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**STATEMENT BY
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1483rd MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

18 July 2024

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

Madam Chairperson,

Last week, shelling attacks by the Kyiv regime's formations resulted in at least 139 civilian casualties in constituent entities of the Russian Federation. Of these, nine people were killed and 130 injured, including 12 children. We stress that the OSCE leadership, pursuing as it does specific political goals, continues to hush up these crimes by the Zelenskyy regime. There has not been even the slightest expression of concern over the fate of those killed and maimed by the Ukrainian fighters. In these circumstances, the OSCE leadership's rhetoric about certain principles and values does not have any practical unifying meaning and is essentially a hollow demagogic device.

Yet another horrendous terrorist attack was perpetrated by the Kyiv regime against the inhabitants of the town of Shebekino in the Belgorod region on 11 July literally at the same time as the regime's representatives and their sponsors were holding forth here, at the Permanent Council, on the protection of children's rights. The operator of an unmanned aerial vehicle dropped a munition on a group of children who were in a playground inside the courtyard of a residential building. The youngest of them was eight years old. Five minors were injured, two of whom were taken to the regional clinical hospital for children in a serious condition. Nine-year-old Dima, who sustained the most serious injuries, was declared clinically dead for ten minutes. There were no military objectives or military personnel whatsoever in the courtyard on which the projectile was dropped. Where do we find a condemnation of this infamy by the OSCE leadership or even just some sort of coherent reaction? How long will this glaring blackout on the Kyiv regime's deliberate crimes against children living in Russia's towns and cities continue? I would remind you that what happened in Shebekino was the targeted dropping of a munition – that is, the unmanned aerial vehicle's operator saw who he was attacking and children were indeed his target. And someone in this room will have the gall to tell us that it was a case of the "right to self-defence".

The United States of America and its NATO satellites are not interested in a political and diplomatic settlement of the Ukrainian conflict. Against the backdrop of targeted attacks on children by the Kyiv regime's formations, the United States and the United Kingdom continue to invest in maintaining the pitch of the armed confrontation at a high level. Last week, the United States announced the allocation of its latest

package of military supplies for Mr. Zelenskyy's fighters to the tune of 225 million dollars. Included in this package are munitions and missiles that cannot, and will not be able to, turn the situation around on the battlefield; however, they will very much lead to a prolongation of the conflict and result in further casualties and destruction.

The fact that it is by no means in Kyiv where the level of the escalation is being determined is also confirmed by the words of US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan, who said at the NATO Public Forum last week that the United States was working together with Ukraine "to respond with force and vigor" to the strike on a building of the Okhmatdyt Children's Hospital allegedly carried out by the Russian military on 8 July. However, this high-ranking US official forgot to specify that our military is not equipped with NASAMS surface-to-air missile systems – it was such systems that were used to launch the strike on the Okhmatdyt hospital. Only the Kyiv regime's formations possess such systems, being supplied with them mainly by the NATO member country Norway.

One thing is obvious: the Okhmatdyt story is being exploited by the Kyiv regime's sponsors to demonize Russia. This is being done according to the same templates that were used to spin the fake stories about the alleged air strikes on a drama theatre and maternity hospital in Mariupol in March 2022, and the shelling of the railway station in Kramatorsk and purported "atrocities" in Bucha in April 2022. All these inventions of Western propaganda that we have mentioned have long since been debunked – and this is known and understood in the West. However, in some form or other, they were milked to the full in order to bring about a closing of ranks among the NATO member countries and continue the military "beefing up" of the Kyiv regime.

According to available information, the next provocations that are being prepared include the Kyiv regime exploring the possibilities for achieving an operational/tactical and propaganda effect by blowing up the dams of individual reservoirs belonging to the "Dnieper cascade" of hydroelectric power plants. The goals are the same, namely to attract international political attention and cast suspicion on Russia by accusing our country of destroying critical civilian infrastructure.

It was in line with just such a scheme that Mr. Zelenskyy's formations acted when they systematically carried out strikes on the Kakhovka hydroelectric dam using NATO weapons, including HIMARS multiple-launch rocket systems, which ultimately led to its destruction on 6 June 2023. Before the destruction of that dam, the Ihor Sikorskyi Polytechnic Institute in Kyiv – in particular, its World Data Centre for Geoinformatics and Sustainable Development – modelled a breach of the dam, calculating the area that would be flooded. Now that same entity has prepared a modelling study on the effects of destroying the hydroelectric facilities at the Kyiv and Kaniv hydropower plants. There is no doubt that the Kyiv regime is once again hatching a cynical provocation against the civilian population, finding itself in need of yet another "sensational story" in order to accuse Russia and solicit continued military supplies. We strongly warn the Kyiv regime's representatives about the danger of continuing to model and prepare armed provocations in relation to the aforementioned facilities.

Even those meant to serve as the Zelenskyy regime's bulwark do not believe that it can be victorious. On 14 July, yet another group of military deserters – in this case, numbering four men – was stopped near the village of Dementivka in the Rozdilna district of the Odessa region. They had fled from a training ground in the Kotovskyi district and were heading for Moldova to avoid ending up as cannon fodder on the line of engagement. One of the fugitives was shot dead, the other three were arrested.

From 16 July onwards, the requirements to be fulfilled by civilians eligible for mobilization in the territories controlled by the Kyiv regime have been tightened up as regards "data updates" at the military enlistment offices (territorial recruitment centres). They apply even to those who remain abroad. Those who

fail to turn up for a “data check” henceforth face exorbitant administrative fines and must reckon with being put on wanted lists, joining the 400,000 draft evaders who are already wanted. Incidentally, prior to all this, the Kyiv regime amended the regulatory and legislative framework in late June so as to exempt from mobilization the staff of civil society organizations receiving Western grant funding – there are over 130 such organizations. In short, ordinary Ukrainians are being faced with the choice of going to fight for Mr. Zelenskyy, buying themselves out in some way or another, or, alternatively, lying low while waiting for the fall of the Kyiv regime. Society’s reaction has been swift: in Lviv, Odessa and several other cities local residents have begun setting fire to the cars of military enlistment officers.

The Kyiv regime and its Western sponsors are determined to make up for the evident shortage of cannon fodder on the battlefield by coming after not only those who have stayed in the regime-controlled territories but also those who have left Ukraine as they do not wish to fight for the Zelenskyy regime. In Lithuania the decision has been taken, at the Kyiv regime’s request, to shut down the programme offering free higher education to Ukrainian citizens. Polish Foreign Minister Radosław Sikorski has announced the creation of some sort of “Ukrainian Legion” in Poland. A number of European Union countries continue to cut back on socio-economic support measures for citizens of Ukraine in order to “push” them into the territories controlled by the Zelenskyy regime.

There is an ongoing drive to entrench radical ideas in society. A few days ago, the neo-Nazis from the Azov battalion issued a press release announcing that fighters from its 12th Brigade had become involved in the training of teaching specialists “in accordance with NATO standards” so that these could go on to impart “knowledge of the essence of modern warfare” to schoolchildren in grades 10 and 11. We stress: this means that a teaching platform is being offered to members of that very same Azov battalion one of whose fighters, Bochkarev (born in 1998), hijacked in late February/early March 2022, together with accomplices, an armoured vehicle in Mariupol belonging to the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine and used it to drive around the city and shoot at civilians. Of that very same 12th Brigade whose members posted a video three days ago, on 15 July, showing the brutal execution of an unarmed Russian serviceman, whom they continued to shoot in the head even after he was dead.

The question remains open as to what “NATO standards” all this was done in accordance with, and what NATO “standards” the “buddies” of Bochkarev and other thugs from the Azov battalion now propose to inculcate in senior pupils in the Kharkiv region and elsewhere. And does the OSCE leadership actually notice that not only are neo-Nazis flagrantly violating the norms of international humanitarian law but that they have even been allowed to teach at schools? Are there not obvious historical parallels to be drawn here?

In closing, we once again emphasize that the demilitarization and denazification of Ukraine must be ensured for the sake of a peaceful, constructive future for the inhabitants of our entire region. It must finally dawn on our Western opponents that there are no historical, economic or any other reasons – nor will there ever be – for our people to forswear their indissoluble ancestral ties to everything connected with Ukraine. Nor are there any reasons for sacrificing the interests of our State’s security and stability to satisfy the neocolonial ambitions of a number of elites in NATO and EU countries. An appropriate and firm response will be forthcoming to all the threats emanating from Ukrainian territory that these are generating.

Thank you for your attention.