



## United States Mission to the OSCE

### **May 16-17 Meeting on Transnistria Conflict Settlement**

As delivered by Ambassador Stephan M. Minikes  
to the Permanent Council, Vienna  
May 19, 2005

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The United States welcomes the news that a meeting took place in Vinnitsa on May 16th and 17th between the parties to the Transnistria conflict and the three mediators.

The renewal of talks aimed at settling the conflict is certainly welcome news. We commend the mediators and the two sides for reviving discussion.

We call on the parties and the mediators to increase their efforts to reach a peaceful settlement that respects the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Moldova and brings democracy, freedom and respect for human rights to all its citizens.

In this regard, we note the mediators' conclusion, as set forth in their May 17th statement, that the settlement plan presented by Ukraine can serve as an impetus toward achieving that goal.

The United States reiterates its readiness to assist in this process, even to participate in an expanded negotiating format if the parties agree. We also continue to support, through the OSCE, full implementation of Russia's commitment to withdraw its military forces from Moldova. We would welcome reports of progress on that issue as well.

We also welcome Ukraine's declared readiness to allow international border and customs monitors on its territory, to assist in observing Ukraine's border with Moldova. As we have noted many times in the Permanent Council, such a program would be extremely beneficial to the prosperity and security of both countries and to the region as a whole.

Thank you very much.