

JOINT STATEMENT

BY THE MEDIATORS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS PROCESS TOWARD A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT OF THE TRANSNISTRIAN PROBLEM FROM THE OSCE, THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AND UKRAINE

In early January 2005, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Moldova informed diplomatic missions accredited in the country about the new procedure of organizing trips to the “eastern parts of the Republic of Moldova,” which, Transnistria apparently falls under.

In that context, one would like to remind that on numerous occasions, especially in the periods of aggravation of the situation in the region, the efforts by the mediators from the OSCE, Russia, and Ukraine, their direct contacts with the leadership of Transnistria contributed to normalization of the situation and the return of the sides to solving of contentious issues at the negotiation table.

Having studied carefully the proposed regulations regarding permission for entry into the Transnistria region, the representatives of the three mediators cannot but note that the measures proposed by the Moldovan side de facto impede the mediating efforts toward a settlement of the Transnistrian problem undertaken at the request of the leadership of the Republic of Moldova.

The restrictions introduced create serious difficulties for rendering timely assistance to the parties in conflict, especially when crisis-like situations occur in the Security Zone, which are fraught with dangerous consequences for the maintenance of peace and stability in it.

The mediators restate their preparedness to facilitate by all the means at their disposal the solution of the Transnistrian problem, based on territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova, call on the parties to refrain from unilateral measures, resume the negotiation process, including with the purpose of resolving such practical matters as unimpeded movement of persons and goods, restoration of telephone communication between the two banks of the Dniester river, and other vitally important matters.

The mediators also express their hope that Moldovan authorities will once again examine the current situation and particularly assess the negative consequences of the restrictions introduced by them from the point of view of ensuring an efficient mediation effort, as well as their impact on the political settlement of the conflict.

On behalf of the OSCE On behalf of the Russian Federation On behalf of the Ukraine

“18“ January 2005