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**STATEMENT IN EXERCISE OF THE RIGHT OF REPLY BY
MR. DMITRY POLYANSKIY, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1554th (REINFORCED) MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

24 February 2026

On Ukraine

Mr. Chairperson,

I should like to exercise my right of reply.

Every anniversary marking the start of the special operation is an occasion for our country's enemies to engage in lies and slander against Russia. Today is no exception. I will not even comment on the anti-Russian nonsense that has been heard in this room, given its absurdity and its disconnect with reality.

I have just one question for the organizers of today's anti-Russian show: who are you trying to deceive now, and why? And what are you trying to prove? That the Kyiv regime is as pure as the driven snow and that it belongs among your States? If you consider the violation of basic human rights, the right to life, the right to freedom of speech and religion, the right to one's own identity and the opportunity to educate one's children in one's native language, to be acceptable when it comes to Russia and Russians, if you consider the glorification of Nazi criminals to be normal, then all your actions are quite logical. Then we must simply acknowledge that the much-vaunted European values have now been reduced to the level of the Kyiv regime's obscurantism, savagery and inhumanity.

If that is the case, then there is absolutely no point in trying to prove or explain anything to you. After all, the Russophobia that has clouded your minds and the hysterical hatred of our country that has been carefully concealed for many decades will not allow you to understand why Russia decided to defend its interests and the interests of its compatriots by armed means eight years after the start of the Kyiv regime's bloody war against its own population, a war that you did your utmost to ignore, with the bombing of peaceful towns and cities, the torture and intimidation of Russian-speaking citizens, and the burning alive of Russian-speaking activists in Odessa, after you had armed the Kyiv junta under the smokescreen of the Minsk agreements and rejected the last chance to agree on a fair system of pan-European security.

It was a very difficult decision, but we do not regret it because it was the only right decision, and you and your Kyiv protégés simply left us with no other way out. It was our choice in favour of life, goodness and justice, in favour of the truth that you are so afraid of and are trying with all your might to prevent from coming out. The truth about your long-standing interference in the affairs of our neighbouring State, about your attempts to turn it into an anti-Russia and make it first a source of problems for our country, and then a

threat to it. The truth about the rottenness and humanity-hating nature of the corrupt regime that you have imposed on Ukraine and that you are doing everything possible to preserve, despite that regime's death throes and moral decay. The truth about how you have used and continue to cynically use Ukraine for your own geopolitical interests, without asking the Ukrainian people, who have long been deprived of their right to vote by a former comedian from Kryvyi Rih, emboldened by his own impunity and greed, with your tacit consent.

As a matter of fact, the entire Ukrainian conflict is about the truth, which you deliberately do not want to hear. Although you have plenty of opportunities to do so. This morning, for example, we held a comprehensive round-table discussion at the OSCE on the challenges and opportunities of the process to resolve the Ukrainian crisis, during which anyone who wished to do so could learn about the facts that are inconvenient for the Kyiv regime and its sponsors regarding the root causes of the internal Ukrainian conflict, which have not only not disappeared but, with the connivance of the Zelenskyy regime's Western accomplices, have become even more ugly and repulsive.

However, we did not see any representatives of the Western Permanent Missions at our round-table discussion today, because they still live in a paradigm where any Russian position or point of view, any fact that discredits their Ukrainian project, is deemed "Russian propaganda". And all you are striving for today is to obstruct the peace efforts being undertaken by Russia and the United States of America in the spirit of the understandings reached in Anchorage last August. To prevent at any cost the establishment of long-term and sustainable peace in Ukraine, because that is the worst-case scenario for you.

Your task is something quite different: to negotiate a respite for your Kryvyi Rih vassal so that he can lick his wounds, arm himself and, with renewed zeal, take up the old fight with the help of your own weapons. So that Ukrainians and Russians continue to die, while you just count the money you are making from this war and console yourselves with the thought that you have managed to weaken Russia a little more. A brilliant tactic, perfectly in line with today's version of the so-called European values that I mentioned earlier.

Hitler once said that he was going to free the Germans from the "chimera of conscience". As we know, he succeeded and the German people paid a high price for that. Nevertheless, today some contemporary European politicians and leaders of the European Union and NATO clearly intend to deprive the peoples of Europe not only of the "chimera of history" but also of the "chimera of common sense", forgetting about the consequences of such historical manipulations.

What can I say? I can only quote former Polish President Andrzej Duda, who once said on the margins of a high-level segment of the United Nations General Assembly that Ukraine, like a drowning man, would drag everyone who supported it down with it into the depths. His words turned out to be prophetic. You have all failed to notice how you ended up at the bottom, ladies and gentlemen. And now you are trying to drag the rest of the world down with you, preparing for what you, with your Russophobic calculations, believe to be an inevitable war with Russia.

But no matter how many plans you make to weaken Russia, no matter how hard you try to isolate our country and deny it the right to equal and indivisible security, you will not succeed. Just as your predecessors, such as Napoleon or Hitler, were unsuccessful. History teaches you nothing, so your destiny is to just huff and puff with rage and watch helplessly as Europe, with such approaches, is increasingly pushed to the sidelines of world diplomacy, international development and progress. Apparently, this is exactly what you are trying to achieve.

Thank you for your attention.