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PRESS-RELEASE

Regarding the Ceremony of lighting of the “International Torch Relay – Remembrance Flame”, which is organized by the Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organizations in cooperation with the Embassy of Ukraine, the Embassy of the Russian Federation has the honour to once more bring to your attention the position of the Russian Federation on the so called “Holodomor” (Famine).

It is a historical fact that a large number of regions of the former USSR, including parts of Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Russia, were affected in 1932-33 by a catastrophic famine. One of its main reasons were economic reforms of the Stalinist’s government that were implemented in an unjustified anti-human way. The tragedy was aggravated by an unprecedented drought. Russia and its people together with Ukraine and other nations of the former Soviet Union were among the victims of that mass starvation. In fact, it was a humanitarian catastrophe with massive casualties among USSR citizens of different nationalities.

That is why it is wrong to say that the famine was artificial and imposed specifically on Ukrainians and that it was a “genocide of the Ukrainian nation”. Such position is a gross contradiction to the internationally accepted definition and criteria of genocide. Supporting this position could lead to a formation of an explosive international precedent.

Given that the function organized by the Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organizations obviously has a certain political implication that from our point of view undermines the fraternal ties between the Russian and Ukrainian nations, we have to be very careful not to turn the tragedy of millions of people, including Russians, Ukrainians and other, into the ground for political profiteering.

Besides, replicating of the “Ukrainian genocide theory”, in our opinion, is one of the forms of rewriting history. And this is a dangerous thing to do – in some countries, for example, it has already resulted in attempts to interpret the activities of the notorious Nazi “Waffen-SS” as “heroic”.