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COMMUNIQUE OF THE  
FIRST MEETING OF TWIN  
CITIES OF THE USSR AND  
UK



The first meeting of twin cities of the USSR and UK took place in the city of Donetsk in July 17-18, 1987. Delegations of the cities of the two countries, representatives of the USSR-Great Britain society and British friendship societies, Association for relations between Soviet and foreign cities participated in the Meeting.

Representatives of the towns that want to establish the twin city relations joined the delegations of the both countries.

The Meeting was held in the atmosphere of businesslike cooperation, friendship, trust and mutual understanding. Its participants declared themselves for further progressive development of Soviet-British relations; of vital importance for them was a meeting in the USSR between British Prime Minister Mrs. Thatcher and General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev and their talks which were held in the atmosphere of frankness and promoted better understanding of the positions of each side, further development of the economic, scientific and cultural relations between our peoples.

The participants of the Meeting analysed and discussed the state of affairs and perspectives of the development of partnership between Soviet and British towns and cities and discussed at the plenary meetings the following problems:

- The role of ties between twin cities of the USSR and UK in the development of mutual understanding, trust,

friendship and cooperation between the peoples of two countries to the benefit of peace and world security.

- On upbringing schoolchildren and young people in the spirit of humanism, peace and friendship between peoples.

- Participle of women in local authorities and in public life of a town.

It was stated that twin city relationship between the towns of the USSR and Great Britain allows to put into practice many-sided contacts between the public of both countries, contributes to elimination of barriers and misconceptions, strengthens the spirit of trust and friendship between our peoples who forty years ago were allies in war against a common enemy - fascism. It was emphasised that twin city relationship strengthens cooperation and mutual understanding between peoples to the benefit of preserving peace in complex international political situation of nowadays.

The ghost of mortal nuclear fire cannot but worry millions of people of our planet. Of special threat is having weapons in the outer space.

Europe has become a hot spot on a world map, where concentration of nuclear and conventional weaponry is extremely dangerous. It was stressed that to reverse the development of the world affairs to the better is the demands of the times that inspire consolidation of the efforts of all peoples.

The participants of the Meeting emphasised that international situation of today urges to apply all possible efforts and take measures which would allow to break the vicious circle of the arms race. The reason of humankind on the eve of the third millennium demands the states to cast off their nuclear fetters.



The participants of the Meeting welcome consolidation and development of the local authorities' actions for declaring their territories the nuclear-free zones. Representatives of the Soviet and British twin cities consider that creation of the nuclear-free zones in different parts of the world as other measures of non-spreading of nuclear weapons play an important role in the fight for the prevention of a nuclear catastrophe.

The representatives of twin cities note that the Soviet programme for the nuclear-free world which was supported by many countries makes achieving this goal real and express hope that the united persistent efforts to at first limit and then liquidate all nuclear weapons will finally present positive results.

The soonest liquidation of medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe would be a very desirable and correct step in this direction.

The participants of the Meeting express, in general, their satisfaction with the participation of the city authorities, public organisations, the "USSR-Great Britain" society and British friendship societies in the development of friendly relations between towns welcome the trend of the growing number of twin cities and also qualitative development of their relations and drawing in wider masses, especially young people, to the benefit of peace, mutual understanding and cooperation.

The participants of the Meeting emphasise that friendly relations between some cities of the two countries need reviving and qualitative development and support the measures in this direction taken by both sides.

The participants of the Meeting stand for expanding the exchange in the field of experience, information, and

and specialists to the benefit of solving problems of the modern city development and also for using the ties between the cities for the sake of all-round development of mutual understanding, fair trade and economic cooperation between the USSR and Great Britain.

The participants of the meeting support the readiness of twin cities of both countries to broaden contacts with such organisations as International Union of Local Authorities and United Town Organisation.

Representatives of the British cities and towns will visit their twin cities in the Soviet Union in July 19-22, 1987, where they will acknowledge themselves with various aspects of life of these cities' residents, activities of local authorities, they will be informed on implementation of the plans of social and economic development restructuring, further democratisation of Soviet society and openness (glasnost). Concrete matters of the cities cooperation development will be discussed.

The British delegation expresses gratitude to the Soviet side for the warm reception and hospitality.

The representatives of the twin cities agreed to have a next meeting in 1989 in Sheffield.

Donetsk

July the 18th, 1987.