



Security Council

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Letter dated 27 July 2020 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

In response to the letter of 10 July 2020 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations concerning the decision of the Government of the Netherlands to submit an application to the European Court of Human Rights against the Russian Federation, circulated as a document of the Security Council (S/2020/676), and recalling Security Council resolution 2166 (2014) and my letters of 22 June 2019 (S/2019/516) and 14 May 2020 (S/2020/410), I should like to draw your attention to the following.

The Russian Federation regards the decision of the Netherlands as a further serious blow to relations between Russia and that country. Any allegations of Russia's "role" in connection with the Malaysian Boeing aircraft disaster are fabricated and groundless. Russia has repeatedly stated that, from the very beginning, in violation of Security Council resolution 2166 (2014), the Netherlands refused to carry out a full, thorough and independent investigation into the air disaster, and embarked on a path of unilaterally laying the blame on Russia for the MH17 crash. As the events of the six years since the tragedy have shown, the Netherlands has exclusively followed a path of anti-Russian thinking, subordinating to it both the technical investigation by the Netherlands Security Board and the criminal investigation by the joint investigation team. Any testimony, evidence or expert assessment that ran counter to the pre-established scenario of what happened in July 2014 in the sky over eastern Ukraine was dismissed. Valuable material provided by the Russian authorities was ignored or rejected under unconvincing pretexts.

We believe that the action now being taken does not serve to establish the truth, but only leads to further politicization of the environment of the investigation into the MH17 disaster. That action is once more demonstrating the Netherlands authorities' bias and eagerness to appoint "culprits" without even waiting for the outcome of proceedings in the Netherlands courts. Predetermining an outcome in that way clearly contradicts the inviolable principle of presumption of innocence.

For its part, the Russian Federation reaffirms its commitment to Security Council resolution 2166 (2014), and its readiness to collaborate in accordance with that resolution. This unfriendly action by the Netherlands authorities is not in line with the spirit of the ongoing trilateral consultations on the full range of issues related to the circumstances of the MH17 crash, including the issue of the responsibility of the State in whose airspace the disaster occurred.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) V. Nebenzia

