



United States Mission to the OSCE

Response to the Report by EU Special Representative for Moldova, Kálmán Mizsei

As delivered by Ambassador Julie Finley
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
July 19, 2007

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

The United States welcomes Dr. Mizsei to the Permanent Council in his new role as EU Special Representative for the Republic of Moldova. The economic problems in Moldova and its Transnistria region should benefit broadly from your expertise in that area. The United States steadily seeks a peaceful resolution of the conflict in Transnistria and reconfirms its commitment to the "5 plus 2" negotiations, which should be the only forum for settlement talks.

The unresolved conflict in Transnistria has far reaching ramifications for the European security structure. The continuing presence of Russian military forces and the ammunition and armaments at the arms depot at Kolbasna stand in the way of ratification of the Adapted CFE Treaty by my Government and many others. Moldova has repeated many times that it has not and does not consent to the stationing of Russian forces or armaments in Moldova. Under the terms of the Helsinki Final Act, that should be sufficient for the authorities of the Russian Federation to bring its troops and materiel home, with dignity, now. The United States and all the members of NATO - as well as many other OSCE states - have said that we are ready to work closely with Russia and Moldova to find creative ways to resolve this impasse. We reiterate the hope that such collaborative work can begin soon. All OSCE governments have said that they place the highest value on the CFE regime and want the Adapted CFE Treaty to enter into force. To get there we need to create the conditions that will make ratification possible by all 30 CFE States. Commitments made at Istanbul regarding withdrawal of Russia forces from Moldova and Georgia are critical to achieve this outcome we all seek.

The United States reiterates its call to transform the current peacekeeping force in Transnistria into a multinational force composed both of civilian and military elements, as appropriate. We believe this change would facilitate a political settlement, encourage confidence between the sides, and address various security concerns.

The United States appreciates the recent steps taken by the Moldovan Government to amend Decision 301 by clarifying customs clearance procedures for imports bound for Transnistria. The amendments effectively address outstanding concerns about Decision 301 and are fully consistent with Moldova's sovereign right to regulate trade on its territory.

We have often said that steps taken by the Government in Chisinau to make Moldova a more democratic and prosperous country will ultimately make it more attractive for those living in Transnistria. To that end, the United States is strongly committed to Moldova's democratic and

economic development and encourages the Moldovan Government to enact its reform program robustly. We also support Moldova's European aspirations and applaud the important work being done by the EU's Border Assistance Mission.

Finally, Mr. Mizsei, as you carry out your work in Moldova, we recommend strongly the OSCE Mission and its head, Ambassador Louis O'Neill. They are a committed and vigorous team. Ambassador O'Neill has our full confidence. We respect the work he and his staff are doing within their mandate to facilitate a settlement and help Moldova consolidate its independence and sovereignty within its internationally recognized borders.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.