

The OSCE Secretariat bears no responsibility for the content of this document and circulates it without altering its content. The distribution by OSCE Conference Services of this document is without prejudice to OSCE decisions, as set out in documents agreed by OSCE participating States.

PC.DEL/122/23
2 February 2023

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1409th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

2 February 2023

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

Mr. Chairperson,

None of the participants in today's discussion remembered the terrible tragedy of 28 January: on the morning of that day, Zelensky's armed formations fired a volley of rocket-propelled shells from US-made HIMARS multiple-launch rocket systems at a district hospital in the Russian town of Novoaidar in the Luhansk People's Republic. The impact of the rockets with high-explosive fragmentation warheads killed 14 and injured 24 patients and medical staff.

Of course, we hear no words of regret from the representatives of the United States of America, who put the HIMARS installations in place for the Kyiv regime. They make no mention today of accidental or negligent use of these systems – on the contrary, they are fine with everything. We would remind you that in an interview with *The Telegraph* on 1 August 2022, Vadym Skybytskyi, a representative of the Main Intelligence Directorate of the Ukrainian Ministry of Defence, admitted that the Ukrainian Government consults with officials in Washington, D.C., ahead of the launch of such missiles, which allows the United States to “stop any potential attacks if they were unhappy with the intended target”.

In other words, a deliberate and targeted attack on a civilian object – a functioning hospital with civilians inside it – was carried out with the approval of the United States, which appears to have been satisfied with the target struck. This means they are just as responsible for this terrible crime. The same applies, for example, to the shelling from the same systems of a college for orphans on 14 September 2022 in Perevalsk, also in the Luhansk People's Republic, when one teenager was killed and seven children were injured. The fate of these people is apparently of no concern to the usually highly emotional Permanent Representative of the United States: either they do not exist for him, or he regards them as people of a different sort. Otherwise he would have had to admit that his Government had sent arms to the Kyiv regime to attack civilians, children and women. And that US military experts agreed to such strikes.

We stress that the Russian Investigative Committee takes careful note of all such crimes and that the perpetrators will be prosecuted and punished.

Against the background of the considerable socio-political protests that have shaken the West in recent weeks, the escalating situation in Ukraine is apparently one of the few ways for many to divert public attention from their domestic political problems. And the bigger the protests, the louder the statements by top European officials about the need to literally “flood” Ukraine with weapons that will bring even more death and suffering to our united people. This trend can be seen in France, Germany, the Czech Republic, Poland and a number of other countries, not to mention the Baltic States. Against the backdrop of domestic political turbulence, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak also called for stepping up support for the Kyiv regime.

They try to blame their economic blunders and problems, rising inflation and sharp industrial decline on Russia’s actions to protect its unity, sovereignty and security. The West does not want to see the real reasons for the current difficulties, for example, the deliberate severing of traditional economic ties with Russia. In fact, they are just shooting themselves in the foot. The sabotage of gas pipelines in the Baltic Sea is a case in point, and the beneficiaries across the ocean are not hiding their joy. For example, at a US congressional hearing last week, Under Secretary of State Victoria Nuland expressed her belief that US authorities were satisfied that Nord Stream 2 was now “a hunk of metal at the bottom of the sea”.

By the way, what is the status of the investigation into this sabotage and how likely is it that the real culprits will be identified? Four months after the pipelines were destroyed, the media silence and the lack of visible results of the unhurried investigation by the collective West speak for themselves.

It is surprising, for example, how easily the German authorities are prepared to abandon not only the basis of their country’s sustainable economic development but also the key foundations for the creation of a united Germany. In 1989 and 1990, despite the objections of the Anglo-Saxons at the time, our country came out in favour of German unity. This unity was intended to put an end to confrontation in Europe. The Soviet Union completely withdrew its troops from the German Democratic Republic and other Eastern European countries, while the United States, by contrast, not only extended its *de facto* military occupation to the whole of a united Germany, but – in violation of its own guarantees – far beyond the borders of that country, coming very close under the NATO “umbrella” to Russia’s borders.

Over the past decades, our country has proceeded from the understanding that a unified Germany would be a peace-loving State, posing no threats to the security of its neighbours east of its borders, especially given Nazi Germany’s historical responsibility for unleashing the Second World War. Today, we see German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock declaring – for example at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on 24 January – that her country was “fighting a war against Russia” and that the German Government was sending tanks to Ukraine to be used to kill Russians and Ukrainians. They do not seem to have considered the consequences of these steps for their country. And frankly, it is not clear how this all fits in with what Federal Chancellor Olaf Scholz is saying about his intention to pursue a “sensible policy” and “not bring the war closer to Germany’s borders”. It should be understood that any involvement in the conflict and any action aimed at escalating armed confrontation brings that prospect closer.

The words of Admiral Rob Bauer, Chair of the NATO Military Committee, to the effect that the North Atlantic Alliance is ready for a direct confrontation with Russia are also worrying. All this, along with the words of NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg about the Alliance’s existing involvement “in the decisive phase of the war” in Ukraine, is fraught with unprecedented security risks for all of Europe. Furthermore, it proves once again the false nature of the point frequently made that NATO’s activities are supposedly not directed against Russia. After all, long before the Russian special operation, the Alliance had identified our country at doctrinal level as a “major threat” and potential military adversary. In other words, it had begun to develop the military component of hybrid aggression against Russia and its neighbours.

The lies of the collective West about its supposed efforts to resolve the crisis in Ukraine by political and diplomatic means continue to be exposed for what they are. In a recent interview with the Rada television channel, former British Prime Minister Boris Johnson stated quite frankly that the West had initiated the Normandy format as a “diplomatic imitation” for a settlement. Former Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko, emboldened by Johnson’s statements and by earlier revealing disclosures by Angela Merkel and François Hollande, recently reiterated that when it concluded the Minsk agreements, the Kyiv regime had not even intended to achieve peace in Donbas, and for eight years was rearmed by the West and preparing for new military aggression against civilians disloyal to the post-Maidan “authorities” in Kyiv.

Once again, we warn against attempts by individual Western countries to provoke a large-scale conflict on the European continent. The dangers are well understood in Austria, Croatia and Hungary, for example. We note the measured voices in the leadership of those countries: they realize that further military supplies to the Kyiv regime are the way to uncontrolled escalation.

We support the call recently made by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China for the United States to stop supplying weapons to Ukraine. We agree with our Chinese partners’ assessment that the United States is the main initiator and principal driving force behind the crisis in Ukraine.

We also draw attention to another lie of the West claiming that it does not seek global domination. The other day, the aforementioned NATO Secretary General Stoltenberg confirmed quite the opposite during his trip to South Korea and Japan. Talking about the crisis around Ukraine, he tried to sell some kind of reimagined concept of NATO, whereby the Alliance now seeks to include areas outside the Euro-Atlantic region in its area of responsibility. Mr. Stoltenberg, while indulging in irresponsible nuclear rhetoric in the context of some “extended concept of nuclear deterrence”, simultaneously tried to justify the events in Ukraine and NATO’s claim to maintain global security. Moreover, he feared that a fiasco for the NATO puppets in Kyiv would be tantamount to a defeat for the whole world.

To continue the theme of irresponsible nuclear rhetoric, let us recall the recent comment made by the Kyiv regime’s ambassador to Germany, Oleksii Makeiev, to the Deutsche Welle agency. In the current circumstances, he said, a discussion on Ukraine acquiring nuclear status should be initiated, simply because the foreign policy expectations of the post-Maidan authorities in Kyiv have not materialized. Here we can also recall Volodymyr Zelenskyy’s crazy ideas last year about some kind of “preventive strikes” with nuclear weapons against the territory of Russia.

It is worth recalling that the only ones who are upsetting the established security balance and challenging the post-Second World War world order are the States of the collective West and the countries dependent on them, who are promoting a kind of “rules-based order” to replace international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

We understand, however, that for the United States and the Western bloc led by it, the outcome of the current politico-military conflict is of an existential nature: defeat in Ukraine will dramatically accelerate the chain reaction leading to the collapse of the house of cards of Washington’s neocolonial domination and the US-centric model of world governance. For Russia, however, the puppet masters’ plans carry a mortal danger, the reality of which is vividly demonstrated by the West’s categorical refusal to even seriously consider legitimate Russian security interests.

Well, Russia will do everything it can to prevent the West’s plans for Ukraine from coming to fruition. The neocolonial aspirations of the West, which has imposed external rule over Ukraine’s territory

as a result of the armed coup d'état of 2014 and is using its inhabitants as expendable material to settle geopolitical scores with our country, will lead to a disaster for itself.

At any event, Russia will continue to consistently defend its legitimate national interests and protect its people by all available means. The objectives of the Russian special military operation remain unchanged and will be achieved in full, whether through diplomatic efforts or through developments on the ground. They include the demilitarization and denazification of the territory of Ukraine and the elimination of threats to our country's security created by the West on Ukrainian territory.

Thank you for your attention.