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**STATEMENT BY  
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THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1471st MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

2 May 2024

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

Madam Chairperson,

For Odessa, 2 May is a portentous date. Today marks exactly ten years to the day since the tragedy at the Trade Union House, where in 2014 an attack by Ukrainian radical nationalists and neo-Nazis resulted in the brutal murder of scores of civilians who had been standing up for law and order following the “Maidan coup d’état” in Kyiv, which was orchestrated, funded and organized from abroad. More than two hundred people were injured then.

None of the real murderers has so far been held accountable in any way. Quite the opposite in fact: the Kyiv regime cynically tried to put the blame on Odessa’s police chief, whom it convicted *in absentia* in 2023. As for those who opened fire on the peaceful protesters and hurled Molotov cocktails at them, they continue to walk free to this day.

The Kyiv regime’s Western sponsors and patrons continue to hush up this terrible crime, which was committed to the accompaniment of “for the glory of Ukraine” slogans. No pressure is being exerted at all on the NATO puppets in Kyiv in order to follow through the investigation to its end and establish the truth. It is also outrageous that the leadership of the OSCE has again opted not to recall this awful tragedy either. This evidently has to do with the fact that it cannot be exploited for the purposes of anti-Russian propaganda.

NATO countries continue to invest in maintaining the combat capability of the Kyiv regime’s formations, which are being used in a proxy war against Russia. However, the latest shipments of weapons being dispatched to Ukraine from the United States of America and other countries are incapable of qualitatively changing the situation on the battlefield. To say nothing of causing Russia to abandon the pursuit of decisive action aimed at protecting its people, unity and national security, and also at eliminating the threats posed by NATO countries from Ukrainian territory.

In Russia it is being observed with interest how US-made ATACMS long-range missiles are now being designated for the role of the latest “miracle weapon” for the Kyiv regime. This is apparently being

done to raise morale within the ranks of Volodymyr Zelenskyy's armed formations. It goes without saying that, like any weapon, these missiles are not innocuous. They really do pose a threat and can inflict damage on both military and civilian infrastructure. By the way, they will not help to turn the tide on the battlefield at all, just as was the case with the Javelin anti-tank missile systems, the HIMARS multiple-launch rocket systems and the Storm Shadow missiles sent earlier, which were surrounded by an excessive mystique, and also with various types of tanks, such as the German Leopards, the British Challengers and the US-made Abrams tanks.

Russian military personnel have at their disposal the means to destroy weapons of any type. According to Russian Defence Ministry data, in the early hours of 30 April, while repelling an attack by the Kyiv regime's formations, air defence systems destroyed, *inter alia*, six US-made ATACMS tactical missiles and two French-made Hammer guided aerial bombs.

As for the NATO weapons and equipment knocked out of action and captured on the plains of Russia, samples of these can be seen on Poklonnaya Hill in Moscow, where an exhibition organized by the Russian Ministry of Defence and entitled "History Repeats Itself" was launched on 1 May. This title was not picked at random: it is intended to remind all those who have not properly digested the lessons of history that combating Russian statehood is a ruinous undertaking. The exhibition vividly confirms what means are being used by NATO countries to wage a proxy war against our country.

The handlers of the NATO puppets in Kyiv are deliberately pushing the Ukrainians to a certain death. Meanwhile, the leadership of the Kyiv regime is obsequiously performing its act, getting exercised about the interests of its foreign sponsors and the lives of soldiers from NATO countries more than about the fate of the actual inhabitants of Ukraine.

One need only recall the regular statements by those in charge of the Kyiv regime's Defence Ministry to the effect that, as from 2022, the Ukrainians had been "carrying out a NATO mission" by fighting Russia and that they were "doing what NATO had been preparing to do for several decades" (Oleksii Reznikov). Or the recent remarks by Mr. Zelenskyy about how US Army soldiers were not dying now because mobilized Ukrainians were getting killed. By the same Mr. Zelenskyy who in April 2022, acting upon instructions from London and Washington, disavowed the Istanbul agreements reached with representatives of Russia on the parameters of a political settlement. And who, through his decree of 30 September 2022, imposed a prohibition of any contacts with the leadership of Russia on the subject of resolving the crisis.

Under pressure from its Western sponsors, the Kyiv regime has taken steps to drastically intensify mobilization. Practical measures are being developed that envisage curtailment of the civil and property rights of those who evade being drafted into Mr. Zelenskyy's formations – a corresponding draft law was submitted to the Verkhovna Rada (Ukrainian Parliament) by the "Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine" a few days ago. In an attempt to force citizens fleeing from participation in the conflict to top up the ranks of the Ukrainian armed forces and neo-Nazi formations, restrictions have been put in place on the provision of consular services to them abroad.

More relevant than ever for ordinary Ukrainians today are the words that Mr. Zelenskyy said during a video address on 28 September 2022. I quote: "If you want to live, run. If you want to live, surrender. Fight! Fight on your streets for your freedom. Everything was taken from you anyway. ... The only thing you have is loans, something to eat in the evening and now there's mobilization." It may be recalled that Mr. Zelenskyy was thus trying to address Russian military personnel. However, as is now clear, these words were directed at a not too distant future, though they were actually meant for the Ukrainians themselves.

A few days ago, the official authorities of Poland and Lithuania announced that they would be taking measures to create the conditions for Ukrainian citizens to leave Polish and Lithuanian territory and head for areas controlled by the Kyiv regime. These measures, as indicated by the authorities themselves, will include the termination of social transfers for men of military age and a review of their status and of the procedure for extending the paperwork granting continued residence. In addition, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence of Poland Władysław Kosiniak-Kamysz has called upon the EU leadership to work out a comprehensive solution for handing over conscription-age men to the Kyiv regime, his justification for this being that it is something Poland itself is very keen to see happen. So it is quite a “law of the jungle” that operates in Josep Borrell’s “Garden of Eden”.

Incidentally, it is with unfeigned interest that we are observing the manifestations of so-called “Polish solidarity” about which the Permanent Representative of Poland has pontificated so loudly in this room. As with the export of foodstuffs from Ukraine, all this talk about solidarity has proved to be no more than a means of misleading the Ukrainians, who in practice are being cynically used as expendable material for anti-Russian purposes.

Last week, shelling attacks on civilian infrastructure in various regions of our country carried out by the Kyiv regime’s armed formations using NATO weapons resulted in 83 civilian casualties, specifically in 21 people killed and 62 injured, including seven children.

The Russian armed forces continue to eliminate the threats being posed to civilians. Over the past week, our military gained control of some further tactically important population centres in the Donetsk People’s Republic (DPR) and the Kharkiv region. Facts are coming to light in the liberated territories about crimes committed against civilians by members of the Kyiv regime’s armed formations. In particular, according to Russia’s Investigative Committee, mass graves of civilians whose bodies show signs of torture have been discovered in the area of Avdeyevka (DPR). The circumstances of what happened are being ascertained, as is the group of persons involved. The perpetrators will be severely punished.

Successful strikes continue to be carried out on facilities that are helping to maintain the combat potential of Mr. Zelensky’s armed formations. The headquarters of Operational Command South of the Ukrainian armed forces has been hit. We note in this connection yet more instances of inept use of air defence assets by the Ukrainian armed forces leading to civilian casualties.

It is worth recalling the admissions by representatives of the Kyiv regime’s air force command (for example, one made live on the television channel ICTV some time ago, on 16 July 2023) who confirmed that air defence forces were deliberately being deployed in urban areas, close to densely populated neighbourhoods. All this is nothing but an admission that the Ukrainian military is not only treating the civilian population as human shields but also bears full responsibility for the ineffectual and bungling use of its air defence assets in urban areas. Nor should one forget about the officially confirmed instances of defective air defence systems having been sent to Ukraine by some NATO countries for subsequent use in combat.

Russian Ministry of Defence data indicates that around 6,000 foreign mercenaries have been liquidated in total since 2022 on Russian territory and in territories controlled by the Kyiv regime. Noteworthy in this regard is the story of the Georgian citizen Giorgi Goglidze, who survived and was taken prisoner. According to his testimony, he had been recruited in Germany and underwent a training course led by instructors from the United States, France, Germany and Poland. To remunerate him for his mercenary “services” as a sniper, Goglidze had been offered a cash payment of 300 US dollars for every Russian soldier killed.

Taking into account all that has been said, we concur with the assessments by the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs (voiced by a spokesperson of the Ministry, Mr. Wang Wenbin, on 26 April) that “NATO bears unshirkable responsibility for the [Ukraine] crisis.” The North Atlantic Alliance countries should acknowledge their role and stop shifting the blame on to others. It is essential to take practical action to bring about a political settlement.

We stress that the path to sustainably resolving the current problems must run through a complete cessation of arms supplies by NATO countries to the Kyiv regime and through a stop being put to the recruitment on their territory of Ukrainian and foreign citizens into the ranks of the Ukrainian armed forces and neo-Nazi outfits involved in fighting against Russian military personnel. It is important to ensure the withdrawal of all foreign mercenaries, instructors and operators of NATO weapons from Ukrainian territory and the winding-down of other activities aimed at maintaining and developing the criminal armed formations’ combat capability, and also to create the conditions for the demilitarization and denazification of Ukraine. The Kyiv regime’s decisions to prohibit contacts with the Russian leadership about a settlement must be revoked.

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.