



United States Mission to the OSCE

Response to Ambassador Remler, Head of Mission to Moldova

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires Kyle Scott
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
April 23, 2009

Thank you, Madam Chairwoman.

The United States joins other delegations in welcoming you, Ambassador Remler, and in thanking you for your thorough report. We appreciate the Mission's efforts to address potential problems in the months preceding Moldova's April 5 parliamentary elections, and welcome the Mission's work since then to promote dialogue between the government and the opposition and to encourage Moldovan authorities to respect the fundamental rights and freedoms encompassed by Moldova's OSCE and international commitments.

The United States remains concerned about the situation in Moldova, as outlined by Ambassador Remler today and as described in the Mission's April 14 Spot Report and in Representative on Freedom of the Media Haraszti's April 14 statement. Although order has been restored and demonstrations following the violence of April 7 were peaceful, we have received reports from civil society and international observers that some of those detained were mistreated by Moldovan authorities. We also have received reports that students and journalists were intimidated by government officials, and that media freedoms were restricted.

President Voronin's announcement of an amnesty for many of those detained is an encouraging step towards reconciliation, but more must be done. We urge the government to act in accordance with Moldovan law and its international obligations when dealing with the opposition, protesters, and the media, and urge all parties to conduct themselves responsibly. It is important that the government address concerns raised by opposition parties about problems with the voter lists in a cooperative and transparent manner. It is also important that allegations of mistreatment of detainees are quickly investigated, and that outside organizations have access to those still in detention. We note that over 95 percent of those arrested have been released.

The United States remains committed to working closely with Moldova and its people as the country continues its integration into European institutions. Respect for the rule of law and human rights are key elements in our relationship.

The United States also remains committed to the long-term, peaceful resolution of the Transnistria conflict, and welcomes the Mission's efforts to encourage direct contacts between the Sides and to facilitate working groups' efforts to identify confidence-building measures in the social, economic, legal, and security realms. We urge the quick resumption of formal negotiations in the 5+2 format, which remains the only internationally accepted mechanism for reaching a negotiated settlement to the conflict. We are eager to see the

resumption of formal talks, and hope those talks will focus on substantive issues, including the determination of Transnistria's status within Moldova's internationally recognized borders.

In closing, the United States again thanks you and your staff, Ambassador Remler, and stands ready to support your efforts to assist the government of Moldova in addressing the aftermath of the April 7 demonstrations, and in moving towards resolution of the Transnistria conflict.

Thank you, Madam Chairwoman.