

MEMORANDUM

to the participants of the International Teleconference "Meeting on the Elbe-75", dedicated to the 75th anniversary of the meeting of Soviet and American troops on the Elbe river and the end of the World War II

April 24, 2020

*The spirit of Elba " ... should serve as a beacon,
illuminating the path to a peaceful future for all peoples"
The inscription on the Memorial on the bank of the river in Torgau, Germany*

We, the participants of the "Elba-75 Meeting" international teleconference bridge and representatives of non-governmental organizations in more than 30 countries, appeal to **the Heads of State, international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to all people of good will** with strong confidence in the desire of all people for peace, urge to do everything possible to save a humanity.

On April 25, 1945, near the city of Torgau on the Elba River, troops of the 1st Ukrainian Front under the command of Marshal Ivan Konev, met with the troops of the 1st American Army under command of General Courtney Hodges. As a result of the historic meeting of the Allies, the Wehrmacht troops were divided into northern and southern groups, which significantly reduced the combat capabilities of German military forces and became a prerequisite for their complete surrender on May 9 (8), 1945.

The spirit of alliance, born by the political will of the leaders of Great Britain, the Soviet Union, and the USA, that has been held together on the battlefields and reflected in the joint decision of Tehran, Yalta and Potsdam meeting, was finally triumphed on the Elbe.

The celebration of the 75th anniversary of this historic event should become the beginning of an international dialogue between leading countries. United in the fight against a common enemy of Nazism, the Soviet Union, the United States, Britain, France and other countries accelerated the onset of the great Victory Day.

That historic event is an inspirational example for world leaders of a joint solution to fundamental global problems. We are definite, that humanity needs to develop a different, non-confrontational approach to global politics; to start a joint

search for political priorities and agreements based on international law and mutual respect with broader engagement of public, non-government figures.

Participants of the international teleconference "Meeting on the Elbe-75":

1. Propose to hold the annual World Conference "**The Spirit of the Elbe: World of the 21st Century**" in month of April in the capital of Germany, Berlin. The phrase "**the spirit of Elba**" should become a synonym for the interaction of people in the fight to preserve peace on Earth. The main mission of the World Conference is the formation of the "Elbe spirit" as a significant factor in international cooperation.

2. Appeal to the Heads of State, public figures and organizations of the United States, Russia and other countries, members of the UN Security Council, with a proposal to support the participants of the teleconference and join the discussion of world problems and emerging threats with regards to the termination of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty between the USA and Russia in 2019, and expiration of the Strategic Arm Reduction (START) treaty in February 2021.

3. Support the initiatives of the International Public Committee "OUR COMMON VICTORY", the organizer and host of numerous events aimed at preservation of a memory and spiritual lessons of the World War II - the greatest tragedy of the twentieth century; formation of constructive and historically truthful images of such memory, contribution to the strengthening of peace between countries and people.

4. Support of a civil dialogue on preserving the memory of the World War II and the Great Patriotic War and counteracting the attempts to glorify Nazism and fascism, thus, creating constructive images of memory and strengthening peaceful relations between people and countries.

5. Propose to broader involve new communication technologies to provide opportunities for direct online dialogues between people of different countries, to keep alive the "spirit of the Elbe" - a symbol of mutual trust and cooperation between different states.

6. Consider the importance of engaging young people in promoting peaceful coexistence and preserving the memory of the historic fight against

fascism and Nazism, about those who defended the world at the cost of millions of lives.

The organizers and participants in the teleconference express a desire and reediness to promote and implement the above Memorandum.

The cause of peace must be decided by the whole world!