

Armenian Chairmanship

428th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM

1. Date: Wednesday, 21 July 2004

Opened: 10.15 a.m.

Closed: 1 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Mr. J. Tabibian

3. Subjects discussed — Statements — Decisions:

Agenda item 1: GENERAL STATEMENTS

(a) *Requests by Tajikistan for assistance under PC.DEC/535 and FSC.DEC/15/02, and the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition*: Tajikistan (FSC.DEL/346/04 Restr.), Russian Federation, Co-ordinator for Small Arms and Light Weapons projects (Hungary), Co-ordinator for Conventional Ammunition Projects (Germany), Belarus, Chairperson, Switzerland

(b) *Verification visits during the 2004 Olympic Games in Greece*: Greece

Agenda item 2: SECURITY DIALOGUE

ODIHR projects of relevance to armed forces — Presentation by Mr. C. Strohal, Director of the ODIHR: Chairperson, Director of the ODIHR, Germany, United States of America, Switzerland

Agenda item 3: CLOSING STATEMENT BY THE FSC CHAIRPERSON

Chairperson, Andorra, Austria (FSC.DEL/350/04 Restr.), United States of America, Bulgaria, Russian Federation

Agenda item 4: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Statement by the Chairperson on interpreters as auxiliary personnel during verification activities: Chairperson (Annex 1), United States of America (Annex 2)*
- (b) *Statement by the Chairperson on the Vienna Document 1999, Information on military forces — Reassignment of former army helicopter units to the air forces: Chairperson (Annex 3), Germany*
- (c) *Draft decision on standard elements of end-user certificates and verification procedures for SALW exports: United States of America, Chairperson*
- (d) *Food-for-thought paper on conducting an extended security dialogue session with partners on civil-military emergency preparedness: United States of America (also on behalf of Italy and Greece) (FSC.DEL/344/04 Restr.), Austria, Chairperson*
- (e) *Proposal for a draft decision on prior notification of certain military activities: Turkey, Chairperson*
- (f) *Agreement between Belarus and Poland to implement a set of additional CSBMs on the basis of the Vienna Document 1999: Belarus (also on behalf of Poland), Chairperson, Poland*
- (g) *Visit to Varna Naval Base and observation of Confidence Annual Naval Exercise, hosted by Bulgaria from 26 May to 4 June 2004: Bulgaria (FSC.DEL/349/04 Restr.)*
- (h) *Food-for-thought paper on measures to improve and structure the electronic distribution of exchanged FSC-related information: Finland*
- (i) *Special FSC Session on Technical, Managerial and Financial Implications of Submitted Requests regarding Excess Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition, to be held on 29 September 2004: Chairperson*
- (j) *Reminding letters regarding the deadlines for information exchanges: Chairperson*
- (k) *OSCE Communications Group: Chairperson*
- (l) *Matters of protocol: Chairperson*

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 15 September 2004, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



428th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 434, Agenda item 4(a)

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRPERSON

Interpreters as Auxiliary Personnel during Verification Activities

In most cases interpreters are required to ensure an efficient implementation of Vienna Document 1999 inspections and evaluation visits. However, the participating States note that not all inspected or visited States are always in the position to provide their own interpreters for the notified working language to escort a verification team. In those cases it is a common practice that inspecting/visiting States are accompanied by their own interpreters.

As there is no mention of interpreters in the description of verification teams in Chapter IX, paragraph 91, of the Vienna Document 1999 for inspection teams, and in paragraph 124 for evaluation teams, respectively, Vienna Document 1999 leaves open whether interpreters shall be considered as auxiliary personnel, mentioned but not specified in detail in paragraphs 92 and 125, or shall be counted as members of the inspection/evaluation team.

The participating States note that counting or not counting interpreters against the team strength has practical and financial consequences in carrying out inspections and evaluations since Chapter IX, paragraph 91, of the Vienna Document 1999 limits inspection teams to no more than four inspectors, and paragraph 124 limits evaluation teams to three members.

This is especially pertinent in the case of multinational inspections and evaluation visits and when inspection teams divide into subteams. In these cases, the efficiency of inspections and evaluation visits can be enhanced if interpreters are not counted against the inspection or evaluation team strength, but are considered as auxiliary personnel.

Therefore, in order to promote the aims of confidence-building and transparency through verification and ensure the greatest possible efficiency and benefit of inspections and evaluation visits, it is understood that the participating States have expressed their willingness to implement the following:

- (a) To accept and consider, whenever possible, interpreters in inspections and evaluation visits as auxiliary personnel if prior to an inspection/evaluation visit a specific agreement between the inspecting/visiting State and the receiving State is reached on

this issue and relevant modalities, including the number of interpreters and related costs;

- (b) In these cases, to not count interpreters against the strength of the inspection/evaluation team;
- (c) To give specific consent to accept interpreters as auxiliary personnel in formats F-34 and F-37 when responding to requests for an inspection (format F-33) or evaluation visit (format F-36).



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Forum for Security Co-operation**

FSC.JOUR/434

21 July 2004

Annex 2

Original: ENGLISH

428th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 434, Agenda item 4(a)

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Interpreters as Auxiliary Personnel during Verification Activities

Mr. Chairman,

The United States suggests that interpreters will routinely be defined as auxiliary personnel on the condition that a specific agreement is reached to this effect prior to an inspection/evaluation visit between the respective participating States.

The United States believes the number of interpreters that may routinely be defined as auxiliary personnel should be no more than two for an inspection, and no more than one for an evaluation team.

I request that this statement be attached to the Journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.



428th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 434, Agenda item 4(b)

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRPERSON

**Vienna Document 1999, Information on Military Forces — Reassignment
of Former Army Helicopter Units to the Air Forces**

Changes in structure of the armed forces can include the detachment of former army aviation units from the army structure and their reassignment to the air forces. The participating States note that such changes, in the case of a reassignment of helicopter units, affect the information provided in the Annual Exchange of Military Information pursuant to Chapter I of the Vienna Document, as well as verification measures through evaluation visits.

Within the land forces, army aviation units count among the *combat units* (Vienna Document 1999, Chapter I, paragraph 10.2). In Table 2 of the Information on Military Forces they are listed with all required data. Thus, they are verifiable through evaluation visits and taken into consideration in calculating the quota for the number of evaluation visits.

Within the air forces, former army aviation units do not count among *air combat units*, since here only such units are recorded, “the majority of whose organic aircraft are combat aircraft” (Vienna Document 1999, Chapter I, paragraph 10.5). Therefore, there is no obligation to include information on former army helicopter units reassigned to the air forces in Table 3 of the Information on Military Forces. Consequently, it is not possible to verify these units through evaluation visits and to include them in calculating the number of evaluation visits.

Therefore, in order to promote the aims of confidence-building and transparency through exchange of military information and verification measures, it is understood that the participating States have expressed their willingness:

- To include information on former army helicopter units reassigned to the air forces into Table 3 of the Information on Military Forces so that they continue to be verifiable.