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**STATEMENT BY
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1451st MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

16 November 2023

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

Mr. Chairperson,

The Kyiv regime's military plans have failed. Despite high expectations, members of Ukrainian formations trained in NATO countries have not managed to achieve the desired results. The arms supplied to these formations by Western countries have been unable to turn around the situation along the line of engagement and in the end have proved to be an ineffective "investment".

Kyrylo Budanov, the Kyiv regime's military intelligence chief, has attempted to justify himself by saying that it was only a kind of "psy-op counteroffensive", nothing more. In news broadcasts as part of a nationwide telethon, the actions of the Ukrainian formations were described as an "information and psychological warfare special operation": there was in fact no offensive but, rather, manoeuvres to mislead the enemy. However, the figures give the lie to the Kyiv regime's statements: over 90,000 casualties of the Ukrainian armed forces, the confirmed destruction of hundreds of tanks and thousands of units of other equipment and weapons knocked out of service speak for themselves.

The Kyiv regime is suffering a disastrous shortage of manpower. Recently leaked admissions to *The Wall Street Journal* by commanding officers of the 47th Mechanized Brigade of the Ukrainian Armed Forces indicate that more and more military personnel are refusing to carry out combat missions and that armoured vehicle crews and unmanned aerial vehicle operators are being sent to forward positions as infantry.

The fact that no action or manoeuvres by the Ukrainian armed forces have been able to reduce the activity of the Russian military has finally been recognized, even by Estonian military intelligence. Based on its data, on 10 November, Colonel Mart Vendla, Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Estonian Defence Forces, deemed it necessary to publicly comment on the course of the Russian special military operation and notify Europe and the whole world that the Russian armed forces had the initiative in the zone of the operation and were continuing to conduct intensive combat operations.

Against this background, the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Josep Borrell, who had earlier called for the issues relating to Ukraine to be resolved on the battlefield, was forced to publicly state that a military victory over Russia was not likely. It appears that this EU bureaucrat has begun to realize that a military victory over Russia is basically impossible.

The puppets and their sponsors are now beginning to look at each other for the cause of the Kyiv regime's failures. Analysts in the West close to the military apparatus accuse the Kyiv regime of inefficiently using the weapons supplied by NATO. For his part, Ukrainian Minister for Foreign Affairs Dmytro Kuleba sees the reasons for the failure of the counteroffensive in the "distressing state of the defence industry" and "many misalignments and layers of bureaucracy" in NATO countries.

There are also voices in Kyiv saying that the weapons supplied by NATO have turned out to be of very poor quality. Here we might recall the Ukrainian armed forces' refusal at the end of September this year to accept a batch of broken-down German Leopard 1A5 tanks, which were withdrawn from service back in 2003, that is, 20 years ago. Similar problems occurred, by the way, in July this year with the previous batch of ten tanks of the same type.

Anti-Russian propaganda in NATO countries has not only failed to disorient and divide Russian society, but is rapidly losing ground among its own adherents. The results of the recent elections in a number of EU countries show that people have less and less faith in the mantras about the expediency of high spending to confront Russia courtesy of the Kyiv regime and the forcibly mobilized Ukrainians.

In view of their own internal political processes in recent months, Poland, Hungary and Slovakia have already announced that they will stop transferring weapons from their arsenals to the Kyiv regime. On 13 November, France's Minister of the Armed Forces Sébastien Lecornu said that his country also intended to stop deliveries from its arsenal in order to force Ukraine to buy new howitzers from French arms manufacturers using the special funds allocated for that purpose.

The real motivation of those who continue to fuel the armed confrontation is becoming more and more obvious. Behind the ostensible claim of helping the Ukrainian people is the striving to shore up their own economies by way of purchase orders for their arms concerns, the renewal of their military arsenals and the disposal of obsolete products. We have already mentioned statements by US officials to that effect. Now the French have explicitly stated the same thing. It is no coincidence that in an interview with the BBC on 10 November, French President Emmanuel Macron reiterated that it was not yet time for the Kyiv regime to sit down at the negotiating table.

The objectives are simple. Given the impossibility of military victories by the Kyiv regime, the aim is to prolong the conflict, to cause further casualties and destruction, quite literally to drain the blood out of Ukraine, and to try to weaken and destabilize Russia.

All this, however, does not help to improve the situation in the EU countries themselves, which are experiencing a significant decline in production and economic activity while the gross domestic product (GDP) of Russia, the United States and other major global players is growing. The German economy, the "locomotive" of the European Union, is facing major problems. For example, according to the German Federal Statistical Office, Germany's export volume in September decreased by 2.4 per cent compared with August and by 7.5 per cent compared with the 2022 figures. Germany's GDP is expected to fall by 0.5 per cent this year. Industrial production there has already decreased by 22 billion euros compared with last year.

However, all this has not prevented the German Government from announcing the delivery of yet another batch of military “aid” to the Kyiv regime’s formations consisting of ten Leopard 1A5 tanks and a couple of dozen armoured vehicles and trucks. In addition, Germany has announced plans to double its financial investment in meeting the Kyiv regime’s military needs by allocating an additional 4 billion euros. In short, the current German elites are very close to repeating a familiar historical mistake of pursuing ambitions to the east of their country’s borders.

As for the Anglo-Saxons, it is quite clear what is going on: Ukraine, a spent and by now illiquid “asset”, is being fobbed off on the Europeans in the expectation that, if the United States reduces its funding, they will assume the main burden of bankrolling NATO’s adventures against Russia. Mr. Borrell has already started to prepare public opinion for this. At the Congress of the Party of European Socialists in Málaga, he said that the EU countries should be ready to compensate the Kyiv regime for the funds that the United States chooses not to allocate.

The outcome of the 27th meeting of the EU foreign ministers in Brussels on 13 November also proved disappointing for the Kyiv regime. The European Union failed to agree not only on a four-year plan of military support for the Kyiv regime worth 20 billion euros, but also on the relatively small next tranche of military support worth 500 million euros to cover the operational needs of the Ukrainian armed forces. The plan for long-term financial support for the Ukrainian economy to the tune of 50 billion euros was not approved either. Mr. Borrell confirmed that the European Union had only been able to supply the Kyiv regime with 300,000 shells and would not be able to send the previously promised 1 million rounds of ammunition by the end of the year.

Unfortunately, our country’s proposals to de-escalate and avoid bloodshed have been repeatedly rejected. These proposals were made both before and after the start of the special operation. As is known, it was precisely for the purpose of de-escalation and facilitating a political and diplomatic solution that the Russian armed forces in April 2022 reduced their activity along the Kyiv-Chernihiv axis, and Russian military personnel were withdrawn from a number of regions.

However, the authorities in Kyiv immediately refused to continue consultations on a settlement, counting on the supposedly inexhaustible resources of the West. When provision of these resources began to be curtailed, the Kyiv regime started telling its Western partners with a straight face that in 2022 the Ukrainian armed forces had “managed to recapture 50 per cent of the territory” occupied by the Russian force grouping, and that the real “victory” was not far off. All they needed to do was to allocate more financial resources and continue large-scale arms deliveries. Andrii Yermak, the Head of the Office of the President of Ukraine, who recently arrived in Washington, D.C., to plead for continued support for the Kyiv regime, also spoke in this vein.

Today, officials of some European countries are openly admitting that they know from diplomatic and intelligence sources that consultations between representatives of Russia and Ukraine in mid-April 2022 were halted by the Kyiv regime on the direct orders of the United States. Of course, the United Kingdom was also involved.

The notion that the West cares about the fate of the civilian population, a false one from the very start, no longer has any punch. This is especially evident in the light of the recent examples of unequivocal support and lack of condemnation by the Anglo-Saxons for the massacring of civilians in the Middle East. In addition, we may recall the adventures that they themselves engaged in with impunity in the region, which cost hundreds of thousands of civilian lives, destroyed the statehood of Iraq and Libya, brought a multitude of disasters upon Syria, and so on. It is not surprising that they do not even mention the fact that

last week at least 84 civilians were injured and 16 people were killed as a result of shelling of Russian territories by Ukrainian formations.

Mr. Chairperson,

Some Western countries seek to blame our country for threats to global food security. We have heard speculation in this room that the Russian special operation is having a negative impact on the ability to ensure the stability of world markets. At the same time, the assessments of the World Food Programme and the International Grains Council that there is currently no crisis in the global food market are persistently ignored.

Grain prices have reached their lowest levels today, down 24 per cent since March 2022. This is despite the non-renewal of Russia's participation in the Black Sea Initiative, which, as is well known, has been terminated owing to the lack of progress in the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Russian Federation and the United Nations to ensure the unhindered export of Russian agricultural products and fertilizers to the world markets.

Western countries and their Kyiv underlings are seeking to use the issue of global trade of foodstuffs to justify the criminal actions of the Kyiv regime and further escalate the Ukrainian crisis. We trust that responsible members of the international community will refrain from any initiatives aimed at disguising those goals.

To conclude. We see how, against the background of military failures and the growing media coverage in the West regarding the anti-democratic and corrupt nature of the Kyiv regime, its foreign sponsors have begun to set the stage for a reshuffling of elites in Ukraine in an attempt to preserve the current state of affairs. Through various sources, including retired diplomats and former NATO functionaries and military officials, there has been an intensified floating of proposals that the territorial status quo be urgently formalized in the hope that the Russian special military operation will be halted and the pursuit of its objectives abandoned.

Russia has repeatedly stressed that it is ready to complete the tasks of denazification and demilitarization of Ukraine and the elimination of threats posed by NATO countries from Ukrainian territory both by political and diplomatic means and by means of continuing the special military operation. There is no doubt that all of the operation's objectives will be achieved. The sooner this is understood by the sponsors of the bankrupt Kyiv regime, the better it will be for the Ukrainians themselves and for the pan-European space as a whole.

Thank you for your attention.