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STATEMENT BY MR. ANVAR AZIMOV, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE JOINT MEETING OF THE OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION AND THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL

5 July 2010

Regarding the terrorist act in northern Mitrovica

Mr. Chairperson,

The incident of 2 July in Kosovo causes us serious concern also. An explosion resulted in casualties and injuries. We associate ourselves with the condolences offered to the family of Dr. Mesud Džeković, who was killed in this terrorist act.

The escalation of violence has, in essence, been provoked by the actions of the Kosovo Albanian authorities, who have sought to extend their so-called "jurisdiction" forcibly to the Serb populated districts of the territory. On several occasions, *inter alia* in this hall, we have already warned of the danger of endeavouring to forcibly impose scenarios on the Serbs living in Kosovo. This applies above all to the so-called "strategy for northern Kosovo" elaborated and, to all appearances, being applied in practice by the office of the International Civilian Representative, Pieter Feith.

We consider such actions absolutely unacceptable, since they contain serious potential for conflict and undermine the already fragile stability of the territory.

The latest events in Kosovo have confirmed once again that there is no alternative to a negotiated approach and to a peaceful settlement of the Kosovo problem based on the consent of both the Serb and the Kosovo Albanian sides

Thank you for your attention.