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THE HOUSE WITH NO FOUNDATION?

Dear colleagues! The topic of the 19th Likhachov Scientific Conference is more than significant. The mankind's global development is unthinkable without predictability and manageability, though the real global environment avoids, runs away from looking for reciprocity and oncoming vectors with some baby's naivety.

The globe is approaching an important mark – the 75th anniversary of end of World War II (Great Patriotic War for us), it is approaching the 75th anniversary of the United Nations establishment, but it's evident for all that the United Nations is retreating to the edge of global cooperation.

And if the bloody war has not been forgotten yet, it is being diligently forgotten or distorted.

Technological rivalry acquires the features of the new form of slavery (or, if you want it, soul-owning), spiritual, ethical slavery, when customs, special national features, languages as if step aside, giving the place for persistence of new uniformity – of thoughts and manageability. I'm afraid that moral directives and the mindset worked out by the mankind in the variety of ideas, are smoothed out today by a kind of global iron into uniformity, values and special features making talents, thoughts and intentions, dreams are becoming average, some average-weighted global admissibility.

Striving for the future, trying to feel it preliminarily, forecast, understand merits and regenerations, which it will bring, beforehand, it is surely necessary to start from the foundation, from the zero cycle like in case of any construction. Children – planned, born and growing up – are the original state of the humankind in the human dimension.

Will the future be predicted, will it be precreated – with preliminary assistance to it – or will it be given to the will of elements? That's the question that seems the most important for such a forecast.

In October we'll be celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Convention of the Rights of the Child approved by the United Nations.

There is a strange controversy hidden even by the foundation of this event. The President of the United States George H.W. Bush was the first to speak at the UN General Assembly, and his speech was impressive and attention-getting, but America – as if blaming the whole world for something – still has not ratified this Convention. And still no one can understand this double meaning.

The USSR and China were one of the first to do it. But, most important, the Convention was accepted by all the other countries of the world!

The picture of global childhood looks as follows (surely, that's just an overview):

- 570 million live in poverty;
- 230 million are not registered on the globe – that is, they were born, they are alive but they were not registered anywhere by anyone;
- 5 million children can't read or write;
- each tenth girl in the world is raped;
- on the whole, children are subjected to violence every 5 minutes;
- only 10% of children in the world are protected from violence.

There is active child trade in the world, trade in their organs, they are used in armed conflicts and organized crime, including drug trade.

Children, who are the basis and continuation of our civilization, are threatened with dying of hunger, lack of water on whole continents, infections not knowing any borders.

The notion of child poverty has been established on the globe.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) announced that the social security system encompassed only 35% of children on the world, and aggregate expenditures for grants and allowances did not exceed 1.1% of global GDP. (Our country was not included in this analysis).

Only 23 countries (they are the EU countries) provide universal grants to needy families with children.

But imagine: children under 14 make 26% of the global population, all countries on the whole spend only 1.1% of global GDP for their needs via various grants and allowances.

Minimum expenditures for grants and allowances are in North Africa (0.1% of GDP, the share of children among the population is 32%), maximum expenditures are in the Pacific Region (2.7% of GDP, children make 23.3%). They amount to 2.2% (17.2%) in Europe and Central Asia, 1.1% of GDP (with children making 16%) in Eastern Europe.

Assessments of child poverty in Russia presented earlier by Russian experts (Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration) look positive with this background, though it's impossible to directly compare the data for the Russian Federation and the global data because of different criteria for poverty assessment (there is practically no child poverty in Russia in terms of the UN standard).

There are 25 mln children in Russia under 15. The level of their absolute monetary poverty is 22% (1.5 times higher than in case of the population of the country on the whole). The level of considerable material deprivation of children is 4.7%, and that is 1.6 times higher than for the population of the country on the whole. 21% of children live in households with debts to housing and communal services, overdue rent or loans because of insufficient resources. The same figure for the Russian Federation population on the whole is 14%. 8.4% of children live in families incapable to pay everyday expenses (12% in the Russian Federation on the whole).

These figures characterize dependence of children's and their relatives' well-being; they depend on them and are like them. To put it differently, the phrase and social definition –

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poor children of poor parents – is the proved by life coincidence.

The world can't develop positively and exist fruitfully on the whole, if an important part of nations already in the beginning of their lives is not required by anyone, poor and sees no hopes. Poor children in poor families are not only victims of someone's richness but they are the future threat, alas, not for those social and political categories that hold both riches and opportunities for the people.

Such children – all over the world – can be a threat to well-to-do and successful strata – both common, individu-

al strata and economic structures of various kinds. And this opposition is a sign of dehumanization, inequality, confrontation.

Poor, doomed, hopeless childhood is a house with no foundation. And no matter how well the structure looks, it will inevitably collapse because of miscalculations in social designs.

Only equality is just and right. And the mechanism of equaling and all kinds of help is the only just way of universal activities. By states, societies and for our common understanding.