

**Mission of Poland
to the UN Office
and the International Organizations
in Vienna**

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ENGLISH only

Reply to the Russian Federation
on the issue: "Anniversary of the Munich plot 1938"
as delivered by Mr. Mieczysław Kuziński Deputy Permanent
Representative of Poland
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
September 28, 2017

Since my country has been mentioned in the statement by the Russian Federation, I feel obliged to briefly comment on it, though it was not my intention to speak under this agenda item.

We regret that once again this issue has been brought to the attention of the PC delegates. And I very much agree with the interventions of the UK and French delegations: the causes of WWII were multiple and complex. It's important that all, and I stress the word all here, draw lessons from history. No one denies and should not dispute the historical facts and the historical truth.

But we too have same questions as the UK and France: what is the aim to raise this subject as a topic under the agenda item "current issues"? Why again the history of the Munich agreement is raised in the PC?

The facts speak about many other dates and accords in Europe before the WWII and those are undisputable in the historical context: before Munich there were some other arrangements as well and they impacted the European

scene, some other were concluded after Munich as well. The Russian delegation mentioned the agreement on non-aggression between Poland and Germany from 1934. Just to say that it was one of several accords Poland concluded with other countries, including neighbors, at that time and that was the case with the Soviet Union government as well. It was 1932 pact on non-aggression, prolonged in 1934 with a duration till 1945! We all know what happened on the 1st and 17th of September 1939.

Mr. Chairman,

There were many facts and circumstances that led to one of the greatest tragedies ever to have afflicted the peoples of Europe and the world and took tens of millions of lives. One could mention here the infamous Ribbentrop-Molotov pact and in particular it's secret protocol, or addendum. That is why I can but only repeat: historical discussions and disputes should be in hands of historians.