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**STATEMENT BY  
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF  
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1386th (SPECIAL) MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

24 August 2022

**Eight years and six months of  
suffering and devastation in Donbas and Ukraine as a result of  
the criminal neocolonial policies of the Western alliance in the OSCE area**

Mr. Chairperson,

We are not surprised by the hasty convening of today's special meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council. It is obvious that the representatives of the Kyiv regime asked for it to be held in connection with a specific date that they refer to as the "Independence Day of Ukraine". Anyway, we shall make use of this opportunity to help all those at the OSCE who have not lost all capacity for critical thought to cast an eye over the current situation in Ukraine in all its manifoldness.

It is not appropriate to speak of any "independence" whatsoever of Ukraine in its present state. After the armed and bloody coup d'état in February 2014, which was orchestrated, funded and organized from abroad, that country was placed under external control and the regime that came to power has sold out the remains of its sovereignty to foreign handlers. The latter, in turn, took a fancy to social engineering in their "newly acquired" territories and actively invested – politically and financially – in everything related to cultivating the ideas of Russophobia and popularizing pseudo-historical surrogate concepts.

The inherently brief history of Ukrainian statehood since the disintegration of the USSR was founded on artificial constructions of "independence" understood as "anti-Russianness". Meanwhile, with the help of Western "technologists", it was brought into being on the basis of ideological continuity with radical political experiments that had failed numerous times before – experiments bearing the names of Petliura, Bandera, Shukhevych and other ultra-nationalist figures and Nazi henchmen, murderers and thugs, who were elevated to the status of "heroes" of the new "Ukraine". This could not but lead to tragic consequences for the Ukrainian people, whose true historical identity should be seen through the lens of a shared fate with Russia and is marked by completely different values arising from a common historical heritage. One of these values is the Banner of Victory, which flutters over the regiments of the Donbas republics, defying the swastikas depicted on the armour of the Kyiv regime's fighters.

By facilitating the active militarization of Ukrainian territory, the NATO countries were in reality developing, over many years, a "bridgehead" to create threats to neighbouring States and destabilize the

situation on our European continent. Finally, in promoting the ideological basis for turning Ukraine into an “anti-Russia”, they eventually ceased to disguise their main objective, namely to make that country an instrument in their geopolitical struggle with Russia. For eight years Ukraine was being openly prepared for war. This is not concealed today but publicly confirmed by former nominal leaders of the Kyiv regime, as well as by officials in Washington, D.C. We have already cited specific quotes from the confessions they have made.

Persistent efforts were undertaken to embed Ukraine – as an integral element – in the architecture of the global “empire of lies” that has been burgeoning at the Western alliance’s instigation. The ubiquitous application of double standards to suit one’s political agenda, the abandonment of adherence to democratic procedures, the deceiving of one’s own citizens and persecution of dissent, the fostering of hatred and hostility towards other members of the international community, constant lies in the international arena – such are the defining features and approaches of that “empire of lies” in which the Kyiv regime is today solicitously playing its assigned role.

Let us look at a specific glaring example: the Ukrainian neo-Nazi Azov battalion. In 2015, the House of Representatives of the United States Congress amended its Department of Defense Appropriations Bill so as to rule out the possibility of funds being used to train the Azov fighters. Congressmen at the time described that formation as a “Ukrainian neo-Nazi paramilitary militia”. In 2018, the House of Representatives voted to ensure that “none of the funds made available by this Act [the Consolidated Appropriations Act] may be used to provide arms, training, or other assistance to the Azov Battalion.” In 2021, the US Congress even considered adding the Azov battalion to the list of terrorist organizations.

Yet, in February 2022, the neo-Nazis from the Azov battalion, who for eight years had been committing crimes against the civilian population of Donbas with impunity, suddenly became “freedom fighters” in the eyes of the US patrons of the Kyiv regime (and its patrons from several other countries), while for the Kyiv regime itself they became an even more reliable mainstay. So what happened to your principles, ladies and gentlemen? The “empire of lies” as we know it has once again displayed its double standards.

When the Azov fighters who had laid down their arms in Mariupol and surrendered to the law enforcement authorities of the Donetsk People’s Republic (DPR) began to make confessions that confirmed the Kyiv regime’s involvement in serious crimes against the civilian population of Donbas, it was decided to get rid of them. On 29 July, US-made HIMARS multiple-launch rocket systems were used to shell the pretrial detention facility at Olenivka (DPR) where they were being held. Most of the 193 Ukrainian neo-Nazis who were there were killed or maimed. Eight staff members of the facility were also hurt. The order for that strike was given by the leadership of Ukraine, which together with the US Government, whose support it enjoys, bears full political, legal and moral responsibility for the attack. As was to be expected, the “empire of lies” tried to make Russia carry the can for its bloody actions. We would remind you that representatives of the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross have been invited to Olenivka: their arrival at the scene to establish the facts is awaited. We hope that this visit will take place in the near future.

The Azov fighters were not the only neo-Nazis who infiltrated the ranks of the Ukrainian armed forces and the law enforcement agencies of Ukraine. Since 2016 a number of legislative acts have been adopted there that made it possible for official status to be acquired by many illegal armed formations composed of radical nationalists and individuals openly professing their sympathy for Nazi Germany and seeking to justify the crimes committed by Nazis and their henchmen in the first half of the twentieth century. An example from this year is the so-called Right Sector Ukrainian Volunteer Corps, whose members had been shelling and killing residents of Donbas for eight years while not having any legal status

whatsoever. They are now doing this officially under the colours of the Ukrainian armed forces, as part of these. All this is looked upon favourably in the capitals of the countries sponsoring the Kyiv regime.

Finally, supporters of ideas previously propagated by the Nazis and their accomplices are also to be found among serving Ukrainian diplomats. One might recall in this regard the discourse of the former Ambassador of Ukraine to Germany, Andrii Melnyk, who was trying to justify Bandera and Shukhevych to such an extent that even the Germans were not happy about it. But what really takes the biscuit is the recent pronouncement by the Ambassador of Ukraine to Kazakhstan, Petro Vrublevskyi, who publicly stated that the Kyiv regime's aim was to kill as many Russian people as possible: "The more of them killed now, the less Russians will need to be killed by the next generations of Ukrainians." This ambassador is representing the Kyiv regime, which evidently shares such ideas.

On 20 and 21 August, the first International Anti-Fascist Congress took place in the Moscow region. It featured detailed discussions on topics related to the orgy of neo-Nazism in Ukraine and its manifestations in a number of Eastern European countries. Material from the conference can be found on the website of the Russian Ministry of Defence.

Those neo-Nazi armed formations that have not yet been finished off in the course of the ongoing Russian special military operation in Ukraine continue today to receive "nourishment" in the form of arms, equipment and medicines from a number of NATO countries. Not because they are fighting for democracy – there is not an iota of democracy there – but because they profess Russophobia and have set their sights on physically destroying dissent in Ukraine and committing armed crimes on the territory of Russia. The Russian Government will take these threats into account and take measures to eliminate them.

Last Saturday, on 20 August, the public figure and journalist Darya Dugina, who had never held a weapon in her hands, was basely murdered near Moscow. According to the Russian Federal Security Service, Nataliia Vovk, a citizen of Ukraine serving with the neo-Nazi Azov unit, entered the territory of Russia for that purpose. The facts point to her having shadowed the young woman in her car, the number plate of which she changed three times, and to her being involved in the planting of an explosive device under Ms. Dugina's car. After the car exploded and the young woman was killed, Ms. Vovk went into hiding outside Russia and hastily tried to get rid of her car, which had been caught on camera.

All the facts that have been established will be relayed to the investigating authorities. A close watch on the investigation is being kept by the Russian Investigative Committee. One noteworthy detail is that journalists managed to speak to the father of Nataliia Vovk, who confirmed that a few months ago his daughter had been granted refugee status in EU territory.

The citizens of many countries have condemned this vile terrorist foray. Russian diplomatic missions continue to receive condolences from public figures, politicians and concerned citizens. Unfortunately, there are also those who in their crazed Russophobic frenzy expressed approval for the terrorist act that was perpetrated – for example, the Czech Minister of Defence, Jana Černochová, who has literally trampled underfoot the humanistic ideals of Václav Havel and demonstrated her true attitude towards human rights issues and human life as such. Incidentally, despite the international attention it has elicited, the OSCE's leadership and the relevant OSCE structures prefer to keep silent about the murder of Darya Dugina. That is cynical and disgraceful!

One can get an idea of the so-called successes in the development of democracy in Ukraine under the external direction of the collective West by looking at real pictures from the streets of various cities in that unfortunate country, which has become a bargaining chip in the geopolitical games of the "empire of lies". Consider, for example, the cases of people, including women and children, being tied to lamp posts with

packing tape – and subsequently beaten up and subjected to other forms of chastisement – on suspicion of political disloyalty or of involvement in looting without this having been proved by the police or in a court of law. A recent instance of this kind in Dnipropetrovsk was reported in the media on 22 August. In general, have you ever seen anything like this in the OSCE area nowadays except in the territories controlled by the Kyiv regime?

It is utterly inexplicable – even from the point of view of basic decency – why the Polish OSCE Chairmanship is silent on this matter. We see no reaction from our Organization’s relevant institutions. Why has the Permanent Representative of Ukraine shut up like an oyster in connection with this topic? The current Western “overlords” of the territories still controlled by the Kyiv regime are also shamefacedly silent. Where are your words of condemnation for these barbarous extrajudicial reprisals perpetrated in a medieval fashion? Or will you again start describing all these facts, of which copious video evidence is available in the public domain, as “Russian propaganda”? All this arguably serves as the most eloquent proof of the results of your efforts and programmes on democratization and the rule of law in Ukraine.

It is necessary to face up to the truth: the current nominal leaders of the Kyiv regime have deceived their country’s people and abused public trust. After coming to power in 2019 under the slogans of striving for peace in Donbas and of developing democratic institutions, they continued, egged on by their foreign handlers, with the policy of building totalitarianism and military escalation. Society was excluded from the decision-making process for fateful decisions. The clampdown on the work of independent media continued with new force, extrajudicial reprisals in the form of rulings by government agencies became the norm, discriminatory practices in the linguistic, cultural and educational fields intensified, there was an onslaught on religious and other liberties. Neo-Nazism burst into full blossom. To disregard this, means to pander to the Kyiv regime, if not to aid and abet it, as it goes about violating OSCE principles and commitments.

We are witnessing persistent attempts by a number of Western countries to use the events in Ukraine as a pretext for subordinating the work of the entire OSCE and its institutions to their interests. What is on the line is not only the moral authority of our Organization, which in challenging times finds itself led by a Polish Chairmanship that has little notion of what it means to be an “honest broker” and, as we can see, is hardly capable of playing such a role in the first place. The OSCE was created as – and remains – one of the few inclusive platforms for dialogue. Such dialogue needs and will have to be conducted, no matter how challenging it is. We emphasize that no single participating State or group of States has or may have a monopoly on the setting of priorities in the work of our Organization, where key decisions are taken by consensus.

Additionally, representatives of certain countries are trying to involve the OSCE in various sorts of propagandistic initiatives and “forums” that are undermining the foundations and principles of our Organization. This also applies to the events organized in Kyiv on 23 August. We regret that the OSCE Secretary General, by taking part, grossly breached the principle of even-handedness, which is based on decisions of the OSCE Ministerial Council and Permanent Council. That step will not remain without consequences.

The double standards displayed by the collective West, along with their willingness to pander to their Ukrainian protégés in all respects, are a hallmark of the infamous “empire of lies”. It fits in perfectly with the neocolonial logic of the masters of the Kyiv regime: as long as those in Kyiv continue to carry out the instructions of their handlers and proclaim their commitment to so-called Western “values”, the regime is beyond all criticism. This is so even when its officials issue orders for, or facilitate, the perpetration of what are clearly crimes: the use of terrorist methods of warfare in violation of the norms of international humanitarian law; the turning of schools, hospitals and community facilities into military objectives and strongpoints; the indiscriminate shelling of residential areas and critical infrastructure facilities, including

the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant; the use of cluster munitions to carry out remote mining of densely populated urban districts with banned PFM-1 Lепestok anti-personnel mines; and much, much else besides.

Indeed, some countries are not simply encouraging but directly prompting the Kyiv regime to commit such violations. It would be nice, for example, to hear from the representatives of France how scores of MI AC HPD F2 anti-tank mines managed to end up in the Ukrainian armed forces' positions in temporarily occupied areas of the DPR. We would remind you that after putting such mines into combat position, it is impossible to extract or defuse them, and that the use of such weapons is in direct violation of the second Protocol to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, which was adopted in Geneva on 10 October 1980. We must point out that this is not the only type of prohibited weapon being used by the Kyiv regime against the Donbas republics.

We stress once again that the Russian special military operation is aimed at protecting Donbas, denazifying and demilitarizing Ukraine, and eliminating threats to the Russian Federation's security created by the West on Ukrainian territory. These objectives will be accomplished fully.

Thank you for your attention.