

Постоянное Представительство  
Российской Федерации  
при  
Организации Объединенных  
Наций



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## STATEMENT

**by H.E. Mr. Alexander V. Saltanov, Deputy Foreign Minister  
of the Russian Federation, at the 60th session of the UN General Assembly  
on agenda item 72: “Holocaust Remembrance”**

October 31, 2005

Distinguished Mr. President,

This year of the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II the issue of combating anti-semitism and other forms of intolerance resounds heavily in our minds. The mankind recalls with indignation and sorrow the horrible Nazi atrocities, and, in particular, Holocaust. My country reveres the sacred memory of the Nazi victims, including six million Holocaust victims, half of them – three million – were citizens of the USSR. The current and future generations should know the causes of these horrendous crimes, and fight anti-semitism, intolerance, extremism and xenophobia in all their manifestations. We must also pay tribute to all soldiers who died for the liberation of Europe from Nazis, and saved from total annihilation the Jews, and many other nations.

For my country, and I hope for all other countries, any attempts to glorify the Nazi associates are totally outrageous – whether they are former legionaries of Waffen SS, or other collaborationists, who annihilated hundreds and hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians, prisoners of war, and prisoners of concentration camps. Mankind paid too dearly for underestimating the Nazi threat, to turn a blind eye to the attempts to revive it 60 years after the victory in World War II. In the meantime, such attempts are on the rise, even more so, that in some countries the day of liberation from Nazis is proclaimed a day of mourning.

In this connection, the Russian Federation is going to table a draft resolution at the 60th session of the UN General Assembly “On inadmissibility of certain practices that escalate the modern forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance associated with them”. We are certain that the adoption of that resolution by consensus will contribute to the consolidation of international efforts to fight against these ugly phenomena.

Mr. President,

Today, the world civilization has confronted a new terrible threat: international terrorists have carried on the relay baton from the SS butchers. The abhorrent ideology of terrorism has a lot in common with Nazism. We can effectively combat this evil of XXI century only through consolidated efforts of the international community. Xenophobia cannot be good or bad. We must apply as a general rule the prompt and effective response to any manifestations of xenophobia and political, national or religious extremism associated with it.

To overcome intolerance, we need to continue laborious and relentless effort at a national and inter-governmental level. We must adopt measures of legal character, and promote dialogue and cooperation so as to disseminate the ideas of tolerance. The UN, as a universal organization, is the most appropriate forum for such an effort.