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PC.DEL/1020/24  
5 September 2024

ENGLISH  
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY  
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1487th MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

5 September 2024

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

Madam Chairperson,

On 14 June, during a meeting with senior officials from the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, proposed a number of specific meaningful initiatives to bring about a political settlement of the situation in and around Ukraine. These proposals were not only fully correlated with the realities that had emerged but, above all, took into account the expression of the will of civilians living in the conflict-affected territories. Their swift implementation would have made it possible to put a stop to the bloodshed, ensure a sustainable peace and establish a dialogue on issues pertaining to the effective maintenance of regional security. It was pointed out, in particular, that any subsequent arrangements for ending the conflict would be based on far less favourable terms for those currently in power in Ukraine.

The NATO puppets in Kyiv and their Western handlers publicly rejected the Russian President's constructive proposals. They chose to pursue an intensification of the armed confrontation at the cost of far greater casualties and destruction. The Kyiv regime's foreign sponsors sent an unequivocal message to the effect that no settlement was allegedly possible in the current circumstances, and that the regime should continue forcibly mobilizing Ukrainians and conduct active hostilities along the line of engagement and terrorist forays against our country's civilian population. All this being accompanied by talk about how supporting the neo-Nazis in Kyiv is somehow tantamount to fighting for certain "values" and "principles".

In the course of August alone, the crimes of the Kyiv regime's armed formations resulted in 69 people losing their lives in various regions of Russia, including one child, and left 688 (!) people wounded, including 38 minors.

It has long been obvious that maintaining the armed conflict is the only way that Volodymyr Zelenskyy's team, who have usurped power in Ukraine, can continue to keep their noses in the trough, while for their Western handlers it is the only way that they can hold on to the levers with which they are steering the country from outside. Nor have the NATO countries renounced their strategic objectives, namely to try to weaken Russia and, by means of anti-Russian actions in the international arena,

justify readying the North Atlantic Alliance for a military conflict of far greater scale and intensity. Such a course is leading our entire continent towards a catastrophe.

The reshuffling of personnel that is currently taking place within the puppet-like “Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine” constitutes a desperate attempt to prolong the Kyiv regime’s death throes and confer legitimacy upon its authorities, which have long since ceased to be legitimate.

Having deliberately chosen the path of armed escalation, on 6 August the Kyiv regime’s armed formations embarked on a foray deep into Russian territory in the Kursk and Belgorod regions. To that end, they deployed significant numbers of infantry forces and heavy armoured vehicles provided by NATO countries, including tanks, along with detachments of foreign mercenaries. Over in Kyiv they made no secret of the fact that the planning and conduct of the operation were carried out in close co-ordination with NATO countries’ military structures. It is with these, too, that strikes against targets on Russian territory are being cleared. US satellite images were used in preparing the attack on the Kursk region, as confirmed by the Director of the US National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, Frank Whitworth.

The operations of the neo-Nazi invaders of the Kursk region have been accompanied by heinous crimes against peaceful civilians, by the open display of Nazi symbols from the Third Reich (footage showing Ukrainian fighters in uniforms with SS insignia taunting a 74-year-old resident of the Kursk region, Aleksandr Gusarov, has gone around the world), by instances of looting, including of cultural property, and by violations of international humanitarian law in relation to Russian military personnel.

The Ukrainian armed forces’ adventure has put the operational stability of the Kursk nuclear power plant (NPP), an operating plant near the city of Kurchatov in the Kursk region, at risk. With the aid of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), strikes have been carried out in the plant’s immediate vicinity, jeopardizing its physical security. In addition, an attack by a UAV on 11 August resulted in serious damage to infrastructure at the Zaporizhzhia NPP. The internal structure of a cooling tower was damaged.

In the Sudzhansky district of the Kursk region, a car in which a family were escaping from the Ukrainian fighters was shot up, resulting in the death of a young woman aged 24 who was pregnant. A similar episode occurred a few days later. In the town of Sudzha itself, an emergency medical crew in an ambulance came under fire. And these are just some examples of the inhumane actions committed by the Ukrainian neo-Nazis, to whom Western countries have issued carte blanche.

Commenting on the Ukrainian armed forces’ operations, Mr. Zelenskyy and the head of his office, Andrii Yermak, pointed out that in Kyiv they are not in the least interested either in an immediate cessation of hostilities or in a substantive negotiation process to reach a settlement. Together with their Western handlers, they must accordingly bear full responsibility for the ensuing casualties and destruction.

It is therefore quite bizarre today to hear the feigned laments by representatives of the Kyiv regime, and of the Western countries sponsoring it, about the consequences of hostilities in the areas of Ukraine controlled by NATO countries. We also deem outrageous their attempts to pass off strictly military objectives – such as the Poltava Military Institute of Communications, which was destroyed the other day – as civilian objects.

We stress that responsibility for all the casualties on Russian soil on both sides of the line of engagement, for all the people of ours who have been killed and injured, rests with those who unleashed and continue to intensify the hybrid aggression against Russian statehood. Such accountability is inevitable; Russia will continue to seek justice by various means.

It is remarkable that neither the Ukrainian armed forces' terrorist incursion into the Kursk region, nor a single one of the horrific crimes committed against the civilian population by the Kyiv regime's fighters has given the OSCE leadership cause for concern. We regret that, in such a context, the Maltese Chairmanship, actuated by opportunistic political considerations, continues to reproduce the Kyiv regime's propaganda and closes its eyes to real facts. This approach is harming the entire OSCE and bringing our Organization, at whose helm Malta was placed in 2024, into disrepute.

We are grateful to those States that condemned the terrorist foray by the Ukrainian armed forces into the Kursk region. At the same time, the Ukrainian armed forces' criminal actions have met with political support from the leadership of the United States of America, the United Kingdom and a number of European Union countries, all of which continue to wage a hybrid war against Russia. What is more, even in the face of these neo-Nazis' excesses, the US and German Governments have announced the earmarking of further military supply packages for their protégés in Kyiv, including ammunition, transport equipment and other military hardware.

In any case, the objectives of the Ukrainian armed forces' Kursk "breakthrough" were not attained. Over in Kyiv they stated (in particular, this was done by the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, Oleksandr Syrskyi) that they had wanted to execute a diversionary manoeuvre, stretch the resources of the Russian armed forces and slow down our troops' advance along the entire line of engagement, above all in Donbas. The outcomes from August attest to the complete failure of this adventure – in the course of the Russian armed forces' effective operations, the following population centres were liberated in the territory of the Donetsk People's Republic alone: Novoaleksandrovka, Yevgenovka, Novoselovka Pervaya, Yasnobrodovka, Karlovka, Konstantinovka, Progress, Nevelskoye, Kamyshovka, Ptichye, Prechistovka, Ivanovka, Veseloye, Sergeyevka, Zhelannoye, Kalinovo, Memrik, Nikolayevka, Orlovka, Skuchnoye, Zhuravka and Novogrodovka. Fighting is taking place on the outskirts of Selidovo and in the approaches to Kurakhovo and Krasnoarmeysk. In the Lugansk People's Republic and the Kharkiv region, the population centres Kirovo, Stelmakhovka and Sinkovka were liberated.

The Russian armed forces have carried out a series of combined strikes against facilities being used by the Kyiv regime to maintain military capabilities and logistics in support of the Ukrainian armed forces, including industrial and energy facilities, sites for the stationing of personnel, and training centres for the training of members of armed formations and foreign mercenaries.

This work will be continued until the Kyiv regime's Western handlers have fully realized that the demilitarization and denazification of Ukraine are inevitable, as is the attainment of all the objectives of the Russian special military operation. Our country has emphasized on many occasions that the best way of resolving the current problems consists in the West abandoning the futile pursuit of confrontation with Russia and the equally futile striving to inflict some sort of "strategic defeat" on it using the territory of Ukraine for those ends, and also in substantive, responsible and thoughtful work on the political and diplomatic settlement of existing disputes. As long as these constructive approaches by Russia are not taken up properly, the special operation will be continued by military means until the goals set have been fully accomplished.

Thank you for your attention.