## **United States Mission to the OSCE**



## OSCE Annual Security Review Conference 1 – 2 July 2008, Vienna, Austria

Opening Speech as prepared for delivery by Daniel P. Fata, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for European and NATO Policy July, 1, 2008

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

The OSCE agenda includes some of the most challenging security issues our governments face, including the unresolved separatist conflicts in Eurasia, sensitive arms control issues, and the growth of international terrorism.

In this organization's long history, beginning with the Helsinki Final Act in 1975, patience and political will have prevailed often enough to create an admirable record of accomplishment. The first agreements of the then CSCE made human rights, as well as security and economic cooperation, part of the framework that endures today as a guide to relations among participating states. In the security area, the confidence and security building measures that became the Vienna Document included an inspection provision that broke ground for later arms control agreements. And it was under the aegis of this organization that the CFE Treaty was negotiated.

This annual meeting is a vital forum, yet we should look beyond reviewing the security issues our governments faced in the past year, and instead *actively engage* in areas that need stronger OSCE activity. The OSCE as an institutional structure is in good shape. Rather than paper efforts at internal "reform," we should focus on meeting existing commitments and solving real problems in the outside world. In this vein, there are concrete sets of issues that I would like to focus on for the coming year.

Among the most difficult security challenges we face are those that originate outside our region. Terrorism is one. Mass murders of our citizens in their own cities and towns leave no doubt as to the urgency of the problem. Clearly the solutions are multi-dimensional – not just military, not simply a matter of improving intelligence. We must also address conditions that make some areas bases of support for terrorist and allied groups. Although al Qaida and their Taliban supporters can no longer rely on secure bases in Afghanistan, their operations there are made easier by porous borders. Poor border control facilitates a narcotics trade supporting these groups and worsens a problem affecting our own societies. Without effective customs and border control, a still fragile Afghan state loses a major source of revenue.

The Secretary General recently developed proposals to implement the OSCE's Border Security and Management Concept in Afghanistan. This program of assistance to Afghan border policing and customs was detailed and thoughtfully constructed. We believe that programs on the Afghan side of the border would have the greatest impact and could be begun at an early phase. I refer to the proposed border training at Shir Kahn Bandar and the project for OSCE mentoring and monitoring at Afghan border crossing points. Both projects would be conducted in government controlled areas of Northern Afghanistan, although the training they would provide should have an eventual impact in the South as well. We view these two projects, together with the proposed regional Border Management Staff College, as the most useful. Such border control programs build on a well-established area of OSCE expertise, and they deserve our full support. General Craddock, the Supreme Allied Commander of NATO forces, will address the broader security situation in Afghanistan tomorrow.

The separatist conflicts in Georgia, Moldova and Azerbaijan continue to plague security and development in the Eurasia region. The OSCE has always played a strong and positive role in shaping mediation and building confidence between conflicting sides. Most recently, the OSCE's meetings on Georgia-Russia tensions were helpful in reducing the potential for conflict and drawing attention to the Russian shoot-down of a Georgian UAV over Georgian airspace. The United States has called on Moscow to reverse its unconstructive actions and actively facilitate with us and others a diplomatic process to resolve the Abkhazia and South Ossetia conflicts. We could start from the peace plan proposed by President Saakashvili that Prime Minister Putin has publicly supported. Georgia, for its part, must continue to resist any rash decisions or unwise political demands, even in the face of repeated provocations. We want to work with Russia in this effort, and Russia, if it chooses, could play a constructive role in a settlement that took account of the parties' interests. Russia's withdrawal of the airborne troops and heavy artillery and railroad troops is a necessary step in this regard. In South Ossetia, we continue to support additional OSCE monitors, as well as joint Georgia-OSCE-Russian monitoring of the Roki tunnel and a checkpoint at Didi Gupta to bolster military transparency in the region.

Because of this, the OSCE should intensify its focus on the threat of separatist conflicts and be more actively engaged in their resolution. This extends to Moldova and Azerbaijan as well, where the lack of a conflict settlement continues to hamper the development of countries in the region. We appreciate the role of the OSCE Mission in Moldova and the CiO in pushing all sides to take concrete steps toward an eventual settlement. We believe that progress on this front could also have a positive impact on efforts to achieve progress in resolving the CFE impasse.

We remain committed to a resolution of the conflict within the 5+2 framework that guarantees Moldova's sovereignty and territorial integrity. While OSCE efforts, such as the five plus two talks and the Minsk Group on Nagorno-Karabakh, have not, so far, resolved these issues, they are a means to explore possible solutions; they cannot, of course, substitute for political will. As these efforts proceed, the presence of OSCE

observers and the broader discussions in the OSCE itself focus attention on developing crises and may serve to inhibit dangerous or destabilizing actions.

As we look back at OSCE accomplishments and ahead at new initiatives, there is reason for optimism. But gains can also be reversed, and that is as true in the security area as on issues related to the human dimension. The Conventional Armed Forces in Europe or CFE Treaty, which is no longer being implemented by all States Parties, is a case in point. The U.S. calls upon this state to resume implementation of the CFE Treaty immediately. Although not an OSCE document per se, the current Treaty affects all European states. It is the only legally binding agreement constraining destabilizing conventional force concentrations in Europe. The Adapted version of that Treaty, once ratified, and with the accession of new states, should eliminate fears that any powerful state or group of states would so concentrate its forces near other states as to be seen legitimately as a threat. The Adapted Treaty also includes more explicit provisions for host nation consent to the stationing of foreign forces. My government supports the CFE regime. We believe the path to agreement and to ratification of the Adapted Treaty by all States Parties lies in the parallel actions package that NATO Allies and others have supported. The parallel actions approach addresses the concerns of all States Parties, including those that Russia has raised. We have not given up seeking agreement, and we hope others do not. This is a time for patience, determination, and good will.

I believe there are paths to progress in all of the areas I have mentioned, and history offers encouragement that we will find them.

Thank you.