

On the proposal to revoke and invalidate the 1989 resolution “On the political and legal assessment of the 1939 Soviet-German Non-Aggression Treaty”

The resolution of the Congress of People’s Deputies of the USSR of 24th December 1989 “On the political and legal assessment of the 1939 Soviet-German Non-Aggression Treaty” was an act of courage and wisdom of perestroika politicians, who made an effort to restore the dignity of their own country by basing it on the foundation of truth, understanding of their history and respect for the neighbouring states.

Today, we are observing with concern the attempts in the Russian Federation to twist those events by announcing the adoption of a new interpretation of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact which revokes the 1989 resolution and “recognizes it as invalid throughout the territory of the Russian Federation”.

The proposal to adopt a new federal law based on the initiative of deputy A. Zhuravlyov will not have any impact on the unequivocal condemnation of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact and its secret protocol as an illegal act under the international law. Likewise, it will not affect its assessment by historians. Undoubtedly, however, the initiative will be read as a regrettable attempt of the historical revisionism performed at the expense of the memory of the victims of the ghastly tragedy of its secret protocol.

The protocol paved the way for the use of unlawful force against the neighbouring countries – the deprivation of independence of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, the partition of Poland between Germany and the Soviet Union, the war of the Soviet Union against Finland and the deprivation of Romania's territorial integrity. It paved the way for the outbreak of World War II, which resulted in the deaths of tens of millions of people, the creation of the Nazi concentration camps and the Holocaust – one of the greatest atrocities in the human history. It led the countries of our part of Europe to the deprivation of their independence and sovereignty and its citizens of fundamental human and civil rights for many decades to come.

The rehabilitation of the totalitarian imperialism in the proceeded bill is an attempt to justify the international relations based on the use of violence and military force against smaller neighbours and the rejection of the equal protection of sovereign states under international law. It is particularly dangerous since it justifies, in fact affirms the current policy of the Russian Federation towards Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova, and opens the path for further potential violations of the international law at the expense of independence and sovereignty of the neighbouring countries.

We call on the State Duma and the authorities of the Russian Federation to make all possible efforts to base the relations with their neighbours on the international law, the respect of their sovereignty and territorial integrity, the restoration of trust in international relations and reestablishment of good neighbourly relations in our part of Europe. In such efforts the first necessary step will be the withdrawal from proceeding the proposal. Nations have beautiful moments in their history and those

that deserve condemnation. We do hope that the State Duma of the Russian Federation will show no less wisdom and courage today than their predecessors did in 1989.

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