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THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1431st MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

6 July 2023

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

Mr. Chairperson,

Since the intensified attempts at an offensive deep into Russian territory in Donbas and the Dnieper Lowland on 4 June this year, over a month ago, the Kyiv regime's formations have achieved no significant progress on either front. The actions of the Russian troops are effectively reducing their offensive capabilities. According to the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation, Volodymyr Zelenskyy's troops have lost around 2,500 weapons of various kinds during this time. Their unsuccessful attacks in the direction of South Donetsk, Zaporozhye and Donetsk alone have resulted in the loss of 16 airplanes, three helicopters and hundreds of pieces of equipment.

We note the exaggerated expectations of the Kyiv regime's foreign handlers regarding NATO weapons, which cannot and will not significantly affect the balance of forces on the combat line. In the past month, 16 Leopard tanks have been destroyed – almost all the equipment of this type handed over to the Kyiv regime by Poland and Portugal. The recently announced deliveries of dozens of tanks and anti-aircraft systems from Germany and Denmark, as well as armoured vehicles from the United States of America (replacing the Bradleys and Strykers burned around Zaporozhye), will meet the same fate: their destruction is only a matter of time.

The fate of foreign mercenaries in the special operations zone is also unenviable. According to the Russian Ministry of Defence, two generals, who had participated in a staff meeting, and as many as 50 officers of the Ukrainian armed forces and 20 foreign mercenaries and military advisers were eliminated on 27 June in a high-precision strike on a temporary deployment point of the 56th Separate Motorized Infantry Brigade of the Ukrainian armed forces in the city of Kramatorsk (Donetsk People's Republic, Russia). CBS Television has published an obituary on US Marine Corps veteran Ian Frank Tortorici, who was killed there. Footage of English-speaking soldiers of fortune with tattoos of US military units (such as the US 75th Ranger Regiment) filming military casualties has circulated around the world. Alex Gallant, Arnaud De Decker, Nick Duckworth and a number of others were also in the spotlight.

In an attempt to compensate for setbacks on the battlefield and to intimidate the civilian population, Zelenskyy's formations are shelling civilian objects. Late on the evening of 4 July, a fierce attack from a multiple-launch rocket system was fired on residential areas and a hospital complex in the Krasnogvardeysky district of Makeevka (Donetsk People's Republic, Russia). At least 68 people were reportedly injured, including a two-year-old girl and a seven-year-old boy. One local resident was killed. This shelling alone damaged 40 houses, 13 kindergartens and two fire stations in addition to the hospital complex.

Without counting the losses, Zelenskyy and his foreign handlers are driving the Ukrainians to their slaughter in a bid to show at least some success ahead of the forthcoming NATO summit in Vilnius. Zelenskyy himself stated this explicitly: "We have to show results, but every kilometre costs lives." Like merchandise, people's fates are being mangled for the sake of accounting to their foreign masters and a symbolic result by a certain date.

The regime's lack of independence is also demonstrated by Zelenskyy's other admissions. In an interview with CNN on 3 July, the former artiste, who proudly calls himself president of an independent country, said that he communicates and co-ordinates regularly behind the scenes with Bill Burns, head of the US Central Intelligence Agency, who visited Kyiv recently, regarding the conduct of military operations.

Thousands of Ukrainian civilians are being forcibly mobilized. Evidence emerged last week of military recruitment officers breaking into private homes for that purpose in the town of Derazhnia in the Khmelnytskyi region. Tens of thousands of NATO-trained Ukrainian soldiers are also becoming cannon fodder. All of them are being thrown as expendable material into the furnace of a proxy war against Russia – all for the fanatical dream of the Anglo-Saxons and their obedient accomplices in Europe to inflict some kind of "strategic defeat" on our country.

The handlers of a desovereignized Ukraine, who have turned it into a *de facto* protectorate, have no need for any kind of political and diplomatic settlement. They deliberately promote Zelenskyy's so-called "peace plan" – a set of absurd and unrealistic ideas not devised in Kyiv and aimed at exacerbating regional antagonisms. Against this background, plans for long-term military supply to the Kyiv regime are being developed. Ukraine is being pushed to continue fighting and dissuaded from taking a peaceful and realistic path to a solution to the conflict at the negotiating table. They are encouraging attacks on the civilian population and waging a campaign to destroy everything about Ukraine that is historically Russian.

In doing all this, the Anglo-Saxons have so far only inflicted a strategic defeat on Ukraine itself, destroying it as a sovereign State. Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán acknowledged this in a commentary in *Welt* the other day. I quote: "Ukraine is no longer a sovereign country. They have no money, no weapons. They can only fight because we in the West support them."

Incidentally, the West knows it cannot trace the weapons after they have been handed over to the Kyiv regime. They could surface anywhere, on any black market. Significantly, during the recent riots in France, police were fired on by large-calibre US Accuracy International rifles, which were supplied to Ukraine in the summer of 2022.

At the last regular Permanent Council meeting on 22 June, the day before the well-known events in Russia, we emphasized that attempts to destabilize Russia internally by prolonging the Ukrainian conflict and to undermine the social and political stability of our country will not succeed in the long run. This is partly because Russian society, unlike some of our other neighbours, remembers well and respects the lessons of both its own and world history.

Now that it is clear that society is firmly united behind the Russian President and that the front in the special operation zone is stable, there is talk in the West about the cost of supporting “project Ukraine”. For example, the European Union has failed to agree on an eighth tranche of military aid to the Kyiv regime from the European Peace Facility (or the war-sponsoring facility, to be more accurate). One EU country has explicitly stated that it will not allocate any funds until it receives a clear explanation as to where the 70 billion euros already handed over to Zelenskyy have “disappeared”. President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen has made no secret of this. She says that all the reserve funds from the EU’s seven-year budget until 2027 have been handed over to the Kyiv regime and that the EU financial “safety cushion” has been depleted.

Unsurprisingly, as long as the EU bureaucrats have a militaristic mindset and a neocolonial desire to own Ukraine, investors are withdrawing their capital from the European Union. The Bloomberg news agency estimates that 27 billion US dollars have been withdrawn since the beginning of 2023. In the past week alone, 4.6 billion US dollars have been withdrawn from European funds.

More and more responsible leaders realize that the Ukrainian conflict will end as soon as the puppet regime in Kyiv is no longer fed with arms. Reasonable people understand that it is not possible to defeat our country militarily. According to the Russian Ministry of Defence, over 1,300 people (equivalent to one regiment) join our armed forces every day. More than 170,000 people have volunteered to join the Russian armed forces since the start of the special military operation. The planned formation of a reserve army, as well as a separate army corps, will be completed in the coming weeks. Some 4,000 specialized and armoured vehicles are foreseen and available for them. Other units will also be formed, not least in view of the new military risks posed by NATO in the north-west.

It is equally clear that the current puppet and criminal regime has no place in the future of Ukraine, which will not disappear with the regime’s ignominious demise – no matter what our opponents may say. The millions of Ukrainians who have taken refuge on Russian territory do not believe their propaganda tales about Russia’s desire to “destroy the Ukrainian identity”. On the contrary, Ukrainians in our country are well cared for, feel safe and anxiously await the normalization of the situation in their own land.

Mr. Chairperson,

In recent weeks, the Kyiv regime has ramped up speculation about an allegedly impending accident at the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant (NPP). Radiation safety exercises with road closures and the deployment of sanitary roadblocks have been conducted in a number of regions. Panicked civilians are buying up potassium iodide in pharmacies, and in polyclinics in Lutsk they have started giving it officially to children. Confusingly, the leaders of the Kyiv regime and regional authorities talked of the alleged mining of the Zaporizhzhia NPP site by Russia: first the cooling pond, and then four of the six reactor units. These insinuations were promptly refuted both by Rosenergoatom (which oversees the safe operation of the plant) and by experts from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), who are permanently present at the plant. The other day, IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi, who recently visited the Zaporizhzhia NPP, publicly stressed that no signs of mines had been detected there.

We emphasize that there are no military or other threats emanating from the Zaporizhzhia NPP, its personnel or the security forces guarding the site. There is no combat activity starting out from the plant, and it is not being used as a military facility.

The only source of security threats to the Zaporizhzhia NPP is the Kyiv regime, controlled and armed from NATO capitals. It should be stressed that the Zaporizhzhia NPP has long been subject to armed attacks by Zelenskyy’s formations. Since July 2022, the plant and its satellite city Energodar have been

under rocket and artillery fire, including from NATO weapons. It is regularly targeted by drones with warheads. Several attempts to drop a Ukrainian army landing force near the plant have been foiled. The Ukrainian intelligence services have not stopped their psychological attacks on Zaporizhzhia NPP employees, threatening to create problems for the relatives and friends of the plant's employees in the territories temporarily under their control.

Not only do the foreign handlers of the Kyiv regime fail to condemn all these criminal acts, but they openly cover them up and encourage them, including in this room. Nor will they be able to explain why a special US Air Force WC-135R Constant Phoenix aircraft was flown to the Chania air base in Crete on 30 June this year to monitor radioactive emissions and take atmospheric samples. A dangerous provocation targeting the Zaporizhzhia NPP is clearly being prepared, accompanied by a suitable background narrative.

We should like to remind you that amid the hysteria created in Kyiv in connection with the Zaporizhzhia plant, on 27 June this year Russia sent a warning to United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres that Zelenskyy's regime was planning a provocation. We emphatically warn the current masters of the Kyiv regime against issuing criminal instructions to their protégés to carry out strikes against the Zaporizhzhia NPP or to create an emergency situation there through the release of radioactive substances.

And here is another important point. It is perhaps no longer surprising that the regime in Kyiv is demonstrating a servile attitude to its Anglo-Saxon sponsors – with all the talk of “fostering independence” and the protection of human rights.

On 28 June, Zelenskyy submitted draft Law No. 9432 to the Verkhovna Rada (Ukrainian Parliament) for its “urgent” consideration. It envisages granting privileged status to the English language in predominantly Russian-speaking Ukraine. It is proposed to make it compulsory at all levels of the civil service and in all local government bodies, and also for military officers, security and law enforcement agencies, and State-owned enterprises. There are plans to fund English language learning from the State and local budgets.

Against this background, millions of native Ukrainians for whom the language of everyday communication is Russian will be denied not only the right to receive education and basic services in their native language but even the basic right to use it. It is being systematically excluded from all spheres of public life through the introduction of new discriminatory laws. Its use is subject to penalties, and there is a “language inspectorate”. Just the other day, a mathematics teacher at school No. 126 in Dnipropetrovsk was fined 3,400 Ukrainian hryvnia (about 8,000 Russian roubles) for using the Russian language in class. The decision to impose a fine was made by the so-called “language ombudsman” Taras Kremin, who found out that the teacher had spoken to the children in class in Russian at their request.

Furthermore, despite objections from his own Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on 22 June Zelenskyy signed Law No. 2309-IX prohibiting the import of books from Russia and Belarus. The same law will not allow works by authors with Russian citizenship to be published, imported or distributed, and all other imported literature will be checked for so-called “anti-Ukrainian propaganda”.

These are all manifestations of the Kyiv regime's systematic campaign to erase the cultural identity of the Russian-speaking residents of Ukraine. It is accompanied by the use of repressive tools against those who defend the guarantee of free development, use and protection of Russian and other languages of national minorities enshrined in Article 10 of the Ukrainian Constitution. The OSCE specialist institutions have a responsibility to pay serious attention to this deplorable situation.

In conclusion, NATO's policy of deliberately escalating tensions in the Ukrainian conflict is very dangerous and poses new threats. However, expectations that our country will yield to this pressure will never come to fruition. Russia has all the resources and capabilities to successfully complete the special operation and achieve all its stated objectives.

Our country will continue steadily on its sovereign course to ensure its security, protect its values, strengthen its authority in the international arena, and build a just multipolar world order based on the Charter of the United Nations and the principles and norms of international law.

Thank you for your attention.