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**STATEMENT BY  
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1438th MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

7 September 2023

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

Mr. Chairperson,

The summer campaign by Volodymyr Zelenskyy's formations aimed at attacking deep into the territory of the Russian Federation in Donbas and the Dnieper Lowland – a campaign conducted with the active military, logistic, financial and intelligence support of NATO countries – has not brought the Kyiv regime any substantial successes. The fighters of that puppet regime did not manage to break through the foremost line of Russian defensive fortifications and they also failed to gain any strategic advantages or to turn around the situation along the combat line. Kyrylo Budanov, the Kyiv regime's half-dead military intelligence chief, must be crying his heart out over this somewhere – he had, after all, announced in one of his interviews that the Ukrainian armed forces would reach Crimea by the start of this summer. No doubt, Mr. Zelenskyy himself is in a similar predicament, for he had openly dreamed of spending his August vacation in Crimea.

The blustering and unrealistic promises and conceits of Mr. Zelenskyy, who is doing his routine in front of the Western sponsors, have proved hollow. The sacrifices made were in vain, for the notorious tactic of "human wave attacks" has shown itself to be highly cruel and ineffective. According to sources on the ground, the Ukrainian armed forces' infantry are being thrown into combat regardless of losses and sent to a sure death so as to avoid using up the small number of Western armoured vehicles that the Kyiv regime has at its disposal.

Even the biased British press cannot overlook the Ukrainian armed forces' gigantic losses. A recent feature in *The Times* described the situation in the 47th Separate Mechanized Brigade of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, which was sent towards the Zaporozhye region to penetrate the Russian defensive fortifications. These Ukrainian soldiers, who had undergone training at a US base in Grafenwöhr, Germany, did not achieve anything of substance. However, the brigade's losses run into four figures: it has already lost around 75 per cent of its original personnel strength. In that same interview the Ukrainian commanders themselves admit that the armoured vehicles supplied by NATO countries, that is, all those Bradleys and Leopards, are proving to be most ineffective on Russian soil and present an easy target. As emphasized in

*The Times*, there is a prevailing atmosphere of pessimism and resignation in that unit, whose members sense that 90 per cent of them will get killed.

All this is the toll levied by the unbridled desire of certain Western countries to realize, “on the battlefield”, their geopolitical aspirations to weaken Russia and arrest the peaceful development of our society. As for their feigned moralizing about the casualties of the fighting in Ukraine, that can elicit nothing but disgust. After all, they themselves are encouraging the atrocities and crimes of the Ukrainian neo-Nazis and putting destructive modern weapons into their hands, including cluster munitions and depleted uranium shells, to ensure that the conflict lasts even longer and that there are even more casualties. And, by the looks of it, to ensure that Ukraine itself is ultimately turned into a deserted wilderness, its lands uninhabitable.

What are the Ukrainian people themselves getting out of NATO’s actions in Ukraine? Only death, destruction, poverty and devastation for many years to come. Until the West began meddling in Ukraine’s affairs, the Ukrainians lived in peace, friendship and familial harmony with all the peoples of the former USSR. In particular, their strong ties to Russia brought warmth, prosperity, abundance and peace into their homes. All this ended abruptly after the armed coup d’état in February 2014, when the West began forging Ukraine into an “anti-Russia”, actively investing in its militarization and openly prodding it into conflict with Russia, as well as nurturing and encouraging in every possible way Russophobia and neo-Nazi practices marked by contempt for humanity. By the way, the current representatives of the Kyiv regime at the OSCE are zealously catering to these Western priorities. As to whether they spare a thought for the interests of the inhabitants of Ukraine itself when doing so, well, that is a matter for their conscience.

The revelations made to *The Economist* a few days ago by Valentyn Nalyvaichenko, a former head of the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) who has close ties to the powers that be in Washington, D.C., are remarkable. He shared that, in 2015, a special fifth directorate had been created within the SBU. It had set about engaging in political assassinations and the elimination of undesirables. As Mr. Nalyvaichenko explained, the authorities in Kyiv decided at the time that throwing opponents into prison was “not enough” and that it was necessary to physically destroy them. It goes without saying that such activities could not, and cannot, be pursued without the approval of the country’s highest political leadership or the knowledge of Ukraine’s foreign handlers, with whose intelligence services the SBU has concluded relevant co-operation agreements.

Ultimately, Mr. Nalyvaichenko has confirmed the terrorist nature of the post-Maidan regime in Kyiv, specifically the fact that it has a terroristic assassination programme in place to achieve political goals. And also the fact that the Western handlers are au courant with what is going on. They know and keep silent about it, not least in this room. Moreover, they are doing everything they can to prevent the relevant OSCE structures from taking notice of the Ukrainian intelligence services’ “high gain” assassinations of the philosopher and public figure Darya Dugina and the journalist and publicist Vladlen Tatarsky, the serious injuries inflicted on the writer Zakhar Prilepin, and other tragic incidents.

Also being swept under the carpet at the OSCE are the assassinations using explosives that were carried out in 2022 on instructions from the Ukrainian intelligence services and that claimed the lives of the director of the families, youth and sports department of the Kherson regional administration, Dmitry Savluchenko; the head of the administration of the settlement of Veliky Burluk, Yevgeny Yunakov; the deputy chief of the traffic police in the city of Berdyansk, Alexander Kolesnikov; the head of the administration of the settlement of Mikhailovka in the Zaporozhye region, Ivan Sushko; and many others. And going even further back, the assassination of the head of the Donetsk People’s Republic, Alexander Zakharchenko.

Just a few days ago, the Russian Federal Security Service arrested a man in the Zaporozhye region who was involved in the preparation of terrorist attacks upon orders from the Ukrainian intelligence services. A total of 5 kg of explosives, 17 electric detonators, three fuses and other bomb-making components were seized from him.

Those in the West realize that the military defeat of the Kyiv regime is only a matter of time. 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 loss of life, casualties and destruction, and to render the natural riches of a number of our territories unsuitable for exploitation for years to come.

According to the Russian Ministry of Defence, since the start of the Ukrainian armed forces' summer campaign, the Ukrainian formations have, in total, lost more than 66,000 troops and 7,600 units of weaponry. In the course of August, the Russian armed forces destroyed 34 command posts of the Ukrainian military and downed 159 HIMARS-fired rockets, more than a thousand unmanned aerial vehicles and 13 cruise missiles. We stress that the Ukrainian formations' attempts at an offensive did not attain their goals in any of the directions of attack. In order to conceal their setbacks, Mr. Zelenskyy's troops are attacking civilian objects. Civilian casualties have, unfortunately, been recorded in all of the areas adjacent to the combat line; the most intensive shelling was endured by the city of Donetsk and its outskirts.

The Kyiv regime has no qualms about using the most repulsive methods. On 6 September, many media outlets were abuzz with videos showing a missile hitting a market in Konstantinovka, a city in the Donetsk People's Republic (Russia) temporarily occupied by Ukrainian formations. Straight away, literally within half an hour of a tragedy that claimed the lives of more than a dozen civilians, Mr. Zelenskyy and his henchmen, without providing any evidence, blamed the Russian military and spoke of some sort of "artillery attack". Subsequently, Mr. Zelenskyy hastened to edit his social media post, removing the reference to "Russian shelling". Quite revealing, is it not?

In the videos circulated in the media that show the tragic event in Konstantinovka from various angles, one can distinctly hear the sound of an incoming projectile first and then, three seconds later, one can see an explosion in the vicinity of the market. This means that the weapon system from which the missile was fired must have been situated at a distance of just a couple of kilometres from the scene of the tragedy, that is, on the outskirts of Konstantinovka. Now, the Russian troops' nearest positions are located more than 20 km to the east of the site of the tragedy, namely in the liberated city of Artemovsk (Donetsk People's Republic). Their positions to the north-east, the south-east and the south of Konstantinovka are much farther away. There are as yet no Russian positions to the north, north-west, west and south-west of that city. Moreover, one can clearly see in the videos how, immediately before the missile landed, the people at the market turned their heads towards the north-west in the direction of the nearby city of Druzhkovka (this Russian population centre in the Donetsk People's Republic is also temporarily under the control of the Ukrainian armed forces), from where the missile was apparently fired. The conclusions that must be drawn are entirely obvious.

The Kyiv regime's unenviable situation is confirmed not only by its murderous provocations aimed at attracting media attention and putting on a show for its sponsors – by "coincidence", on the day that Konstantinovka was shelled, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken was in Kyiv to promise new shipments of weapons for the Zelenskyy junta – but also by the desperate steps taken in the military domain over the past few weeks. The Defence Minister has been hastily replaced, with that creature of the British, Oleksii Reznikov, making way for Rustem Umierov, a US protégé.

The Kyiv regime's Ministry of Defence, moreover, issued Order No. 490 of 18 August 2023, whereby the mobilization of individuals with limited fitness ratings – including those suffering from tuberculosis, viral hepatitis and HIV – to take part in the hostilities has been allowed since 25 August 2023. In addition, individuals with mental disabilities, neurotic disorders and diseases of the central nervous system may henceforth be called up for military service. So will they, too, now be using the NATO weapons being supplied to the Kyiv regime? Will they be operating missile systems and firing cluster munitions and depleted uranium shells?

Another fine story is the dismissal, in August of this year, of all the military commissioners in the territories controlled by the Zelenskyy regime after suspicions were confirmed that many of them were involved in large-scale corrupt practices. All this is the direct result of the many years of incompetent external administration imposed on Ukraine by the West, which has so diligently sought to build up a system of quite useless anti-corruption bodies there. By the look of things, these bodies were used exclusively for settling political scores, and not at all to combat corruption. As for the reform of the law enforcement and judicial systems, we need not even bring that up. An eloquent testimony to its “success” is how, on 15 May this year, the Chairman of the Supreme Court (!) of Ukraine, Vsevolod Kniaziev, was caught red-handed receiving bribes to the tune of 2.7 million US dollars.

Finally, it is worth noting reports that Poland has begun extraditing to the Kyiv regime men of conscription age who opted not to take part in the conflict on the regime's side and left the territory of Ukraine in 2022. According to the Polish authorities, there are at least 80,000 such men in Poland. Similar steps are being considered in other EU countries as well, such as Germany. The German internal affairs agencies estimate that around 160,000 conscription-age men from Ukraine have entered the country. In general, this is merely further confirmation of the fact that NATO countries are willing to pursue geopolitical confrontation with Russia literally “down to the last Ukrainian”.

One final point. We firmly reject the insinuations made by the representatives of several Western countries regarding problems with agricultural exports from the territory of Ukraine. We emphasize that Russia is open to dialogue on this matter and that, over the past few days, it has undertaken a number of international démarches aimed at facilitating the stable, safe and reliable shipping of food and fertilizer, including from Russia, to global markets. We will never tire of insisting that Ukrainian foodstuffs account for no more than 5 per cent of the world's food supply and that Ukrainian agricultural exports cannot, therefore, be considered a factor with a major or decisive impact on the global food market situation. Incidentally, world prices of cereals decreased by between 4 and 5 per cent in August of this year alone, and, relative to the prices in March 2022, there has been a drop of between 25 and 40 per cent, depending on the specific type of cereal.

As you know, the Black Sea Initiative ceased to be in effect as from 18 July of this year owing to the Western countries' failure to fulfil a number of conditions that were an integral part of that package deal. Relevant specialists and United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres in person worked on facilitating the implementation of those conditions, but they did not manage to secure constructive compromises from the Western representatives.

Russia reaffirms its principled position on being willing to consider the possibility of reviving the Black Sea Initiative once the illegitimate restrictive measures against Russian companies and financial institutions engaged in the production and transportation of agricultural exports and fertilizers have been completely revoked.

To conclude. The NATO countries that organized the February 2014 coup d'état in Kyiv, obsessed as they are by the desire to control Ukraine through the puppet regime installed in that city, have done their

utmost to ensure that Ukraine is nowadays on everyone's lips as a failed State permeated by neo-Nazism and corruption – a State that has no chance of successful development while it is under the West's external administration.

The Russian special operation is intended to demilitarize and denazify Ukraine, as well as to eliminate the threats to the security, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Russian Federation emanating from Ukrainian territory that have been created by NATO countries. It will be continued until all its objectives and tasks have been fully accomplished. Russia has the resources and capabilities required for that. Our country will steadily maintain its course aimed at defending 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.