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**STATEMENT BY  
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RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON MILITARY  
SECURITY AND ARMS CONTROL, AT THE 1067th PLENARY MEETING OF  
THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

24 January 2024

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

Mr. Chairperson,

According to reports, this morning the Kyiv regime committed its latest barbaric terrorist act, as a result of which an Il-76 Russian military transport plane flying from Chkalovsky airfield to Belgorod and carrying Ukrainian military personnel who were to be exchanged was shot down over our country's territory.

As reported by the Russian Ministry of Defence, the aircraft was downed by the Ukrainian armed forces from the area of Lyptsi village in the Kharkiv region using an anti-aircraft missile system. The radar equipment of the Russian Aerospace Forces observed the launch of two Ukrainian missiles. Military experts know perfectly well that it is impossible to shoot down an Il-76 "by accident". In order to down the aircraft it was necessary to prepare the long-range anti-aircraft missile system in advance in line with the aircraft's departure time, track when the plane would enter the impact area and launch the missiles.

While the officials in Kyiv were deciding on their version of events, the Ukrainian media raced to gloat about and glorify the Russian plane crash. However, having learned that Ukrainians had been on board, they hastily began to cover their tracks by amending their newsfeeds. To no avail.

All of the people on board the aircraft – 65 Ukrainian prisoners of war who were to be exchanged, the three Russian military personnel accompanying them and six crew members – were killed.

The Ukrainian leadership knew very well that, in accordance with established practice, Ukrainian military personnel would be transferred by military transport aircraft to the Belgorod airfield for exchange today. Nevertheless, the Nazi regime in Kyiv took this step seeking to blame Russia for the extermination of Ukrainian soldiers. In committing this terrorist act, the Ukrainian leadership has once again shown its true colours by killing Russian pilots and accompanying officers and liquidating its own citizens.

The authorities in Washington, London and Brussels have nurtured an aggressive and inherently neo-Nazi dictatorship in Ukraine, whose sole objective – and this is not being concealed – is to inflict a “strategic defeat” on Russia. The agreement recently signed in Kyiv on security co-operation with the United Kingdom attests to the fact that Ukraine is being left with no chance of a negotiated way out of the conflict, making it a bargaining chip in the “Anglo-Saxon” adventures and keeping it firmly on the current path of anti-Russian confrontation. Of course, we cannot allow such a threat to the security of Russia and our citizens to exist near our borders.

In Ukraine, Russian military personnel are confronted by the collective West, which is micromanaging the leadership of that country in an all-out hybrid war against Russia. It all began back in the Maidan period when the US intelligence services occupied an entire floor of the Security Service of Ukraine building. Now US advisers are already represented in all key Ukrainian government agencies. We also have reliable information that the Ukrainian armed forces’ military operations are being planned in Washington and London. On the ground, NATO military personnel are in direct charge of missile defence systems, operational-tactical missiles and multiple-launch rocket systems. When strikes using these means are being prepared, we have noted American, Polish and British voices in the radio intercepts. All of this confirms that Ukraine has ceased to be a sovereign country. The President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, has repeatedly said this.

During the special military operation, it has become obvious to the whole world that the Ukrainian armed forces’ use of Western weaponry and supposedly advanced NATO methods of planning operations has not enabled them to secure supremacy on the battlefield. The Russian army is methodically reducing the enemy’s military capability and holding the initiative along the entire front line. Since the start of the special military operation, Ukrainian losses have exceeded 383,000 military personnel, 14,000 tanks, armoured infantry fighting vehicles and armoured personnel carriers, more than 550 aeroplanes and 260 helicopters, and 8,500 field artillery guns and multiple-launch rocket systems. At the strategic and operational level, we are continuing the demilitarization of enterprises from Ukraine’s military-industrial complex, workshops for the repair of weapons and military equipment and storage sites for Western weapons and ammunition.

It is telling that the failure of the Ukrainian armed forces’ offensive operations carried out with the support of the United States of America and NATO is recognized by international public opinion. *The American Conservative* magazine (19 January) pointed out that “US military advice combined with the performance of US materiel demonstrated a degree of American military weakness not seen since the outbreak of the Korean War.” The French political weekly *Le Point* (5 January) highlighted the deplorable state of the Ukrainian armed forces: “There is no equipment, there is no ammunition, the troops are understaffed, the men are exhausted, the command is ineffective.” Lastly, the US publication *Military Watch Magazine* (1 January) called the blow to the reputation of Western armoured vehicles during the special military operation one of the most significant military events of 2023. It is clear that, under these circumstances, the Abrams tanks that were handed over to the Kyiv regime a few months ago are unlikely to appear on the battlefields so as to preserve the reputation of their US manufacturer.

Despite the depletion of the Ukrainian armed forces’ manpower and the lack of results on the battlefield, the United States is unperturbedly trying to realize its ambitions for global primacy at the expense of Ukrainian lives. The tenth wave of forced mobilization is currently under way in Ukraine, within the framework of which those with limited fitness for military service and even Ukrainian citizens in EU countries are liable for conscription. It suits the West that, without wasting the lives of its own soldiers, it is waging war with Russia courtesy of the Ukrainians. This is a very convenient position for the Kyiv regime’s handlers – after all, according to Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba back in June 2022, if there was no Western military aid, Ukrainians would be ready to fight with shovels. But do they really want to die for the interests of the United States and the NATO bloc?

The Ukrainian people are well aware of the senseless “human wave attacks”. They know that new recruits and even underage orphans are being sent to the front lines without any training and without their consent. The whole country can see exactly what is really happening: Ukrainian men are being rounded up, hunted and beaten, military recruiters are combing public transport and even storming residential buildings in search of more cannon fodder. It is not surprising that, under these conditions, potential conscripts are trying to flee Ukraine. They are paying up to 5,000 dollars to cross the border or buying forged documents, and even just swimming across rivers in the January frosts, risking their own lives and freedom.

The Kyiv regime wrongly believes that it can easily compensate for the shortage of military personnel by using Western fighters. It is known that, since 2014, the neo-Nazis have been making use of the resources of embassies abroad to recruit mercenaries in violation of the provisions of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the national legislation of many countries. According to the Russian Ministry of Defence, some 13,500 soldiers of fortune from Europe, the Americas, Asia and Africa have arrived in Ukraine since February 2022. More than 5,800 fighters have been eliminated, including 1,427 from Poland, 466 from the United States and 344 from the United Kingdom. The rest have fled. According to French journalist Christelle Néant, only hardcore Russophobes and neo-Nazis remain as mercenaries in Ukraine.

We once again emphasize that mercenaries sent by the West to assist the nationalist regime in Kyiv are not combatants under international humanitarian law and are not entitled to prisoner-of-war status. The best they can hope for is imprisonment. Otherwise, they will be liquidated by Russian troops as part of the demilitarization of Ukraine, as happened in Kharkiv on 16 January. According to the available information, some 60 fighters were killed and around 20 wounded, most of them French citizens. A country that once positioned itself as one of the champions of ensuring pan-European security on a collective basis has for two years now been sending Caesar howitzers to Kyiv to shell the civilian infrastructure of Donetsk and is justifying the killing of civilians in Belgorod on the basis of Ukraine’s “legitimate right to defence”.

When French Ambassador Pierre Lévy was summoned to the Russian Foreign Ministry on 19 January, it was pointed out that the deaths of his compatriots were on the conscience of the authorities in Paris, which condone the work of recruiting mechanisms for the enlistment of mercenaries for the needs of the Kyiv regime. At the same time, a draft appeal to the French National Assembly to immediately initiate a parliamentary investigation into the involvement of French citizens in the criminal actions of the Kyiv regime in order to suppress any form of mercenarism in Ukraine has been submitted to the State Duma.

Mr. Chairperson,

In the face of military failures and a reduction in the flow of funding from their Western handlers, the Ukronazis are trying to demonstrate at least some ability to resist the Russian army through terrorist attacks.

On 21 January, neo-Nazis shelled a market and adjacent shops in the Donetsk neighbourhood of Tekstilshchik. Twenty-seven people were killed, most of them elderly persons. Over 30 people sustained injuries of varying degrees of severity. The shelling was carried out using NATO 155 mm calibre shells. For the benefit of our colleagues: the United States has sent the Kyiv regime long-range M777 howitzers, which the Ukrainian armed forces are actively using to shell towns and cities in the People’s Republics of Donetsk and Lugansk. Volodymyr Zelenskyy has also been supplied with German Panzerhaubitze 2000, Polish Krab and French Caesar self-propelled artillery pieces, all of which use shells of this calibre. Thus, the Western patrons of the neo-Nazi regime share responsibility for the crimes committed by their puppets.

It should be emphasized that Ukrainian troops receive orders from above to open fire on given co-ordinates and in most cases receive these orders in writing. These orders explain in detail where and when to hit, with what type of shell and what kind of ammunition. This is an aggravating circumstance for the Ukrainian criminals who turned the New Year's holidays into a nightmare for civilians in the border regions

Here are just a few examples. On 29 December 2023, the Ukrainian armed forces fired some 300 rounds of ammunition at civilian objects in the Donetsk People's Republic. On 30 December, they launched targeted strikes on the centre of Belgorod using cluster munitions and Czech-made RM-70 Vampire multiple-launch rocket systems, killing 25 civilians, including five children. Twelve people were injured and two killed by shelling during the same 24-hour period in the Donetsk People's Republic. On the night of 31 December 2023 to 1 January 2024, the Ukrainian armed forces shelled the centre of Donetsk with multiple-launch rocket systems, injuring 17 civilians and killing four. On the night before Orthodox Christmas, 15 civilians were injured and three were killed in the Donetsk People's Republic. The shelling occurred at a time when public places were at their most crowded.

Speaking of the use of cluster munitions by the Ukrainian armed forces. On 19 July 2023, the delegation of Ukraine announced at the Forum for Security Co-operation that US cluster munitions would not be used on the territory of the Russian Federation, that Ukraine would refrain from using them "in inhabited urban areas in order to minimize the risks to the civilian population" and that it would keep careful records of their use and of the specific areas where they would be employed. Now everyone in this room can really see what the Kyiv officials' words are worth. It is in front of your eyes on the screens – blood, horror and death.

These are all acts of barbarism and show blatant disregard for the norms of international humanitarian law on the part of the Western-sponsored regime. The premeditation of the terrorist activities of the Ukrainian armed forces is beyond any doubt.

Have international bodies reacted to the latest terrorist acts by the Kyiv regime against the civilians of Donbas using NATO weapons? Why are the OSCE leadership, the State Department, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of France, Germany and other "progressive democratic" countries that are satellites of the United States still silent?

Further shipments of weapons and ammunition to Ukraine will not secure that coveted breakthrough on the battlefield for the Western governments, but they will most assuredly prolong the armed conflict, deplete European economies and inflict even greater damage on the defence capability of NATO member countries. The transatlantic elites cannot but be aware of the dangerous consequences of the "beefing up" of the Kyiv regime with armaments in violation of their own commitments regarding the control of military goods, including the Arms Trade Treaty, the Common Position of the European Union and a whole range of OSCE politico-military agreements.

According to reports, US military officials and diplomats in Washington and Europe have been unable to account for 39,139 weapons supplied to Ukraine. According to a Pentagon report, the large number of weapons that have gone missing from government databases "may increase the risk of theft or diversion". In this context, we would also recommend that our colleagues from the European Union look into a targeted audit of arms deliveries to Ukraine. The foolhardy "beefing up" of the Kyiv regime with Western weapons has already engendered large-scale military corruption and arms smuggling in that country and beyond its borders. In this connection, the reluctance of our Western colleagues to discuss at the OSCE the problems of illicit arms trafficking is no longer surprising, given how lucrative this dangerous business is for the United States and its allies – their determination to fight "down to the last Ukrainian" is fuelled by

the financial gain they derive. It is regrettable that, at the same time, they do not take into account the risks to European and international security arising from the transfers of military goods.

Mr. Chairperson,

To sum up. It is already clear to any unbiased person that it is not Ukraine but its handlers who will decide when to stop and when to start talking seriously about realistic conditions for ending the conflict. So far, as we have seen and heard here, the West has no interest in negotiations getting started. In that context, it is becoming clear why the United Kingdom and former US military officers who led their country's armed forces in Europe (Ben Hodges and Philip Breedlove) say that all possibilities for life in Crimea must be destroyed. After all, it is in Crimea that, contrary to the predictions of the propagandists in Kyiv, Russians and Ukrainians live in peace and harmony, developing the peninsula through joint efforts. This is how Russians and Ukrainians can live when the West is not allowed to interfere in the relations between two fraternal peoples and to pit them against each other according to the old colonialist methodology.

Thank you for your attention.