



United States Mission to the OSCE

Proposal on Georgia

As delivered by Deputy Chief of Mission Kyle Scott
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
December 11, 2008

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation listened very closely to the impassioned statements made by the Russian Federation this morning on the humanitarian situation in South Ossetia as well as the Georgian representative's response.

The Russian Federation's statement contains a challenge to this organization. It stated very clearly that this is a moment of truth for the organization and that we should act. My delegation would agree very much with that sentiment. And we would like to take up that challenge. And perhaps I can offer a very modest proposal that this Permanent Council, today, right now, should take a decision to send a team of experts to monitor the entire length of the gas pipeline to establish the facts.

Secondly, to reach agreement among ourselves, right now, among these 56 participating States to reestablish immediately an OSCE presence to monitor the humanitarian situation in that region of Georgia on a daily basis.

And three, agree today to deploy the increased number of monitors that we already committed ourselves to back in August to the entire region of the conflict.

I believe that we could establish such an agreement within the next 30 minutes if there is in fact general agreement among the participating States for such a course of action. It would show that our organization is contributing to the process and not just discussing the process.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.