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**STATEMENT BY  
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THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1408th MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

26 January 2023

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

Mr. Chairperson,

On 20 January at the US Ramstein Air Base in Germany, at a meeting of the contact group for the military provisioning of the Kyiv regime, which aims “to destroy Russia as a country” (Secretary of the National Security and Defence Council of Ukraine, Oleksii Danilov, Kyiv, 1 December 2022), NATO countries approved decisions that would intensify their involvement in the armed confrontation with Russian forces. These decisions are aimed at a qualitative military escalation, increasing the intensity of hostilities and certain to cause further civilian casualties and additional destruction in many population centres.

The meeting was followed by the announcement of a co-ordinated position by a number of NATO member States, who expressed their willingness (some with undisguised enthusiasm, some under pressure from the United States of America and its protégés in Kyiv) to provide the Kyiv regime with heavy weapons, including Leopard, Abrams and other types of tanks. They intend to use them, along with a number of other weapons, to continue killing Russians, Ukrainians and our compatriots of other nationalities, and to destroy residential buildings and civilian infrastructure. All this is within the framework of the offensives by Volodymyr Zelenskyy’s armed formations announced by US President Joe Biden (remarkably not by the Kyiv regime itself) and desired by the West.

Under these circumstances, the politico-military leadership of the Federal Republic of Germany predictably showed a short-sighted and inconsistent stance, eventually taking the decision – without regard for the moral and historical aspects of such a step and the consequences for the German people – to send German-made Leopard tanks to Ukraine and agreeing to these vehicles being sent by other countries involved in the gathering momentum of military aggression against Russia.

We are convinced that the people of Germany, unlike current politicians there, remember what happened the last time German tanks were deployed in Ukraine from 1941 to 1944, including in support of the Banderites, and do not want an uncontrolled escalation of the confrontation and the renewed horrors of a major bloody war. For Russians, German vehicles in Ukraine – and there can be no doubt about this – prompt the same quite obvious historical analogies. Modern German tanks in Ukraine will suffer the fate of

their predecessors: they will be destroyed and burned on the battlefield. For US-made Abrams tanks, it will be to some extent a new experience – but with the same result. As, indeed, for everyone else in this “tank coalition”.

On 24 January in Strasbourg, German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock, speaking at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe about sending German tanks to Ukraine, delivered another revelation: calling on NATO countries to collectively provide military supplies to the Kyiv regime, she said that European countries should not play the blame game, because they were “fighting a war against Russia, and not against each other”. We wonder whether this was a speech by a foreign minister or a minister for military aggression against Russia. By the way, the fact that irresponsible politicians in some countries do not care about the opinion of their own citizens who do not wish to be dragged into military adventures is demonstrated by an earlier statement by the same Ms. Baerbock: at the 26th Forum 2000 conference in Prague on 31 August 2022, she said that she would continue to support the Kyiv regime “no matter what the German electorate thinks”.

The West’s current actions in Ukraine are by no means pro-Ukrainian, but primarily anti-Russian and are directed against Russia as a State. This is evidenced by the ever new admissions by other Western politicians. The masks have long been pulled off: they are no longer embarrassed to say directly that it is not about fighting for some kind of Ukrainian statehood, but about promoting a “rules-based world order” formed by the West, about fighting for “the strength of [Western] alliances” (US National Intelligence Director Avril Haines), gaining additional incentives for their own economic growth (Canadian Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland at the Davos Forum) and so on.

Last week we recalled NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg’s remarks about the Alliance’s involvement in the “decisive phase of the war” and the assurances by the Kyiv regime’s Minister of Defence, Oleksii Reznikov, that Ukrainian soldiers were being sent on some kind of “NATO mission” to fight Russia. All this against a backdrop of false and hypocritical claims that NATO “does not seek to become a party to the conflict with Russia”. And equally cynical statements by the same author that “supplying weapons to Ukraine is the way to peace”.

To all the aforementioned figures, who are piling on the lies to the international community and their own peoples, I should like to remind them of the words of Russian President Vladimir Putin: “Why do we need a world if Russia is not in it?” We emphasize that the actions of the West in supplying neo-Nazis with weapons for the purpose of destroying Russian statehood only increase the conviction of the genuine defenders of their homeland – Russians, Ukrainians and people of other nationalities – that they must bring this just cause to a successful conclusion and achieve all the goals of the special military operation. The West miscalculated in another way too: it has not succeeded in undermining domestic political stability in Russia directly in the wake of the events in Ukraine. The opposite effect is happening: the people of the country are banding together for the sake of the unity, freedom and independence of our fatherland.

As for Ukraine itself, it is hard to find a country in world history that is more disdained. The West does not need it as a truly independent State. The other day, former Polish Foreign Minister Radosław Sikorski, the same person who signed the agreement between Viktor Yanukovich and the opposition on the settlement of the crisis as a guarantor on 21 February 2014 and then supported an armed coup the next day, shared some interesting details. He has now admitted that at the very beginning of the Russian special operation, in March 2022, there was “a moment of hesitation” in Warsaw, with the Polish authorities “thinking for ten days about a partition of Ukraine” and considering the option of occupying its western territories and then incorporating them into the Polish State.

By the way, an interesting general analogy was drawn by the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Josep Borrell, speaking at the New Economy Forum awards in Madrid on 20 January. Describing the current situation in the context of the confrontation between the West and Russia in Ukraine, he recalled previous aggressions against Russian statehood under the banners of Napoleon and Hitler. He stated that the historical will of the peoples of Russia to defend themselves against all aggression should not be underestimated and added: "It would be absurd to think that Russia has lost the war or that its military is incompetent. That is why it is now necessary to continue arming Ukraine." In other words, by supporting the neo-Nazi regime in Kyiv, Mr. Borrell is hankering after some kind of revenge for previous historical defeats. All this is not surprising against the background of his own racist claims on 13 October 2022 that a privileged "blooming European garden" was being obstructed by some "jungle outside the European Union".

Mr. Chairperson,

The Kyiv regime continues its attacks on the civilian population in Russian regions. Heavy shelling continues to be observed in the Donetsk People's Republic (DPR). Over the past 11 months, at least 4,421 people, including 132 children, have been killed there as a result of the actions of Ukrainian armed formations; more than 4,000 people, including 251 children, have sustained injuries of varying degrees of severity. According to preliminary estimates, at least 9,592 residential buildings, 2,337 civilian infrastructure facilities, including 129 medical facilities, 469 educational institutions, 919 social welfare facilities, 64 critical infrastructure facilities and 756 power, water, heat and gas supply facilities have been damaged. The list is far from exhaustive: data in the liberated territories continues to be collected. In the meantime, Zelenskyy's formations have fired over 100,000 rounds of ammunition of various calibres, including at least 185 HIMARS missiles and about 20,000 NATO 155 mm calibre shells, into the territory controlled by the DPR authorities.

The Russian army's liberation efforts continue. In the DPR over the past week, neo-Nazis have been driven out of Krasnopillia, and fighting is now taking place on the outskirts of Vuhledar. The Russian armed forces have restored law and order in ten settlements along a significant section of the line of military contact in the Zaporizhzhia region.

In the territories liberated from the Kyiv regime, Russian specialists are continuing to restore peaceful living conditions and to eliminate the consequences of the presence of Ukrainian military personnel equipped by the West. In particular, through the efforts of the engineering forces of the Russian Federation, more than 32,000 hectares of land have been demined, more than 2,800 buildings and 280 kilometres of roads have been inspected, and more than 975,000 explosive devices have been found and destroyed. Hundreds of new homes have been built in Mariupol, and the rebuilding of houses in other liberated regions is proceeding just as intensively.

Mr. Chairperson,

The objectives of the Russian special military operation remain unchanged and will be achieved in full, whether through diplomatic efforts or through developments on the ground. They include the tasks of demilitarization and denazification of the territory of Ukraine, as well as the elimination of threats to our country's security emanating from there. Russia cannot and will not allow its historical territories to be used by the collective West to undermine our statehood, to attempt to deprive us of opportunities for socio-economic growth and the development of good-neighbourly relations, or to threaten our people.

The leadership of the United States and its NATO satellites has reached a dangerous threshold. Their deliberate actions to escalate the military confrontation in Ukraine, provoking the regime into military action

against the Russian population using Western heavy weaponry and targeting objects on the basis of NATO intelligence, is a direct route to a full-scale military conflict in Europe, a conflict in which everyone on our continent is certain to lose. And the Anglo-Saxon masterminds behind this conflagration will not be able to sit it out this time.

Russia will continue to steadfastly defend its legitimate national interests and protect its people by all available means. Meanwhile, responsibility for provoking further indiscriminate sacrifice lies entirely with the “Golden Billion’s” panic-stricken shepherds.

Thank you for your attention.