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**STATEMENT BY
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1436th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

27 July 2023

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

Mr. Chairperson,

For almost three months now, specifically since 4 June of this year, Volodymyr Zelenskyy's formations have been attempting to conduct active offensive operations deep into the territory of the Russian Federation in Donbas and the Dnieper Lowland. During this time they have not succeeded in making any significant progress.

Those in the West do not entertain any illusions as to the real likelihood of military successes by the Kyiv regime. That is why, in these circumstances, they are seeking to drag the fighting out for as long as possible by supplying Mr. Zelenskyy with armaments that cannot and will not be able to radically alter the operational and tactical situation on the battlefield. The NATO strategists' goal is to have as much blood as possible shed on both sides of the combat line, to cause yet more destruction and to render the natural riches of a number of our territories unsuitable for exploitation for years to come.

The training programmes for Mr. Zelenskyy's fighters at NATO training grounds in Europe and North America have proved insufficiently effective to accomplish the plans for inflicting a swift and devastating blow on the Russian force grouping in the zone of the special military operation. Our military is at present successfully expanding its counteroffensive operations in the direction of Kupiansk, Krasnyi Lyman and Kuzemikva. Over the past week, areas near the settlements of Molchanovo, Nadiya, Novoegorovka and Sergeevka were liberated and several tactically important heights taken in other areas.

The whole world is observing how the widely touted and allegedly invulnerable Western equipment is proving no match for Russian weaponry in battle. In just 24 hours of fighting on 22 July, more than 20 US-made Bradley armoured vehicles were destroyed or put out of commission, as were over 15 German-made tanks of the Leopard type (as was the case eight decades ago, German tanks are again burning on the fields of Donbas and the Zaporozhye region). In the course of the Ukrainian armed forces' attempts yesterday to conduct offensive operations in the Zaporozhye region in the direction of Orekhovo, 22 tanks of various models, ten armoured infantry fighting vehicles and other items of equipment were

destroyed. The elimination of NATO armoured vehicles, which have no business to be on our lands, will continue.

By the way, this also applies to foreign mercenaries who are being sent to kill Russians and Ukrainians. We have already reported how, on 6 July, a large number of German and Polish mercenaries were liquidated as the result of a group strike, carried out using high-precision weapons, on the premises of the National Land Forces Academy of the Ukrainian Armed Forces. All in all, according to the Russian Ministry of Defence, more than 4,990 foreign mercenaries have been liquidated in the course of the special operation, while an additional 4,910 “soldiers of misfortune” have fled from the areas of hostilities and abandoned Ukrainian territory.

Faith in the ability of Mr. Zelenskyy’s formations to score a military success is waning in Kyiv and the capitals of NATO countries. The Chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, Mark Milley, has predicted that attempts to break through the defences deep inside Russian territory will be “very difficult ... very long and ... very, very bloody” for the regime’s fighters. CIA Director William Burns has pointed out that it will be a “hard slog” for the Ukrainian armed forces to make headway in their so-called “counteroffensive”.

Moreover, the US Government is not ashamed to contradict itself. A few days ago, it was asserted at the State Department that the United States of America and its allies had supplied the Kyiv regime with “everything it needs” for offensive operations. However, following a virtual Ramstein-format meeting on 18 July, new packages of so-called “military assistance” for Mr. Zelenskyy’s formations were announced in Washington, D.C. – specifically packages to the tune of 1.3 billion US dollars on 19 July and an additional package on 25 July worth 400 million US dollars, this time for what are referred to as “immediate battlefield needs”. We emphasize that the objective of these actions is to ensure that the hostilities continue, and not to secure military success for the Ukrainian armed forces. In that regard, it has been publicly admitted in the United States that potential deliveries of fighter jets to Ukraine, even if they do take place, will not be able to make any change to the situation on the battlefield – the Coordinator for Strategic Communications at the US National Security Council, John Kirby, said as much in an interview with the television channel Fox News.

It would seem that Kyiv regime officials are beginning to understand that they have been fed unrealistic promises about achieving rapid military success with the help of NATO weapons. In a recent interview with CNN, Defence Minister Oleksii Reznikov tried to talk himself out of a tight spot by arguing that the Ukrainian armed forces’ offensive operations were “behind schedule but going according to plan”.

Not all Western armaments are reaching the front line. And by this we are not referring to the skilful ploy by the United States with regard to the Abrams tanks that has resulted in German-made Leopard tanks turning up in the zone of the special military operation (after all, the German leadership had agreed to send its combat vehicles to the Kyiv regime having received the assurance that Abrams tanks would also be shipped to Ukraine, but the United States is in no hurry to do that). We wish, instead, to draw attention here to the illicit circulation of weapons delivered to Ukraine – something that even those in NATO are forced to acknowledge.

Last week, details became known of a report by the Inspector General of the US Department of Defense. The report confirms that, in 2022, there were instances of “diversion” of weapons that had been intended for the Kyiv regime. It is stated there that the United States does not have the resources to track the fate of the armaments delivered, and that in Kyiv they are unable to conduct the required monitoring of the end use of weapons and military equipment. Specific incidents of theft are cited: in June last year, a group of so-called “aid workers” stole a batch of bulletproof vests worth 17,000 US dollars, while in August volunteer fighters walked off with 60 rifles and 1,000 rounds of ammunition, intending to resell them on the

black market. To say nothing of the hundreds of advertisements in the Dark Web offering firearms, Javelin anti-tank missile systems and other serious weapons for sale. Perhaps the US representatives can at this stage already clarify in which conflict and where specifically all this equipment might crop up?

Another revealing incident was reported by journalists from the *Evening Standard* in the United Kingdom: a few days ago, a British couple were arrested in Calais, France, after two US-made M141 rocket launchers and 14 bullet casings were found in the boot of their car. The couple admitted that they had driven all the way from Ukraine with these weapons.

Mr. Chairperson,

In the absence of success along the combat line, the Kyiv regime continues to resort to terrorist methods of waging war against the civilian population. The objective is to take it out on the citizens who made the conscious, free and democratic choice in favour of historical unity with Russia.

In the early hours of 20 July, a 14-year-old girl called Irina was killed as the result of a drone attack on a shop in the settlement of Razdolnoe in Crimea. She had been set to start ninth grade in September, yet she passed away in her mother's arms. A woman was injured on 21 July during a shelling attack on the Kirovsky district of the city of Donetsk using Grad multiple-launch rocket systems. Another civilian woman had her arm torn off when the Ukrainian armed forces shelled the village of Tarasovka in the Zaporozhye region on 24 July. On that same day, an ambulance brigade that had been called out in the town of Aleshki in the Kherson region came under artillery fire, leaving a paramedic injured. There were no military facilities at any of the places where the Ukrainian shells landed. We are also concerned about reports of civilians being killed or injured in localities in temporarily occupied areas of the Donetsk People's Republic (Russia) where fighters from the Ukrainian formations are being billeted, specifically in the city of Konstantinovka and the village of Druzhba.

On 22 July, Mr. Zelenskyy's fighters deliberately attacked a group of journalists near the village of Pyatikhatki in the Zaporozhye region. The shelling attack was carried out using cluster munitions, the shipping of which to Ukraine was recently confirmed by the United States. The RIA Novosti correspondent Rostislav Zhuravlev was killed, while an additional four media workers were injured. It goes without saying that these journalists were not bearing any arms – their sole weapon was truthful documentary evidence of Ukrainian fighters' use of cluster munitions against the civilian population. Unfortunately, they themselves fell victim to this lethal type of weapon. The day before yesterday, replying from Washington, D.C., to a specific question about that tragedy, the Permanent Representative of the United States to the OSCE, Michael Carpenter, said that the US authorities condemned any attacks against journalists. However, he omitted to point to the complicity of the United States in the aforementioned targeted attack against members of the press. As reported from the ground, the Ukrainian armed forces are making active use of the cluster munitions supplied by the United States and its allies.

One further point. We firmly reject the campaign by the Kyiv regime and Western countries to blame Russia for the destruction in Odessa on 23 July. The information propagated by them claiming that the Russian armed forces deliberately shelled the historic city centre, wreaking destruction on the Cathedral of the Transfiguration of the Saviour, which belongs to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, does not correspond to reality.

According to the Russian Ministry of Defence, all the objects that had been designated as targets to be destroyed in the early hours of 23 July – facilities where the Kyiv regime, together with foreign specialists, was preparing terrorist attacks against Russia – were situated at a safe distance from the cathedral building. The planning of precision strikes on facilities that are part of the Kyiv regime's military

and terrorist infrastructure is carried out on the basis of carefully verified information and in such a way as to intentionally rule out any strikes on civilian objects where civilians are present or on cultural and historical heritage sites.

Taking into account video footage of the Transfiguration Cathedral posted shortly afterwards by local residents, the most likely cause of the destruction suffered by the cathedral is that a guided anti-aircraft missile launched by Mr. Zelensky's formations fell to the ground owing to incompetent actions by the operators of air defence systems, which the Ukrainian armed forces are deliberately setting up in the residential areas of population centres, not least in Odessa.

It is worth recalling here some remarks by an official representative of the Kyiv regime's air force, Yuri Ihnat, who pointed out in an interview with the television channel ICTV on 16 July that the Ukrainian armed forces were deliberately deploying air defence forces in urban areas, near densely populated neighbourhoods. A representative of the regime has thus confirmed yet again that the Ukrainian armed forces are not only using the civilian population as human shields but also bear full responsibility for the ineffectual and bungling use of their air defence systems in urban areas.

Incidentally, you could ask Poland, say, to shed light on specific instances of the Kyiv regime's "successful use" of air defence by inquiring about the findings of the investigation of the incident on 15 November 2022 near Przewodów. To date, no one has refuted the experts' data indicating that an S-300 guided surface-to-air missile belonging to the Ukrainian "air force" was fired at Polish territory from the Lviv region. Nor should one forget the Ukrainian missile of the same type that landed in the Brest region of the Republic of Belarus on 29 December 2022.

The Kyiv regime's crimes must, without question, be duly investigated – just like the systematic destruction of the historical appearance and cultural heritage of Odessa, which has been going on for several years now. For some reason, the representatives of a number of Western countries feigning concern over Odessa are in no hurry to put awkward questions to the Kyiv regime about the barbaric demolition of centrally located urban monuments to outstanding figures who are inseparably linked to the city's history, such as the Empress Catherine II, the great military commander Alexander Suvorov, the "Marshal of Victory" and warrior against Nazism Georgy Zhukov, and many others. The same is true of the unprecedented campaign to rename city streets, which is aimed at erasing the cultural identity of Odessa and that of its inhabitants. No one has worked so hard to destroy Odessa, its cultural heritage and its historical appearance as the puppet regime in Kyiv, which is being steered from the capitals of NATO countries.

As for the insinuations by the representatives of several countries with regard to the Black Sea Initiative ceasing to be in effect from 18 July, we gave all the necessary clarifications in response to these at the last regular meeting of the Permanent Council and we see no point in going into them now.

That being said, it would perhaps be worth exploring further the role that Ukraine's resources – from agribusiness to minerals, from lithium to black soil – are in reality playing in the West's policies towards that country. And the extent to which the desire to get hold of all this is determining the readiness of the United States and its subordinates in the aggressive NATO coalition to fight "down to the last Ukrainian".

In closing, we stress that NATO's policy of deliberately escalating tensions in the Ukrainian conflict is extremely dangerous and is generating new threats. However, expectations that our country will yield to this pressure will never come to fruition. Russia has all the resources and capacities needed to successfully complete the special operation and attain all its objectives.

Our country will continue steadily on its sovereign course aimed at meeting its security needs, protecting its values, strengthening its authority in the international arena, and shaping a just and multipolar world order based on the Charter of the United Nations and the principles and norms of international law.

Thank you for your attention.