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

3 February 2011

Regarding the situation in Egypt

Mr. Chairperson,

Russia is following very closely and with concern the events taking place in Egypt, which is our strategic partner and a key country in the Middle Eastern region. We sincerely sympathize with the friendly Egyptian people given the fact that the disturbances in the country have resulted in casualties.

Russia is keen for Egypt to be a stable, prosperous and democratic State and for today's socio-economic and political problems to be resolved as quickly as possible by peaceful means. How this is to be done must be decided by the Egyptian politicians and the Egyptian people themselves.

Thank you for your attention.