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

1 July 2010

Regarding the decree by the acting President of Moldova

Mr. Chairperson,

In connection with the decree signed recently by the acting President of the Republic of Moldova, Mr. Mihai Ghimpu, declaring 28 June as the so-called “day of Soviet occupation”, we should like to inform the OSCE participating States of the position of the Russian Federation on this matter. We regard this step as part of a deliberate political campaign aimed against Russo-Moldovan partnership.

Unfortunately, this is not the first time that we have encountered a situation in which pseudo-historical interpretations of the causes and outcomes of the Second World War are formalized in the form of various memorial dates and used to justify opportunistic decisions adopted purely in the interests of the ruling establishment and against the national interests of the State.

We regard as an abomination this latest attempt to distort our common history with the Moldovan people and the events connected with the Great Patriotic War of 1941 to 1945, especially given that we quite recently commemorated the 65th anniversary of that victory together.

The motives that guided the authors of this undertaking are evident. This is clearly a case of heating up emotions and diverting society’s attention from the real problems in present-day Moldova while at the same time destroying the existing mechanisms for ensuring stability on the Dniester. The decree may become a prologue to confrontation in the political field and in multi-ethnic Moldovan society.

There is an aura of adventurism around experiments of this kind in political history. It would be unwise for those who love to fantasize to forget about the existing political realities, which are determined not only by the parameters of regional security and the fate of the peoples living in Moldova and the neighbouring countries but also by the atmosphere on the European continent as a whole.

We trust that in the Moldovan leadership, and in the ruling Alliance for European Integration, many members of which, as far as we are aware, did not support the promulgated decree, pragmatic approaches will prevail, as will a policy aimed not at division but at the consolidation of Moldovan society and the real, constructive development of Russo-Moldovan relations.

Thank you for your attention.