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**STATEMENT BY
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1396th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

27 October 2022

On dangerous provocations by the Kyiv regime with the support of a Western alliance of OSCE participating States, and on the regime's ongoing crimes against the civilian population

Mr. Chairperson,

Over the past few days, serious concerns about the Kyiv regime's preparation of a provocation involving a "dirty" bomb have been relayed to our key partners in the international arena by senior officials from the Russian Ministry of Defence. Relevant information has also been transmitted to the United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres.

According to reliable reports from the Russian Ministry of Defence, the resources of the Institute for Nuclear Research of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine in Kyiv and the Eastern Mining and Processing Plant in the city of Zhovti Vody, in the Dnipropetrovsk region, are being used to prepare the provocation. The first of these facilities houses an experimental reactor with a relatively high power rating. There are specialized premises and equipment for handling the radioactive isotopes caesium-137 and strontium-90, and it has the resources for extracting sources of ionizing radiation and other material from the spent fuel of nuclear power plants. The second facility is engaged in the processing of uranium ore in large quantities.

There is evidence that, as instructed by the Kyiv regime, efforts are under way to create a "dirty" bomb at the aforementioned institutions. This work is currently in the final stage.

Moreover, we are in the possession of verified information about unofficial contacts between the Kyiv regime and representatives of a NATO country with the relevant technology on how to obtain the components of a nuclear weapon.

Those who say that the Kyiv regime is harmless and that it has no nuclear ambitions whatsoever are openly lying. Or they are citing the absurd lies of the Kyiv regime itself. One must not forget the remarks made by the President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, in February – that is, before the start of the Russian special military operation – expressing a desire to abandon non-nuclear status. Or his recent appeals to NATO to launch certain "preventive strikes" against Russian territory with the help of nuclear weapons.

The use of a “dirty” bomb in the context of the current events in Ukraine could benefit solely the foreign handlers of the Kyiv regime, which is not an independent actor. This would be done above all with the aim of accusing our country of dealing with nuclear technologies irresponsibly, and also to pave the way for overt – rather than covert, as is currently the case – military involvement by NATO in the situation in Ukraine.

We are hearing more and more talk by various officials in the West about Russia allegedly preparing to use nuclear weapons on Ukrainian territory. However, you will not find any pronouncements by the leaders of Russia or the Russian Defence Ministry containing any such threat with regard to Ukraine. The conditions to be fulfilled for our country to use nuclear weapons are clearly set forth in paragraph 27 of the Military Doctrine of the Russian Federation. Russia reserves the right to use nuclear weapons in response to the use of nuclear and other types of weapons of mass destruction against it and/or its allies, as well as in the event of aggression against the Russian Federation involving the use of conventional weapons when the very existence of the State is in jeopardy.

Discoursing on Russia’s alleged willingness to use nuclear weapons in Ukraine in the current situation is something of which, indeed, only those are capable who – it must be stressed – regard Ukraine as an utterly alien and remote territory and its inhabitants as strangers or, dare one say, as expendable material.

In Russia there is an altogether different attitude to Ukraine and all its inhabitants of various nationalities. There is far too much that binds us together: these are not strangers to us but quite frankly our kinsfolk who are essentially being held to ransom by the marionette-like Kyiv regime to satisfy the geopolitical ambitions of extraregional forces. The goal of these ambitions is clear, namely to use Ukraine – an important integral part of Russian culture and formerly one of the integral parts of our single State – as a kind of “battering ram” against contemporary Russian statehood. And in effect to use the events in Ukraine to justify the NATO countries’ preparations for military aggression against our country.

The threats to use NATO’s military capabilities against Russia have multiplied markedly of late. As a pretext for carrying them out, various “talking heads” have begun persistently priming public opinion to the idea that Russia is allegedly planning to launch a nuclear strike against Ukraine. The words uttered on 13 October by the head of the European External Action Service, Josep Borrell, are clearly part of this campaign: speaking on behalf of the United States of America, the NATO countries and the European Union, he threatened to give, as he put it, “such a powerful answer from the military side that the Russian army will be annihilated”.

Or consider, for example, these remarks by former CIA Director David Petraeus, who is quite at home in US official circles. He recently opened up about plans to “destroy” the Russian armed forces – again in response to Russia somehow using nuclear weapons in Ukraine. Similar threats have been voiced by other individuals in the course of contacts at various levels. Equally noteworthy are the remarks by Ben Hodges, a former commander of US Army Europe, who spoke of the intention to “destroy Russia’s Black Sea Fleet”. By the way, he recently also pointed out that the “US war aims for this conflict should include”, as he put it, “‘de-imperialization’ of Russia” – in other words, the disintegration of our country.

Bearing in mind that Russia has no plans to use nuclear weapons in Ukraine, we regard such pronouncements as extremely aggressive direct threats, which are by no means conducive to détente. One gets the impression that the objective of these threats is not only to demonize Russia and attempt to destabilize our society, but also to bring about a large-scale escalation of tensions in the world. For the benefit of our former Western partners, we must particularly emphasize that all this is tantamount to playing with fire. By carrying on in the same vein you could very quickly lose control over the actions that you are initiating in this way and kick off a dangerous spiral of military tensions, with unpredictable consequences.

Another scenario that the Kyiv regime continues to “ponder” involves acts of sabotage at nuclear power plants (NPPs) in Ukraine (the Rivne, Khmelnytskyi and Yuzhnoukrainsk NPPs) and in Russia. As already pointed out, three terrorist attacks against the Kursk NPP have been recorded over the past few months. The unceasing attacks on the Zaporizhzhia NPP are likewise of grave concern: the Kyiv regime not only continues to shell the city of Enerhodar, where the NPP is situated, but it is also regularly attempting to capture the plant. One such recent attempt – carried out by a landing party that tried to cross the Dnieper River in boats – was neutralized in the early hours of 19 October.

We must stress that if the Kyiv regime goes ahead with its reckless and highly irresponsible actions to bring about a provocation that entails the risk of radioactive contamination of the area concerned, in the preparation of which, according to our information, it is being assisted by certain Western countries, this would constitute an act of nuclear terrorism.

We call upon all countries that have influence over the Kyiv regime to refrain from abetting such terrorism and to make every effort to avert a situation that could not only lead to contamination of a large area but also cause the death of thousands of civilians. We draw attention to the fact that the consequences of any nuclear provocation carried out on Ukrainian territory would undoubtedly affect European countries as well, jeopardizing the security and well-being of their inhabitants.

One further point. In its impotent rage at the impossibility of turning the situation around on the battlefield, the Kyiv regime continues with its terrorist attacks against the civilian population, launching targeted strikes on exclusively civilian objects. On 21 October, a civilian crossing over the Dnieper in Kherson was shelled with the help of US-made HIMARS multiple-launch rocket systems, as a result of which four people were killed, including two employees of the television and radio broadcasting company Tavriya, and 13 civilians were injured, including children. A total of 12 missiles were launched, most of which could be shot down by air defence forces.

The degree of cynicism with which this was commented on at the Ukrainian Ministry of Defence is astonishing. In a televised appearance, a spokesperson for Operational Command South of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, Nataliia Humeniuk, not only confirmed that the strike had been carried out but also asserted that there could not have been any civilians there. Ms. Humeniuk was unfazed even by video evidence recorded by Vlada Lugovskaya, a 16-year-old Tavriya journalist who was injured as a result of that shelling and ended up in hospital, having miraculously survived the strike.

The Russian special military operation will carry on and continue to be conducted in a consistent and responsible manner. It is aimed at protecting Donbas, denazifying and demilitarizing Ukraine, and eliminating threats to the security of the Russian Federation created by the West on Ukrainian territory. These objectives will be accomplished fully. Russia is willing to engage in substantive dialogue on eliminating these threats as soon as possible – dialogue that must, unquestionably, take into account the realities that have arisen.

Thank you for your attention.