

Annex 1

CLASSIFICATION: SECRET

The Activities of Russian Peacekeepers in Tskhinvali Region/South Ossetia in August 2004

Key assumptions and evidence

Source: Telephone Intercepts

Date of the report:19.08.2004

1. The Joint Peacekeeping Forces fail to disclose violations of peace by South Ossetian de facto regime irregular forces:

- On 13 August (Time 22:42) the Commander of JPKF General **Sviatoslav Nabzdorov** in a conversation with Russian Special Envoy **Lev Mironov** admitted: "For the last two days the South Ossetian side has been provoking hostilities... I am hiding many important things... I have seen who started the shooting... and then we declare that the Georgians are initiating fire...;"
- On 13 August (Time 06:02) **Sviatoslav Nabzdorov** friendly asked South Ossetian de facto Defense Minister **Anatoly Barankevich**¹ to stop firing from a mortar on a hill;

2. The North Ossetian peacekeeping battalion provides South Ossetian de facto regime irregular forces with fire-arms:

- On 12 August (Time 15:51) the Senior Commander of North Ossetian peacekeepers **Kazbeg Friev** and the Commander of North Ossetian peacekeeping battaion **Philip Khachirov** promised **Robert Kokoity**, the brother of South Ossetian de facto President **Eduard Kokoity**² to deliver to the South Ossetian irregular forces RPG-7 anti-tank rockets, Kalashnikov assault rifles and hand grenades;
- On 14 August (Time 18:28) South Ossetian Deputy Defense Minister **Ibragim Gaseev** reached an agreement with the Senior Commander of North Ossetian peacekeepers **Kazbeg Friev** to use several armored vehicles of the North Ossetian peacekeeping battalion for his own military purposes;

3. The North Ossetian peacekeeping battalion and South Ossetian de facto regime irregular forces often coordinate their military

¹ **Anatoly Barankevich** is the Colonel of Russian armed forces.

² **Robert Kokoity** is actively involved in supplying South Ossetian irregular forces.

activities against Georgian police and peacekeeping checkpoints, as well as against central government controlled villages in the region:

- On 12 August (Time 07:07) **Kazbeg Friev** promised **Ibragim Gaseev** to send additional troops to his positions;
- On the night of 12 August North Ossetian peacekeepers and South Ossetian irregular soldiers were negotiating the time of starting and ceasing fire;
- On 11 August (Time 00:21) **Philip Khachirov** promised military assistance to **Ibragim Gaseev**;
- On 14 August (Time 09:37) **Kazbeg Friev** and South Ossetian de facto Special Tasks Minister **Boris Chochiev** agreed to hold an urgent meeting at the Ministry of Defense in Tskhinvali and to work out a "joint action plan" together with **Anatoly Barankevich** and **Anatoly Sisoev**, Military Advisor of de facto President **Eduard Kokoity**.

4. Russian peacekeepers keep South Ossetian de facto regime irregular forces informed about the location of Georgian positions, thereby helping them in increasing the preciseness of artillery fire:

- Russian military observer **Fanid Sidikov** often contacts South Ossetian irregular forces via operator **Marikian** at the headquarters of the JPKF and reports on the maneuvers of Georgian police units;
- On the night of 12 August **Kazbeg Friev** informed **Robert Ostaev**, the head of South Ossetian de facto Ministry of Interior's special forces squad SOBR about the movement of Georgian peacekeeping battalion's armored vehicles.

Date of the report: 23.08.2004

1. The North Ossetian peacekeeping battalion is involved in bombing Government controlled villages and supports hired Russian boeviks (the so-called Cossacks), which have illicitly infiltrated Georgia:

- On 19 August (time 16:02) the Senior Commander of North Ossetian peacekeepers **Kazbeg Friev** ordered his deputy **Philip Khachirov** to open fire towards Georgian village Tamarasheni. Mortar shells destroyed a number of houses in Tamarasheni;
- On 20 August (time 11:21) **Philip Khachirov** was informed about the arrival of a group of boeviks from Russia ("Sergey's

Folk") armed with machine-guns and artillery. **Khachirov** promised to give them more weapons and ammunition if necessary.

2. Russian peacekeepers conceal violations by South Ossetian de facto regime irregular forces from the OSCE mission in Georgia:

- On 19 August (time 18:36) the Commander of the JPKF General **Sviatoslav Nabzdorov** warned a South Ossetian irregular military detachment (consisting of 20 men) about the approaching of OSCE mission vehicles. He instructed his aide: "The OSCE will notice them... tell them to get out of there... only two of them are allowed to be on that hill."