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

28 September 2017

On the anniversary of the 1938 Munich Agreement

Mr. Chairperson,

In the OSCE area in recent years we have been coming across more and more frequent and persistent attempts by many countries to falsify history and rewrite the outcome of the Second World War.

In that connection, we should like once again to bring up one of the tragic dates in the history of the twentieth century – 30 September 1938. On that date, the leading European nations – Great Britain and France – concluded an infamous agreement with Nazi Germany, which was to be known eloquently thereafter as the “Munich Agreement”, although, given the names of those who signed it, a more correct designation would have been the “pact by Chamberlain and Daladier with Hitler and Mussolini”. As a result of the agreement, the Sudeten region of Czechoslovakia, as it was called at the time, was transferred to Germany without resistance.

Poland also did its part. Not only did the government in Warsaw fail to speak out against the shameful Munich business, it also took advantage of it to appropriate part of the Czechoslovak territory – not to mention the fact that in 1934 Poland was one of the first countries to conclude a non-aggression pact with the Nazis.

One fact is indisputable: the Western European countries attempted by all means to push the Nazi regime towards a clash with the Soviet Union while themselves remaining outside the conflict. It was these selfish interests that gave Hitler a sense of impunity and paved the way for his eastward aggression and the unleashing of the Second World War.

The sad consequences of this short-sighted policy are well known: long years of bloody fighting, tens of millions of dead, wounded and missing, Nazi concentration camps, hunger, devastation and other suffering, and the destruction of the infrastructure of thousands of towns and villages. Incredible efforts by all progressive forces and the creation of an anti-Hitler coalition were required to combat this and to liberate Europe.

It is therefore extremely puzzling to note the absence of an appropriate response by the “developed democracies” to the multiple instances of the glorification of Nazism and its adherents, parades by Waffen-SS veterans, celebration of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists and the Ukrainian Insurgent Army and their leaders, Stepan Bandera and Roman Shukhevych, and manifestations of radical nationalism and other aggressive ideologies. Clear examples from history have already taught us the harm that such an approach can cause.

Thank you for your attention.