

The OSCE Secretariat bears no responsibility for the content of this document and circulates it without altering its content. The distribution by OSCE Conference Services of this document is without prejudice to OSCE decisions, as set out in documents agreed by OSCE participating States.

PC.DEL/60/24
1 February 2024

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**RIGHT OF REPLY BY
MR. ALEKSANDR VOLGAREV, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1459th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

1 February 2024

On Ukraine

Madam Chairperson,

We should like to exercise our right of reply. We have once again heard a torrent of false claims against our country from the representatives of a number of Western countries. We firmly reject these claims, just as the International Court of Justice rejected them yesterday on the basis of facts, arguments and documents, and dismissed Ukraine's unfounded and politicized claims.

Some speakers' arguments, for example, that Russia is seeking to deprive Ukrainians of their identity and the right to determine their own destiny for themselves sound particularly cynical. They have the gall to claim this while completely untroubled by the fact that the puppet regime put in place by the "Anglo-Saxons" after the coup d'état in Kyiv in February 2014 in effect excluded the population of Ukraine from any decision-making processes involved in deciding their own fate. The goals of joining the European Union and NATO were proclaimed without any national referendums whatsoever. People began to be divided into different categories depending on their ethnic, linguistic and religious affiliation. A war on Ukraine's own people was launched to forcibly change the identity of the Russian-speaking majority, and repression was unleashed against those who disagreed. Finally, with the help of NATO, the Kyiv regime started creating military threats unacceptable to its closest neighbours in the territory under its control.

In his statement to the Permanent Council last week on 26 January, the Permanent Representative of the United States of America, Michael Carpenter, called all of this, I quote, "the path the Ukrainian people have freely chosen of democracy, the rule of law, and full integration with Europe and the transatlantic community." It seems ridiculous, especially after the well-known public revelations by US President Joe Biden about how Viktor Shokin, Prosecutor General in such an "independent" Ukraine, was "fired within six hours" following his call (when he was US Vice President) in 2016. What is more, there is a huge array of other examples of direct and full-scale external steering of the puppet regime in Kyiv, which has been going on for ten years now. Over these years, the population of Ukraine has halved, the economy has reached rock bottom and is on artificial respiration, as it were – administered in the form of handouts from the West.

Incidentally, US Under Secretary of State Victoria Nuland, who went to great efforts in handing out cookies on the Maidan in Kyiv in 2013 and encouraging unconstitutional riots back then so that the situation in Ukraine would become the tragedy that it is today, visited Kyiv yesterday.

I cannot fail to mention the fact that the US Permanent Representative has further enriched our vocabulary today with the expression “economic looting”, so from now on we know how to refer to what has been happening with Russian assets in the United States and the European Union.

Crude American propaganda does not work for everyone, even in Europe. Statements of the obvious, including from the mouths of top officials, are being heard there with increasing frequency. For example, on 20 January in an interview with RTVS radio, the Prime Minister of Slovakia said, and I quote: “Ukraine is not a sovereign independent country. It has been under the absolute control and influence of the United States since 2014.” I believe that our Slovak colleagues in this room would be quite capable of elaborating on this point further.

We should add that the external management of present-day Ukraine would not work without the well-known role of the United Kingdom. In this way, the American elites and some of their European allies have now effectively destroyed Ukraine as a sovereign State. They seek to completely subjugate its people, deprive them of their democratic voice and sovereignty, and turn them into a tool for a proxy war with Russia.

The Russian special military operation is a necessary measure in response to the threats posed by NATO countries and their puppets in Kyiv from the territory of Ukraine. It is being conducted in full accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, and its goals and objectives will be fully accomplished. We will talk about this further under the current issue raised by us on the agenda of today’s meeting.

Thank you for your attention.