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PC.DEL/681/22  
12 May 2022

ENGLISH  
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY  
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1373rd MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

12 May 2022

**On the ongoing crimes by Ukraine against the civilian population with the support of a  
Western alliance of OSCE participating States**

Mr. Chairperson,

On 9 May, the peoples of the former Soviet Union celebrated the 77th anniversary of victory in the Great Patriotic War. For the first time in several years, thousands of people in cities and towns of the People's Republics of Donetsk and Luhansk and in areas in southern and eastern Ukraine liberated from the Ukrainian neo-Nazis were able to take part in the peaceful events held to mark the occasion. This holiday proved to be special for the inhabitants of Kherson, Nova Kakhovka, Melitopol, Enerhodar, Berdiansk, Mariupol and Kupiansk, where people had the opportunity to serenely – this time without provocations by Ukrainian nationalists – honour the memory of those who lost their lives fighting to free their native land from Nazism.

In these cities the memorials neglected by the authorities in Kyiv have been restored and the eternal flames extinguished after the 2014 coup d'état have been rekindled. Thousands of brave local residents went out on the street for these events, obeying the call of the heart, despite the threats that had been voiced the day before about shelling from areas controlled by the Ukrainian armed forces. They did this under the Victory Banner, which, incidentally, the Ukrainian authorities are seeking with might and main to forbid, to erase from the country's life. As may be seen, despite the intensified years-long fostering of a cult of new "heroes" drawn from among Ukrainian collaborators who aided and abetted the Nazis, the attempts to rewrite history are being firmly rejected, above all by the inhabitants of Ukraine itself. This is particularly noticeable in places where people are gaining the freedom to hold gatherings in memory of those who fought against Nazism.

In contrast, in the territories controlled by the Kyiv regime they have traditionally sought not to allow people to take part in peaceful marches on the occasion of Victory Day. Moreover, President Zelenskyy and the Ukrainian Ministry of Defence "congratulated" the country's inhabitants by posting on their official social media accounts a photograph of a Ukrainian neo-Nazi from Right Sector sporting the insignia of the Third SS Panzer Division "Totenkopf". In this context, a long curfew was imposed in major cities, including Odessa; people were forbidden from leaving their homes. Simultaneously, military targets in the form of heavy weapons continued to be deployed in the city and its environs, and

foreign mercenaries likewise continued to be concentrated there. Over the past few days, Ukrainian formations have intensified their shelling of residential areas in the Donetsk People's Republic (DPR) and the Luhansk People's Republic (LPR) using heavy weapons, including multiple-launch rocket systems, which has led to new fatalities and casualties, also among children. In the DPR on 9 May alone, two civilians were killed by Ukrainian shelling, including one child, and seven were injured, one of these also being a child.

To return to Mariupol. Today that city has been liberated from Ukrainian nationalist formations, and peaceful life is being established there: the law enforcement authorities, social facilities, public utilities, local print media and so on have resumed their work. The remnants of the Azov battalion are still ensconced in the industrial zone and the basements of buildings at the Azovstal plant. In the course of additional humanitarian actions last week, it proved possible to evacuate several groups of civilians, whom the neo-Nazis had been detaining as human shields, from the Azovstal premises to safe areas of Mariupol. The evacuation of civilians has been completed.

The account by one of the women who was freed, Natalia Usmanova, is worth noting. In remarks to the press she confirmed that the Ukrainian formations had not been releasing civilians but detaining them forcibly. It is remarkable how her testimony was handled in the Western press – for example, in *Der Spiegel*. There they first published an abridged version of the video containing Ms. Usmanova's account, but then hastily removed it under the pretext of checking "discrepancies in the content". This censorship was evidently directed against the words of yet another real witness who refuted the assertions coming from Western information resources and politicians to the effect that the Russian military allegedly hindered the evacuation from the plant.

Now the Ukrainian formations have started employing the tactic of human shields in the Sloviansk-Kramatorsk conurbation, also on DPR territory. The nationalists have more than 90,000 civilians trapped inside residential areas and on the premises of over ten major industrial plants there. Ukrainian fighters are preparing armed provocations in densely populated areas. We stress that with a view to preventing the development of a catastrophic situation, it is essential to bring influence to bear on the Kyiv regime and take every possible measure to ensure the unconditional, swift and safe evacuation of civilians from these cities.

On 11 May, the eighth anniversary of the referendums on self-determination was marked in the People's Republics of Donetsk and Luhansk. In spite of the attempts over many years by DPR and LPR representatives to reach terms, on the basis of the Minsk agreements, with the Ukrainian Government on principles for coexistence within one State, these efforts proved fruitless – above all, because of the inability to come to an agreement on the part of the "post-Maidan" authorities of Ukraine, which have shown themselves to be incapable of taking independent decisions, without "prompts" from their foreign handlers. As for the latter, they, as has now become quite clear, were not interested in any sort of political or diplomatic settlement at all.

Over all these past years, the Kyiv regime, regardless of its nominal leaders, was being systematically readied for offensive military operations both against the Donbas republics and against neighbouring States. The fact that the Ukrainian formations were "planning for war" during eight years was confirmed at a briefing in the Pentagon on 4 May by Lieutenant Colonel Todd Hopkins, a former commander of the US military training mission in Ukraine (the Joint Multinational Training Group-Ukraine, or JMTG-U). Russia's banking on the facilitation of a diplomatic solution to the conflict in eastern Ukraine was, in effect, described by him as a "mistake that the Russians made", specifically in "giving us eight years to prepare for this". There were also revelations from the press secretary of the US Department of Defense, John Kirby, when he spoke about "the training and effort that went into getting the Ukrainians ready for this

kind of war over the last eight years” during an interview with the television channel Fox News. Given that several years were spent in “getting Ukraine ready for war”, it is reasonable to ask where did the political settlement come into the equation. The answer is now obvious: it never came into the equation at all.

The European Union’s foreign policy chief, Josep Borrell, has likewise spoken repeatedly in the current context about a striving to, in effect, drag out the hostilities, to find a military as opposed to a diplomatic solution to the situation in Ukraine. In an interview with the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* on 10 May, he advocated ramping up the militarization of Ukraine, adding: “I do not understand the people who say that the more weapons are delivered to Ukraine, the longer the war will last and the greater the suffering of the Ukrainians will be.”

The Russian special military operation to protect Donbas is meant to put an end to the protracted conflict in eastern Ukraine, which is being stoked up by the West, and to make it impossible for the regime in Kyiv to pose military threats whether to its own population or to neighbouring States.

We have taken note of a piece published in *The New York Times* on 5 May, which, citing high-ranking US officials, reported how the United States of America was providing Ukrainian paramilitary formations with “real-time intelligence” that was used to organize the killing of Russian citizens on Ukrainian territory. During a discussion arranged by the *Financial Times* last week, the head of the CIA, William Burns, expressed his concern over such leaks. All these communications are now being checked and studied carefully by the Russian side: conclusions will be drawn.

Their support for aggressive nationalism, their pandering to manifestations of neo-Nazism in Ukraine and their Russophobia are already costing the Kyiv regime’s foreign sponsors dearly. The cost of the policy to turn Ukraine, by hook or by crook, into an “anti-Russia” will of course only keep growing. Will pan-European security profit from this? Hardly. Certain dividends may perhaps accrue to those who are far away from Ukraine, to those for whom Ukraine is merely a territory for geopolitical experiments – but to no one else. In Europe, as may be seen, many are willing in this context to shoot themselves in the foot by working towards the military provisioning of Ukraine and adopting measures that hurt their own economies. Well, that is their choice.

Meanwhile, we can see the Western handlers striving to take out of Ukraine anything that in the present circumstances has some sort of value. Amid talk about port infrastructure issues, hundreds of grain wagons are crossing the Ukrainian border and heading for Europe. Scores of dry-cargo vessels are adrift near the riverbanks of Moldova and the shores of Romania, ready to carry this grain out. A few days ago, US President Joe Biden said that the United States was looking into how to “export” around 20 million tonnes of grain from Ukraine. Evidently no one cares about what there will be left to feed the Ukrainians themselves. Not to mention the way that resources are being removed from the DPR and LPR territories that are temporarily under the control of the Ukrainian military. In late April and early May, ten trainloads of coal concentrate were transported out of one enterprise alone, the St. Barbara coal-washing plant in the settlement of Udachne (DPR): they were taken to Uzhhorod and then out of the country. And so it goes on.

On 9 May, the day of the Soviet people’s victory over Nazi Germany in the Great Patriotic War, US President Joe Biden signed the so-called Lend-Lease Act, which provides for the military “beefing up” of Ukraine to be intensified and for further shipments of weapons and equipment to be supplied, on lease, to the Kyiv regime and the armed nationalist formations that it controls. A few days ago, the United States Congress adopted a decision to increase by an additional 7 billion dollars the package’s initially planned volume of 33 billion dollars.

We lament that the current leaders in Washington, D.C., London and a number of European capitals are openly supporting and sponsoring those in Ukraine who preach the ideas of aggressive nationalism, neo-Nazism and xenophobia. In contrast, 77 years ago, the governments of these countries took a stand, together with the Soviet Government, against the spread of the ideology of Nazism in Europe.

The commercial logic of their present decisions is all too obvious: it is a case of the desire of a number of countries to fish in troubled waters, as it were – to profit from a situation that has arisen far from their own borders. However, none of this will change the state of affairs: the objectives of the Russian special military operation, namely the denazification and demilitarization of Ukraine, will be achieved.

Thank you for your attention.