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**STATEMENT BY  
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THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1444th MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

28 September 2023

**On the tragic anniversary of the “Munich betrayal” of 1938**

Mr. Chairperson,

One of the most tragic chapters in modern history was opened 85 years ago, during the night of 29 to 30 September 1938, when the Reichskanzler of Nazi Germany, Adolf Hitler, British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain, French Prime Minister Édouard Daladier and the Prime Minister of fascist Italy, Benito Mussolini, signed the so-called “Munich Agreement”. In translating the name of that deal into Russian, the more accurate word “betrayal” is used, which correctly conveys the gist of the document that was signed. Under the agreement, Czechoslovakia was to cede the Sudetenland to Germany within ten days. Czechoslovak representatives were not even invited to discuss the terms of the agreement – they merely affixed their signatures to the final version.

By sacrificing the interests of entire peoples, a futile attempt was made to placate the Nazi aggressor. This “appeasement policy” resulted in a years-long war, the bloodiest war in human history; in tens of millions of dead, injured and missing; in the Holocaust, Nazi concentration camps, famine, devastation and other forms of immeasurable suffering for millions of people.

Contemporary events show how quickly even the most terrible lessons of history are forgotten. Supported by its Western handlers, the Kyiv regime fosters, at the State level, all possible manifestations of the glorification of Nazism and neo-Nazism, along with attempts to falsify history and whitewash former criminals. This is accompanied by the stoking of hatred towards the Russian and Russian-speaking population, the persecution of clergy and parishioners from the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, aggressive Ukrainization and much more besides.

Neo-Nazi ideology has become firmly entrenched in the Ukrainian armed forces and volunteer formations. Tattoos featuring Nazi symbols are widespread among the Kyiv regime’s military personnel, as is the use of insignia with Nazi symbols and slogans. Since 2016, neo-Nazi paramilitary organizations have been assimilated into the security sector. They are able to officially influence the decisions taken there.

The devotion of the Volodymyr Zelenskyy regime’s fighters to Nazi ideology is also confirmed by their behaviour towards the civilian population of Donbas. Similarly, Ukrainian government officials attach

great importance to Nazi precepts and documents. They consider it essential to highlight “memorable” moments related to the Nazis’ activities on Ukrainian territory during the Great Patriotic War and to justify their actions.

The application of such a logic is yet another alarming symptom pointing to how Ukraine has been taken over by a usurpative neo-Nazi regime. At the instigation of its Western handlers, the State has turned into a breeding ground for far-right radicals and neo-Nazis of various shades. Frédéric Mathieu, an elected member of the French Parliament, estimates that “among the 400 Frenchmen fighting in Ukraine there are around a hundred fighters who see themselves as part of the far-right movement”. Addressing French Interior Minister Gérald Darmanin, he emphasized that “these people ... unabashedly post flags and tattoos with neo-Nazi symbols on social media and justify their participation in the conflict by reference to a struggle for European civilization.” Mr. Mathieu described them as a direct threat to the internal security of France.

Most revealing and emblematic is the “pageant of bigotry” mounted in the Canadian Parliament on 22 September this year during the reception for the President of Ukraine. Canadian legislators greeted with enthusiastic applause a Nazi veteran who had been invited to listen to Mr. Zelenskyy’s address, namely the 98-year-old Yaroslav Hunka, an ex-member of the 14th Grenadier Division of the SS (“Galicia Division”). This surviving Nazi, who looks quite hale and hearty for his age, elicited boisterous clapping from Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, the Speaker and members of the House of Commons, and the invited ambassadors of – listen up! – Germany, the United States of America, the United Kingdom and France. Mr. Zelenskyy gazed at this second “guest star” tenderly and without any sign of envy.

We would remind you that the members of the 14th Galicia SS Division are war criminals who have the blood of millions of innocent victims on their hands. In the Soviet Union after the war, those like Hunka were referred to as “hostile remnants”. Unfortunately, translation into English cannot render all the beauty of that Russian word.

Through their ovations, those in attendance in the Parliament insulted the memory of 45,000 citizens of Canada, a State allied with the USSR, who fell in action during the Second World War, as well as the memory of millions of victims of Nazism worldwide. The clumsy attempts by the Canadian leadership to attribute this incident to their allegedly not being aware of that invitee’s past, or to the personal initiative of someone, do not stand up to criticism. It would otherwise be hair-raising to think of how decisions are taken in the highest corridors of power in Canada.

Officials from several States, along with numerous authoritative Jewish non-governmental organizations, including the Simon Wiesenthal Center and B’nai Brith Canada, have voiced their indignation. It is very indicative that the relevant OSCE executive structures, above all the leadership of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, have stayed silent. Equally indicative is the lack of a reaction on the part of Rabbi Andrew Baker and Ms. Regina Polak, the Personal Representatives of the Chairperson-in-Office tasked with combating, respectively, anti-Semitism and discrimination against Christians. This is by no means the only instance in which they have not commented on matters that have a direct bearing on their mandates. We are of the view that such a position is tantamount to approval for the public celebration of a Banderite by an OSCE participating State.

With this bacchanal, the authorities in Ottawa have once again confirmed their commitment to a policy aimed at rewriting history, falsifying its outcomes and whitewashing Nazi criminals. As is known, that country’s senior leadership is very solicitous about the Nazis living out their days there and about monuments to Ukrainian nationalist chieftains.

We will under no circumstances be taken in by the ensuing contrition shown by Canadian officials. Let us put it bluntly: Hunka was invited to that country's Parliament and honoured for being a murderer of Russian people. Now, the scandal arose because, as it "suddenly" transpired, this veteran of the Nazi movement had also happened to kill Jews and Poles. For the benefit of those who are still uninformed: the gentleman in question was also involved in the mass extermination of Ukrainians and Belorussians, along with members of other nationalities that stood in the way of the Nazi vampires. It is necessary to learn the lessons from history so that one does not, carried away by unreflecting Russophobia, end up in embarrassing situations. There is no such thing as a good Nazi!

Mr. Chairperson,

Neo-Nazism, racial intolerance and the cultivation of ideas of racial superiority have long been acute problems in certain participating States. We spoke about this at length under the agenda sub-item on the glorification of Nazism. To reiterate: as a rule, these manifestations are accompanied by the distortion of historical facts, denial of the Red Army's decisive role in the victory over Nazism, and attempts to equate the liberators with the butchers. It is persistently sought to elevate those who fought against the countries of the anti-Hitler coalition or who collaborated with the Nazis to the status of national heroes and members of national liberation movements. Terms are deliberately confused with a view to hushing up the heinous crimes of the Nazis and their henchmen. The same goes for the inventions about Nazi Germany and the USSR allegedly sharing equal responsibility for starting the war – as if the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact had "freed the hands" of the Third Reich.

In that regard, we cannot but point out that neo-Nazism and Russophobia have become the norm not merely for the Kyiv regime but for the Baltic countries as well. We have discussed this in detail under a previous agenda sub-item and do not intend to repeat ourselves.

Mr. Chairperson,

A lot has been said at the Permanent Council today about neo-Nazism, an awkward topic for many of the Western alliance countries, and how it is being encouraged and cultivated at the highest level in certain OSCE participating States. The consequences of flirting with these dangerous tendencies are something that we can see from specific country examples. That is why Russia will continue to insist on these issues being actively incorporated into the OSCE's agenda. Seeking to prevent the discussion of this problem is very dangerous and runs counter to the Charter of the United Nations, the Helsinki Final Act and the judgments of the Nuremberg Tribunal.

Thank you for your attention.