the Ukrainian armed forces' huge losses. Men were rounded up in major cities last week, including Kyiv. Military enlistment officers (from the territorial recruitment centres) set up their snares, so to speak, in the most crowded places: at concerts, in shopping centres, on busy roads and at petrol stations. All this is a telling complement to the Kyiv regime's lies about modest losses in the ranks of the Ukrainian armed forces (Mr. Zelenskyy gave a figure of 80,000) and testifies to their woeful situation on the battlefield.

As for such potential conscripts as youths, they are literally fleeing from Ukraine, availing themselves of any legal opportunity to do so. For example, school pupils in grades 10 and 11, who have not yet reached military age, are heading off abroad en masse as they do not wish to become participants in future "human wave attacks" by the Ukrainian armed forces. The number of such individuals – as reported by Kyiv officials themselves – was in the region of 300,000 during this past summer alone.

According to official data from the Kyiv regime, some 30,000 criminal cases have been opened since the beginning of the year in connection with unauthorized abandonment of a military unit, that is, desertion from the battlefield. This is almost twice as high as in 2023 (18,000) and four times more than in 2022 (7,000). It goes without saying that the real number of deserters is many times higher than the figures communicated by the Kyiv regime.

Achieving a political and diplomatic settlement of the Ukrainian conflict is not a priority for the Kyiv regime's sponsors, who have embarked on a course of stoking armed confrontation and engaging in war

propaganda. We note the extremely dangerous rhetoric that may be heard from the military leadership of certain NATO countries. In October of this year, statements about direct practical preparations for clashes with Russian troops were made by the commander of the French ground forces, Bertrand Toujouse, the Chief of Poland's General Staff, Rajmund Andrzejczak, and also by several officers from the Baltic States who had put on NATO military uniforms. Information is again finding its way into the media (in particular, through *The Times*) about plans to send certain groups of British military instructors to western Ukraine so that they can provide intensive basic training to newly mobilized recruits.

Here it is worth recalling something said by former Ukrainian Prime Minister Vitold Pavlovych Fokin, who in 2020 was tasked by Mr. Zelenskyy with the role of first deputy head of the Ukrainian delegation to the Minsk-based Trilateral Contact Group. On 13 January 2022, in a video interview with Ukrainian journalists, he quoted from a conversation that he had had in the early 1990s with former US Presidential National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski. According to Mr. Fokin, this US representative told him that the West had plans not only to establish control over Ukraine, but to “ensure that there are no more than 20 million inhabitants left in Ukraine by the 2030s. [...] Because there is no way to feed more mouths – and that’s more than enough for the Americans.”

Despite all the talk about some kind of solidarity with the inhabitants of Ukraine and about seeking to help them “for as long as it takes”, the Western countries are in reality taking measures aimed at limiting the length of stay of Ukrainians on their territory and at pushing them back into the territories controlled by the Kyiv regime, which means straight into the meat grinder of mobilization. Measures to restrict the provision of accommodation to Ukrainians have been announced in the United Kingdom and in Ireland. But it is Poland that has gone the farthest: it has been announced there that they intend to take away social benefits from Ukrainians, suspend the procedure for the granting of asylum, and deport back to Ukraine young people who had fled so as not to have to take part in the conflict and in mobilization should they be found to have committed any formal offence. All this once again demonstrates that the discourse about “common values” is shot through with lies, and that those in the European Union do not consider a Ukrainian to be “one of their own”. It has long been obvious that Ukraine and the Ukrainians are being used merely as means for a hybrid confrontation with Russia.

Furthermore, on account of the failure of their strategy in Ukraine, the most radical NATO countries are attempting to discredit Russia by hook or by crook. According to available information, the Kyiv regime is planning, with the assistance of its Western sponsors, to organize a false-flag operation to make it seem that chemical weapons have been used by the Russian military. As further evidence of the provocations that are in the making, we may cite how Western-manufactured personal protective equipment is being shipped to Ukraine in quantities that are excessive for a country that has no chemical weapons. Specific facts and circumstances pointing to preparations for such a false-flag operation are set out in a statement of 7 October 2024 by the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs; they were also shared at a briefing on the same day by the Chief of the Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Protection Troops of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation, Lieutenant General Igor Kirillov. We recommend that you study these carefully. We warn strongly against the mounting of provocations involving the use of chemical weapons – provocations that would be fraught with tragic consequences.

The fact that the Kyiv regime has no qualms about engaging in monstrous stagings of this kind is common knowledge, as illustrated by the stories of Bucha, the so-called “air strikes” on a maternity hospital and drama theatre in Mariupol, and the shelling of a railway station in Kramatorsk and a market in Konstantinovka. Attempts were made to pass off, without any proof, all these incidents as “crimes” by the Russian military. We have presented specific facts and arguments with regard to all of them that confirm the falsehood of such accusations and how responsibility lies with Mr. Zelenskyy’s armed formations.

We note in this context that over in Kyiv they continue to regard terrorist methods as an acceptable means of achieving their aims. It must also be said that the Kyiv regime's Western handlers not only do not condemn but are even encouraging such methods.

On 3 October, the Ukrainian armed forces used an aircraft-type unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) to try to attack the Kursk nuclear power plant (NPP), which is located in the town of Kurchatov in the Kursk region of Russia. The drone was intercepted and it fell to the ground without reaching the plant.

On 4 October, Andrey Korotky, the head of the pass and identification unit at the Zaporizhzhia NPP, was killed by the detonation of an explosive device in his car in the city of Enerгодар in the Zaporozhye region of Russia. The assassination of an employee responsible for security at the Zaporizhzhia NPP is part of a strategy to undermine the safe operation of Russian nuclear power plants.

On 7 October, a district police chief's car was blown up in the settlement of Novotroitskoye in the Kherson region of Russia. Fortunately, the man survived.

All in all, the Kyiv regime's indiscriminate and targeted attacks on civilian infrastructure in Russian regions claimed 84 civilian casualties last week, of whom 15 people were killed and 69 were injured, including six minors.

For all the declamation about the topic of children, the Ukrainian armed forces are exposing children to the greatest danger by scattering anti-personnel mines near civilian villages. One "encounter" with this type of mine is sufficient for a child or an adult to lose a limb and be left disabled for life. At the start of this week, the Ukrainian armed forces committed yet another crime in contaminating the territory of the Belgorod region with such devices: dozens of Lepestok mines were dropped there by UAVs. In total, during the 2022–2024 period, engineering units of the Russian armed forces have defused some 20,000 items of explosive ordnance of the Lepestok type. We would remind you that the use of such munitions flies in the face of Ukraine's obligations under international law, in particular the provisions of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (Ottawa Convention) of 1997.

Significantly, the Kyiv regime's Western sponsors are taking care to pass over the aforementioned episodes in silence – even right now, when they are organizing a "Ukraine Mine Action Conference" in Lausanne, Switzerland. Or when, for example, they are preparing their latest propaganda initiatives around the topic of children. It has long been clear that the sole objective of such events is to serve as a smokescreen while they are knocking together some sort of international coalition on an anti-Russian footing. Their purpose is certainly not to expedite the tackling of humanitarian issues on the basis of compliance with the norms of international law.

The Kyiv regime's handlers in the West have seriously miscalculated in their desire to swiftly inflict a "strategic defeat" on Russia using the Ukrainians as a cat's paw. They have underestimated our State's resilience, and likewise the rallying spirit of the peoples of Russia and their determination to eliminate threats to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of our fatherland and to achieve all the objectives of the special military operation.

As a result of strikes on targets in ports in the Odessa region, bulk carriers have been damaged that were being used by the NATO countries to deliver arms to the Kyiv regime. The fact that the sea corridor is not serving civilian purposes is confirmed by the secondary detonation of munitions that can be seen in objective monitoring data collected by a Russian UAV – this video footage has been published in the media. We stress the futility of Western propaganda as it seeks to convince the international community that the

Kyiv regime is engaged in navigation activities in the Black Sea and on the Danube exclusively for peaceful purposes, namely to make a contribution to global food security.

In addition, fuel and energy facilities that were providing the Ukrainian armed forces with fuel products have been knocked out through a series of combined missile and drone strikes, as has military airfield infrastructure along with ammunition depots and temporary bases for units of the Ukrainian military, neo-Nazi formations and foreign mercenaries. Precision strikes on the complex of buildings at the Mykolaiv armoured vehicle plant have put production and repair workshops out of service, while the tanks and military equipment located inside were destroyed.

The Russian special military operation is a strategic imperative due above all to the geopolitical egoism of the West, which refuses to recognize our country's legitimate security interests. We once again emphasize that the special operation's objectives will be accomplished fully – Russia has all the resources and capabilities required for that.

Thank you for your attention.