



United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement on Events in South Ossetia

As delivered by Deputy Chief of Mission Kyle Scott
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
May 10, 2007

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The United States is also alarmed and concerned by the Spot Report of the OSCE Mission to Georgia dated May 9th, which reports on the finding of an anti-aircraft weapon system inside the zone of conflict in South Ossetia. We join our Chairman in Office in condemning the action of the armed men who forced members of the Joint Patrol Team, including Russian and Georgian soldiers, to lie on the ground at gunpoint. This outrageous treatment of the JPKF soldiers could have escalated dramatically, with tragic consequences.

Mr. Chairman,

The United States reiterates its call for the complete demilitarization of the zone of conflict and all of South Ossetia. We call for international monitoring of the Roki Tunnel, which would have an important stabilizing effect on the region and could also contribute to oversight of the flow of weapons and contraband into the territory. We call again for more military monitors on the ground in South Ossetia and for joint OSCE/JPKF monitoring in the village of Didi Gupta. Finally, we support all routes for constructive dialogue between the Georgian and South Ossetian sides and urge progress through all available mechanisms, including the JCC.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.