



EMBASSY OF GEORGIA TO THE REPUBLICS OF AUSTRIA AND HUNGARY
PERMANENT MISSION OF GEORGIA TO THE OSCE AND OTHER
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN VIENNA

S T A T E M E N T

*Delivered by Ambassador Victor Dolidze at the 711th Special Permanent Council
Vienna 30 April, 2008*

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Colleagues,

To remain as brief as possible, I would like to limit my statement by the short update on the developments in the Georgian conflict regions, which would describe the current situation in a nutshell.

To further promote the Georgian commitment to the peaceful resolution of the conflicts, yesterday in his statement broadcasted by the Georgian TV the President of Georgia once again reiterated Georgia's commitment to peace and reaffirmed all peace proposals the Georgian side has made up to present day, thus guaranteeing a principle of wide federalism, economic development and protection of political, social, economic and cultural rights of all residents of conflict regions. He once again made it clear that no "war plans" developed or considered by the Georgian authorities.

In parallel to this, unfortunately we are witnessing an utmost inadequate and provocative response to this situation from the Russian Federation by its unequivocal steps to directly support separatism, including through military means, and attempting to mislead the international community about its real intentions.

Yesterday the Russian Federation took yet another irresponsible and provocative step by unilaterally increasing the number of so called peacekeepers in Abkhazia, Georgia, without seeking prior approval and consent of the Georgian Government.

The Georgian State border at the river Psou was violated when additional Russian military units entered the territory. The scale of this provocation was made evident by a statement of the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation (29 April, 2008) according to which fifteen new checkpoints have been opened on the administrative border of Abkhazia, Georgia, without the permission of the Government of Georgia.

In the context of these alarming chain of events I also want to draw your attention that on April 25 April, 2008 in his statement the Russian Foreign Ministry's special envoy for relations with the CIS countries, Ambassador-at-large Mr. Keniakin, underlined: "should the military scenario unleash in a zone of Georgian-Abkhaz conflict, we [the Russian side] will have to react including through military means."

We would like to express our deepest concern about the recent activities and statements of the Russian side to introduce military reinforcements within the zone of conflict in Abkhazia, Georgia. Georgia assesses these steps as a straight attempt to destabilize the situation in the conflict zone and provoke armed confrontation, thus threatening territorial integrity and sovereignty of Georgia and undermining peace and stability in the region.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to address through you the distinguished delegations to take all available measures not to allow the escalation of tensions according to this sinister scenario, and to reverse the situation back to the peaceful settlement process.

Thank You.