

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/565/24

9 May 2024

ENGLISH

Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY
MR. MAXIM BUYAKEVICH, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1472nd MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

9 May 2024

**On the increasing military involvement of certain NATO and EU member States in
further confrontation in and around Ukraine**

Madam Chairperson,

In connection with the conscious escalation of tensions over the Ukrainian conflict by certain NATO and EU countries and their embarking on drastically destabilizing actions aimed at ramping up pressure on the Russian Federation and posing additional threats to our country's security, the leadership of Russia has taken the decision to organize an exercise by the armed forces of the Russian Federation on the development of skills in the use of non-strategic nuclear weapons.

We point out that this measure is in response to the intensifying militaristic rhetoric of, and concrete practical actions taken by, the leadership of a number of NATO member countries, including the nuclear powers France and the United Kingdom. The Ambassadors of these countries were summoned to the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs for consultations on 6 May. We are referring to the speculations about deploying troops from NATO countries to Ukraine and also to the openly stated support for, and direct assistance with, terrorist actions against Russia and its civilian population – crimes committed by the Kyiv regime using ever more advanced weapons supplied by the West.

We wish to single out the extremely destructive position of the United States of America, which as the main driving force behind the aggressive politico-military bloc that is NATO not only is actively furnishing the Kyiv regime with an increasingly diverse range of weapons (including long-range missiles), but is also consciously undermining efforts to maintain strategic stability, having chosen to station short- and intermediate-range ground-based missile systems in various parts of the world, including near Russia's borders.

In the context of the Ukrainian conflict, the NATO countries are planning to bring US-made F-16 multi-role aircraft into "play" in Ukraine. These plans are yet another deliberate provocation intended to heighten the escalation, since such aircraft are dual-capable weapons platforms, that is, they can be equipped with both nuclear and non-nuclear weapons.

Under the pretext of the events in Ukraine, the Polish leadership is speculating on the possibility of deploying US nuclear weapons on the territory of Poland. Official communications in which the Polish authorities raise that as a practical possibility vis-à-vis their counterparts in Washington have been noted in Russia.

These and other actions have a distinctly anti-Russian thrust; they are destabilizing the situation on the European continent and show that the NATO member States are deliberately seeking to further escalate the Ukrainian conflict and tilt it towards open military confrontation between the NATO countries and Russia as part of their hostile approach aimed at inflicting some kind of “strategic defeat” on our country.

The unprovoked confrontational actions and “acts of intimidation” that the NATO bloc has been undertaking over many years constitute a grave security threat. Western hotheads must finally understand that they are bringing Europe and the whole world to a dangerous brink, and that they are doing so not in the “virtual reality” of political talk shows and pre-election gambits but in the real world. They must realize, too, that Russia and its allies will respond effectively to emerging threats as they protect the security of their citizens and of their territories.

Last week, shelling attacks by the Kyiv regime’s armed formations claimed more than 30 civilian casualties: five people were killed, among them one adolescent, and 25 were injured, including two children. Moreover, in the Belgorod region on 6 May, two civilian vehicles taking the employees of an agricultural enterprise to their place of work were attacked by the Ukrainian armed forces with the aid of drones. Seven people were killed and there were more than 40 civilian casualties, including three minors, as a result of that criminal act.

The Russian military continues to successfully degrade the military capabilities of the Ukrainian neo-Nazi formations. Energy infrastructure facilities that were being used to serve the interests of the Ukrainian armed forces have been hit, as have arms and fuel depots. According to Russian Ministry of Defence data, the Kyiv regime’s militants have incurred total losses exceeding 111,000 killed or wounded since the start of the year. The Ukrainian armed forces have lost more than 21,000 units of equipment and weaponry, including models from several NATO countries.

In view of this, the NATO puppets in Kyiv are intensifying the forced mobilization of conscription-age men from among those who do not wish to fight for the Kyiv regime. The Education Ministry has ordered higher education institutions to adopt further measures for filtering out and removing undergraduate and postgraduate students through the introduction of additional “qualifying examinations”. There is a never-ending stream of people seeking to illegally cross poorly monitored segments of the State border. In the past week alone, the drowned bodies of seven young men were dragged out of the River Tisza in the Zakarpattia region: they had risked their lives so as not to end up in the ranks of the Kyiv regime’s armed formations.

When delivering statements in this room and at other venues, representatives of Western countries are increasingly corroborating arguments that have long been voiced by Russian diplomats. Let us focus on three of them.

First, the continuation of the armed confrontation and the way in which our people are dying on both sides of the line of engagement are a consequence of Western countries’ persistent reluctance to stop their proxy war against Russian statehood. Against the backdrop of a catastrophic situation as regards democratic processes in the areas controlled by the Kyiv regime, and of non-compliance there with OSCE commitments and international law, the representatives of a number of NATO and EU countries continue to assert that they are fighting for what they call “values” by supporting Ukraine in every possible way.

They are confirming, though, that the end of the conflict depends exclusively on ceasing the supply of Western weapons to Ukraine. This was acknowledged by the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Josep Borrell, during a lecture he gave on 3 May in front of students from the University of Oxford. He explicitly confirmed that cutting off military supplies to the Kyiv regime would indeed swiftly bring the conflict to an end, and he even indicated a time frame, saying that it would then be over “in a couple of weeks”. However, he let it be understood that taking the existing political and territorial realities into account does not tally with the geopolitical interests of Western countries, which do not wish to lose all that they have invested in the Russophobic Kyiv regime. That is why they continue to bankroll the fighting and to issue ultimatums to Russia in the form of unviable “formulas” supposedly authored by Mr. Zelenskyy, which they want to discuss at certain pointless gatherings in Switzerland.

Secondly, the aforementioned lecture by Mr. Borrell, taken together with the statements by a number of Western representatives at the last Permanent Council meeting (above all by the US representative), amounts to a kind of manifesto acknowledging the mistakenness of Western countries’ foreign policy course and recognizing the failure of attempts to fully isolate major players in the international community. Despite the dreams about turning Russia into some sort of “pariah country”, reality shows that our State has many more powerful friends and partners around the world than it has ill-wishers. And the countries of the “global majority” are not willing to go along with the striving by certain Western countries to speak on behalf of the entire international community. Mr. Borrell even admitted that the United States today no longer has the status of a global “hegemon” that it was so keen to acquire after the Cold War came to an end. Reality is changing; the world is multipolar – and this has to be taken into consideration.

The fallacy behind the “sanctions-based aggression” against Russia is obvious too. The Western countries are not only incapable of laying down the law in the interconnected global economy but are themselves having to bear direct losses due to their own actions, which are eroding the foundations of international law and undermining the framework for trade. Significantly, at the last Permanent Council meeting, the US representative referred to the Russian economy’s ability to meet its microelectronics needs through international commercial relations, and not by extracting semiconductors from “Ukrainian washing machines”, as was previously claimed in public by European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen, who is apparently highly qualified when it comes to washing machines.

The events of the past few years have provided Russia and its partners around the world with additional incentives for economic development. While the EU countries are faced with stagnation and mounting social and economic disparities, our country has not only become one of the five largest economies on the continent but, in terms of growth rate, it has now also surpassed all countries from the so-called Group of Seven.

And, lastly, to our third point. The notorious lack of homogeneity in the positions of Western countries with regard to everything that is related to Ukraine is becoming increasingly apparent. This is manifesting itself in various aspects: the imposition of restrictive measures against Ukrainian produce; deliberations about sending troops or armaments to Ukraine; the use of their own territory for the transit of arms; the discussion of plans to hand over Ukrainian men to the Kyiv regime as cannon fodder to continue taking part in combat operations against the Russian armed forces; and so on and so forth. In that lecture of his in Oxford, Mr. Borrell let slip that among the EU countries there was no unified policy with regard to Russia – indeed, there were States that “consider Russia a good friend” and that by no means perceived having Russia as a neighbour to be an “existential threat”.

All this confirms something obvious: irresponsible politicians in a number of Western countries are deceiving themselves with high hopes that, through foreign policy and economic measures, they will

somehow be able to trigger socio-political destabilization in Russia, weaken our State and compel the Russian leadership to give up protecting the security of our country's people and defending our national interests. Their logic informed by a neocolonial mentality, their striving to conquer lands historically opened up for cultivation by our people and to pose threats to Russian statehood from those very territories – all this is extremely dangerous. They mistakenly assume that the tactic of “controlled escalation” is a one-way process in which Russia has been assigned some sort of subordinate role. That is, of course, not the case and never will be.

We must stress that our country is determined to defend its legitimate interests using all the means at its disposal. Moreover, it intends to develop mutually beneficial co-operation with all the members of the international community that are interested in this.

The path to sustainably resolving the current problems by political and diplomatic means must run through a complete cessation of arms supplies by NATO countries to the Kyiv regime and through a stop being put to the recruitment on their territory of Ukrainian and foreign citizens into the ranks of the Ukrainian armed forces and neo-Nazi outfits involved in fighting against Russian military personnel. It is important to ensure the withdrawal of all foreign mercenaries, instructors and operators of NATO weapons from Ukrainian territory, to see to it that other activities aimed at maintaining and developing the combat capability of criminal armed formations are wound down, and also to create the conditions for the demilitarization and denazification of Ukraine.

One last thing. Today marks exactly 79 years since the capitulation (according to Moscow time) of Germany's Nazi regime at Karlshorst in Berlin and the triumphant conclusion of the Soviet people's Great Patriotic War, in which they defended the unity, freedom and independence of our fatherland. Over the past few years, the Kyiv regime and its accomplices have been striving to do all they can to erase the historical memory of the victory over Nazism: they are cultivating and propagating neo-Nazi ideas, glorifying the figures of Nazi henchmen and tearing down monuments to Red Army soldiers, who not only liberated the territory of Ukraine but also made a decisive contribution to the vanquishing of Nazism in Europe. What is more, on the eve of this day that is sacred for the millions of inhabitants of our fatherland, the ringleader of the neo-Nazi regime in Kyiv, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, whose battle groups openly sport swastikas and other Nazi symbols, broadcast his latest tacky video address (cobbled together in motion-picture fashion for added artistic effect) – one that is shocking in its impudence, and in which he prattled on about “Russian fascism”.

With all responsibility we assert that Russia will continue to combat the rehabilitation of Nazism and will not allow its revival in Ukraine. All those who have placed themselves beyond the pale of the law will inevitably meet with just retribution. Today, just like 79 years ago, as we combat Nazism and any contemporary form it may take – be it the Kyiv regime or other reincarnations – we solemnly repeat the rallying cry of our grandfathers and great-grandfathers: “Ours is a righteous cause. The enemy shall be defeated. Victory will be ours!”

Thank you for your attention.