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PC.DEL/1152/24
3 October 2024

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
AT THE 1490th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

3 October 2024

On the increasing military involvement of certain NATO and EU member States in further confrontation in and around Ukraine

Madam Chairperson,

The image of “warriors for justice”, which is how those in the West are so assiduously trying to present the fighters of the neo-Nazi regime in Kyiv, does not tally with the real facts. A few days ago, a group of Ukrainian servicemen belonging to the 22nd Separate Assault Brigade, the 80th Airborne Assault Brigade and the 61st Mechanized Brigade of the Armed Forces of Ukraine and other paramilitary units was liquidated in the Kursk region. A GoPro video camera was discovered on the helmet of one of these militants. It contains footage showing the Ukrainian armed forces’ brutal murder of civilians from the Kursk region – this video has been published by Russian and Ukrainian media.

After bursting into a private house, fighters from the Ukrainian armed forces opened fire without warning on two unarmed local residents, one of whom was in a wheelchair. A cross-country vehicle was discovered not far from the scene, with jewellery inside its glove compartment. This was, of course, not an isolated instance of civilians being massacred and their property being looted. We note that such crimes by the Ukrainian armed forces continue to be hushed up by the OSCE leadership and the Organization’s relevant structures.

All in all, shelling attacks by Volodymyr Zelenskyy’s armed formations last week resulted in 125 civilian casualties, of whom 11 were killed, including one child, and 114 were injured. In order to protect the civilian population, the Russian armed forces continue to carry out effective strikes aimed at degrading the combat capabilities of the Ukrainian armed forces. The military infrastructure of airfields has been hit, undermining the scope for the Kyiv regime’s armed formations to use the weapons supplied by NATO.

The countries of the Global South, along with several other countries, are clearly tired of seeing NATO’s radical wing pour oil on the fire of the Ukrainian conflict. The events of last week, including those that took place on international platforms, have clearly shown that the Global Majority does not support Western countries’ approach of presenting Russia with ultimatum-like demands on the basis of the

“Zelensky formula”, which is a non-starter. Neither does the idea of holding some sort of further “peace summit” to promote the aforementioned formula enjoy broad support.

All this is yet more evidence that there is no basis whatsoever for the assertions by certain NATO countries about the universality of the so-called “principles” and “values” they are defending. In reality, these States are pursuing their own geopolitical interests while usurping the right to speak on behalf of a majority of the members of the international community.

An increasing number of responsible global players are realizing that it is impossible to resolve the Ukrainian conflict without eliminating the root causes of the crisis that has arisen. The steps that are most certainly indispensable include stopping Western countries’ external control over, and destructive impact on, Ukrainian territory, the denazification and demilitarization of Ukraine, the provision of legislative guarantees regarding non-discriminatory treatment of the members of all ethnocultural groups populating Ukraine, and a genuine democratization of public life.

Equally plain for all to see is the sham nature of the “Zelensky formula” itself, against the backdrop of which the Kyiv regime has been promoting its latest “victory plan” since the end of September 2024. They state over there, without the least sign of discomfiture, that this “plan” has been deliberately concealed from the inhabitants of Ukraine. And that it envisages a qualitatively new level of armed escalation, to be achieved by dragging NATO countries into direct military confrontation with Russia.

It is no coincidence that Mr. Zelensky presented his ideas for a military escalation to his handlers in the United States of America at this point in time. The Ukrainian armed forces are suffering defeat in various sections of the front, above all in the Donetsk People’s Republic, where several fortified lines along the line of engagement have been penetrated. The operation to liberate the city of Ugledar and its environs recently entered the decisive phase. The Kyiv regime’s fighters are experiencing a shortage of weapons and ammunition. Numerically, the Ukrainian armed forces’ personnel losses have long been in excess of 2,000 troops killed or wounded a day.

The Ukrainian armed forces’ invasion of the Kursk region was undertaken as a desperate adventure in an attempt to stretch the Russian forces thin and hold up their offensive operations in Donbass. It goes without saying that the objectives of this adventure have not been achieved: it has brought the Kyiv regime neither significant military tactical advantages nor domestic or foreign policy gains. The Ukrainian armed forces’ losses in the Kursk region in the course of two months of fighting exceed 19,000 troops, 135 tanks and hundreds of units of weaponry, armoured vehicles and special equipment.

It would not be amiss to recall that the legal prohibition on any contacts with the leadership of Russia on the question of a settlement, introduced by Mr. Zelensky on 30 September 2022, continues to apply. However, in April 2022, before that prohibition was signed into law, the Kyiv regime had withdrawn from the process of consultations based on the agreements reached in Istanbul a month earlier. Which means that the Kyiv regime and its handlers simply do not have any peaceful intentions.

What is essentially being proposed today is merely a kind of zero-sum game in which the Kyiv regime’s Western sponsors are not even trying to hide that the Ukrainian conflict for them is a geopolitical tool whereby, through armed escalation, they are fighting for the worldwide consolidation of a Western-centric “rules-based world order”. A world order in which the norms and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and other international legal instruments are interpreted in an ad hoc manner and applied selectively depending on the Western conglomerate’s specific geopolitical objectives. And which is built not on co-operation and mutual understanding, but on diktat, oppression and subjugation of those who

are out of favour. In short, a world order based not on international law but on certain “rules” of neocolonial geopolitics.

That is why, as they fight to impose such a world order, the “Anglo-Saxons” and their satellites make no bones about the fact that, as far as they are concerned, the main goal in the Ukrainian conflict is not to save the lives of Ukrainians and provide for their well-being, but to inflict a “strategic defeat” on Russia, including through the socio-political destabilization of our country.

The Kyiv regime’s sponsors claim that, by providing Mr. Zelenskyy with backing in the form of arms shipments and the training of military personnel, and also by supporting his steps to avoid diplomatic contacts with representatives of Russia, they are somehow helping to strengthen Ukraine’s position at a potential future negotiating table.

Let me ask bluntly: did the Kyiv regime’s position become stronger after the implementation of the aforementioned Istanbul agreements was derailed? The blunt answer is no. Quite the opposite: after each military adventure backed by the NATO countries, the Kyiv regime’s situation merely worsened, whether we are talking about the Ukrainian armed forces’ operations in the historical Sloboda region and the Dnieper Lowland, the terrorist forays into the Bryansk and Belgorod regions, the summer 2023 “counteroffensive” or, more recently, the combat operations in the Kursk region.

Let us now take a look at dry facts. Since the Istanbul agreements were scuppered, the Kyiv regime has lost considerable swathes of territory along with the inhabitants of those areas, who took the decision to be reunited with the Russian State. The Ukrainian armed forces have sustained huge losses in terms of personnel and equipment. The NATO weapons that have been tested on the battlefield against Russian arms never proved to be a game changer and continue to be destroyed systematically as the Ukrainian armed forces retreat. Transport and logistics infrastructure, industrial and manufacturing capabilities and energy facilities have been significantly degraded. The economy is on artificial respiration, as it were, being propped up by credit handouts from Western countries and financial institutions. There is growing discontent within society over the cancellation of democratic procedures and the measures for forced mobilization into the Ukrainian armed forces.

Has all this strengthened the Kyiv regime’s position within Ukraine and on the international stage? Not in the least. And that is why that regime continues to tighten the screws on the Ukrainian people, excluding it from the decision-making process when it comes to momentous decisions and offering it merely the role of serving as cannon fodder in a war for the interests of Western powers.

Ukrainians in most cases do not wish to fight for the sake of keeping the Kyiv regime in power. The forced mobilization is, therefore, carried out in a way that involves degrading treatment and is accompanied by the use of physical violence and the *de facto* abduction and unlawful detention of civilians. Yet, even such draconian measures are not helping to muster the required number of soldiers – some Ukrainian “patriots” who move in government circles have already started saying that the Kyiv regime’s Western sponsors are insisting on the age of those subject to mobilization being lowered. Evidently, so as to send the entire youth of Ukraine into the meat mincer. Down to the last Ukrainian.

A bribe to avoid being called up can cost as much as 37,000 dollars per person. In July and August, a number of military recruitment officers were arrested in the Ternopil and Kyiv regions: some had been making up to 150,000 dollars a month from bribes, others were found to have 1.2 million US dollars stashed away at home. The police reckon that at least 200 cars belonging to the Ukrainian armed forces have been torched across Ukraine by people disgruntled at the mobilization.

Things are no better abroad. It has been confirmed in the Verkhovna Rada (Ukrainian Parliament) – specifically by Mykola Knyazhytskyi – that hundreds of thousands of applications to renounce Ukrainian citizenship have piled up in Ukraine’s consular offices, above all those located in EU countries. In Poland not so long ago, Minister of Foreign Affairs Radosław Sikorski and Minister of National Defence Władysław Kosiniak-Kamysz admitted that the authorities of their country had not succeeded in setting up, as part of the Ukrainian armed forces, a “Ukrainian Legion” drawn from among those who had fled abroad. There is a simple reason for this, namely Ukrainians’ fundamental reluctance to enlist in its ranks. For reference: according to the official data alone, around 1 million citizens of Ukraine are currently in Poland.

Madam Chairperson,

The unbridled support provided to the warmongering Kyiv regime by a number of European countries and their anti-Russian economic measures are boomeranging back on their own economies – something that is by now also making itself felt in those countries’ domestic political scene. This is particularly noticeable in the case of two erstwhile “guarantors” of the Minsk agreements, France and Germany, whose former leaders acknowledged back in 2022 that they had regarded these agreements as a diplomatic feint designed to safeguard the militarization of Ukraine. Ongoing military support for the Kyiv regime is thus becoming a factor driving domestic political instability in the Western countries themselves.

Against this backdrop, the hopes for a swift military defeat of Russia have not come true. Similarly, betting on measures to exert external economic pressure on our country has proved to be a failed gamble. In a context of historically unprecedented restrictions, the Russian economy is demonstrating resilience and growth: our gross domestic product is forecast to grow by 3.9 per cent this year, while State revenues are expected to increase by around 12 per cent in 2025. Russia has all the necessary resources to ensure that the special operation’s goals and objectives are realized, be it by political and diplomatic means or by military means. They will all be achieved.

A number of officials in EU countries are now recognizing that shipments of Western weapons to Ukraine never made any sense because they could not change – nor can they ever change – the situation on the battlefield. They are not an investment in peace; rather, they merely hinder the settlement process and lead to an increase in the number of casualties and the extent of destruction. And what they most certainly are not doing is to strengthen the Kyiv regime’s position.

One last thing. On 26 September, it was exactly two years since the terrorist attack on the Nord Stream 1 and Nord Stream 2 gas pipelines. The rupturing of these important arteries was an act aimed at destroying pan-European energy infrastructure, an act of direct sabotage against the energy security of the whole of Europe and against the prospects for resuming co-operation between Russia and the European Union in the energy sector. After the terrorist attack, the law enforcement authorities of Germany, Sweden and Denmark launched an inquiry, from which, guided by political motives, they barred representatives of Russia, even though its interests had been directly affected.

In early 2024, Sweden and Denmark closed their investigations, stating that they did not have sufficient leverage to open criminal proceedings. In Germany the finger was ultimately pointed at “Ukrainian extremists” and a warrant for the arrest of one individual was issued – nothing has come of that either.

The fact that nothing has, in effect, been done in terms of an investigation over these past two years and that the case itself is being allowed to slip away in vague formulations – this speaks volumes. There is undoubtedly a desire to hide the truth about who actually commissioned and benefited from this act of international terrorism. According to the competent Russian authorities, the United States and the United

Kingdom have since 2022 been systematically attempting to remove the topic of sabotage from the international agenda. Reports are coming in of how countries decided, before the terrorist attack's second anniversary, to launch a disinformation campaign in order to conceal the true goals of that crime and the real masterminds behind it. We are convinced that the whole world will eventually discover the real truth about what happened on Nord Stream 1 and Nord Stream 2.

Thank you for your attention.