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FSC.DEL/187/23
12 May 2023

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
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RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON MILITARY
SECURITY AND ARMS CONTROL, AT THE 1044th PLENARY MEETING OF
THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

10 May 2023

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

Madam Chairperson,

On 9 May, the 78th anniversary of the Soviet people's victory in the Great Patriotic War was celebrated in the Russian Federation. 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 in the battle to liberate the Soviet motherland and all of Europe from Nazism. We hold their memory sacred.

We remember the contribution made by the Allied armies of the United States of America, the United Kingdom and other countries to the common victory. We appreciate the heroic endeavour of Chinese soldiers in combating Japanese militarism. We pay tribute to the resistance fighters who courageously fought against Nazism.

With regret, we note that history, if it is deliberately distorted or consigned to oblivion, is liable to repeat itself. Eight decades later, a "Western coalition" aspiring to world domination and laying claim to exclusivity has openly and without any justification pronounced Russia to be an enemy. To achieve their geopolitical goals, our former allies from the Second World War have supported in every way the rabid nationalists and radicals in Ukraine, descendants of the Nazi henchmen Bandera and Shukhevych, who have been nurturing the idea of seizing territories of the Russian Federation – Crimea and Sevastopol – by force and who made plans for a large-scale offensive against Donbas in March 2022. The Ukrainian Government had no intention of implementing the Minsk agreements; it pretended to engage in a diplomatic process under the Normandy format and the Trilateral Contact Group. The aim was to "buy time" and "bolster the army". The former President of Ukraine, Petro Poroshenko, and the ex-leaders of France, Germany and the United Kingdom are saying this openly.

Today, the Russian Federation is countering the neo-Nazi regime that has been reborn in Kyiv with the collective West's support, combating a genocide against the Russian-speaking population and upholding

international law based on the fundamental principles of the United Nations, rather than on arbitrary rules dictated by the United States as it strives to preserve its monopoly position around the world.

Russia is doing everything possible to ensure that the punitive gangs of Ukrainian nationalists stop their nine-year-long killing of the defenceless people of Donbas in line with a Nazi slogan from 1941 whereby “the Russians must die so that we can live” (“Der Russe muß sterben, damit wir leben.”). For there is no other way of describing the remarks made on 7 May 2023 by the chief of Ukrainian military intelligence, Kyrylo Budanov: “We’ve been killing Russians and we will keep killing Russians anywhere on the face of this world until the complete victory of Ukraine.”

The lack of condemnation on the part of the “civilized” countries of North America and Europe in response to that statement attests to their support for inhumane and terrorist methods. In addition, they are doing everything they can to ensure the survival and safeguard the combat power of the militarized regime in Kyiv.

Just as some politicians in France, the United Kingdom and the United States saw in Germany during the 1920s and 1930s a potential ally who could be sent off on a “crusade” against the USSR. Certain financial and industrial circles on both sides of the ocean literally nurtured Hitler, encouraging him to move eastwards. One need only recall the tanks from the Czech Škoda factory or the Swedish supplies of iron ore for the manufacture of shells. Investments from the United States helped the Third Reich to establish a mighty military industry in just a few years. The co-operation between US big business and the German Government was not suspended even after the United States entered the Second World War.

During the war years, Standard Oil, a US company, shipped millions of barrels of petroleum to Germany, where it was used to produce fuel for German military hardware. The management of IBM supplied tabulating and calculating machines for concentration camps. This list could be continued, but the point is that, without the support of Western business eager to cash in on blood, Nazi Germany would not have been ready for a large-scale war. And then the Red Army would have had no need of Lend-Lease aid.

We have already heard the US delegation attempting to call into question the USSR’s decisive contribution to the defeat of Nazism while playing up the role of the United States. It goes without saying that we are proud of the contribution made by US front-line soldiers to our common victory. However, at the most difficult time, in the decisive battles that determined the outcome of the struggle against fascism, the Red Army and Soviet home-front workers were alone in the self-sacrificing endeavour to break the backbone of Hitler’s Germany. In 1941–1943, supplies from the United States met just a third of the Soviet Union’s needs – suffice it to say that Red Army soldiers at the time dubbed US canned meat “lend-lease”. We regard as unacceptable any attempts to rewrite history and designate as single-handedly responsible for the victory those who did not open a second front until June 1944, when the Red Army was within touching distance of Berlin and after there had been millions of Soviet casualties.

It also strikes us as cynical that, after the end of the Second World War, the CIA used more than a thousand fugitive Nazis as auxiliaries in the struggle against the USSR. The Americans were not discomfited by the fact that these newly minted officers had served the Third Reich – after all, the goals of confrontation with the Soviet Union outweighed any costs. Just as the US leadership today is honouring members of the Nazi Azov unit, including Yuliia Paievska (“Taira”), who in March 2022 killed the parents of two children and used these as cover in an attempt to escape from the Azovstal plant in Mariupol. It will be remembered that, in 2019, the US Congress demanded that the Azov battalion be recognized as a terrorist organization. Now, though, as in the Second World War years, opportunistic considerations top everything else as far as the powers that be in Washington, D.C., are concerned.

Sticking to tried-and-trusted templates, the United States and its satellites continue to pump the Ukrainian regime with weapons in a futile attempt to inflict a “strategic defeat” on Russia. Their methods have become more refined: now they get others to do the fighting for them. The US Government and its satellites are arming the Kyiv regime and providing it with intelligence data, they are training neo-Nazis and helping with the planning of military operations. The volume of military aid sent to the Ukrainian Government in the course of the ongoing special military operation has proved to be many times greater than that supplied by the West to the mujahidin during the ten years of war in Afghanistan. The member States of NATO and the European Union have already in effect become parties to the conflict, a “Cold War 2.0” that is fraught with unpredictable consequences.

Meanwhile, the significant human losses – among both military personnel and the civilian population – are not seen as a problem by the West. It is not surprising that, a few days ago, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken openly gave the Ukrainian Government carte blanche to use terrorist methods: “We leave it to Ukraine to decide how it’s going to defend itself ...”

According to the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation, Ukraine has inflicted damage amounting to over 228 billion roubles on the People’s Republics of Lugansk and Donetsk since 2014. More than 126,000 residents of Donbas, including some 24,000 children, have been recognized as victims. Last week, the Ukrainian armed forces again employed US-made M142 HIMARS multiple-launch rocket systems to pound peaceful cities and towns in Donbas, namely Donetsk, Molodizhne, Rubizhne and Alchevsk. However, Western OSCE participating States have for nine years not said a single word in support of the civilian population of that region, simply because, true to the Nazi logic of superiority and exclusivity, they have conceived the notion that some peoples are deserving of the right to life and the right to protection, while others are not.

In these circumstances it is obvious why the residents of the former territories of Ukraine – Crimea, the People’s Republics of Donetsk and Lugansk, and the Zaporozhye and Kherson regions – refused to remain part of that country and decided to tie their future to the historical motherland, namely to Russia. People do not want to have anything more to do with a regime that serves merely the interests of the West and does not care one bit for their fate and right to life.

In his speech during the Victory Parade in Moscow on 9 May this year, the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, said: “We take pride in the participants in the special military operation, all those fighting on the front lines, those who deliver supplies to the front and save the wounded under fire. There is no task more important now than [the] work of battle.” In a context where the “combined forces of Ukraine and the West” are openly making it their aim to crush Russia on the battlefield and to literally wipe out our country, Russian troops will keep pushing the neo-Nazis back until the safety of our people in our historical territories is assured. The goals are clear to us and they will be fully accomplished with the aid of the Russian people’s unwavering support.

The armed forces of the Russian Federation continue to systematically implement tasks related to the demilitarization of Ukraine. While the criminal regime in Kyiv and its Western sponsors engage in mere bravado about the prospects for a “counteroffensive”, the Russian army is conducting powerful targeted strikes on the Ukrainian armed forces’ forward positions and destroying arms depots, places where the enemy’s military hardware is concentrated and Ukrainian-NATO troop locations. It is systematically knocking out the Ukrainian armed forces’ logistics system for the transfer of Western military equipment.

Over the past week, four US-made M777 artillery systems and Avenger anti-aircraft missile systems, a Polish-made Krab self-propelled artillery unit and two British-made L-119 howitzers were destroyed. At least 32 rockets fired by HIMARS, Uragan and Smerch multiple-launch rocket systems and one US-made

JDAM guided aviation bomb were intercepted by air defence forces. According to leaks in the Western media, the effectiveness of HIMARS multiple-launch rocket systems has been significantly reduced because of the impact of Russian electronic warfare systems, as well as that of the Pantsir surface-to-air missile system, which can shoot down HIMARS rockets with the greatest precision.

Reports are coming in about the forces and reserves of the Ukrainian armed formations in Zaporozhye being exhausted. To somehow remedy this lamentable situation, the Ukrainian armed forces command is sending foreign mercenaries to join the Ukrainian units on that segment of the front. In particular, more than 600 foreign fighters have already been deployed in the direction of Kupiansk and assigned to the 103rd Territorial Defence Brigade and the 14th Separate Mechanized Brigade of the Ukrainian armed forces. According to the testimony of the German soldier of fortune Jonas Kratzenberg, who fought alongside the Ukrainian armed forces, mercenaries have no qualms about committing war crimes against Russian prisoners of war. He confirmed at least one instance in which three captured Russian soldiers were shot dead by foreign fighters. The Russian Investigative Committee will ascertain all the circumstances of what happened. We have repeatedly made it clear that we are not going to handle Western soldiers of fortune with kid gloves.

Madam Chairperson,

In encouraging and sponsoring Ukrainian neo-Nazism, the collective West is casting a veil over the horrors and suffering that Nazi ideology brought to humanity. We 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 military personnel 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.

Thank you for your attention.