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Letter dated 18 August 2022 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I would like to bring to your attention the presentation made by the Chief of the Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Protection Troops of the Russian Federation Armed Forces, Lieutenant General I. A. Kirillov, during his briefing on 18 August 2022, containing information on the provocations by the Kiev regime against the Zaporozhie nuclear power plant and their potential consequences (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 100, and of Security Council

(Signed) Vassily Nebenzia



Annex to the letter dated 18 August 2022 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Briefing by Lieutenant General I. A. Kirillov, Chief of the Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Protection Troops of the Russian Federation Armed Forces

18 August 2022

The Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation is analysing the situation at the Zaporozhie nuclear power plant.

Since 18 July 2022, the power plant has been under systematic shelling by the Ukrainian armed forces using multiple rocket launchers, small arms artillery and unmanned aerial vehicles.

As at 18 August 2022, there have been 12 incidents of shelling, during which more than 50 artillery explosions and five kamikaze drones were recorded on the territory of the nuclear power plant and the city of Energodar.

The Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation conducted an investigation and found that the strikes had been launched from the direction of the settlements of Marganets and Nikopol.

The shelling resulted in damage to the power plant auxiliary support systems and to vital services of the city of Energodar.

The Ministry of Defence believes that Ukraine and its United States handlers are trying to play the card of causing what they regard as a minor breakdown at the nuclear power plant, disrupting its normal and safe operation, and blaming Russia.

Ukraine has repeatedly stated that the Russian Armed Forces are striking the plant, that Russian heavy weaponry is stationed there, and that that weaponry is being used for strikes against facilities of the Ukrainian armed forces.

We are ready to present to IAEA genuine very high resolution pictures (see the example on the slide) which show that we have not been stationing weapons, still less heavy weapons, at the power plant. The Minister of Defence of the Russian Federation indicated this to United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres.

We know that the presence of a large number of foreign military and commercial satellites means that the United States can provide the international community with the very same information.

However, the United States, by saying nothing about the objective data regarding the shelling and the situation at the power plant, has been encouraging the impunity of the Kiev regime and contributing to a possible nuclear disaster in Europe.

I would like to note that it is no coincidence that the media has been quoting so widely the conclusions of experts of the United States arms control and disarmament agency (Washington, D.C.) and a number of other similar Western countries' institutions that the occurrence of a large-scale disaster at Zaporozhie nuclear power plant seems unlikely, rather than quoting IAEA, which has the right to draw such conclusions.

They say that the concrete walls of the reactor containment structures are ten metres thick, and that the plant was designed and built to withstand events such as impact from a civilian aircraft.

However, it cannot be ruled out that a direct hit by large-calibre artillery shells on a dry storage facility for spent nuclear fuel would result in radioactive contamination of the area within a radius of up to 20 kilometres, and an emergency situation at a nuclear reactor within 30 kilometres at most. Much emphasis is placed on regarding as minimal the risks of a spread of radiation over European countries.

Thus, according to United States experts, the consequences of a nuclear incident at the Zaporozhie power plant would be limited and would not affect the territory of European countries.

I would nevertheless like to remind the United Nations Secretariat and the entire world community that the principal cause of the accidents at the Chernobyl plant and Fukushima, despite the fact that in the first case there were experiments with the nuclear reactor and in the second case there was an earthquake and tsunami, was the failure of the support systems, disruption of the power supply, and partial and complete failure of the cooling systems, which led to overheating of nuclear fuel and reactor destruction.

The Chernobyl disaster led to more than 20 European countries being contaminated with radioactive isotopes. About 4,000 people died from direct exposure to radiation, and tens of thousands of cases of genetic deformities in newborns and hundreds of thousands of cancers have been recorded. Not counting the consequences of the forced evacuation of up to 100,000 people, more than 5.5 million people received an increased dose of radiation.

In the case of the Fukushima nuclear power plant, the consequences look insignificant only at first glance. Up to 500,000 people were forcibly evacuated in stages, and future generations will feel the effects of radioactive water dumped into the ocean.

The impression is that this has been forgotten.

Our experts believe that a similar situation may arise at the Zaporozhie nuclear power plant because of the actions of the Ukrainian armed forces.

For example, if the backup diesel generators and mobile pumps fail and an emergency arises, the core will overheat and, as a consequence, the reactor units at Europe's largest nuclear power plant will be destroyed, releasing radioactive substances into the atmosphere over a distance of hundreds of kilometres.

Such an emergency would cause a mass population movement, and, as a number of European specialized organizations have confirmed, would have more catastrophic consequences than the impending gas energy crisis in Europe.

United Nations Secretary General Guterres is reportedly planning to visit Odessa as part of his trip to Ukraine from 17 to 19 August 2022. By that date, the Ukrainian armed forces intend to stage a manufactured man-made disaster at the Zaporozhie nuclear power plant, in the form of a radiation leak, destruction of the integrity of the nuclear waste storage facility and placing a reactor in emergency mode.

Their intention is for all of this to be portrayed as the result of military action by the Armed Forces of Russia on the territory of the nuclear power plant, and of incompetence on the part of Russian specialists involved in the operation of this nuclear facility.

In advance of the Guterres visit, the Ukrainian armed forces plan, for the purpose of staging this incident and in the context of the deployment to the province of Zaporozhie of the Ukrainian formations, military units and subunits making up the Dnepr division, to arrange for a full rollout of radiation monitoring posts, to provide 100 percent of military personnel with radiation, biological and chemical protection

equipment, and to conduct training on chemical and radiation protection and other safety measures. In particular, units of the 44th Independent Artillery Brigade were ordered to be ready by 19 August to operate in an environment of radioactive contamination. Units of the Ukrainian armed forces 704th Independent Radiation, Biological And Chemical Protection Regiment are also being relocated to the area of the Zaporozhie nuclear power plant.

There are plans for artillery strikes on the Zaporozhie nuclear power plant from neighbourhoods of the city of Nikopol.

This “performance” will be accompanied by public warnings about an increase in background radiation and by other “special effects”. The purpose of the staging is to attempt to influence the United Nations Secretary-General and the international community and to provide cover for decisions that are beneficial to Kiev.

The ultimate goal of the staged event is to create an exclusion zone of up to 30 kilometres, to bring international forces and foreign observers onto the territory of the Zaporozhie nuclear power plant, and to accuse the Russian Armed Forces of nuclear terrorism.

In the light of the foregoing, we draw your attention to the fact that if the worsening circumstances resulting from the shelling of the nuclear power plant by Ukraine continue, consideration may be given to placing reactors 5 and 6 into “cold reserve”, which will lead to the shutdown of the Zaporozhie nuclear power plant.

The presentation on the provocations by the Kiev regime against the Zaporozhye nuclear power plant and their potential consequences is available through the following link:

<https://disk.yandex.ru/d/Qp-NZ0dz-A9zLA>

