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Mr. Kulikov!

Let me thank you for organizing and hosting this conference.

Thanks to all of you who served their country. My father fought in World War II, and I had an honour to talk with many American and Russian veterans of that war. For all of us, they are a wonderful example of what a good soldier and a true citizen should be like. They demonstrated wisdom and courage.

Today we need the wisdom and courage of such people. The main character of a famous poem by Alexander Tvardovsky, Vasily Tyorkin, also possessed such personal qualities. Tyorkin told us all about the friendly ties that arise among soldiers. They serve as a great example for us.

And they're sitting there like brothers,
At the table, all together.
Carrying on a soldier talk,
Arguing hotly with each other.

[Tvardovsky]

Both America and Russia face problems and sometimes suffer failures. But our two countries also had triumphs, and each of them is rich for talents.

American and Russian veterans have previously worked side by side. Today the leaders of Russia and the United States can also work well together if they follow the example of their fathers and grandfathers, spending more time on promoting the common interests of the two countries, and not focusing on differences.

Another moral can be drawn from the front poem of Tvardovsky. It is that today's problems in the relations between our countries are nothing compared to what these problems can develop into, if we are not careful enough. Tyorkin would call what is happening today, «small Sabantuy»:

Can you tell me - Sabantuy?
- What it is - a feast or what?
Or whatever – what is it?
- Sabantuy can mean a lot,
Don't explain if you don't know,
When you hear the first bombardment
You'll lie down with hands to eyes.
Believe that there is more to come -
That was just a little bout.
Catch your breath and fill your stomach,
Have a smoke, don't turn a hair.
It is worse when there's a mortar,
Devastating, arrant shell.
This one will affect you deeper -
Kiss your motherland and pray.
But you'd better bear in mind,
That one's not the worst, I say.
Sabantuy will be a lesson,
Treat your enemy the same.
There is no way for retreat
When Sabantuy is at its peak.

[Twardowski]

Finally, we must do everything to save our children and grandchildren from an experience of this major Sabantuy.

And finally, Tyorkin reminded us of what price will have to be paid in the end if our differences escalate into a conflict:

It's not known yet,
Who is timid, who is hero
Who's that glorious guy?
And probably there were such.

[Tvardovsky]

Those who went through the war and survived know its true value. Veterans should always remind our fellow citizens that we should seriously weigh the totality of costs that may result in disagreements and conflicts, if you let them get out of control.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be with you today. Thank you for your service to your country. Eternal memory to those comrades, who have left us.

Hero of the Russian Federation
Yury Baturin
Director of the Institute of History,
Science and Technology,
Doctor of Law,
Corresponding Member of the Russian
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The first expedition of allies in search for German «Vengeance Weapons» in Poland, 1944

August 2014 marks the 70th anniversary of launching a joint Anglo-American-Soviet expedition aimed at finding German missiles in Poland.

As you know, in 1944, Winston Churchill and Josef Stalin exchanged a number of letters relating to a search of equipment and saving parts of German missiles near experimental station Metelitsa in Poland.

At the request of the United States and Great Britain, the Soviet Union agreed to allow ally experts to enter Devitsa in search of the rocket parts.

For some time the British and Americans worked closely in studying fragments of a missile which fell in their hands.

The United States Ambassador, Harriman, wrote to Molotov, the People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the Soviet Union, on July 28, 1944: «Our scientists and technicians worked together with the British on the technical issues of this kind, as well as on this topic, for many months. For this reason, it is clear that the group will arrive together.»

At that time, after the Allied landings in Normandy, military cooperation between the USSR and the Anglo-American troops intensified.

Shuttle operations of American Aviation expanded, as General of the Army Deynekin mentioned in his speech.

According to some data, Stalin even expressed interest in establishing a joint military body with the U.S. and the U. K. military authorities to coordinate further operations, which had been categorically rejected before.

That is, the proposals of allies came up in a very favorable period. General Walsh agreed with the Soviet Air Force, that the group will be delivered on one of the American aircraft from Tehran to Poltava, to the 169th airbase of special designation, at the 81st Guards Bomber Aviation Regiment.

The American group was relatively small, of only four people, headed by lieutenant-colonel John A. Omara. Captain Edward M. Usher and naturalized American citizen of Polish origin, Stefan Zand, air observer and personal assistant of team leader for technical questions, made part of the group.

Later, during a personal conversation with the Deputy Commissar Vyshinskiy, ambassador Harriman added the fourth specialist, whose name could not be found in the documents.

There was only one specialist of rocket technology in the American group: it was just Stefan Joseph Zand, born in 1898 in Lodz, a part of the Russian Empire at that time. Zand became an engineer in 1931, he was awarded a Wright Brothers Medal established in 1927 in the U.S., for his work in the field of Researching aircraft vibration and airborne equipment, and in 1932 he received American citizenship. He worked in the Corporation called «Space gyroscope», one of the largest American companies in the field of navigation devices and gyroscopic systems. After World War II, he was already vice president of engineering in «Lord Corporation». He died in 1963.

The English group was larger than the American. Lieutenant-colonel Terence Robert Sanders was the commander of the group, lieutenant colonel last Arthur Douglas Merriman, Air Force Captain Charles G. Barber, Gordon Wilkinson, Eric Akkerman, as well as civilian experts Standish Masterman, Jeffrey D. Collin and translator Lewis Massey made part of the group.

Terence Sanders was born in 1901 in Ireland, studied at Cambridge, engineer by profession and, by the way, the Olympic champion in rowing in 1924.

Already after he got experience of searching missiles in Poland, he became a participant in operation «Crossbow» in the study of German rocket launching positions in France. In the end, the British simply bombed them, and they were never used.

In his colonelship, Sanders held a number of senior positions in British corporations, died in 1985.

Arthur Douglas Merriman was born in 1892 in Manchester. He worked as a teacher, then the secretary of the Department of Architecture and topography.

Since the beginning of the war, he was in government service and as a scientist he was engaged in protecting population from German bombing. In 1941 he was called up for military service in the rank of «lieutenant-colonel». He was awarded highest orders of the British Empire for bravery.

After the war he worked in the field of metallurgy.

But, perhaps, the only specialist in the British group was Standish Masterman, born in 1912, his wife Dodie was a famous English painter and illustrator.

Masterman was a famous chemist, even before the war he was engaged in rocket fuel researches. He was given the task to find the samples of rocket fuel for studies, to try determine by calculation whether these V-2 missiles can reach London with this fuel. The response of Masterman was positive.

In 1954 he had to quit secret job because he was a member of the Communist Party in the 40's, although he said that he deserted the party in 1944.

The consent to the departure of Anglo-American group to Poland was obtained on August 25, 1944. Molotov inscribed with his famous blue pencil on the letter received from ambassador Kerr: «We must give consent. I can set off immediately.»



In these documents you can see the speed with which the situation developed. Ambassador Kerr thanked Molotov for helping the Anglo-American group and for personal interest shown in the letter from August 27, 1944.

On the same day the Chief of General Staff, Marshal Vasilevsky, received a letter containing the following proposals of the Anglo-American Joint Staff to the General Staff of the Red Army, the essence of it reduced to the following:

There is a need to exchange information on the development of weaponry and the development of methods of conducting war which may be disclosed by the American and the Soviet sides:

First - in actions of Germany;

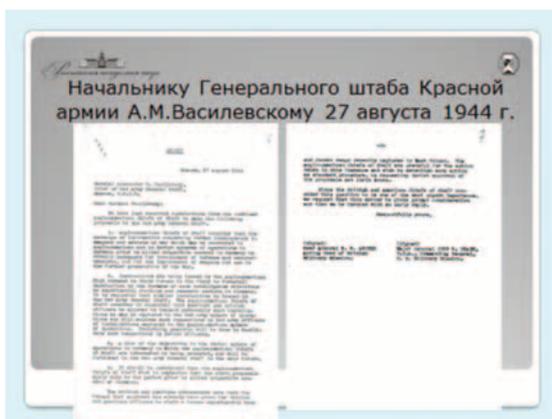
Second - the Anglo-American military command gives an indication to its armed forces to prevent the destruction of such secret facilities as experimental missile launching stations by the German. There was also a request to the General Staff of the Red Army to the same command to Soviet troops.

And finally, the third. The list of objects in the Soviet sphere of actions in Germany, in which the Anglo-American staff is interested, is prepared and will be submitted to the General Staff of the Red Army in the very near future.

Anglo-American staff thanks for the actions taken by the Soviet side, and for the suggestions that such actions became ordinary procedures, i.e. only by request and approval of the Soviet side.

This letter was signed by the leader of the British military mission, Admiral Archer and the leader of the United States Military Mission, Major General John Dean.

The next day ambassadors Kerr and Harriman sent a copy of the letter to Molotov to expedite the consideration and adoption of a positive decision.



The Allies received approval on August 25, and apparently arrived on August 26, 1944. They worked in Blizna, Dembica and adjacent areas until September 22, 1944, accompanied by the Soviet military.

The Intelligence Service of Britain provided exclusively accurate undercover information. The places, where these objects could possibly be extracted from, were circled on British maps with high accuracy. A great number of interesting technical facilities were collected, even a whole V-missile was found in a swamp. All the findings were delivered to Moscow and then transferred on aircraft to the United Kingdom.

On September 29, 1944 Kerr sent Molotov a grateful letter. And then the deceleration of events begins. A month passed. No activity in contacts with allies over the missile questions of the USSR was shown.

Kerr let remind himself of the interrupted process of the joint search of German rocket technology samples, but ineffectually.

The improve of relations directly in military cooperation proved to be too short. The confrontational development of the Polish political issue unfortunately intervened.

The Soviets raised the question for the Americans to curtail air shuttle operations, and then the idea of creating a tripartite joint coordinating body failed.

The cooperation of July-August 1944 can be regarded as a rare phenomenon that took place between the opening of the Second Front by allies and the emergence of political disagreements over the future destiny of liberated Poland just there, where the search area of the German missiles was.

I would like to conclude my speech with the fact that those people whose names I mentioned today, have children, grandchildren. The participants of those events may have left memories, and I think it would be extremely useful to try to find at least fragments of those memories, because it is one of the most interesting episodes of the joint action of the Allies in the Second World War.