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**STATEMENT BY
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1455th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

7 December 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 handlers in the West have seriously miscalculated in their desire to inflict some kind of lightning-fast "strategic defeat" on Russia courtesy of the Ukrainians. They have underestimated the reserve of strength of our State, as well as the cohesion and determination of the peoples of Russia to eliminate threats to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of our fatherland and to achieve all the objectives of the special military operation.

The West's anti-Russian sanctions blitzkrieg has failed miserably. In reality, it has provided the Russian economy with additional incentives for development and growth. Against this background, European Union Member States, on which the United States of America is now seeking to shift the main burden of sponsoring the Kyiv regime, are already experiencing serious economic problems.

We warned as early as spring 2022 that, by supporting the geopolitical adventures of the "Anglo-Saxons" in Ukraine and working to provide military supplies to the Kyiv regime, European States were in fact shooting themselves in the foot (see, for example, Russia's statement to the Permanent Council on 12 May 2022). A year and a half later, against the backdrop of a deep economic crisis in the EU countries, it is absolutely clear that the Russian diplomats were right, but they were not heard. Real economic indicators show that one of the true goals of US policy in Europe is to weaken the competitive global economic power of the European Union as a body and of each of its Member States in particular.

The United States makes no secret of the fact that it views armed confrontation as a means of ensuring its own economic growth. According to official statistics published by the White House, the total revenue from the placement in the various US states of military orders related to the events in Ukraine has already exceeded 27 billion dollars. To justify the allocation by the US Congress of new appropriations for the same purposes, Pentagon chief Lloyd Austin stressed that they could allow another 40 billion dollars to be poured into the US economy to modernize its own defence industry. As yesterday's debates in Congress showed, however, these exhortations have not been very successful so far.

Russian diplomats have consistently warned that the military, financial and other involvement of NATO countries in the events in and around Ukraine will not help the Kyiv regime to achieve the desired results on the battlefield. We have been clearly ignored and instructions have continued to be sent to the Kyiv regime to refrain from political and diplomatic steps towards a settlement. Instead of a serious and thoughtful analysis of the situation, the West has engaged in myth-making about the supposedly low morale of the Russian military, obsolete weapons and equipment, the imminent exhaustion of stockpiles of ammunition and missiles in our armed forces, and the lack of public support for the actions of the Russian leadership in defending the sovereignty and security of our people.

It is interesting to see how the attitudes in public statements of those who style themselves as serious politicians with some authority are changing.

I will cite just two out of hundreds of examples. Speaking in the European Parliament on 14 September 2022, President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen said, I quote: “The Russian military is taking chips from dishwashers and refrigerators to fix their military hardware, because they ran out of semiconductors. Russia’s industry is in tatters.”

In an interview with Ukrainian journalists on 21 May 2022, the leader of the Kyiv regime, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, claimed, I quote: “We have broken the backbone of the largest or one of the strongest armies in the world. We’ve already done that. Including psychologically. They won’t get back on their feet for the next few years.” We may recall how in the polemical frenzy of the early summer of this year the representative of the Kyiv regime in the OSCE promised “a rapid change in the rhetoric of Russian diplomats” against the backdrop of some anticipated successes by the Ukrainian armed forces.

We do not propose to explain in detail today that the Russian force grouping deployed in the zone of the special military operation is by no means a demonstration of the full range of capabilities at the disposal of the Russian armed forces. We should like to point out that, since the special operation began, Russian soldiers have meritoriously and successfully carried out the tactical combat missions assigned to them.

The main thing to note is that this is not the first time in its history that our country has been confronted by ambitious foreign politickers who overestimate their own capabilities and resources, and also underestimate the historical experience of the development of the Russian State.

The hopes of the Kyiv regime’s handlers from NATO countries for the success this year of offensive operations by the Ukrainian armed forces deep into Russian territory in Donbas and the Dnieper Lowland have been dashed. According to the Russian Ministry of Defence, the losses suffered by the Kyiv regime’s formations during the so-called counteroffensive amounted to more than 125,000 troops and at least 16,000 units of weapons and equipment of various kinds.

During the meeting of NATO Ministers of Foreign Affairs in Brussels on 28 and 29 November this year, the Alliance’s Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg and the ministers themselves acknowledged the failure and ineffectiveness of the Kyiv regime’s military adventures throughout 2023. All this has happened despite large-scale NATO support with arms, equipment, intelligence, instruction, training and assistance in the tactical planning of military operations. Mr. Stoltenberg’s main conclusions were that NATO should “be prepared for bad news” from Ukraine and that Russia must not be underestimated.

Volodymyr Zelenskyy himself also admitted the failure. In an interview with Associated Press on 1 December, he said: “We wanted faster results. From that perspective, unfortunately, we did not achieve the desired results. And this is a fact.” A day earlier, he ordered a shift towards building fortifications deep behind the lines, including in the western regions of Ukraine near the border with Poland. This once again

clearly shows that the Kyiv regime's offensive potential has been exhausted and that there is no way for it to be maintained effectively.

The NATO puppets in Kyiv have obvious problems with mobilization resources. The Ukrainian armed forces' huge losses in troops cannot be made up for even through forced recruitment. For example, according to official data, in the Poltava region alone, only 10 per cent of the planned draft campaign has been implemented.

In an attempt to make up the shortfall in the Zakarpattia region, from 1 December a comprehensive document check on the streets was introduced and mobilization measures stepped up. In the parts of the Zaporozhye region of the Russian Federation temporarily controlled by the Kyiv regime, 21 mobile groups have been formed and house-to-house sweeps have been announced in order to search for draft dodgers. This is not to mention the footage published daily by civil society representatives showing Ukrainian military enlistment officers effectively abducting citizens from the streets in violation of existing legislation and without the presence of police officers, forcibly taking them to recruitment centres and sending them to the line of engagement as cannon fodder. According to the Kyiv regime's Ministry of Defence, hundreds of thousands of people are seeking to avoid mobilization in the territories under the regime's control.

Today, the handlers and their puppets are blaming each other for the military failures of the Kyiv regime. The former claim that it has not been possible to apply NATO standards effectively, while the latter allege that they have not been assisted sufficiently with weapons, shells and equipment. Our opponents are claiming with increasing frequency that Russia is weaponizing the winter cold, food, history, information, and so on. What will be next – the argument that Russia has turned the very fact of its existence and national security interests into a weapon?

Let us return to one staggering figure: since the beginning of the summer, the Kyiv regime's formations have lost 125,000 troops killed or wounded. Could they, and many other people, have remained alive and well today if the Kyiv regime's Western masters had not prevented a political and diplomatic settlement from being reached?

On 24 November, Davyd Arakhamia, the head of Zelenskyy's faction in the Verkhovna Rada (Ukrainian Parliament), confirmed in an interview with the 1+1 television channel what Russian diplomats have said repeatedly on all international platforms: the process of consultations and fleshing out a mutually acceptable agreement was derailed by the Kyiv regime in April 2022 at the urging of the "Anglo-Saxons".

By that time, delegations from Moscow and Kyiv were already at the stage of agreeing on specific parameters and security guarantees. They initialled the corresponding draft agreement in Istanbul on 29 March. In order to increase confidence, the Russian force grouping drastically reduced its activity along the Kyiv-Chernihiv axis and soon withdrew its formations from the Zhytomyr, Kyiv, Chernihiv and Sumy regions. However, this was followed by a staged provocation in Bucha, with the participation of Ukrainian and foreign intelligence services, accusing the Russian military of committing atrocities against the civilian population.

According to Mr. Arakhamia, the consultation process was suspended after then British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, during his visit to Kyiv on 9 April, demanded that nothing be signed, saying "let's just fight". We should add that on 24 April 2022, two weeks after Johnson's visit, United States Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Pentagon chief Lloyd Austin held a meeting with Zelenskyy in Kyiv. They counselled continuing to fight and pledged military support. As the current year draws to a close, it is plain for everyone to see how "fruitful" all that has proved.

What will the representatives of the United States and the United Kingdom who accused Russia of avoiding diplomatic contacts with Kyiv for a settlement say now? After confirming what Russian diplomats have long and repeatedly said, is Mr. Arakhamia another “Kremlin agent”?

In their statements today, our opponents do not stint in their praise of the Kyiv regime for its purported readiness to reach a diplomatic solution on the basis of the so-called ten-point “Zelenskyy formula”, which was proposed after the derailing of the aforementioned consultations. This is a set of unrealistic ultimatums and impossible demands on Russia, which were clearly not elaborated in Kyiv. However, they forget to mention that, back in October 2022, Zelenskyy issued a decree banning any contacts with the leadership of our country regarding a political and diplomatic settlement.

In the aforementioned interview, Mr. Arakhamia responded to our opponents as well. He emphasized that at the moment the entire politico-military leadership in Kyiv is in favour of continuing hostilities rather than finding a diplomatic solution, because “we can’t go to the negotiating table right now. We’re in a very weak negotiating position.”

What will the Ukrainian diplomats say to this? Were they simply misled by the Kyiv regime, whose interests were at odds with the idea of saving Ukrainian lives, or did they deliberately lie to the OSCE?

To conclude. Those who believe in the military success of the Kyiv regime’s formations with the support of NATO countries will be inevitably disappointed when the myths they have made for themselves over the years finally crumble. This, in fact, was confirmed by Mr. Arakhamia himself, who emphasized in the same interview that no one in Ukraine today has a plan for the conduct of military operations for 2024 or an understanding of how to allocate the necessary human and financial resources.

Acknowledging the stalemate on the front, even the eloquent mayor of Kyiv, Vitalii Klitschko, could not hold back. On 3 December, in an interview with the Swiss publication *20 Minuten*, he explained: “Of course, we can euphorically lie to our people and our partners. But you won’t be able to do this forever.”

For our part, we would add: the sooner the Kyiv regime and its handlers finally realize that there is no chance of success on the battlefield, the sooner the prospects for resolving the situation will open up.

History is cyclical, which is why the contemporary efforts by a number of Western countries to tear asunder the historical unity between Russians and Ukrainians will ultimately prove to be in vain, just as the attempt to isolate Russia in the international arena has failed. The only thing that the collective West has so far managed to achieve is to bleed Ukraine to death while falsely claiming that Western interference in its affairs is being undertaken for Ukraine’s own good.

Russia has repeatedly stressed that, when it comes to completing the tasks of denazifying and demilitarizing Ukraine and eliminating the threats posed by NATO countries from Ukrainian territory, it is ready to do so using political and diplomatic methods as well as by continuing the special military operation. There is no doubt that all of the operation’s objectives will be achieved.

Thank you for your attention.