



United States Mission to the OSCE

Response to the Re-opening of Independent Tajik-Language Newspaper

As delivered by Ambassador Stephan M. Minikes
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
July 14, 2005

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The United States welcomes the re-opening of “Nerui Sukhan”, an independent Tajik-language newspaper. On July 4, 2005, the newspaper printed 4,000 copies, its first printing since the paper’s closing in January 2005.

We applaud Mukhtor Boqizoda, the paper’s editor-in-chief, for his resolve and for reopening despite official pressure.

The United States believes Tajikstan’s re-opening of “Nerui Sukhan” demonstrates a positive step forward and we hope signals a new commitment to freedom of the media.

Thank you.