



United States Mission to the OSCE
U.S. Statement for the
Forum for Security Cooperation:
Right of Reply - General Statements

As delivered by Arms Control Counselor Daniel Wartko
February 22, 2023

Mr. Chair, exercising our right of reply to the statement from the Russian delegation:

It's clear that our Russian colleague (before he scurried from the room) would like to change the subject from the lies that he told to all of us one year ago and instead present fanciful prophesies of what lies ahead. He commemorates his lie from last year by telling us a new one: that Putin is conducting a war that is going exactly as planned.

It's interesting, but not surprising that with one breath he accuses other countries of destroying arms control regimes, and with the next announces Russia's suspension of yet another arms control agreement -- New START.

And he shows us all his foolishness or ignorance when he points out demonstrations in other countries as supposed signs of weakness of resolve, when in fact they show the very strength of our democracies. We have demonstrations in Washington because we don't arrest and torture protesters. We don't put people in prison for calling a war a war.

And since our Russian colleague likes prophesy, I'll read him one from George Kennan from 1947 because it applies so perfectly today: "It is an undeniable privilege of every person to prove himself right in the thesis that the world is his enemy; for if he reiterates it frequently enough and makes it the background of his conduct, he is bound eventually to be right."

Thank you, Mr. Chair.