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**STATEMENT BY  
MR. ALEKSANDR VOLGAREV, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1502nd MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

12 December 2024

**On the increasing military involvement of certain NATO and EU member States in further confrontation in and around Ukraine**

Madam Chairperson,

According to reports, a number of NATO countries (among them the United Kingdom, Germany, Poland and Romania) are working out scenarios for the deployment of military personnel under the guise of “peacekeepers” with a view to the *de facto* military occupation of areas of Ukraine temporarily controlled by the Kyiv regime. In view of this, it is no coincidence that, during an interview with Sky News on 29 November, Volodymyr Zelenskyy spoke of how these areas needed to be quickly “take[n] under the NATO umbrella” with their existing borders.

We recall in this connection the statement of 21 November 2024 by Russian President Vladimir Putin, which contains clear signals directed at the ruling elites of those countries that are hatching plans to use their military contingents against our country.

Given the huge combat losses of the Ukrainian armed forces and the stalling of the forced mobilization of the civilian population, the Zelenskyy regime’s sponsors (with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, in particular, as their mouthpiece) are stepping up the pressure on Ukraine. The aim is to compel that country to make “hard” but “necessary” decisions about further mobilization, and to start calling up young men from the age of 18 upwards to serve in the Ukrainian armed forces. The Spokesperson for the US Department of State, Matthew Miller, actively elaborated on this message during a press briefing on 9 December, announcing that if the age threshold for mobilization were lowered to 18 years, the United States of America would see to it that conscripts are fully equipped. In these circumstances, it is only servile representatives of the Kyiv regime, anxious to conceal the truth from their own population, who continue to assert that the notion of a proxy war being waged by NATO countries against Russia literally “down to the last Ukrainian” is some kind of “invention of Russian propaganda”.

By the way, preparatory measures are already being implemented to mobilize Ukrainian youths straight from the school desk: the Kyiv regime’s Defence Minister, Rustem Umerov, recently announced the adoption of a system for automatically registering 17-year-olds with the military authorities via a public services app called Rezerv+.

Against this backdrop, even officials loyal to the Kyiv regime who were actively involved in disseminating the regime's propaganda are fleeing Ukraine. In the autumn, the ranks of such defectors were joined by the Director of the so-called National Museum of the History of Ukraine, Fedir Androshchuk, who went off on a business trip and decided to stay in Sweden. As for Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba, who had promised that "even if we run out of weapons, we will fight with shovels", the fact is that after leaving office he did not head for the front line with a shovel in hand, but got himself a job in the United States instead, where he has been signed up by the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. With regard to the military-aged men who have left Ukraine illegally, their total number already stands at more than 1.2 million according to the head of the Temporary Investigative Commission of the Verkhovna Rada (Ukrainian Parliament) dealing with military personnel issues, Anna Skorokhod. And these are just official estimates – the real figures are far, far higher.

Madam Chairperson,

The developments of the past decade have clearly exposed how the NATO puppets in Kyiv – and their masters too – are chronically incapable of negotiations on anything that has to do with the Ukraine issue. Peace in the region is not their objective. Among the examples of disgraceful diplomatic trickery that are fresh in people's minds we may cite the guarantees that European Union countries provided for the implementation of the agreement of 21 February 2014 between the "Maidan opposition" and President Viktor Yanukovich, and which were never honoured. Something similar also happened with the Minsk agreements – endorsed by the United Nations Security Council through its resolution 2202 – which the Kyiv regime's Western sponsors used to buy time and militarize Ukraine with a view to provoking a larger-scale regional armed conflict. No less instructive is the episode involving the Istanbul agreements initialled by Ukraine's representatives on 29 March 2022, which were derailed after the Zelenskyy regime received instructions from London and Washington, where they had pinned their hopes on "war down to the last Ukrainian" in their striving to inflict a strategic defeat on our country.

The NATO countries continue to act in keeping with the logic of escalation and to invest in prolonging the armed confrontation. At a press conference on 3 December, NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte noted that, instead of talking about a peaceful settlement, it was necessary to provide the Zelenskyy regime with even more armaments so that in the future it could enter into negotiations "from the best possible position". Over the past two weeks, the United States and Germany have earmarked some further packages of military funding to meet the needs of the Ukrainian armed forces. Incidentally, all that has been achieved by NATO's active military provisioning of the Zelenskyy regime during these years is to drag out the conflict, leading to more casualties and destruction. What it has certainly not done is to enable the regime to negotiate "from a position of strength". The objective of the Kyiv regime's sponsors consists in something else, namely to exploit Ukraine as a tool in the struggle against Russian statehood.

That the "Anglo-Saxons" and their subordinate elites in a number of Western countries control the Kyiv regime, bear responsibility for a policy, going back many years, of creating military tensions in the region and are directly influencing the level of armed escalation was confirmed in a video interview with *The Telegraph* on 28 November by former British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who had his finger in the pie when the implementation of the Istanbul agreements was scuppered in 2022. In particular, he said that "we're waging a proxy war, but we're not giving our proxies the ability to do the job. For years now, we've been allowing them to fight with one hand tied behind their backs ...".<sup>1</sup>

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1 <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/11/28/uk-troops-should-help-defend-ukraine-border-in-ceasefire/>

So what are we to make of Mr. Johnson, then? Is he just a retired British politician who could not keep mum or is he the latest “agent of the Kremlin”? And why did he suddenly decide to publicly corroborate something that Russian diplomats have been talking about for a long time now?

According to the Russian Ministry of Defence, on the morning of 11 December the Kyiv regime used six US-made ATACMS ballistic missiles to launch a missile strike on a facility in the city of Taganrog, in the Rostov region. Two missiles were shot down by the combat crew of a Pantsir gun/missile air defence system, the others were diverted from their course by means of electronic warfare assets. There were casualties as a result of the falling missile fragments. This attack using Western long-range weapons will be met with consequences; work on retaliatory measures is under way.

NATO arms deliveries are incapable of helping Mr. Zelenskyy’s formations to turn the situation around on the battlefield. It goes without saying that, by definition, no military victory whatsoever by the Kyiv regime’s formations over Russia has occurred, is occurring or can occur. In view of this, no illusions are entertained in Moscow as to speculations about the great likelihood of a new negotiation process regarding Ukraine. No illusions are entertained there either as to NATO’s true goals in the Ukrainian conflict.

Incidentally, while the Kyiv regime, by way of window dressing, holds forth on its alleged striving for a fair peace, the self-imposed ban on contacts with the Russian leadership introduced by Mr. Zelenskyy in the autumn of 2022 remains in force. It is not for nothing that the Western sponsors are currently working out scenarios for replacing that “President”, whose term has expired and who has become the very personification of uncompromising fanaticism, with another figure.

We once again stress the unacceptability of any “freezes” or temporary ceasefires, which would be exploited to restore the Kyiv regime’s military capabilities and, as a result, generate a new wave of armed violence. A diplomatic settlement must bring genuine politico-military détente closer, be of a universal nature, take existing geopolitical realities into account, ensure that the objectives of the special military operation are implemented, be sustainable and rule out the possibility of Ukrainian territory being made use of to project hybrid threats against sovereign States in our region. For now, though, our country is continuing the special operation by military means until the goals set have been fully accomplished.

We trust that the individuals with impressive diplomatic experience appointed through decisions of the Ministerial Council meeting in Malta on 5 and 6 December to the posts of OSCE Secretary General (Mr. Feridun Hadi Sinirlioglu), Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (Ms. Maria Telalian), High Commissioner on National Minorities (Mr. Christophe Kamp) and Representative on Freedom of the Media (Mr. Jan Braathu) will be able to contribute to an objective analysis of causation in the Ukrainian conflict in the interests of swiftly bringing peace closer. What is required is a balanced, as opposed to NATO-centric, approach to analysing the ongoing developments; it is essential to take the legitimate security interests of sovereign States into account. We avail ourselves of this opportunity to wish the new OSCE leadership success in the challenging work that lies ahead.

Thank you for your attention.