

## 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"  
Inscription on the Memorial on the bank of the river in Torgau, Germany*

We, the participants of the International Teleconference "Meeting on the Elbe-75", representatives of non-governmental organizations from more than 30 countries, **appeal to the heads of state, international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to all people of good will with a firm desire for peace and call for doing everything possible for the preservation of humanity.**

On April 25, 1945, near the city of Torgau on the Elbe river, the troops of the First Ukrainian front of Marshal Ivan Konev met the troops of the American First Army 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 Germany and was a prerequisite for its complete surrender on May 9 (8), 1945.

The spirit of the Alliance, born of the political will of the leaders of the Great Britain, the Soviet Union and the United States, cemented on the battlefields against a common enemy and recorded in the joint decisions of Tehran, Yalta and Potsdam, was finally confirmed on the Elbe.

The celebration of the 75th anniversary of this historic event should be the beginning of an international dialogue between the leading countries. The unity of the Soviet Union, the United States, the Great Britain, France and other countries in the defeat of Nazism accelerated the onset of the Great Victory Day.

Today, this event is an inspiring example for world leaders in solving the fundamental global problems of our time.

We believe that humanity needs to develop a different, non-confrontational approach to solving global political problems; to start a joint search for political priorities and agreements based on international law, respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, with the broader participation of public figures from different countries.

### **Participants of the International Teleconference "Meeting on the Elbe-75»:**

**1. Propose** to hold the annual World Conference "Spirit of the Elbe: the world of the XXI century" in the German capital of Berlin in April. The phrase "spirit of Elba" should become synonymous with the interaction of peoples in the

struggle to preserve peace on Earth. The main task of the World Conference is to form the "spirit of Elba" as a significant factor of international cooperation.

**2. Appeal to** the heads of state, public figures and organizations of the United States, Russia and other UN Security Council member countries to support the participants of the Teleconference and join the discussion of world problems and emerging threats in connection with the termination of the Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF) by the United States and Russia in 2019, and the Start Treaty expiring in February 2021.

**3. Support** the initiatives of the International public Committee "OUR COMMON VICTORY", which undertakes the organization and conduction of a set of events aimed at preserving historical and spiritual lessons about the greatest tragedy of the twentieth century, the formation of constructive and creative images of memory about it, contributing to the strengthening of mutual understanding and peaceful relations between countries and peoples.

**4. Support** the civil dialogue on preserving the memory of the Second World War and the Great Patriotic War, public initiatives aimed at countering the attempts to glorify Nazism and fascism, preserving historical and spiritual lessons about the greatest tragedy of the twentieth century, and forming constructive and creative images of memory that contribute to strengthening mutual understanding and peaceful relations between countries and peoples.

**5. Propose** to make greater use of new communication technologies which provide opportunities for direct online interaction, establishing a dialogue between the public of different countries, primarily for holding events to affirm the "spirit of Elba" - a symbol of mutual trust and equal cooperation between different states.

**6. Consider** it necessary to involve young people in a peacemaking dialogue, in order to preserve the spirit of the Alliance and historical memory of the feats of peoples in the fight against fascism and Nazism, of those heroes who defended the world at the cost of their own lives.

The organizers and participants of the Teleconference are ready to contribute to the consistent implementation of the proposals put forward in the Memorandum.

**World peace is a common task!**