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Delegation of the Russian Federation

RIGHT OF REPLY BY
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RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON MILITARY
SECURITY AND ARMS CONTROL, AT THE 1103rd PLENARY MEETING OF
THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION

2 April 2025

Agenda item: General statements
Subject: Staged incidents as the Western approach to doing politics

Mr. Chairperson,

At the previous plenary meeting of the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC), the delegations of Canada, Denmark, France, Norway, Ukraine and the United Kingdom hurled a barrage of Russophobic accusations and clichés to the detriment of the discussion of pressing politico-military issues. But, as the well-known saying goes, in their attempt to find a speck in someone else’s eye, they failed to notice the log in their own eye. It appears that these delegations have completely forgotten about the catastrophic consequences of the West’s provocative staged incidents and disinformation, which began not in Ukraine but much earlier, claiming the lives of hundreds of thousands of people.

The village of Račak in the Serbian province of Kosovo and Metohija in 1999. A group of OSCE inspectors arrived at the site where several dozen bodies dressed in civilian clothes had been discovered. The Head of the Mission, William Walker, claimed without evidence that an act of genocide had taken place. NATO immediately launched an armed aggression against Yugoslavia, methodically and deliberately destroying civilian objects. It was later reliably established that those killed were not civilians but fighters from the rebel groups of the “Kosovo Liberation Army” dressed up in civilian clothes. However, the staged incident had already served as a pretext for the unlawful use of force against an OSCE participating State in violation of the Helsinki Final Act.

It is also hard to forget how, in 2003, US Secretary of State Colin Powell stood at the lofty podium of the United Nations Security Council and shook a vial containing some white powder, declaring to the whole world that Iraq was producing weapons of mass destruction. Once again, crude misinformation worked: NATO countries bombed Iraq, which is still unable to fully restore its statehood.

In 2011, it was Libya. NATO grossly distorted the United Nations Security Council resolution and simply bombed Libyan army units who were fighting terrorists. Muammar Gaddafi was brutally murdered, and Libya was transformed into a territory ruled by illegal armed groups, most of which co-operate closely with the West.

In 2014, Ukraine. The West, represented by the foreign ministers of France, Germany and Poland, effectively forced President Viktor Yanukovich to sign an agreement with the opposition to end the stand-off and bring about a peaceful settlement to the internal Ukrainian crisis. However, this too turned out to be a staged event: the next morning, the opposition orchestrated a coup d'état under Russophobic and racist slogans. The Western guarantors of the agreements did not even attempt to do anything. And this is hardly surprising, given that the Maidan was organized and financed by NATO and European Union countries, whose representatives arrived in droves to support the protesters. Moreover, each country had its own agenda, and at times they did not show much regard for their allies at all (for example, one could recall what Victoria Nuland said about the European Union, but, unlike some of our opponents here in this room, diplomatic etiquette prevents me from doing so). This is where the roots of the Ukrainian crisis lie – on the Maidan, which was unconditionally supported by the West, and not in Crimea or Donbass, as the Western OSCE participating States like to distort reality. Perhaps, in order to restore the truth, they will amend their previous statements at the FSC between 2014 and 2025.

After the war in Donbass was brought to an end, it was thanks to the efforts of Russia, Germany and France that the Minsk agreements were concluded in February 2015 between the Ukrainian Government and the authorities in Donetsk and Lugansk, with the current European militarists – Germany and France – playing an active role and proudly proclaiming themselves guarantors. However, over the next seven long years, not a finger was lifted to compel the Ukrainian Government – as explicitly required by the Minsk agreements, which were unanimously endorsed by the United Nations Security Council – to enter into direct dialogue with representatives of Donbass to resolve their differences. In this way, Western States provided Ukraine with full political and diplomatic cover.

This was later confirmed by the so-called “co-mediators of the peace settlement” – former German Chancellor Angela Merkel, former French President François Hollande and former Ukrainian leader Petro Poroshenko. According to their claims, which were widely reported in the global media, the aim of the Minsk agreements was to give Ukraine time to prepare for a major war.

In other words, all this falsification and flirting with international law had one sole purpose – to “beef up” the Kyiv regime with weapons and politically prepare it to launch the military operations we witnessed in early 2022. The Ukrainian people are still paying the price for this staged event, having been forced by the West for many years to accept life under the yoke of a Russophobic neo-Nazi regime. It is a pity that the delegation of Denmark failed to mention this in the context of its manipulative statement with reference to the Minsk agreements last week (FSC.DEL/92/25).

However, it is by no means a secret that Western participating States regularly reproduce inaccurate information in our Forum. For example, at the 1102nd Plenary Meeting, the delegations of the United Kingdom (FSC.DEL/93/25) and Ukraine (FSC.DEL/97/25) jointly attempted to pass off an explosion at a school in Sumy on 24 March as a targeted attack on civilian infrastructure by the Russian Aerospace Forces. However, video footage widely disseminated in the public domain shows that a small fire in the centre of a residential neighbourhood was followed by a secondary large-scale detonation of an ammunition depot in a nearby building. The involvement in this incident of the Kyiv regime, which stores ammunition in residential neighbourhoods in violation of international humanitarian law, was so obvious that the Head of the Office of the President of Ukraine, Andrii Yermak, had to correct his post on social media about the Russian strike that allegedly caused the explosion. Only the delegations of the United Kingdom and Ukraine to the FSC did not bother to correct anything. Will they do so now?

One of the favourite topics of Western delegations at the FSC is the staged “bloodbath” in Bucha. Incidentally, tomorrow, 3 April, marks three years since the Zelenskyy regime and its Western handlers

staged a false-flag operation in this settlement in the Kyiv region. At that time, the world was presented with “evidence” of alleged killings of innocent civilians, intended to discredit the actions of the Russian armed forces in the eyes of the international community. This was done in order to derail the peace talks in Istanbul. At the same time, our opponents are not particularly concerned about the logic of their arguments both in the global information space and in the FSC. Now, the facts are that our units withdrew from Bucha on 30 March 2022. This was also confirmed by the mayor of the town, Anatolii Fedoruk, who stated in a video address on 31 March that there were no armed forces of the Russian Federation present in the settlement, while making no mention of victims of mass shootings in the streets, which he could not have failed to notice. It was only after Ukrainian armed formations entered the town accompanied by foreign journalists that “irrefutable evidence of crimes” emerged. For several years now, the organizers of this staged event have been doing everything in their power to prevent an objective investigation from being carried out, much less an international one. They continue to do everything they can to avoid answering the obvious questions: “Where is the list of victims? What are their names? Who are these people?”

We also remember well how, in July 2024, the Kyiv regime and its Western handlers launched a large-scale campaign in connection with the alleged Russian missile strike on the Okhmatdyt Children’s Hospital in Kyiv. Here, at the FSC, the delegation of Ukraine was particularly vocal on this issue (FSC.DEL/252/24). At the same time, it appeared to have relied, among other things, on images of Russian missiles that had been altered in image editors. In response, we presented arguments based on military expertise, which indicated that, as part of its implementation of the fundamental goal of demilitarizing Ukraine, the Russian army was carrying out strikes on military objectives in Kyiv, but it was a missile from a Norwegian-made NASAMS anti-aircraft system used by the Ukrainians that struck the premises of that children’s hospital (FSC.DEL/253/24/Add.1, FSC.DEL/253/24/Add.2). This is attested both by the ratio of the projectile’s linear dimensions (diameter and length) and by the nature of the physical damage caused (the collapse of only a small part of the building and the shrapnel marks). Nevertheless, the Ukrainian delegation did nothing to clarify the situation. After all, the main thing is to make loud statements, spread disinformation and then cover everything up.

This was also the case on 19 July 2023, when, in this very room, the delegation of Ukraine announced 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 (FSC.DEL/292/23). Guarantees of “strict accounting” and “accountability”, by the way, were also given by the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine. But as early as 22 July 2023, cluster munitions were fired in the Zaporozhye region at a private Russian vehicle carrying journalists from the Izvestia multimedia information centre, killing RIA Novosti war correspondent Rostislav Zhuravlev and injuring four of his fellow journalists to varying degrees of severity. Subsequently, the Ukrainian armed forces’ shelling of Russian territory with cluster munitions resulted in civilian casualties. For example, after ATACMS missiles equipped with cluster warheads struck a crowded beach in Sevastopol. Perhaps today we will receive an answer as to how this squares with Ukraine’s “assurances” at the FSC? 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.

Sadly, Ukraine’s cynical manipulation of the facts has become commonplace, as has the way in which this is being abetted by the Western alliance, which reacts instantaneously each time the Ukraine issue is involved and an opportunity presents itself to baselessly accuse our country. They do this with particular relish around the time of major international events in order to achieve the necessary emotional effect and justify the continued “beefing up” of the regime with weapons.

This is exactly what happened on the eve of the Munich Security Conference in 2025, when, in the early hours of 14 February, Volodymyr Zelenskyy's formations launched a combat drone attack on the containment structure (shelter) of the fourth power unit of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant (NPP), under the rubble of which active sources of ionizing radiation remain following the 1986 accident. The delegation of France felt it was their duty to automatically attribute responsibility for this incident to the Russian Federation (FSC.DEL/67/25), without evidence and without verifying the relevant information. We would point out that the Chernobyl NPP, which was finally decommissioned in 2000, has not generated electricity for more than 24 years and is a civilian object. According to the information available, it is not being used as a base for military personnel, and there are no military objectives or troop concentrations of the Ukrainian armed forces in the vicinity. It is of no interest whatsoever as a target. The irresponsible theatrics involving the use of an alleged Russian unmanned aerial vehicle was the latest reckless step by the Kyiv regime, as it seeks new arguments and incentives for preserving support from its Western sponsors. The way Mr. Zelenskyy was quick to play up the Chernobyl NPP story in Munich leaves no doubt about this. It is regrettable that France decided to play along in spreading this disinformation.

Equally surprising, to say the least, are the attempts by the delegation of the United Kingdom to manipulatively deny that its citizens are involved in the hostilities in Ukraine as mercenaries (FSC.DEL/66/25).

According to the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation, "a mercenary is deemed to be a person who is acting with a view to material reward and is not a citizen of the State taking part in the armed conflict or military operations, does not live permanently in that State and is not sent to carry out official duties." James Scott Rhys Anderson, who was mentioned by the representative of the United Kingdom to the FSC, falls into this category. He was found guilty of committing a terrorist act in the Kursk region and of mercenarism (Article 205, paragraph 2 (a) and (c), and Article 359, paragraph 3, of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation). The investigation and the court established that Mr. Anderson took direct part in the armed conflict on the territory of the Russian Federation for material reward. In November 2024, armed with combat weapons, he illegally entered the territory of our country as part of a unit of the Ukrainian armed forces. He committed crimes against the civilian population with the aim of causing significant property damage and destabilizing the activities of the authorities. As a result of intelligence-gathering activities, he was detained in the Kursk region. The court sentenced Mr. Anderson to 19 years in prison. The United Kingdom's attempts to whitewash this criminal and to claim that Mr. Anderson is not a "soldier of fortune" border on an admission of that country's involvement in the conflict against Russia. After all, it is obvious that the person in question is not a citizen of Ukraine, does not live permanently in that State, and took part in the military operations for material reward, but whether he was officially sent by the UK Government to fight on the side of the Kyiv regime, we would be interested to hear from the delegation of the United Kingdom itself.

Mr. Chairperson,

We could spend a long time recalling and analysing the statements made by Western participating States at the FSC. There are enough examples from over the years to make for a statement lasting several hours. We have heard that they allegedly have some sort of grievance against our statements. But perhaps they should take a look in the mirror first? I should therefore like to conclude my right of reply by recalling what is perhaps the most significant lie told by the collective West, which has cast a long shadow over the OSCE's politico-military documents and brought its area of responsibility into a state of antagonism and conflict. I am referring to the promise made to the Soviet leadership not to expand NATO eastward. This was mentioned in numerous public statements by Western politicians, in documents of the Gorbachev Foundation, as well as in telegrams, letters and transcripts of conversations officially declassified by the US State Department and the foreign ministries of other countries. If NATO had stopped at the Oder-Neisse

line, as was promised to the Soviet leadership, the only point of contact between Russia and the bloc would have been the border in the Kirkenes region (Norway), which is just over 100 kilometres long. But, alas, now the ideal of security for the Alliance is barbed wire, anti-tank ditches, and soon minefields on the border with Russia. Otherwise, it would be impossible for the West to fool people with the mythical threat from the East, which is used today to impose a postmodern “rules-based world order” that suits a number of Western elites.

Our interlocutors at the FSC would do well to remember the words of a well-known political figure: “You can fool some of the people all of the time, and all of the people some of the time, but you cannot fool all of the people all of the time.”

Thank you for your attention.