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**STATEMENT BY
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1470th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

25 April 2024

**On the increasing military involvement of certain NATO member countries in further
confrontation in and around Ukraine**

Madam Chairperson,

Over the past week, processes have been initiated in the NATO capitals for allocating the latest packages of military funding intended to help the Kyiv regime – now at its last gasp – to stay afloat. A significant amount of military supplies has already been transported to logistics centres on Polish territory, only to be subsequently destroyed in combat on Russian soil.

As a preparatory step, legislative amendments have been adopted in Kyiv that tighten the mobilization measures and curtail the rights of those citizens who do not wish to take part in the conflict on the regime's side. Commenting on the allocation of funding by his Western sponsors, Volodymyr Zelenskyy unabashedly repeated an argument that has long been voiced by Russian diplomats, namely that certain NATO countries are using the Ukrainians to wage a proxy war against Russia. In a recent interview with NBC News on 21 April, he said: "The US Army now does not have to fight protecting NATO countries. Ukrainians are doing that. And it's only ammo that the civilized world is providing, and I think it's a good decision."

He was seconded by NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, who noted in an interview with Sky News on 23 April that the provision of support to the Kyiv regime was helping "to destroy Russian combat capabilities that could potentially be a threat against us".

We will let history be the judge of Mr. Zelenskyy's attempts to reason about the "civilized" nature of the neocolonial efforts by Western countries that have invested in an armed conflict far from their own borders. And likewise of Mr. Stoltenberg's fantasies about the Russian armed forces being incapable of making up most promptly for any losses of equipment and ammunition.

We must, however, emphasize that both gentlemen forgot to clarify that Russia has not posed and is not posing military threats whether to the US army or to any other countries of the North Atlantic Alliance. Quite the opposite: it is the aggressive politico-military bloc NATO that, in violation of the guarantees it had itself provided to Russia, has over the past 30 years been actively "tapping into" new territories and moving

its military infrastructure closer to our country's borders. And since 2014 it has comprehensively used Ukraine as a bridgehead for projecting direct threats to the security of neighbouring sovereign States.

The West's continued support for the played-out puppets in Kyiv has a number of obvious goals. There is a striving to drag out the armed confrontation, to trigger more casualties and destruction, to "entice" our country into responding to direct military threats occurring on Russia's constitutional territory. And, last but not least, a striving to bring about a revamping and replenishment of the arsenals of certain NATO countries' armed forces, to keep their military-industrial complex busy through the placing of new military orders, and to try to bolster their economies, which are stagnating in many respects, by creating new jobs.

Everyone remembers what US President Joe Biden said in December 2023 about how around 90 per cent of all funding earmarked for assistance to the Kyiv regime never left the territory of the United States of America and was being spent within the US economy. Incidentally, the EU Member States are digging deep into the pockets of their own economies and irretrievably handing over real money to the Kyiv regime. They are also sending arms and ammunition, subsequently engaging in military procurement to replenish their stocks of these – for which purpose they turn chiefly to US manufacturers. It is worth remembering this each time that the "Anglo-Saxon" representatives hold forth on defending so-called "principles" and "rules". In reality, they are merely trying to straighten out their economic situation at someone else's expense. All this is, incidentally, accompanied by a flight of business and capital from the European Union to the United States, which, as the head of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, has confirmed, already amounts to some 300 billion euros a year.

The price that the Ukrainians themselves are paying for the geopolitical exercises of the "Anglo-Saxons" is colossal. The Kyiv regime's refusal to implement the Minsk agreements, its militaristic bravado and Russophobic course, together with a demonstrable reluctance to take the legitimate security interests of neighbouring sovereign States into account, have resulted not only in an alteration of the political and legal realities on the ground, but also in huge irreparable personnel losses for Mr. Zelenskyy's armed formations. According to the Russian Ministry of Defence, since the start of the Russian special military operation these losses already exceed 500,000 killed or wounded.

Faith in miracles and a desire to curry favour with Western sponsors to the detriment of the interests of Ukraine's inhabitants accompanied the failed counteroffensive of Mr. Zelenskyy's armed formations in 2023. Banking on domestic political destabilization in Russia did not work out either: faced with NATO's hybrid aggression, the inhabitants of our country continue to display a high degree of unity, rallying around, *inter alia*, the goals and objectives of the special military operation.

The initiative is now entirely with the force grouping of the Russian armed forces deployed to the zone of the special operation, which continues to systematically improve its position along the entire line of engagement. Over the past week, a number of tactically important population centres in the Donetsk People's Republic have been liberated (Pervomayskoye, Bogdanovka and Novomikhailovka, among others), which has increased the operational potential of Russian military personnel.

The Russian Aerospace Forces continue to deliver effective high-precision strikes. Some telling examples from the past few days are the destruction of ammunition and fuel depots within the port infrastructure of the Odessa region and the knocking-out of a television tower in Kharkiv, which was being used for military communications.

Millions of Ukrainians do not wish to take part in a fratricidal war for the sake of Western countries' interests. This is attested by the large numbers of people seeking to evade forced mobilization, both within Ukraine and beyond its borders. There has been an increase in the number of instances of military personnel

and border guards abandoning their positions. There are conflicts everywhere between the local population and military recruiters (from the territorial manning centres), who shuttle to and fro between settlements, looking for fresh cannon fodder. On 20 April, near the village of Chornohuzy in the Vyzhnytsia district of the Chernivtsi region, a military recruiter opened fire in order to keep a crowd of enraged citizens at bay.

Turning abroad: as of 23 April of this year, consular offices of Ukraine controlled by the Kyiv regime have stopped serving men aged between 18 and 60 years in order to force them to enlist in Mr. Zelenskyy's armed formations. According to available verified information, under various pretexts (including invocation of resolution No. 443 by the "Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine" dated 23 April 2024) they are not being issued with passport documents that they had paid for and that are in fact ready. As a result, hundreds of thousands of men fleeing from the Kyiv regime will now add to the caseload of EU countries' migration authorities as they seek to modify their current legal status without returning to Ukraine. Are the authorities of European countries prepared for this? Or will they, on the contrary, start helping Mr. Zelenskyy to wage a "war down to the last Ukrainian"?

It is obvious to the Kyiv regime's ringleaders, and to their handlers in NATO countries, that even with new military supplies the Ukrainian armed forces are incapable of achieving a military breakthrough on the battlefield. The Kyiv regime's debacle is inevitable and merely a matter of time – as a consequence of the manifest disparity in the belligerents' military capabilities, and also on account of steadily declining motivation within the Ukrainian armed forces.

An increasing number of Ukrainian militants are realizing that Mr. Zelenskyy, who came to power in 2019 to the accompaniment of slogans about delivering peace and prosperity and strengthening democracy and sovereignty, deceived the country's citizens and has not fulfilled his obligations vis-à-vis the people. Acting under the watchful eye of his foreign handlers, he has ultimately incapacitated Ukraine as an international political entity and landed the country with an unceasing large-scale armed conflict and a neo-Nazi dictatorship. A non-autonomous regime is in power in Ukraine today, one that openly uses terrorist methods to achieve political goals and combat dissent. Mr. Zelenskyy and his handlers have excluded the entire population of Ukraine from the processes of direct democracy by securing the cancellation of elections at all levels and destroying the political opposition. This is also something worth remembering each time that the representatives of NATO countries begin to wax lyrical about allegedly defending freedom and democracy through support for the Kyiv regime.

Over the past week, the actions of Mr. Zelenskyy's armed formations, which are actively carrying out indiscriminate shelling of civilian infrastructure in Russia's regions, resulted in 11 civilians losing their lives and in 48 people being injured, including a child.

Among the terrorist attacks perpetrated by the Kyiv regime is the targeted killing of Semyon Eremin, a correspondent for the Izvestia multimedia information centre, by the regime's armed formations on 19 April in the Zaporozhye region as he was going about his professional journalistic duties. We demand that the OSCE leadership, including the relevant executive structures of our Organization, strongly condemn that deliberate crime. Otherwise, the lack of an adequate reaction on their part can scarcely be interpreted as anything other than abetment to further infamies by the Kyiv regime.

An accomplice of the Kyiv regime was caught red-handed and arrested in Bryansk by officers from Russian Federal Security Service bodies as he was extracting an explosive device from a hiding place. He had been intending to carry out a terrorist act of sabotage. The work on eradicating the threats to the safety of Russian civilians posed by the Zelenskyy regime with the support of its sponsors from NATO countries will be continued.

Madam Chairperson,

Countries hostile to Russia continue to churn out pseudo-legal initiatives in their striving to rally a broad range of States around the anti-Russian “cause”. They cherish the false hopes that our country’s leadership will choose not to protect national interests and safeguard national security. One of the elements in this campaign is the topic of children, which is being used to attain tactical political goals, and by no means to facilitate real protection of the rights of children affected by the conflict.

We must stress from the outset that both prior to the start of the special military operation and after 24 February 2022 Russia has been and is undertaking active work to assist with the reunification of families who have become separated. The practical impact of the activities being carried out by the Russian Federation Presidential Commissioner for Children’s Rights, Maria Lvova-Belova, is having a clear positive effect on the fate of specific people. For example, during consultations with representatives from Kyiv this week, agreements have been reached that will help 48 children to be reunited with their relatives (19 minors will go to live in the Russian Federation, while 29 will be heading for Ukraine).

Against this backdrop, the Kyiv regime and its Western sponsors are engaged in egregious political speculation, attributing to our country non-existent violations of children’s rights. They are spreading patently false information in order to cast a slur on the actions of Russian officials. Noteworthy in this regard is the recent determination of the whereabouts of 160 children in Germany, who, according to the Kyiv regime, had been “abducted by Russia” as part of some sort of “forcible deportations”. They had been reported as officially missing, and their names featured in lists submitted by the regime to various international bodies.

Germany’s Federal Criminal Police Office issued a statement to the effect that all these children had come to Germany legally, accompanied by their official guardians.

Thus, either the Kyiv regime’s representatives were by no means concerned about the fate of these children but used their names for political insinuations, or, as is more probable, they deliberately misled the international community by attributing non-existent crimes to Russia.

The Kyiv regime’s anti-Russian propaganda comes unstuck in the light of the real state of affairs in EU countries, where there have been numerous instances of children being removed from the care of their Ukrainian mothers by the local authorities. The consular offices of Ukraine controlled by the Zelenskyy regime are in no hurry to assist them – the media space is awash with video appeals by these mothers. As a result, Ukrainian citizens often turn to Russian diplomatic missions for assistance. However, this information is being deliberately suppressed in the West so as not to cause the NATO puppets in Kyiv to lose face.

To conclude. We note an intensification of efforts by the Kyiv regime’s sponsors to involve as many countries as possible in promoting the ultimatum-like ten-point “Zelenskyy formula”, which is a non-starter. The same goes for the plans to conduct some kind of thematic conference in Switzerland in June of this year. We stress that any initiatives that do not take account of Russia’s legitimate interests in safeguarding the unity and security of our country are futile and divorced from reality. They are aimed, *de facto*, at undermining regional and global security.

Holding such a conference in Switzerland is a waste of time, since neither what comes to pass during it, nor its outcomes will be able to change the current political and territorial realities. It goes without saying that representatives of Russia have no intention of joining in the work to draw up ultimatums directed at our

country on the basis of the stillborn “Zelensky formula”. We note in this regard the balanced position of our allies and partners, which are abstaining from participation in this anti-Russian gimmick.

As is known, the Kyiv regime itself withdrew from the political and diplomatic process in April 2022, when under pressure from the authorities in London and Washington it broke off contacts with Russia’s representatives, which had been aimed at concluding an agreement on a sustainable settlement. The draft of that agreement had been initialled by the Ukrainian side during the consultations in Istanbul, but subsequently it was thrown into the dustbin of history. The hullabaloo created today about the planned conference in Switzerland is yet another ruse while attempting to justify this destructive course and to create the conditions for prolonging the hostilities in the interests of extraregional beneficiaries from NATO. It has nothing to do with attempts to achieve a viable settlement.

The path to sustainably resolving the current problems must run through a complete cessation of arms supplies by NATO countries to the Kyiv regime, the withdrawal of all foreign mercenaries, instructors and operators of NATO weapons from Ukrainian territory, the reversal of the Kyiv regime’s decisions to prohibit contacts with the Russian leadership on a settlement, and putting in place the conditions for the demilitarization and denazification of Ukraine. It goes without saying that any contacts on the subject of a settlement should be based on recognition of the existing political and territorial realities and take into account the legitimate interests involved in safeguarding Russia’s security. As long as such approaches are not reciprocated, the Russian special operation will be continued by military means until the objectives set have been fully accomplished.

Thank you for your attention.