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**STATEMENT BY
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THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1495th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

7 November 2024

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

Madam Chairperson,

The “Anglo-Saxon” sponsors of the Kyiv regime continue to instrumentalize the Ukrainian conflict in order to provoke a larger-scale armed conflict in Eurasia, in terms of both intensity and geographical scope. This refers, in particular, to the violation of NATO commitments arising from earlier guarantees not to expand the Alliance eastwards and not to move NATO’s military infrastructure closer to Russia’s borders.

Their practical actions even in this year are indicative of a striving to draw European countries into an armed conflict with Russia. This reckless course involves not only the military “beefing up” of the Kyiv regime and the encouragement of its brutal crimes, but also the establishment of new elements of military infrastructure on NATO’s eastern flank, the creation of a transport and logistics network to speed up the transfer of military contingents to the east of Europe and the development of the military-industrial complex in EU countries. North Atlantic Alliance command centres are being formed right on our borders. The setting up of a NATO regional land command base in Mikkeli, Finland, has been announced, and there are plans to open a base with Swedish participation in the immediate vicinity of the Murmansk region of Russia.

Let us take a look at the actions of other countries. The position of Germany and some of its leaders is revealing. In line with the directives dictated by NATO, the German Government continues to be drawn into increasingly dangerous adventures against Russia and its allies. This is all the more bizarre considering that one would have expected the invaluable lessons of the twentieth century to have made the German elites permanently “immune” to repeating mistakes. There are signs that attempts are currently being made to impose a course of military revanchism on the German people and to revise the outcome of the Second World War and, in general, the foundations of the statehood of modern united Germany.

Back on 25 January 2023 in Strasbourg, German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock, made a remarkable disclosure during a discussion at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe about sending German tanks to Ukraine. Calling upon other NATO countries to participate in the military provisioning of Volodymyr Zelenskyy’s formations, she said, quote: “We [must] not do the blame game in Europe because we are fighting a war against Russia and not against each other” (end of quote). By the way,

she has also publicly stated that when it comes to military supplies to the Kyiv regime, she is not at all interested in the position of the German people.

On 4 November this year, she visited Kyiv again, where she promised to provide 170 million euros from the German coffers for the restoration of energy infrastructure facilities (which had been destroyed because they were being used to meet the military needs of the Kyiv regime). A fine backdrop for the German Government's promise to allocate new funds was provided by the meeting of the crisis management team convened by Federal Chancellor Olaf Scholz, during which he and Minister of Finance Christian Lindner thought long and hard about ways of plugging the multibillion-euro hole in the German budget. Ultimately, the Finance Minister was sacked and the ruling coalition effectively collapsed.

A regional naval command centre in Rostock, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, which we have mentioned here before, effectively began to operate on 1 October this year at the German Navy Headquarters, which has been located there since 2019 and features multinational participation. It was announced that the command centre would operate across the entire Baltic Sea, not just the German coastal maritime areas. Moreover, the centre is not subordinate merely to command posts in Germany. Assurances that officers from NATO countries will participate in the centre's work on a rotating basis, suggesting that the centre will somehow not be under permanent NATO control, have all the hallmarks of an intention to obfuscate what it is really about, namely, to conceal concrete steps to move NATO's military infrastructure eastwards. We have already heard similar "reassuring" statements about "rotational air policing" in the Baltic States. In reality, NATO fighter jets have become "permanent residents" there, posing new threats to regional security.

We might also recall the German military contingent now stationed in Lithuania. Let me remind you that the last time the German military was billeted in Lithuania was in 1944. What came of that is well known. Have the sad lessons of history not been learned?

Let us stress that the efforts by the "Anglo-Saxons" to involve Germany in anti-Russian military adventures, including the militarization of the Kyiv regime, are taking place against the background of a *de facto* deindustrialization of Germany at, again, their instigation, undermining its energy security and socio-economic sustainability. Just last week it was announced that three car factories in Germany belonging to the German auto giant Volkswagen were to be closed. The icing on the cake was a statement by the head of the tax department of Siemens, Christian Kaeser, that it does not make sense any more to invest in the German economy. By the way, back in February, Finance Minister Lindner came to the conclusion that Germany is "no longer competitive". In short, after the rupturing of the Nord Stream and Nord Stream 2 pipelines, the "Anglo-Saxons" continue at full speed with their efforts to kill the German economy, together with Germany's energy security and industry.

Let us take a separate look at the British-German military agreement (the Trinity House Agreement) signed on 23 October, two days after the opening of the Rostock centre. It envisages not only increased military-technical co-operation with a view to putting military capabilities to use in combat on NATO's eastern flank, but also joint assistance to the Kyiv regime in the use of army aviation and missile systems. The aim of all these efforts is to conclude a legally binding British-German framework treaty by early 2025 on a more advanced form of military-technical co-operation. This work is accompanied by speculation by political hacks in both countries about some kind of "growing threat from the east" and by anti-Russian insinuations.

The German Government also stood at attention, as it were, when the United States of America announced its decision to deploy ground-based intermediate-range missiles on German territory. Federal Chancellor Scholz merely called this decision "good" without organizing any discussion whatsoever among

the German people and simply confronting the public with the fact that Germany is increasingly being drawn into anti-Russian military adventures serving foreign interests.

Blind adherence to “Anglo-Saxon” directives may once again turn out to be a great misfortune both for Germany itself, undermining the legal foundations of the stability and unity of the German State, and for the whole of Europe.

France, which over the past few years has invested more than 4 billion euros in the military provisioning of the Kyiv regime, is running the highest budget deficit among all EU Member States, expected to be at the level of 6 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) by the end of this year. The Government has already outlined a target of cutting spending in 2025 by 60 billion euros, that is, by 2 per cent of the GDP. And yet, despite such obvious economic difficulties as a result of its self-destructive foreign economic policy, the French Government declares that it is maintaining its course of military support for the Kyiv regime. This suits the “Anglo-Saxons”, who are boosting their economies thanks to the Ukrainian conflict and developing the transnational structures that are in their pocket.

In an effort to save money in some way, the EU countries have embarked on practical steps to get rid of Ukrainians on their territories, to roll back the support measures previously provided to them and force them back as cannon fodder into the meat grinder that is the conflict. France, Germany and a number of other countries are increasingly refusing to provide Ukrainian citizens with social housing, justifying their decisions by pointing to the inability of Ukrainians to integrate into society and the legal system of the European Union. In fact, more Ukrainians – about 6,000 in all – have been refused entry into Germany in 2024 than citizens of any other country. Next come Syrians and Afghans, who, by the way, are also victims of “Anglo-Saxon” geopolitical adventures in violation of international law. It is becoming obvious that all the talk about showing solidarity with Ukrainians “for as long as it takes” has turned out in many cases to be nothing more than a political ploy that has little to do with reality.

Ukraine today has become an arena of geopolitical competition for the sake of realizing the expansionist aspirations of the “Anglo-Saxon”-controlled West. The well-being and preservation of the lives of Ukrainians are of the least concern to the foreign masters of the Kyiv regime. After orchestrating, financing and organizing the armed coup d’état in February 2014 from abroad, the sponsors of that regime have been persistently dragging Ukraine into their geopolitical fold. At the same time, they did not even bother to ask the Ukrainians themselves about their opinion on this matter. As we know, there was no legitimate referendum on fixing the Euro-Atlantic course whatsoever. Moreover, all of our country’s warnings that attempts to forcibly change the identity of the majority of Ukraine’s inhabitants would lead to a deadly civil conflict and have an impact on regional security have been ignored.

The militarization of Ukraine and its military assimilation by the North Atlantic Alliance have been accompanied by dozens of annual joint military exercises on territories under the control of the Kyiv regime (“Rapid Trident”, “Sea Breeze”, “Defender Europe”, “Cossack Mace”, etc.), including exercises conducted with the participation of military personnel from States that have nothing to do with our region. NATO equipment has been imported in large quantities. These exercises have been aimed not only at projecting military threats against Russia. In general, such activity has been designed to escalate tensions and change the nature of the regional balance of power. In a similar destructive vein, the “Anglo-Saxons” are training members of the Ukrainian armed forces for active combat operations and getting them to practise offensive manoeuvres and skills in the use of NATO weapons. During the implementation of various training programmes (such as the Joint Multinational Training Group-Ukraine, Operation Orbital and Operation Interflex), tens of thousands of fighters from the Kyiv regime’s formations have been trained. All of this has been accompanied by the pretence of seeking a political and diplomatic settlement on the basis of the Minsk agreements.

Many NATO member States have now been drawn to various degrees into the Ukrainian conflict fashioned by the “Anglo-Saxons”. Having realized that a military victory over Russia on a Russian battlefield is impossible, and that most Ukrainians are unwilling to fight for the sake of turning Ukraine into a neo-Nazi concentration camp, some have begun to take a more cautious stance. The minimum task, however, remains the same: to weaken our country, while at the same time bleeding Ukraine itself dry, in the hope that by the time of the next geopolitical trials we will not have had time to patch up our wounds.

That is why, despite Mr. Zelenskyy’s promises that there would be no more forced mobilization, people continue to be rounded up on the streets of the towns and cities still under his control. During one such “procedure” in the city of Rivne in western Ukraine, a man was knocked down on the road and had his neck broken. In the context of mobilization of this sort, the commanders of a number of Ukrainian armed forces brigades have posted messages on their official platforms desperately calling upon deserters to return to the ranks.

As we have already noted, in the Ukrainian conflict, the “Anglo-Saxons” have led the countries of the collective West into an impasse from which it is difficult to find a way out without losing face. But sensible assessments of the Ukrainian conflict are nevertheless still to be heard from those European countries whose leaders care first and foremost about their own national interests. Polish Deputy Prime Minister Krzysztof Gawkowski expressed such an opinion just the other day. Reacting to the latest bellicose exhortations from Mr. Zelenskyy, who is simply waging a proxy war in the interests of the “Anglo-Saxons”, he said quite clearly, and I quote: “Let’s be frank about what Zelenskyy wants. He wants Poland to shoot missiles over Ukraine, which means he wants Poland to enter the war, which means he wants Poland to be at war with Russia. By these statements, Zelenskyy wants to drag Poland into the war with Russia.”

In view of all the foregoing, it is worth quoting what Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said when speaking at the international symposium “Inventing the Future” in Moscow on 4 November 2024: “Today the ‘Anglo-Saxons’ expect to defeat our country by the hands of the Kiev regime. Just as Hitler did, gathering most of the countries of Europe under his banner. As a backup plan in case the Zelenskyy regime fails to deliver, they are priming continental Europe for a suicidal mission which is a direct armed conflict with Russia. It is sad to state that the ruling elites in many European countries evidently see no future for themselves in a multipolar world and are looking instead to the overseas hegemon to save them” (end of quote).

To prevent the continent from sliding into an armed confrontation of greater scale and intensity, Western countries should immediately rethink their perception of the Ukrainian conflict and analyse in a rational and politically responsible manner not only its root causes, but also the consequences of ignoring Russia’s legitimate security interests.

Russia is open to any initiatives aimed at the rapid and peaceful resolution of the crisis, taking into account the legitimate security interests of our country. The actions of NATO countries to continue the militarization of Ukraine and use the conflict to provoke additional geopolitical tensions currently stand in the way of this. The same can be said for the Kyiv regime’s self-imposed ban of 30 September 2022 on contacts with the leadership of our country regarding a sustainable political and diplomatic settlement. As long as there are no changes in this regard, the special operation will be continued by military means until the goals set have been fully accomplished.

At the same time, many people, even in the West, recognize that the Ukrainian conflict has only made Russian society and our armed forces stronger. The multinational people of Russia are displaying cohesion and determination to defend the unity and sovereignty of the fatherland and to eliminate the threats

being posed from outside. Our country will continue to ensure that the destructive plans of the radical “Anglo-Saxon” wing of NATO are not realized.

Thank you for your attention.