

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**



**INFORMATION AND PRESS DEPARTMENT**

32/34 Smolenskaya-Sennaya pl., 119200, Moscow G-200; tel.: (095) 244 4119, fax: 244 4112  
e-mail: dip@mid.ru, web-address: www.mid.ru

Unofficial translation from Russian

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Transcript of Remarks by Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs Sergey Lavrov at the  
Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Monument to Bratislava Liberators, Bratislava, April  
4, 2006**

564-05-04-2006

Dear veterans, esteemed friends. It is a great honor for me to be present at this ceremony together with the representatives of Bratislava, other Slovakian cities, the leadership of the Slovak Republic and the diplomatic corps.

Taking this opportunity, I want to convey to all of you the warmest greetings and best wishes from President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin, who recalls with warmth the hospitality and cordiality that were accorded to him a year ago here in Bratislava.

Today we honor the memory and feat of the Soviet soldiers, and their comrades-in-arms members of the First Czechoslovak Corps who did everything and sacrificed their lives to bring freedom to this beautiful city.

We are for ever grateful to the older generation for this exploit, for the self-sacrifice, for the staunchness and courage thanks to which Europe and the entire world were able to be saved from fascism by joint efforts.

We have all learned the lessons of history very well. One of these lessons is that we have no right to forget or betray those who died for our common freedom. We cannot put up with attempts to rewrite the history or revise the outcome of World II. Herein lies our duty to those whose memory we honor today.

I would like to take this opportunity today to convey my sincere appreciation to the leaders of the Slovak Republic, to local authorities, to non-governmental organizations, to citizens and veterans for the attention and care they devote to the burials of Soviet soldiers all over Slovakia.

In conclusion I would like to sincerely wish our veterans health. Well-being and prosperity

April 5, 2006