

Canadian Delegation to the  
Organization for Security & Cooperation  
in Europe



Délégation du Canada auprès de  
l'Organisation pour la sécurité et la coopération  
en Europe

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DELEGATION OF CANADA TO THE OSCE  
STATEMENT ON THE SITUATION IN THE GEORGIA  
721<sup>TH</sup> (SPECIAL) MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL  
14 JULY 2008

ENGLISH only

Canada thanks the Finnish Chair for holding this meeting today and joins others in welcoming the presence of the Special Envoy of the Chairman in Office for the South Caucasus, Ambassador Talvitie.

The Government of Canada remains deeply concerned over the rapidly growing tensions in the South Ossetian region of Georgia. We reiterate our call for a resumption of peaceful dialogue and restraint from aggressive and provocative actions.

Mr. Chairman, the entry of Russian military aircraft into Georgian airspace without permission infringes on Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity, principles for which the Russian Federation has repeatedly expressed its highest support. Military actions by Russia cannot be justified through unilateral perception on what may reduce tensions and are not in line with Russia's role as a neutral peacekeeper.

Canada condemns this act and calls on the Russian Federation to avoid repetition of such acts and to resist escalating tensions further.

Canada repeats its call for a flexible, peaceful and negotiated resolution to this conflict in a manner that respects Georgian sovereignty and territorial integrity.