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**STATEMENT BY MR. ANVAR AZIMOV,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,  
AT THE MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

2 September 2010

**Regarding the situation in Kyrgyzstan in connection with the report by  
Ambassador Salber**

Mr. Chairperson,

Kyrgyzstan is once again living through a complicated period in its history. The election campaign, which began against the backdrop of the persisting tension in the southern regions, has again inflamed political passions in the country. Having said that, our Organization's seemingly good intentions of helping Kyrgyzstan to restore inter-ethnic harmony and public order, and to strengthen the potential of its law enforcement bodies, have also played a certain role in catalysing political instability recently.

Russia does not call into doubt the significance of the OSCE's assistance in normalizing the situation in Kyrgyzstan, particularly as the decision to provide it was adopted at Bishkek's request. And although we were left with quite a few questions and uncertainties, principally regarding the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the OSCE and the Kyrgyz authorities, in the interests of consensus we supported the plan for the deployment in southern Kyrgyzstan of an OSCE Police Advisory Group (PAG), in which seven Russians are ready to take part. We welcome the appointment of Ambassador Markus Müller to the post of head of the PAG. We know him to be a qualified and responsible specialist who has worked in the region for many years and is well acquainted with its specificities.

Considerable time has passed since the adoption by the Permanent Council of the decision on deployment of the PAG, and no progress has been made. There is still no MoU; uncertainties persist with regard to the operation's launch. A rational question arises: having approved the Group's dispatch to Kyrgyzstan in July, should we not move more quickly? It would have been more logical to approve this decision only after settling all the existing issues.

And now we are urging action in accordance with the principle of "Do no harm". Kyrgyzstan is currently on the eve of a most important political event – parliamentary elections. In the unfolding domestic political situation, a complicated one, it is important to exercise a maximally restrained and low-key approach, so as not to allow the discrediting of those healthy political forces in the country which, in the name of preventing a possible

collapse of the State, assumed responsibility for appealing to the international community for help.

In this connection, we call upon all parties to refrain from exerting any type of pressure on the Kyrgyz side to resolve issues related to the provision by the OSCE of any forms of co-operation. We think that the Organization as a whole, and its individual participating States, should act exclusively in the interests of the Kyrgyz people, and not of ambitions of whatever type.

Russia is convinced that independent, active interventions by the Kyrgyz leadership, aimed at rapidly stabilizing the domestic political and economic situation and winning the allegiance of the Kyrgyz people to democratic values, should prevail over external co-operation.

Our country is continuing to provide large-scale and multifaceted assistance to the Kyrgyz leadership and people within the framework of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, among other things, in order to contribute to the further stabilization of the domestic political situation in the country and the resolution of urgent problems in the economic, financial and social spheres.

We hope that these efforts, along with foreign aid as a whole, will help to overcome some of the difficulties facing the Kyrgyz people. However, the main responsibility for the country's full return to a normal legal framework lies with the Kyrgyz authorities, who must be helped, and whose position must not under any circumstances be further complicated by ill-conceived and hasty actions. Otherwise, the OSCE's authority will be irreparably undermined, and that cannot be allowed. This too must be our common-sense approach.

Thank you for your attention.