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Prevention of armed conflict

Crimes against humanity

Letter dated 22 March 2024 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 have the honour to transmit herewith a statement by the Chambers of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation in connection with the twenty-fifth anniversary of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization aggression against sovereign Yugoslavia (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 items 31 and 80, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vassily Nebenzia



Annex to the letter dated 22 March 2024 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

[Original: Russian]

Statement by the Chambers of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation to the United Nations, international parliamentary organizations and the parliaments of foreign States in connection with the twenty-fifth anniversary of the aggression by the States members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

On the eve of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the aggression by the States members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the Chambers of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation note the need to give a fair assessment of this flagrant violation of the norms of international law, which led to the destabilization of the work of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and had a negative impact on relations between European States.

The Chambers of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation express their deep concern at the continuing attempts by the collective West to present to the international community the act of aggression against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia as a peacekeeping operation, to forget the victims of the NATO bombardments and to blame the Serbs for unleashing wars in the Balkans.

Between March and June 1999, barbaric missile and bomb attacks by the armed forces of NATO member States against civilian infrastructure, including transportation and energy facilities, as well as industrial plants, killed more than two thousand Yugoslav civilians, among them dozens of children. A small sovereign State in the centre of Europe was bombarded with 2,300 cruise missiles and 14,000 bombs.

Troops from NATO member States used depleted uranium munitions on a massive scale, causing irreparable damage to the environment and triggering a rise in cancer in the region. The environmental disaster remains immeasurable in scale.

The impunity of the NATO strikes against Yugoslavia created the preconditions for new acts of force around the world under the guise of “fighting for the values of freedom and democracy”. The collective West’s conviction of its infallibility and its right to decide the fate of other peoples and States led to the rise of the neo-Nazi regime in Ukraine, which, after the coup d’état in 2014, embarked on a policy of genocide against the Russian population and the unleashing of an armed conflict in the territory of that country.

The Chambers of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation appeal to the United Nations, international parliamentary organizations and the parliaments of foreign States to condemn the military operation by NATO countries against Yugoslavia, to counter attempts to distort the historical truth about the tragic events of 1999 in the interests of the collective West and to take measures to hold NATO member States accountable under international law for the aggression against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.