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**ADDITIONAL RESPONSE BY MR. VLADIMIR ZHEGLOV,
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1337th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

30 September 2021

**On the rise of neo-Nazism in the OSCE area as a consequence of the
“Munich betrayal” of 1938**

Mr. Chairperson,

I am obliged to take the floor and respond to the comments that have been made. I will respond to one point at a time. First of all, we are grateful to our friends from Belarus for supporting this current issue.

It is dangerous to distort and change the history of the causes and events of the Second World War. I would remind you that the “Munich betrayal” is a classic example of the catastrophic consequences that the pursuit of national interests can have. Apparently, this is what drives certain participating States that are attempting to make cult figures out of those responsible for massacring innocent people.

We should like to respond as follows to the distinguished representative of Ukraine. First, you said that Nazism is strongly condemned in Ukraine and Nazi propaganda is banned. We have just cited concrete facts about the glorification of Nazi collaborators and Nazi criminals in your country. Why then are your words at odds with the facts? Streets and social facilities are named after such Nazi criminals, marches are held and these people are hailed as heroes. Instead of taking a sober look at these dangerous trends, you once again harp on about some mythical Russian aggression. This is plainly an attempt to divert attention from the failed policies of your own Government. It was Ukrainian nationalism that caused the people of Crimea to hold a legitimate referendum and decide to reunite with Russia because of the Bandera threat. It was because of the aggressive actions of the Right Sector and punitive battalions that the Donbas militiamen were forced to take up arms in order to protect their families and homes. This is not just a question of appeasement, but of direct connivance and encouragement from Ukraine’s Western patrons. They close their eyes to the fact that Ukraine is increasingly turning into a fascist State, where any dissent is brutally suppressed and a real war is waged against the country’s own people that has already brought thousands of deaths and destruction to cities and villages.

Both the distinguished representative of the European Union and the distinguished representative of Latvia said that the Permanent Council is not the place to discuss history. The distinguished representative of Ukraine also mentioned this, by the way. I should like to point out, firstly, that if we forget our history, we cannot build our future. Furthermore, there have been a number of occasions in the Permanent Council

when we have discussed purely historical dates. Take the centenary of the end of the First World War. There was a special agenda item on that issue. You didn't object.

I should like to ask the representative of the European Union what you consider to be history and whether you have some kind of time frame what is classed as history. How long is it? Ten years, fifty years, a hundred years? In my opinion, there is no such time frame in international law.

Regarding the statement by the distinguished representative of Lithuania, you said that the information we presented is not factual. Please, we are ready to document it. In your country, not only are the Forest Brothers glorified, but the subject of their crimes is also banned. The facts are just ignored. The documentary evidence that tens of thousands of civilians fell victim to these partisans and that many members of the militias were part of the structures of the occupying administration of the Third Reich and were direct participants in the Holocaust in Lithuania is ignored. During the Second World War, the Nazis exterminated over 95 per cent of Lithuania's Jewish population. Are you going to deny this?

And what about the glorification of the notorious Nazi criminal Jonas Noreika, who took part in the Holocaust on Lithuanian territory? A book by Silvia Foti, Noreika's granddaughter, in which she admits that her ancestor was a criminal, was recently published in the United States of America. She has been subjected to massive criticism in Lithuania for such statements, which are at odds with the general line. Nevertheless, monuments to such "national" heroes continue to be erected in your country – for example to the odious Adolfas Ramanauskas (Vanagas), who is known to have led the group that was involved in the mass shooting of Jews in Druskininkai in 1941. A year ago a monument was unveiled to him in Vilnius in the presence of President Nausėda.

More facts? Here are some statistics: according to Soviet figures, between 1944 and 1956 Forest Brother units killed more than 25,000 people, of whom almost a thousand (993) were children under the age of 16. Among those killed, between 21,000 and 23,000 were Lithuanians. This is also confirmed by information from Lithuania itself. The "Book of Memory of the Victims of Partisan Terror" (*Partizanų teroro aukų atminimo knyga*) containing the names of more than 25,000 civilians who fell victim to the Forest Brothers was published there in 2011. Among the names are about a thousand children under 16 years of age and 50 infants.

I should like to say to the distinguished representative of the United States that we welcome your statement that the US authorities categorically condemn manifestations of Nazism, neo-Nazism, and so on. But why then do you vote year after year against the General Assembly resolution condemning the glorification of Nazism? This is very revealing. Why is your country, like a number of others, unwilling to include even condemnation let alone prevention of neo-Nazism on the agenda of the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM) in Warsaw, as Russia insists on doing? It is not us who are blocking the HDIM; it is you and those who are not prepared to fight neo-Nazism and who are covering up for the Nazis. Speaking of protection and concealment, in our statement we also raised the important issue that in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Sweden and a number of other countries, former Nazis have been sheltered and actively exploited. Your lack of response to this statement evidently indicates that this was the case. If our distinguished colleagues are willing to continue the debate, we will provide additional facts and documents.

Thank you for your attention.