



United States Mission to the OSCE

Intervention on the October 27-28 Transnistria Conflict Settlement Talks

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires Sharon White
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
November 3, 2005

Thank you.

The United States welcomed the opportunity to participate as an observer in the October 27th and 28th round of negotiations on the Transnistrian conflict. We believe the addition of both the United States and the EU to the talks will help the sides move forward in their pursuit of a peaceful settlement of the conflict that respects the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Moldova.

We look forward to the next meeting in this format on December 15th and 16th in Tiraspol and Chisinau. We hope these talks signal the return of more frequent and productive discussions of the conflict.

After a fifteen-month pause, last week's negotiations marked a small step forward toward a settlement of the conflict. We were pleased that the sides, with the assistance of the mediators and observers, were able to reach agreement on a number of issues, such as consultations on an international assessment mission to evaluate conditions for free and fair elections in Transnistria; the exchange of military information; and setting rough parameters for a factory-monitoring mission in Transnistria.

Noticeably absent from the protocol that emerged from last week's negotiations was any mention of the withdrawal of Russian troops and munitions from Moldovan territory in keeping with Russia's Istanbul Commitments. We call on Russia to resume withdrawal of its forces immediately and without precondition in fulfillment of its Istanbul Commitments, which is independent of the outcome of the settlement talks.

We believe that a Russian decision to resume removing munitions in advance of the Ljubljana ministerial will send a strong signal of progress and good faith.

Thank you.