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United States Mission to the OSCE

Response to the OSCE Representative to the Latvian-Russian Joint Commission on Military Pensioners

As delivered by Ambassador Julie Finley
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
September 21, 2006

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Welcome Lt. Col. Napiontek, it is good to see you here, and thank you for your report to the Permanent Council.

We have been very pleased to observe the collaboration between the Latvian and Russian authorities and coming to these conclusions. We commend the Latvian authorities for making efforts to alleviate hardship cases among pensioners affected by the denationalization process. We expect the Latvian authorities to implement procedures to assist those pensioners whose rents will increase following the expiration of the limits in January 2008.

We are pleased to note the productive working atmosphere on the Commission. The fact that there are fewer and fewer cases that the Commission must deal with every year is evidence of the success of the Commission's work.

The United States appreciates your efforts, Lt. Col. Napiontek. We wish you continued success in your work on the Commission.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.