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**RIGHT OF REPLY BY
MS. IULIA ZHDANOVA, MEMBER OF THE DELEGATION OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON MILITARY
SECURITY AND ARMS CONTROL, AT THE 1084th PLENARY MEETING OF
THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

17 July 2024

**Agenda item: General statements
Subject: Special military operation to demilitarize and denazify Ukraine**

Mr. Chairperson,

We are indignant at the fact that the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation has today once again been dragged into a brazen propaganda campaign by Ukraine and its Western sponsors. We should therefore like to begin our statement by responding to the unfounded assertions made by a number of delegations regarding an alleged “deliberate Russian missile strike on the Okhmatdyt Children’s Hospital”.

On 8 July this year, in response to attempts by the Kyiv regime to inflict damage on Russian energy and economic infrastructure, the armed forces of the Russian Federation used long-range precision weapons to launch a wave of strikes on air bases, military industry facilities and arms depots of the Ukrainian armed forces. Among the facilities in question were the plants of the Dnipro and Yuzhmash enterprises in Dnipropetrovsk, a heavy engineering factory in Kramatorsk, depots containing Western weapons and military equipment at the ArcelorMittal steelworks in Kryvyi Rih, and the Artem and Antonov factories and the Luch design office in Kyiv. These military targets were destroyed in an accurate and professional manner.

The claims by representatives of the Kyiv regime about an alleged deliberate missile strike by Russia on civilian objects, which were instantly echoed by the Western alliance, could not be farther from the truth. The numerous photographs and copious video footage from Kyiv that have been published clearly confirm that the destruction was caused by a Ukrainian air defence missile that had been launched from a Western-made anti-aircraft missile system within the city and that hit the premises of the children’s hospital. I would ask you to display the evidence on the screen.

First of all, let us start with a comparative visual analysis. In the videos posted by Ukrainian Internet users one can see five missiles of the Russian Aerospace Forces coming down on the Artem factory in Kyiv one after the other, without being intercepted or sustaining any damage. Similarly, a lone Ukrainian air defence missile can also be seen coming down in the area of the children’s hospital.

To confirm that this is the case, one need only juxtapose the Russian Kh-101 air-to-surface strategic cruise missile with the AIM-120 guided air-to-air missile for the Norwegian-made NASAMS mobile anti-aircraft system, which was handed over to Ukraine by that NATO State and has long been part of the air defences in Kyiv. It is obvious that the Russian projectile has much larger wings and that there is a jet engine in the lower section of the body. The missile for the NASAMS anti-aircraft system, in contrast, has characteristic triangular fins along with stabilizers in the middle section. Visually, it is a perfect match with the weapon that can be seen in the available footage.

We are aware of the edited videos of the missile hitting the Okhmatdyt hospital disseminated by Ukrainian information and psychological operations centres, in which the missile from a NASAMS tactical system has been touched up through the addition of an air inlet like the one on a Russian Kh-101 missile. However, the propaganda workers completely forgot about the need to also change the fins in the middle section of the missile. In other words, we are talking about something produced through the graphical processing of images. What will they not stoop to over in Kyiv in order to discredit an adversary?

Secondly, consider the nature of the physical damage caused after the missile hit the hospital premises. Specialists are well aware that air defence missiles carry an explosive charge containing small pieces of fragmentation. It so happens that one can see the marks left by them on the facade of that Kyiv hospital; residents of the city still continue to find numerous pieces of shrapnel nearby and to post images of these in the public domain.

If a targeted missile strike had been launched on the hospital, as some delegations are claiming here, there would literally be nothing left of the building. The warhead of a Russian Kh-101 missile can weigh up to 970 kg, which means that when such a missile hits a building it will not simply “scratch the facade with its submunitions” but, rather, completely destroy the building and leave a crater behind; moreover, any neighbouring buildings will also collapse to some extent.

Thirdly, the circumstantial evidence includes the absence of the Russian missile’s characteristic engine sound (the whistle that can be heard in the available videos differs from that made by an approaching Kh-101 missile), but also the projectile’s flight path. By the look of things, the launching station was situated in the west or south-west of the Ukrainian capital. Its task was evidently to intercept one of the Kh-101 missiles that would go on to strike the Artem factory, which, together with a complex of buildings belonging to the Ukrainian Defence Ministry and depots of the Ukrainian armed forces, was located close to the hospital that got hit. However, as the result of a serious mistake by the combat crew, whose members were speaking in English according to eyewitnesses, the guidance system malfunctioned, causing the missile to glide down into the courtyard of the Okhmatdyt hospital.

The conclusions to be drawn are thus obvious. As part of its implementation of the fundamental goal of demilitarizing Ukraine, the Russian army was carrying out strikes on military objectives in Kyiv, but it was a missile from a NASAMS anti-aircraft system used by the Ukrainians that struck the premises of that children’s hospital. This is attested both by the ratio of the projectile’s linear dimensions (diameter and length) and by the nature of the physical damage caused (the collapse of only a small part of the building and the shrapnel marks).

In that regard, we strongly condemn the Ukrainian side’s callous and cynical manipulation of the facts and also the way in which this is being abetted by the Western alliance, which reacts instantaneously each time the Ukraine issue is involved and an opportunity presents itself to baselessly accuse our country. They do this with particular relish around the time of major international events, including NATO summits, in order to achieve the necessary emotional effect and justify the continued “beefing up” of a criminal regime with weapons. In contrast, when it is a question of civilians getting killed in Sevastopol, Donetsk,

Belgorod and other Russian cities and towns, or in long-suffering Gaza, these “champions” of international humanitarian law will vanish into thin air.

We are once again obliged to recall that it is the Kyiv junta which, in violation of international humanitarian law, is deliberately deploying air defence systems in residential areas, thereby using civilians as human shields. Even leading US media outlets have confirmed on several occasions that NATO air defence missiles have hit residential buildings in Kyiv and Kramatorsk. It is not surprising that in the Ukrainian segment of the Internet one can read a huge number of comments by citizens of that country who are sick and tired of the criminal policies of a clique in Kyiv that has lost all legitimacy.

The tragedy that occurred in Kyiv on 8 July is yet another stain on the reputation of the collective West. For it turns out that Ukraine is being supplied with foreign air defence systems – in this case systems that were apparently handed over by Norway – not for the purpose of defending the so-called free world but, rather, to harm Ukrainian civilians. Unfortunately, the continued arms transfers to the Kyiv regime by NATO and EU countries will keep making it possible for that regime to use the Ukrainian people as human shields.

Mr. Chairperson,

With your permission, we shall now move on to the main part of our presentation. Today, in accordance with an understanding reached in advance on the margins of the Forum, as reflected in our letter to the Chairmanship, we should like to give the floor to our capital to speak on the issue under discussion. The Deputy Director of the Department for Non-Proliferation and Arms Control at the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Anton Mazur, who is well known here on account of his having headed the Russian delegation from 2011 to 2020, will speak in the format of a pre-recorded video statement in English. I kindly ask you to start streaming the video statement on the screens.