

PC.DEL/51/10  
28 January 2010

ENGLISH  
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

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

28 January 2010

**Regarding Holocaust Remembrance Day**

Mr. Chairman,

Every year throughout the world 27 January marks the International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust. We might recall that this date is timed to coincide with the liberation in 1945 by units of the Red Army of the concentration camp Auschwitz-Birkenau, as stated in a United Nations General Assembly resolution in 2005, one of the initiators of which was the Russian Federation.

Yesterday, in many OSCE countries, including in Russia, memorial activities were held to mark the 65th anniversary of the liberation of the prisoners at Oswiecim. Russian representatives participated in memorial events at the former concentration camp near Krakow, and President Dmitry Medvedev sent those taking part in them a message referring in particular to the need for the broadest possible awareness of the enormous price that humanity paid for aiding and abetting xenophobia and chauvinism. In his message, the Russian President especially noted that “to this very day voices can be heard attempting to justify the crimes committed by the Nazis and to regard in the same way victims and executioners, liberators and occupiers. And in some countries they go even further, by glorifying those who aided the Nazis. Attempts of this kind to revise history are unacceptable, and we must join forces to counter them”.

We firmly believe that the pursuit of this objective must in fact become one of the priorities on the agenda of the OSCE, called upon as our Organization is to counter the spread of neo-Nazi ideology and the rise in aggressive nationalism, anti-Semitism and xenophobia and to promote tolerance and non-discrimination at a pan-European level.

We should like to recall that 27 January is associated with yet another date in a tragic history – the anniversary of the final lifting of the Leningrad blockade. The 900 days and nights during which that city was heroically defended and which, according to some estimates, cost the lives of nearly 1.5 million people have come to be seen as an unparalleled feat in the history of mankind. Therefore, as we pay tribute to the memory of the victims of the Holocaust, we must not forget the decisive contribution made by the peoples of the Soviet

Union to the victory over Nazism. Attempts to deny the Holocaust or indeed the death of millions of innocent people of different nationalities constitute a direct affront to the memory of all the victims of the Second World War, the 65th anniversary of the end of which we shall mark this year.

Today, effective answers to new threats and challenges to security require us to pool our efforts so that the immense tragedy of the Second World War is never again repeated. We urge our partners to work together to this end.

Thank you for you attention.