

PC.DEL/1213/17
29 September 2017

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
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AT THE 1157th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

28 September 2017

On the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact

Mr. Chairperson,

In response to our distinguished colleague, I should like to recall the history of the “Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact”.

The Soviet-German non-aggression pact was only signed on 23 August 1939. The USSR was practically the last geopolitical player to conclude an agreement with Germany, and then only because it had no choice. It was put in this position by the governments in London and Paris and their policy of appeasement of the aggressor at the expense of the interests and territories of other countries.

As today, in the 1930s the West extensively practised double standards. Thus, to this day the Soviet-German non-aggression pact is simply called the “Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact”. Meanwhile, for some reason, the British do not call a similar document signed on 30 September 1938 with Adolf Hitler by the Prime Minister of Great Britain Neville Chamberlain the “Chamberlain-Hitler Pact”. Similarly, the Poles do not refer to the agreement signed by Poland with Germany already in January 1934 as the “Piłsudski-Hitler Pact”. The leaders of Great Britain, Poland and France shook Hitler by the hand, but our Western colleagues prefer not to remember these facts.

On 7 June 1939 both Estonia and Latvia concluded pacts with Germany.

The culmination of this policy was the notorious “Munich Agreement”. At Hitler’s request, Benito Mussolini from Italy, Neville Chamberlain from Great Britain and Édouard Daladier from France came together on 29 September 1938. These four also decided the fate of Czechoslovakia, and yet representatives neither of Czechoslovakia nor of the USSR were present at the negotiations in Munich.

In conclusion, I should like to present an incomplete list of pacts with Hitler's Germany – for the sake of clarity in chronological order.

- Pilsudski-Hitler, Poland, 26 January 1934;
- Munich Agreement, Great Britain, France, Italy, 29 September 1938;
- Chamberlain-Hitler, Great Britain, 30 September 1938;
- Daladier-Hitler, France, 6 December 1938;
- Selter-Ribbentrop, Estonia, 7 June 1939;
- Munters-Ribbentrop, Latvia, 7 June 1939;
- Molotov-Ribbentrop, USSR, 23 August 1939.

There is therefore a need to study the history of and background to the start of the Second World War in a detailed and honest fashion.

Thank you for your attention.