

The OSCE Secretariat bears no responsibility for the content of this document and circulates it without altering its content. The distribution by OSCE Conference Services of this document is without prejudice to OSCE decisions, as set out in documents agreed by OSCE participating States.

PC.DEL/1536/23  
9 November 2023

ENGLISH  
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY  
MR. ALEKSANDR VOLGAREV, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1449th MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

9 November 2023

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

Mr. Chairperson,

The Kyiv regime has reached an operational stalemate. Attempts at offensive actions by Volodymyr Zelenskyy's armed formations, carried out with the active military, logistical, financial and intelligence support of NATO countries, have ended in failure. This was admitted in a recent article for *The Economist* by the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, Valerii Zaluzhnyi. He shared a sad conclusion for Kyiv's sponsors: "There will most likely be no deep and beautiful breakthrough." The current situation on the ground confirms that there is no question of talking about offensive activity by Ukrainian formations today at all.

The failure of the Kyiv regime's operational plans bears witness to the effectiveness of the tactics used by the Russian force grouping in the zone of the special military operation, the superiority of its weapons systems and the high motivation of our military personnel deployed there. And also to the fact that the NATO command and control model being introduced in the Ukrainian armed forces, with all its technological features, has proved incapable of producing tangible results when faced by a serious adversary.

In these circumstances, the Kyiv regime is trying increasingly to put the military setbacks down to the delay in the delivery of weapons promised by NATO countries and to shift responsibility for the failure of the counteroffensive on to the West itself, saying that it has not been active enough in helping. These observations have been voiced recently by Minister for Foreign Affairs Dmytro Kuleba, adviser to the head of the presidential office Serhiy Leshchenko and others. All this, by the way, against the backdrop of the inability of European Union countries to execute their plan to deliver the promised 1 million artillery shells.

However, some individuals are admitting that the functionaries of the Kyiv regime initially misled both the Ukrainians themselves and the expert community by creating the illusion of an impending victory. In his public comments on 4 November, Oleksii Arestovych, a former adviser to Zelenskyy's office, acknowledged this deception, which was carried out with extensive use of the media. It is now obvious to

many people that the expectations regarding the combat operations were exaggerated and the goals set were illusory and unrealistic.

Zelenskyy's own actions also signal his dissatisfaction with the outcome of the offensive campaign deep into Russian territory. On 5 September this year, the Kyiv regime's Minister of Defence, Oleksii Reznikov, resigned amid failures on the battlefield and corruption scandals in the military establishment. On 3 November, the commander of the Ukrainian armed forces' special operations forces was replaced.

In their statements, representatives of a number of Western countries, including those in this room, asserted as early as the beginning of this year that they were pushing the Kyiv regime to continue hostilities in order to ensure it, as they put it, "a more favourable position at a future negotiating table". This is why they welcomed Zelenskyy's decision in April 2022 to end consultations with representatives of Russia regarding a realistic political and diplomatic settlement. It is fair to say that the situation of the Kyiv regime has only deteriorated further in the meantime.

In reality, the West is still counting on prolonging the Ukrainian conflict in the hope of bringing about domestic political destabilization in our country. The other day, the United States Government announced that another consignment of military supplies worth 425 million dollars had been sent to Ukraine. At the same time, White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre explained that the United States of America had decided to reduce the volume of military support for Zelenskyy. It will now be delivered in extremely small increments so that the Kyiv regime, which is bankrupt in every sense, does not collapse overnight.

Behind the US Government's beautiful words about support for Ukraine, freedom and democracy, there is an entirely mercantile interest. It needs a way to improve its own economic situation, to keep the ranks of supporters of the US concept of a "rules-based world order" strong, and to try to gain a foothold in a region geographically distant from the United States. This is already being said quite openly. In a statement issued on 3 November this year, the Pentagon press service stressed that the US Government's involvement in the Ukrainian conflict is a way to promote US geopolitical interests in Europe, to support the US military-industrial complex and to create highly skilled jobs in the United States. US President Joe Biden made no secret of the same intentions in his remarks on 20 October, calling the military allocations for Zelenskyy a "smart investment" for future American generations.

It is precisely this, and not a fanciful concern for a prosperous future for the inhabitants of Ukraine, that explains the actions of the United States and its NATO satellites. It is important for them to keep the puppet regime in Kyiv in power for as long as possible. It is not surprising that Zelenskyy, feeling that he did not have popular support behind him, made a statement on 6 November, in which he called any talk about democratic processes in the form of scheduled presidential elections "untimely". Moreover, he extended martial law for another three months, under which it is impossible to organize and hold elections.

Those who disagree with the actions of the Kyiv regime continue to be silenced, marked down as accomplices of aggression and subjected to repression. Thus, according to the United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, Nada Al-Nashif, the Kyiv regime is persecuting people who have potentially broken no laws under the pretext of collaborationism. She reckons that some 6,000 criminal cases have been opened in Ukraine to that end, including those ordered by the intelligence services. Some of them concern religious figures, by the way.

At a press conference with the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, in Kyiv on 4 November, Zelenskyy said bluntly that he did not see any alternative to the conduct of military

operations, even if their price was huge losses of human life and destruction of civilian infrastructure. In short, the Kyiv regime has no intention of ending the “war down to the last Ukrainian”. In an effort to obtain new cannon fodder, it was decided to intensify forced mobilization. For example, in Odessa recently there were round-ups of male passengers on city buses, whom representatives of military enlistment offices removed from the city transport during the morning rush hour.

In early September this year, Oleksii Reznikov, then Minister of Defence, estimated that the Ukrainian treasury would have to pay 100 million dollars for every day of the continuation of the armed confrontation. In 158 days since the start of the inglorious summer offensive campaign, direct military expenditures have amounted to at least 15.8 billion dollars. The Ukrainian armed forces have lost over 90,000 troops killed or wounded. It is not clear whether all of this can be described as a “smart investment”.

In the face of its military failures, the Zelenskyy regime is increasingly resorting to terrorist methods. On 8 November, yet another terrorist attack was committed in Lugansk. Mikhail Filiponenko, a member of the regional parliament, former head of the People’s Militia of the Lugansk People’s Republic and former representative of Lugansk in the Joint Centre for Ceasefire Control and Co-ordination, was killed by an explosive device placed underneath a car. He is well known to OSCE representatives. Mr. Filiponenko was the contact person for the leadership of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM) on monitoring implementation of the Minsk-based Trilateral Contact Group ceasefire agreements, the disengagement of forces and hardware, ensuring that the SMM monitors could work safely, and other aspects.

A few hours after the terrorist attack, the Kyiv regime’s Main Military Intelligence Directorate in the Ministry of Defence claimed responsibility for it, posting material on its official website explaining the motives for organizing the assassination. This was yet another eloquent illustration of the absolute worthlessness of the extrabudgetary Support Programme for Ukraine implemented by Western countries under the banner of the OSCE and launched a little over a year ago. As is well known, the Programme involves work on the rule of law and human rights, which includes several projects in the areas of justice, democratization and public administration.

The recognition by the Zelenskyy regime of its direct involvement in the terrorist attack that resulted in the assassination of a regional parliamentarian nullifies all the blather accompanying the extrabudgetary project activities financed by Western countries in Ukraine. Unless, of course, its undeclared goals include directly facilitating the organization of terrorist assassinations on Russian territory. We should like to stress that the Support Programme for Ukraine under the OSCE banner has not only completely discredited itself but is also doing enormous damage to the authority of our entire Organization and its institutions involved in the Programme’s implementation.

Zelenskyy’s formations are deliberately ignoring the norms of international humanitarian law by targeting and indiscriminately shelling densely populated residential neighbourhoods where there are no military objects. Last week, there were more than 60 civilian casualties, including children, as a result of the shelling of civilian infrastructure in Russian territories. There were 17 fatalities. The shelling was carried out with particular ferocity on the eve of the celebration of Russia’s National Unity Day.

On 3 November, rockets were fired at the settlement of Chaplinka in the Kherson region of the Russian Federation, hitting the multi-purpose centre for the provision of public services and social assistance. The centre’s staff – Larisa Ivanova, Elena Kuzmina and Alexei Morzhakov – were working with civilians, young mothers and pensioners at the time of the shelling, helping them with the allocation of social support measures. All of them, as well as six visitors to the centre, died. A further nine visitors and staff were seriously injured.

On the same day in Volnovakha (Donetsk People's Republic, Russia), the House of Culture, where a concert involving children was taking place, was shelled. The auditorium was destroyed and a 15-year-old girl was injured. It was only because people had already left the premises by then that many deaths were avoided.

On 5 November, a man and a woman were killed and a ten-year-old girl was injured in a multiple-launch rocket system (MLRS) strike on a residential sector of Dokuchaevsk (Donetsk People's Republic, Russia). On 7 November, Donetsk city centre was subjected to intensive shelling with HIMARS MLRS that left six dead and at least 58 injured. Among the casualties were three children. Once again, the Department of Labour and Social Welfare came under attack.

The NATO sponsors of the Kyiv regime prefer to keep silent about all these crimes, which reflects their blatant double standards. They are not interested in the truth. They persist steadfastly in whitewashing their Ukrainian protégés and go all out in their attempts to dehumanize Russian military personnel.

The Russian armed forces continue to carry out precision strikes against the Kyiv regime's military infrastructure. They have destroyed missile and artillery armament depots, storage sites for weapons and military equipment, and temporary deployment points for nationalist fighters and foreign mercenaries. In addition, hangars where aircraft are prepared for take-off, and sites for the production of unmanned aerial vehicles and uncrewed boats have been hit. Eight more aircraft were shot down during the week. On 7 November alone, five units were destroyed: two SU-25s, two SU-27s and one MiG-29.

The increasingly poor quality of the weapons used by the Ukrainian armed forces is becoming apparent. As a result of the failure of air defence systems in Odessa on 5 November and the deviation of the course of one of the missiles (the incident was captured on a video that was published in the media), the historical centre of Odessa was damaged and buildings near the art museum were destroyed. It is worth recalling here how, at the end of September this year, the authorities of nearby Bulgaria decided to supply Ukraine with defective missiles for the S-300 systems. The Bulgarian Parliament justified its approval of such a step by saying that the use of these missiles could pose a serious risk to the lives of Bulgarian military personnel but that Ukraine had the ability to put into service such munitions with defects. Our country's warnings that such a transfer would not only violate international arms control obligations but also cause casualties and destruction were ignored. The result, you might say, speaks for itself.

To conclude. In these November days 80 years ago Kyiv was liberated by the Red Army from the Nazi invaders. The operation was carried out by the forces of the First Ukrainian Front under the command of General Nikolay Vatutin.

The current puppet regime in Kyiv seeks to completely erase from the memory of the people the historical truth about the defeat of the Nazis and their henchmen in Ukraine. On the contrary, it actively glorifies the Nazi death squads and their collaborators among Ukrainian nationalists.

On 6 November, the gold star was removed from the Hero City obelisk on Victory Square in Kyiv installed in 1982. A little earlier, the square itself had been renamed Halytska Square in an effort to erase any memory of the victory over Nazism.

In February this year, the Kyiv municipal services demolished a monument in Mariinskyi Park to Nikolay Vatutin, commander of the operation to liberate Kyiv. This monument stood on the grave of the heroic liberator, the desecration of which was approved by the Kyiv regime.

There is no doubt that Kyiv will be liberated from today's neo-Nazis as well. The goals of the Russian special operation, which include the denazification and demilitarization of Ukraine and the elimination of threats to Russia's security posed by NATO countries from Ukrainian territory, will be achieved.

We firmly believe that the departure of the Americans and their satellites from Ukraine will be no less disgraceful than the departure of the US-led coalition that played games with Afghanistan. It will mark another milestone on the way to establishing a just and multipolar world order based on the Charter of the United Nations and the principles and norms of international law. The successful completion of the Russian special military operation will also be such a milestone.

Thank you for your attention.