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

19 January 2012

**Regarding the incident in the Transdnestrian
conflict security zone**

Mr. Chairperson,

On the morning of 1 January at the Russo-Moldovan-Transdnestrian joint peacekeeping post in the vicinity of a bridge across the Dniester river near the town of Vadul-lui-Voda there in fact occurred a tragic incident during which an 18-year-old citizen of the Republic of Moldova, Vadim Semenovich Pisar, was fatally wounded.

According to the information available to the Russian side, at about 7 o'clock on the morning of this first day of the year a car with Moldovan number plates driven by Mr. Pisar, and travelling far in excess of the speed limit, twice crossed the checkpoint, overturning the barriers. Acting in accordance with his instructions, the senior officer of the Russian unit first fired warning shots into the air and, after the driver failed to heed the command to stop, at the wheels of the car. However, as a result of a possibly ricocheting bullet Mr. Pisar was seriously wounded, after which he was taken to a clinic, where, despite an operation being performed, he died.

The actions of the peacekeepers were in strict conformity with the established rules of procedure: the shots in the direction of the car were fired only after all other measures aimed at stopping the vehicle, which was posing a direct threat to the safety and life of the servicemen at the peacekeeping post, had been taken.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia has expressed its deep regret at the death of this citizen of the Republic of Moldova.

This subject has been repeatedly discussed by Russian representatives during contacts with leading officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ambassador of the Republic of Moldova in Russia.

The Joint Control Commission, made up of representatives of Russia, Moldova and Transdnestria, has set up a special commission to investigate this incident. The joint military command has been instructed to report on the results within three weeks.

The Russian Office of the Military Prosecutor is conducting a careful investigation of this tragic incident, of whose results the Moldovan authorities will be informed. We expect that this investigation will be assisted in every necessary way by our Moldovan colleagues, although so far the Russian experts have not been given an opportunity to examine the car involved in this tragic incident.

We welcome and fully share the appeals by the leadership of the Republic of Moldova and Transdniestria for a balanced, maximally responsible and unbiased clarification of all the circumstances involved in what happened. There should be no overly hasty conclusions as regards this tragic event and no destabilization of the situation.

Russia takes the position that the mandate of the peacekeeping operation is today far from exhausted and is totally aimed at preserving the possibility of moving forward towards a resolution through peaceful political means in the interests of the population on both sides of the Dniester. By ensuring peace and security in the region, the operation is in conformity with United Nations and OSCE standards, with our Organization having been permitted to monitor it under a decision by the parties.

Throughout all these recent years the stabilizing role of the present peacekeeping operation in the region has been acknowledged in a number of joint statements by the leaders of the Republic of Moldova and Transdniestria and also by the presidents of the Russian Federation and Ukraine. Any issues concerning the operation's mandate should be approached with great caution.

Thank you for your attention.