

Unofficial translation

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S T A T E M E N T

by H.E. Ambassador Andrey I. Denisov,

**Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations
on behalf of delegations of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan,
Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan,
Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan at the solemn meeting of the UN General
Assembly on agenda item 158 “Declaration by the United Nations of May 8-9
as a Time of Remembrance and Reconciliation**

May 9, 2005

Mr. President,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of delegations of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

In 2005 the whole civilized world is celebrating the sixtieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War. This war was unprecedented in its magnitude and cruelty. It became the biggest tragedy for the nations of Europe and the world, regardless of which side their states were fighting on. In many countries every family, every human destiny was affected by the consequences of the war. For us it was the

Great Patriotic War, a sacred war against enslavement, for life and independence of our peoples.

We are proud that the peoples of our countries made the decisive contribution to the victory and to salvaging the humankind from the Nazi enslavement. We do justice to the huge role played by all the states of the anti-Hitler coalition in the defeat of fascism. Tens of millions of people gave their lives for the victory.

Today we bow our heads commemorating those who died on the battlefields and in death camps, in cities and villages. We all are eternally indebted to those who perished in the just fight for freedom and human dignity. We pay great tribute to the veterans of the Second World War.

We are convinced that development of the humankind should not be accompanied by woes and victims of new wars. Our first duty before those who spilled their blood to save the humankind from Nazism is to put a reliable barrier to stop the spread of intolerance and related contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia. Perception of the victory in the Second World War as a common value for the entire humankind enables us to leave the times of animosity and alienation in the past, which is very important both to keep the historic memory of the nations and to consolidate the humankind in the face of new dangerous challenges and threats. The main lesson of the war is that at the decisive moment for the destinies of the humankind the states of different political systems were able to put aside their differences and to unite their efforts in the fight against the common enemy. The experience of the international brotherhood in arms during the years of war is especially relevant today, when the civilization has faced another lethal challenge, this time from international terrorism. It is only through unity, mutual respect and trust and on a solid legal basis that the fight against this evil and other global threats can succeed.

No less relevant are the lessons of the Second World War for shaping a postwar world order and for future of international relations. The desire to save the humankind from the scourge of war inspired the countries of anti-Hitler coalition to create a reliable mechanism ensuring international peace and security: the United Nations Organization. Its Charter has become a universally recognized basis of the contemporary international law and a fundamental code of behavior of the states and international organizations. Principles and norms of the UN Charter, which withstood the Cold War, continue to be the non-alternative basis for establishing a new, safer and just world order.

Further strengthening the role and efficiency of the United Nations as the core element of the collective security system meant to achieve the noble goal of its Charter “to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war” is in the common interest of the humankind.

Thank you, Mr. President.