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**STATEMENT BY
MR. DMITRY POLYANSKIY, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1573rd MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

16 July 2026

On the ongoing hybrid war waged by NATO and the European Union against Russia

Mr. Chairperson,

I shall read out an abridged version of our statement; the full version will be distributed by us after today's meeting.

Only a week has passed since my last statement in this room, yet, thanks to the actions of our Western colleagues, we now have so much further evidence of the hybrid war being waged by NATO and the European Union against our country that fitting it all into a single statement is rather problematic. Let me highlight the main point: the European party of war is demonstrating to us in every possible way that not only is it not abandoning its plans, but is also, ever more openly with each passing day, declaring its intention to inflict a strategic defeat on Russia and writing off diplomacy.

The aim is to use the Ukrainians to wear down and weaken our country, to hold out until Europe has built up sufficient "military muscle", and then to bring about a crushing military defeat of Russia and its disappearance as a State. This is not conjecture on our part – it is the gist of numerous public pronouncements by European politicians. On 26 June 2026, Finnish President Alexander Stubb claimed that Russia had already suffered a strategic defeat as a result of Ukraine moving towards membership of the European Union and NATO, the expansion of the Alliance and the rise in European defence spending. These are the kind of pathological, delusional fantasies that an unbridled hatred of all things Russian can lead one to – a hatred that has been consuming Mr. Stubb for several years now!

To any impartial expert it is obvious that the pronouncements and actions of Mr. Stubb, his British, French and German counterparts, and a number of tinpot Russophobes from Central and Eastern European countries have nothing to do with the pursuit of a lasting peace in Ukraine and on the continent as a whole, or with the rebuilding of trust and the resumption of dialogue. The "conditions for a just peace" for Ukraine put forward through such "collective brainstorming" together with Zelenskyy in London in early June essentially amount to issuing an ultimatum to a nuclear power.

The London ultimatum, the gathering of the "Group of Seven Russophobes" in Évian, and the knocking together of a "Coalition of the Willing", or rather of those thirsting for war with Russia – these are

all links in the same chain. Coupled with the galloping militarization of Europe, these developments leave no doubt as to the catastrophic scenario that irresponsible, Russophobic elites are preparing for the current generation of Europeans.

They are already being forced to tighten their belts, give up their accustomed way of life and brace themselves for the worst, while the short-sighted economic and social policy moves of the European ruling elites are made out to be consequences of Russia's actions. Suffice it to recall the pronouncements made on numerous occasions by European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen from which one would surmise that it was Russia which allegedly stopped supplying energy to Europe as a form of blackmail, rather than it being a case of Europe having chosen to forgo Russian energy and now smarting from all the consequences of that step.

Together with Zelenskyy, who has usurped power in his country and trampled on all the basic rights of Ukrainians, European leaders are now excitedly discussing exclusively military scenarios that involve expanding the support for Ukraine, fast-tracking deliveries of missiles and drones to the Kyiv regime, and providing that regime with other types of long-range weapons with which to kill Russian civilians.

All the terrorist attacks ordered by the authorities in Kyiv, leading to the cold-blooded annihilation of women, children and the elderly in our country, are categorized by European leaders as "necessary self-defence". It is becoming clear that in Europe they are prepared and willing to kill Russians, and that no actions undertaken against Russians are regarded there as a crime. Accordingly, Europe is prepared not only to ignore how Nazism is rearing its ugly head in Ukraine, but also to dust off its own Nazi "accomplishments". The attempts to ban Russian culture and Russian sport stem precisely from this increasingly evident Russophobic and Nazi nature of the European elites. We have no remaining doubts about this whatsoever!

Any fact-based opinions arguing that the acute phase of the Ukrainian crisis was preceded by years upon years of violations of the rights of Russian-speaking Ukrainians, by rampant nationalism and neo-Nazism, and by a war unleashed against its own citizens by a regime that came to power through an unconstitutional coup d'état are immediately dismissed by the ruling elites on the old continent as "Russian propaganda" and are thoroughly removed and even extirpated from public discourse of any kind. There are still some voices of reason to be heard in Europe, but they are becoming increasingly few and far between, as was the case during the rise of the Nazis in Germany in the 1930s.

For example, Jacques Baud, a former NATO adviser and retired colonel of the General Staff of the Swiss Armed Forces, has said: "We have recently been seeing a certain trend towards escalation in Eastern Europe: all these attacks recorded in the airspace of Estonia and Latvia, and also Ukraine's attempts to launch drones from Polish and Lithuanian territory. By the way, Finnish airspace has also been used in this context. The Ukrainians are trying to drag Europeans into a direct confrontation with Russia. And as a result, the conflict could expand. I think this is exactly what Ukraine is trying to achieve."

He emphasized that their supplying of weapons, their training of Ukrainian military personnel and, most importantly, the fact that they are making their airspace available for attacks on Russia are turning European countries into aggressors from a legal point of view. Baud explicitly mentioned Germany, France, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and Finland.

Glenn Diesen, a professor at the University of South-Eastern Norway, has warned of the consequences of European attempts to "take the war to Russia", noting that "the obsession by European leaders to bring the war to Russian territory will very likely result in bringing the war to European territory."

Douglas Macgregor, a former adviser to the US Secretary of Defense, has said that Europe is attempting to drag the United States of America into a direct conflict with Russia. He considers the continued supply of money and equipment to the Kyiv regime as part of that effort to embroil the United States in the conflict.

In their evolution, or rather degeneration, the European Union and NATO have long since surpassed any Orwellian dystopias, setting new lows when it comes to the violation of civil rights, censorship and cynicism in the promotion of double standards.

Cynicism towards, among others, the Ukrainians, who have long been deprived of the opportunity to avail themselves of democratic means to put a stop to the military folly to which their country is being sacrificed. Ever since Zelenskyy cancelled the elections more than two years ago, his Western sponsors and accomplices have consistently turned a blind eye to the fact that Ukrainians do not want to fight and would prefer to make peace with Russia. This is vividly demonstrated by the sickening scenes of violent, forced mobilization, which feature so widely across Ukrainian social media that it is simply impossible to hide them or to pass them off as some kind of Russian “staging”, despite the best efforts of the Kyiv regime.

In violation of Ukraine’s own laws, young children are being separated from their fathers as these are carried off, while the sick and those legally entitled to a deferment are being drafted into military units with the help of the police and semi-gangster elements. There are an increasing number of cases in which conscripts die from beatings and abuse even before reaching the front line. We have already spoken about the scandal surrounding the military unit called “Skelia”, which reports directly to Commander-in-Chief Syrskyi, where the newly mobilized are routinely beaten up and tortured; this scandal is not dying down, but is only intensifying. Unsurprisingly, according to the Ukrainian military authorities themselves, more than 2 million Ukrainians are wanted for being unwilling to go to the front and become cannon fodder in the service of Western geopolitical interests. Official data alone suggests that by the end of 2025 the number of deserters from the Ukrainian army had exceeded 300,000; however, Ukrainian experts believe the actual figure to be three to four times higher.

And how, then, does the West, which talks of caring about human rights, react to such flagrant violations of those very rights in Ukraine? The answer is simple – the European Union has officially excluded Ukrainians liable for conscription from its protection programme, this limitation applying for now to new asylum seekers. The authorities in Brussels are thus making it clear that even if all Ukrainian men were forcibly sent to the front line to be slaughtered, they would be fine with that. After all, the West has not been implementing its “anti-Russia” project on our borders since at least 2014 simply to now start thinking about Ukrainians’ rights and interests. The West is just as uninterested in them as they are in the rights of Russians; the more of them die, the easier it will be for the Western neocolonialists to get their hands on the natural resources of their eastern neighbours! Many people in Ukraine have already realized this, but so far there is nothing they can do about Zelenskyy’s pro-Western dictatorship.

And since the supply of Ukrainians is quite simply running out, the Kyiv regime is trying to plug the gaps with foreign mercenaries recruited using money from the West. The story of the Colombians is a case in point.

Thus, on 2 June 2026, the captured Colombian mercenary William Andrés Gallego Orozco recounted how the Kyiv regime is deliberately using lies to lure citizens of his country into the ranks of the Ukrainian armed forces. According to him, Ukrainian recruiters pick out the poorest and most desperate people – street vendors or workers at motor garages, who have no steady income. They are promised that over in Ukraine they will be working simply as cooks, hairdressers, plumbers or mechanics; they are offered

wages many times higher than what they earn in their home country; and then, by means of deception, they are made to fight.

Colombians are promised up to 19 million pesos (around 5,200 US dollars) per month, the average salary in Colombia being roughly between 300 and 400 dollars. However, it turns out that a significant proportion of these promises are either not kept or are substantially distorted. Once they have signed their contracts, the future mercenaries are gathered in Bogotá and transferred to Ukraine, where they face harsh living conditions: lack of food and water, limited medical care. Their papers are confiscated, and any attempts by them to quit service are nipped in the bud, even with the use of physical violence. The relatives of those killed in the hostilities are openly describing what is happening as “a form of human trafficking”.

Family members of slain Colombian mercenaries have set up an organization bringing together more than 250 families. They are demanding answers and compensation from the Kyiv regime. Colombian President Gustavo Petro has stated that around 7,000 Colombians are fighting as part of the Ukrainian armed forces. Moreover, as reported by those of them who were fortunate enough to be taken prisoner by the Russians, foreign mercenaries are no longer being organized into separate units – they are being lumped together with Ukrainians to prevent any possibility of sabotage owing to discontent over supply shortages or lack of troop rotations.

Apart from Colombia, there are other countries as well whose citizens are being lured into the ranks of the Ukrainian armed forces under false pretences. But for our Western colleagues, this problem simply does not exist, as the Kyiv regime is engaging in such lawlessness with their knowledge. Such is the circle of complicity!

Colleagues, this very circle of complicity with a criminal regime that has gone completely off the rails will prove to be your undoing. If you have not realized this yet, now is the time to do so. And instead of military preparations and sleepwalking into a major European war, now is precisely the moment to give free rein to the instinct for self-preservation inherent in every human being. That is, of course, provided this instinct has not already atrophied under the effect of your Russophobic frenzy.

Thank you for your attention.