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**STATEMENT BY  
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RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON MILITARY  
SECURITY AND ARMS CONTROL, AT THE 1076th PLENARY MEETING OF  
THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

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**Agenda item: General statements  
Subject: Special military operation to demilitarize and denazify Ukraine**

Mr. Chairperson,

The member States of the North Atlantic Alliance are consciously gearing up for further escalation of the Ukrainian crisis into an open military clash between NATO countries and Russia as part of their pursuit of a hostile strategy to inflict a “strategic defeat” on our country. Right now, the bloc is conducting near the borders of our country its largest exercise since the Cold War (“Steadfast Defender”), according to the scenario of which coalition actions against Russia are being rehearsed with the use of all tools, including hybrid ones. NATO members are seriously preparing for a “potential conflict” with us, which has been openly stated by high-ranking NATO Russophobes – Chair of the NATO Military Committee Rob Bauer and Supreme Allied Commander Europe Christopher Cavoli.

Western officials are trying in vain to convince the international community that NATO units are only involved in training Ukrainian soldiers. There is plenty of evidence pointing to their active participation in the conflict and to their planning of attacks on the territory of Donbas and subsequently the Russian Federation practically from the first days of the special operation. High-ranking NATO officers and generals are directly involved in organizing attacks on Russian civilian objects and on the population, and acts of sabotage against the Russian State are planned and prepared with the participation of foreign advisers. We should like to recommend Western strategists read the Bible, which says you should not make threats but nor should you fear anyone yourself.

On an almost daily basis, with the tacit consent of the West, Ukraine is using the weapons it receives from the West to inflict damage on civilian objects and civilians in the Russian Federation. For example, the acting Minister of Defence of the Netherlands, Kajsa Ollongren, stated that Ukraine has every right to strike Russian infrastructure facilities such as the Crimean Bridge if this is necessary for “self-defence”. It turns out that it makes no difference what military means the Ukrainian armed forces use, be it missile systems or the F-16 fighter jets promised by the Netherlands. For the armed forces of the Russian Federation, too, it makes no difference what kind of NATO weapons the Ukrainian neo-Nazis use. All this “hardware” no longer impresses us and must be destroyed as a matter of priority. That also includes British systems, which

Ukraine was given the green light to use against Russia by British Foreign Secretary David Cameron. There should be no doubt on the banks of the Thames that, as a response to these aggressive actions, any British military facilities and equipment on the territory of Ukraine and beyond may fall into the cross hairs of the Russian army.

We regard the provocative statements and threats by the member countries of the “nuclear five” from the Western “club” – the United States of America, the United Kingdom and especially France – concerning the possible dispatch of NATO military contingents to Ukraine, as well as the translation into practice of talk about deploying US nuclear weapons on the territory of Poland, as the West’s staunch policy aimed at seriously escalating the European security crisis. What is particularly surprising is the vehemence with which France has been threatening for several months to put French boots on Ukrainian black soil. Could it really be that dozens of killed mercenaries were not enough for the French leadership? Do they want a stream of regular soldiers also coming home in coffins? In this provocative rhetoric we are witnessing attempts by Western countries to put pressure on the Russian Federation, to drag our State into an arms race, to constrain our combat capabilities, and to force Russia to abandon the goals of the special military operation. They will not succeed.

By order of the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, in order to increase the readiness of our non-strategic nuclear forces to carry out combat missions, the General Staff has begun preparations for an exercise to be held in the near future with the missile formations of the Southern Military District with the involvement of the air and naval forces. During the manoeuvres, a series of actions will be taken to practice the preparation and use of non-strategic nuclear weapons with a view to unconditionally ensuring the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Russian State. Belarus will also join the exercises. The regime in Kyiv and its Western masterminds should finally realize that we have enough forces and means to ensure Russia’s security and to protect its interests on all fronts.

It has long been obvious to us that, for NATO, confronting an allegedly aggressive Russia is the purpose of its existence. Without it, it would be difficult to justify to Europeans and North Americans the relevance of this organization and the trillions of dollars that are spent every year on military expenditures to the detriment of solving social and economic problems.

In particular, in an effort to ramp up the multifarious missile threats to our country, the United States has openly embarked on the path of deploying ground-based systems with intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles in various regions of the world. It has begun to bring missile systems to Europe and the Asia-Pacific region, ostensibly for the duration of its exercises with allies. This indicates that the production and testing of these weapons is in full swing. But the United States and European Union NATO countries must understand that, in the event of any decision on the deployment of such US-made weapons, we reserve the right to terminate our unilateral moratorium on the deployment of intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles and to react in kind where and when we deem it necessary.

We are carefully observing the ostentatious bravado with which the West and its puppets in Kyiv are preparing for aggressive action against the Crimean Bridge. The global media have already written about the fact that this is purely a civilian infrastructure object that is not used for military purposes. However, this does not worry the “Anglo-Saxons”, who continue to incite Ukraine to engage in terrorist activity. According to the Russian Ministry of Defence, US long-range ATACMS missiles have been intercepted near Crimea in recent days. The first F-16 aircraft are expected to be received soon, which the British envision could be used in an operation to destroy the Crimean Bridge. Regardless of the exact modification in which these planes will be delivered, we will perceive them as carriers of nuclear weapons and consider this step by the United States and NATO to be a deliberate provocation. Any aggressive actions against Crimea are not only doomed to failure, but will also be met with an indestructible blow of retaliation.

At the moment, the armed forces of the Russian Federation in the zone of the special operation are carrying out active defence and grinding down the enemy's military potential by means of a wave of attacks with long-range precision weapons. Groups of Russian troops are continuing their offensive actions and are breaking through the system of enemy strongpoints along the entire line of engagement. Since the beginning of the year, the Russian army has taken control of over 547 square kilometres of territory in new regions of the country. Over the past three weeks, Novobakhmutovka, Semyonovka, Berdychi, Ocheretino, the largest fortification in Krasnogorovka and Solovyovo in the Donetsk People's Republic, as well as Kotlyarovka in the Kharkiv region, have been liberated. Our troops are engaged in fierce fighting for Chasiv Yar and Novooleksandrivka, and hostilities are continuing on the outskirts of Novopokrovske.

With regard to the Western-made weapons being supplied to Ukraine, we should like to stress once again that none of the tranches will allow the puppets in Kyiv to stabilize the deplorable situation on the front. In many cases, even Soviet-made equipment surpasses the battle capabilities of NATO models. In particular, at the Pentagon they were forced to recognize the uselessness of the ground-launched small diameter bombs supplied to the Kyiv regime. The effectiveness of the US-made 155 mm M982 Excalibur extended-range guided artillery shells has been drastically reduced from 70 per cent to 6 per cent. It has also been reported that US officials have demanded the withdrawal of the lauded M1 Abrams tanks from the front because of the threat from Russian unmanned aerial vehicles. This is not surprising: there are almost daily reports of the destruction of these US combat vehicles from the zone of the special military operation. Well, once again "miracle weapons" did not help.

Many Western weapons systems shipped to Ukraine to kill Russians have subsequently become museum pieces. An exhibition of NATO military equipment from the zone of the special military operation opened on Poklonnaya Hill in Moscow on 1 May. More than 30 examples of military equipment produced by the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Sweden, Finland, Türkiye, Australia, South Africa and Ukraine are displayed outdoors. Among the exhibits one can find an M777 howitzer, Bradley and Marder armoured infantry fighting vehicles and M1 Abrams and Leopard 2 tanks, which stand slumped over with their barrels broken and lowered. The total cost of the exhibited military equipment amounts to billions of dollars, which the governments of NATO countries had previously worked so hard to allocate for military aid to Ukraine. Whether the average right-minded European approves of such wasteful spending against the backdrop of rapidly rising prices for energy, food and essential goods is, I think, a rhetorical question.

It is quite obvious that the European Union will never get back the multibillion-dollar financial and military investments that were taken from the pockets of ordinary European citizens and sent to support the Kyiv regime: all the Western weapons that were sent to Ukraine will be destroyed, and the cash grants and loans will be plundered by corrupt Ukrainian politicians who are actively buying up elite real estate in Europe and the United States, where they expect to hide from imminent trial for their numerous crimes.

At the same time, Europe understands perfectly well how to put an end to the European security crisis. EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell recently said: "I can finish the war in Ukraine in a couple of weeks just by cutting the supply. If I cut the supply of arms to Ukraine, Ukraine cannot resist, they will have to surrender, and the war will finish. But is this the way we want the war to finish? I do not want [that], and I hope that many people in Europe do not want [that] either." Everything in this quote is indicative – both the awareness that there is a direct way out of the conflict and the recognition of the fact that the European Union has condemned the citizens of Ukraine to the role of "cannon fodder", in effect arbitrarily controlling their fate.

As a result of "human wave attacks", the Ukrainian armed forces' daily losses in April this year rose to 1,000 military personnel. According to the Russian Ministry of Defence, since the beginning of the year, these losses have exceeded 111,000 people and 21,000 units of weaponry and military equipment. The acute

shortage of manpower is one of the main problems faced by Volodymyr Zelenskyy's neo-Nazi regime, which is losing ground. The failure to comply with the rule on the demobilization of military personnel, and the order of the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine on the conscription of persons with mental illness, HIV, hepatitis and tuberculosis, have made it clear that, for Ukrainian men, being sent to the front is, in fact, a one-way ticket. And that ticket has been paid for by Western taxpayers.

Today, by encouraging and sponsoring Ukrainian neo-Nazism, the collective West is casting a veil over the horrors and suffering that Nazi ideology brought to humanity. In these circumstances, the attempts to hold some kind of pseudo-peacemaking gathering under the guise of a so-called peace summit are absurd. They would make sense only if their agenda included such fundamental issues for resolving the existing problems as the cessation of arms supplies to the Ukrainian armed forces, confirmation of Ukraine's neutral, non-aligned and non-nuclear status, recognition of the current territorial realities, the destructive role of NATO expansion, the illegality of the sanctions policy, the neo-Nazi nature of the Kyiv regime, and Ukraine's respect for human rights and the rights of national minorities and Russian-speaking citizens.

In conclusion, we once again warn the United States and its satellites about the counterproductive nature of their current aggressive course. We call upon the US Government to realize the gravity of the moment and to take steps to exercise military restraint, withdraw US-NATO instructors, fighters and weapons from the territory of Ukraine, and desist from any hostile activities against our country. Those responsible for war crimes against the Russian people will face inevitable punishment, while the sponsors of the Kyiv regime, a regime that is directed against the people, must be ready to rebuild, at their own expense, the civilian infrastructure destroyed by the Ukrainian armed forces since 2014.

We should like to take this opportunity to cordially congratulate all our friends, like-minded partners and allies on the 79th anniversary of victory in the Great Patriotic War, which, as is tradition, will be widely celebrated in Russia and around the world tomorrow, on 9 May. This has been and is a sacred holiday for many generations of our country's citizens and for all those who honour the memory of the Red Army's immortal achievement. More than 27 million citizens of the USSR laid down their lives on the battlefield to liberate the Soviet motherland and all of Europe from Nazism. Thanks to their fearlessness and resilience, our people crushed Nazism and continue to do so today. We have everything we need for this – the technological potential, the bravery of our people, their loyalty to the fatherland and a deep historical memory. Ours is a righteous cause, and we shall win!

Thank you for your attention.