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Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1473rd MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

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On the United Kingdom's malign activities and interference in the OSCE area

Madam Chairperson,

For a long time, the delegation of the United Kingdom to the OSCE has been trying not to appear on the lists of official “torchbearers” of the anti-Russian initiatives discussed within our Organization. Historically the United Kingdom prefers to act hiding behind the back of others. Today the “stage director” has finally stepped out of the wings. This gives us the legitimate right to discuss, in the participating States’ presence, the role played by “Britannia ruler of the waves” in the OSCE area.

It is difficult to get away from the impression that, when drawing up its foreign policy, the British diplomatic establishment continues to be guided by neocolonial instincts. On the whole, though, it is not hard to understand the authorities in London: the political elites of an island State in north-western Europe without mineral resources remain in thrall to the glory of yesteryear. Moreover, their foreign policy arsenal – and this has remained unchanged through the centuries – consists of aggressive approaches aimed at politico-military, sociocultural and economic expansion.

We shall not delve into history today – a history that is quite often questionable in terms of serving as a source of national pride in the British Empire, and one that is also soaked in blood as far as the peoples who had the misfortune to come into contact with that empire are concerned. However, in our age too, as this island country enters the twilight stage of its civilization, it is bringing upon the world merely further suffering and military adventures. There is no need for us to talk about the “heroics” that it got up to in tandem with the United States of America or the NATO bloc – everyone is quite familiar with these. And even through an OSCE lens one can discern its attempts at engaging in intrigues in the Balkans, Moldova, the Trans-Caucasus and Central Asia. Moreover, the United Kingdom’s hallmark has long since been its deepening of socio-political rifts in “focus countries” and political subversion, with others doing the dirty work.

The most glaring example is the Ukrainian conflict. We have spoken many times about the United Kingdom’s destructive actions in that respect. The United Kingdom played a specific role in supporting the overthrow of constitutional authority in Ukraine and in the armed coup d’état of February 2014. It encouraged in every possible way the puppet government in Kyiv to brazenly sabotage the implementation

of the Minsk agreements, which were meant to ensure a sustainable political and diplomatic resolution of the crisis. The United Kingdom continues to provide comprehensive support to radical nationalists and neo-Nazi armed formations that are responsible for countless crimes against civilians in Ukraine and neighbouring States. It is organizing combat training courses for the members of such outfits.

After the Russian special military operation was launched, the British did everything they could to prevent the parties from reaching a viable settlement and to drag out the armed confrontation. We shall not dwell now on the United Kingdom's role in the preparation and execution of the staged provocation in Bucha in April 2022 that was aimed at smearing Russian military personnel. We would merely point out that the Bucha staging was used by the British to derail the signing of the agreements initialled in Istanbul on 29 March 2022 that had been worked out in the course of consultations between representatives of Russia and Ukraine. As admitted by high-ranking officials of the Kyiv regime, then British Prime Minister Boris Johnson arrived in Kyiv already on 9 April 2022 and told them, I quote, "not [to] sign anything" with Russia and "just [to] fight".

The United Kingdom not only played a key role in the gaslighting of Ukrainian society but also, when all is said and done, bears a huge responsibility for the deaths of hundreds of thousands of inhabitants of Ukraine, whom the Kyiv regime forcibly mobilized and packed off to be slaughtered after the regime, at the urging of the authorities in London and Washington, was instructed to withdraw from consultations on a settlement.

British officials are currently sending ever more advanced weapons to the Kyiv regime and encouraging, nay urging, it to use these to strike Russian territory. By essentially engaging in propaganda and, to all intents and purposes, fanning the flames of war, the United Kingdom has contributed significantly to the spiral of escalation in Europe – both through its national decisions to supply ever more powerful weapons to the Kyiv regime and through its demands that the European Union countries allocate more financial resources and armaments to the Zelenskyy regime.

All kinds of tricks are being employed here, such as the organization of "circular swap" ("Ringtausch") schemes, whereby the British sponged air defence systems, tanks and other armoured vehicles from the Germans to give them to the Kyiv regime, and also attempts to force Germany to share long-range Taurus missiles with Ukraine via the United Kingdom. That is, to draw – literally to drag – the Germans, and together with them the whole of Europe, into yet another large-scale pan-European war. By the way, many inhabitants of Germany still remember from their own history that it is far more profitable to develop an economic partnership with the Russians than to wage war with them – and arguably this alone is currently acting as a deterrent in a context of active confrontational propaganda by the British.

In London they are working on the premise that, in the event of the Ukrainian conflict spilling over beyond the borders of Ukraine and in the event of certain powers subsequently clashing with each other, the risks for the United Kingdom itself are negligible. It is worth recalling the speculations by UK Foreign Secretary David Cameron in an article of 14 February 2024 for *The Hill*, from which I now quote: "We have proved that the dangers of escalation are illusory. Britain was the first to provide everything from anti-tank weapons to artillery to tanks and now long-range fires like Storm Shadow missiles."

In the same interview, Lord Cameron tried to portray as weakness the restraint shown by Russia's leadership and the reluctance of our people to be dragged into the spiral of escalation that the British are seeking to impose. Incidentally, such arguments are highly flawed, as is the conviction of British officials that their island State is at present invulnerable. This was pointed out to the Ambassador of the United Kingdom when he was summoned to the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 6 May. It was emphasized that, in certain circumstances and in accordance with the provisions of Russian military doctrine, our

country is prepared to take defensive measures that will inflict irreparable damage on British facilities not only within the territory of Ukraine but also beyond its borders. Importantly, the British must understand that Russia does not seek confrontation, but it is entitled to respond. There is no point in testing the limits of our country's restraint.

The United Kingdom is also encouraging in every possible way the anti-Russian activities of Ukrainian hackers. There have been instances where, following cyberconsultations between the British and Ukrainian authorities, the so-called "IT Army of Ukraine" – which in reality is a conglomerate of hackers and fraudsters – has been galvanized into action as if it had received an order from on high. Moreover, it is worth noting that, in practice, this unchecked assistance for the Kyiv regime has led, instead, to a surge in crime, to the theft of funds in European countries and these winding up in Ukraine.

The United Kingdom is carrying out systematic work to stir up Russophobia on the Internet and to distort the nature of Russia's foreign policy in the Western information space – activities that it refers to as combating disinformation. It has already become a traditional pattern for British journalists to link any cyberattacks to Russia without waiting for the outcomes of investigations.

One must not forget that the United Kingdom's malicious activities in the information space are systemic in nature. The British regularly conduct exercises, including exercises under the aegis of NATO, to practise the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) to strike at Russian critical information infrastructure facilities. In particular, attacks on government agencies in the Kaliningrad region and on Moscow's electricity grid are being modelled.

The UK Government is assisting the Zelenskyy regime as part of a Ramstein-format "IT coalition", where it is engaged in strengthening the offensive ICT capabilities of the regime's Defence Ministry and the Ukrainian armed forces; and it is supplying equipment for these purposes. Within the framework of the Tallinn Mechanism it is helping to consolidate the support measures undertaken by Western governments and information technology companies. Their resources are being leveraged for cyberoperations against our country.

The British authorities are a paragon of double standards in the field of human rights. One of the pressing issues faced by the United Kingdom continues to be lingering systemic racism and racial discrimination. The concluding observations of the United Nations Human Rights Committee published on 3 May of this year are telling. Having considered the United Kingdom's latest periodic report, the Committee's experts arrived at most depressing conclusions. In particular, they express concern about the fact that "racial inequality and discriminatory practices against Gypsies, Roma and Travellers, people of African descent and other minority groups remain largely unaddressed and appear to be increasing." According to the Committee, the greatest arbitrariness occurs in the police forces and in the criminal justice system. The experts stress that there is an "overrepresentation of people of African descent and ethnic minorities in detention". Another significant problem is the use of electrical discharge weapons ("tasers") by law enforcement officers. The Committee is particularly concerned by the fact that "the use of tasers on children and persons with disabilities persists."

The British authorities' neocolonialism and inhumanity can be seen clearly in their harsh treatment of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. Violations of the rights of these categories of people have been systematically written into law since 2022. The Illegal Migration Act adopted in 2023 denies persons arriving in the United Kingdom the right to claim asylum if they did not face persecution in the country of transit. This amounts to a ban on the granting of asylum, which is flagrantly in breach of the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. In particular, it is a breach of Articles 31 and 33, which prohibit the imposition of penalties on refugees and asylum seekers on account of their "illegal entry or presence".

However, the British authorities are going even farther. In April of this year, the UK Parliament adopted an even more draconian law, which provides for the possibility of deportation to Rwanda. This happened despite a ruling by the Supreme Court indicating that such a law would be contrary to the principle of non-refoulement. The adoption of this new legislation has caused quite a stir and been criticized by authoritative human rights bodies. In late April of this year, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk, called upon the British authorities to reconsider their plans. They pointed out that “this new legislation seriously hinders the rule of law in the UK and sets a perilous precedent globally.” Similar assessments were also made by the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, Michael O’Flaherty, who called upon the UK Government to refrain from deporting people to Rwanda and to put an end to the “effective infringement of judicial independence” enshrined in that law.

In closing, we should like to express our hope that clear thinking will prevail among the British authorities, together with an appropriate assessment and analysis of the circumstances and risks, and also a realization of the destructive nature of their confrontational course, which is pushing the European continent to the brink of an all-engulfing armed confrontation.

So far, though, there are unfortunately few grounds for optimism. This is something that is beginning to be understood in the United Kingdom itself, as indirectly confirmed by some remarks by Dominic Cummings, the former chief adviser to British Prime Minister Boris Johnson. In an interview of 9 May with the newspaper *i*, he not only ripped into the West’s failed strategy on Ukraine and in other areas, but also stated bluntly that (I quote) “the lesson we’ve taught Putin is that we’re a bunch of total ... jokers.” We shall not cite the quotation in full here, given that it contains obscenities directed at British officials. However, Mr. Cummings added that the West’s involvement in the current military adventures had “broadcast it to the entire world what a bunch of clowns we are”. One may or may not agree with these assessments, but they indicate very clearly that it is by no means those at the bottom of the pile in the United Kingdom who are openly wondering about the fallacy of that country’s destructive course in the global arena.

It is time the British authorities objectively looked reality in the eye: the so-called Third World, which they are used to regarding as a kind of breadbasket, has changed irrevocably, having become an influential and constantly growing conglomeration of the global majority. There is no way it can be driven back – whether at bayonet point, through political manipulation of “local” elites or economic blackmail – into the colonial era that represents a lost golden age in the eyes of Downing Street. All this applies wholly to the OSCE area as well, which in the foreseeable future will witness, including through the example of the Ukrainian conflict, the shattering of the British establishment’s imperial illusions.

Thank you for your attention.