

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1165th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

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On the glorification of Nazism

Mr. Chairperson,

At the last meeting of the Permanent Council, the distinguished representative of the United States of America touched on the United Nations General Assembly resolution “Combating glorification of Nazism, neo-Nazism and other practices that contribute to fuelling contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance”. In fact, the colleague did not use exactly this title. He used the 2012 version, but it is essentially the same. Now I should like to explain here what it is about.

This resolution of the Third Committee of the 72nd Session of the UN General Assembly was adopted on the initiative of Russia on 16 November, the same day as the last meeting of the Permanent Council.

This year’s document was co-sponsored by 56 States¹; 125 States voted to support it, and 51 countries abstained. Only two countries, the United States and Ukraine, opposed it. The results of the vote demonstrate the broad support by the international community for this traditional initiative, which was presented at the UN General Assembly for the 13th consecutive year.

The resolution once again condemns the glorification of the Nazi movement and exoneration of former members of the SS organization, including Waffen-SS divisions, recognized by the Nuremberg Tribunal as criminal. It expresses deep concern and indignation at the “war” declared by some countries on monuments honouring those who fought on the

1 Algeria, Angola, Armenia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Central African Republic, China, Congo, Côte d’Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Guyana, India, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of South Africa, Rwanda, Serbia, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Tajikistan, Togo, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Vietnam and Zimbabwe.

side of the anti-Hitler coalition. Over the past year, this “war” has taken the form in a number of countries of a systematic and barbaric policy.

We are forced to note the lack of a rational explanation for the position of the United States. Having been conspicuously absent from the negotiations, just two days before the vote the representatives of the United States submitted amendments of a clearly provocative nature designed to fundamentally change the essence and character of the draft. The amendments were rejected by the vast majority of the UN Member States (82 votes against, 73 abstentions, and only the United States, Ukraine and Israel in favour).

Against this background, the statements by the US authorities about the supposed isolation of the Russian Federation in the international arena when it comes to human rights questions is strange, to say the least. On the contrary, the vote demonstrates the opposite, and in fact the isolation of the United States itself and one other country, which for spurious reasons refuse to condemn neo-Nazism.

In conclusion, I should like to recall that combating the glorification of Nazism and other forms of racism is our duty in compliance with the letter and the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations and also the OSCE’s commitments, in particular the Ministerial Commemorative Declaration on the Seventieth Anniversary of the End of the Second World War adopted at the OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Basel in 2014.

Thank you for your attention.