



United States Mission to the OSCE

Response to Japan's Statement on Policy Towards Central Asia

As delivered by Deputy Chief of Mission, Paul W. Jones
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
September 16, 2004

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I would like to thank the Japanese representative for his presentation on Japan's current efforts to assist the countries of Central Asia in their progress towards stability and prosperity.

We concur with Japan's assessment of the region's critical importance to our collective security, and we heartily welcome its engagement on issues that are high priorities for the OSCE, namely transnational terrorism, economic development and democratization.

We believe it would be useful, if Japan is not already doing so, for it to provide its OSCE counterparts with briefings on its activities in each of the Central Asian countries with a view toward greater coordination and reduction of duplication.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.