

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ALEXANDER LUKASHEVICH,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,
AT THE 1145th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

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**On the violation of the right to the protection of private life in
the United States of America**

Mr. Chairperson,

In the CSCE concluding documents adopted in Vienna in 1989 and Moscow in 1991, the participating States pledged to “respect the privacy and integrity of postal and telephone communications” and reconfirmed “the right to the protection of private and family life, domicile, correspondence and electronic communications”.

Recently, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence of the United States of America prepared a report, on the basis of which it can be concluded that, despite legal restrictions, the United States National Security Agency (NSA) continues to monitor US citizens.

As reported, in 2016 alone the NSA monitored more than 150 million telephone calls. The telephone numbers of subscribers and the time and duration of outgoing and incoming calls were recorded. Meanwhile, court orders were only issued against 42 suspects. Think about the difference between those figures. Moreover, the data obtained, at least in one case, was transferred to the Federal Bureau of Investigation in a case that was not connected to terrorism.

We often hear from our US colleagues that the activities of government bodies should be transparent. At the same time, the NSA continues to work in a “grey zone” – it monitors hundreds of millions of calls and electronic communications of citizens while remaining outside public control. At the same time, as far as it is known, the court that has the right to issue warrants to the NSA is classified, the Agency’s budget is secret and even the interpretations of the legislation that its employees follow are also secret. It is significant that the pervasive electronic espionage in the United States, which is handled by the NSA, has already been recognized as ineffective in identifying terrorist threats, not to mention preventing them. We recall that in June 2015, the “USA Freedom Act” was adopted, which restricted the NSA in monitoring telephone calls and communications of US citizens suspected of terrorism. But, as it turned out, none of this was a decree to the Agency.

In addition, as everyone knows, the NSA has also been engaged in “wiretapping” in the territory of other countries, including of the leaders of countries allied with the United States.

We call on the United States to comply with international standards and commitments that protect the right to private and family life, including personal correspondence and telephone calls (Vienna 1989).

Thank you for your attention.