

13 June 2008

ENGLISH only



**ҚАЗАҚСТАН РЕСПУБЛИКАСЫНЫҢ
ЕҚЫҰ ЖАНЫНДАҒЫ ТҰРАҚТЫ ӨКІЛДІГІ**

**PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN TO THE OSCE**

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**Statement in response to US delegation
29 May 2008**

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

We have carefully listened to the statement of United States and United Kingdom delegations and would assure that it will be forwarded to appropriate authorities in Kazakhstan.

Regarding the issue of blocking of the websites of the Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty I would like to inform that according to available information on this matter the official state internet provider “Kazakhtelecom” has checked all equipment and did not reveal any errors or glitches in its functioning. “Kazakhtelecom” as internet provider is not interested in prohibiting access of the customers to the web-sites to the media outlets, in particular to Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty. These explanations were forwarded by Director General of “Kazakhtelecom” to the US Ambassador in Kazakhstan J.Ordway yesterday, on 28 May.

Additionally I would like to state that no one in Kazakhstan raised the issue of denying access to these sites. Mentioned sites are not well known to the public in my country and we do not see any reasons to block them. We believe these issues should be addressed to the Internet users or to the owners of the sites.

We are confident that this kind of issues or concerns should be discussed after careful checking all relevant sources. Otherwise, bringing this issue to the Permanent Council with no appropriate and proven facts does not provide an atmosphere of constructive dialogue in our Organization and diverts efforts and time of participating states from important issues to be settled.

Thank you.