

Q5 Legal/Reference 20

State Minister of Georgia
On conflict resolution issues

4-6/144
21.02.2006

TO: Chair of OSCE Permanent Council,
Mr. Bertran De Krombriuge

Your Excellency,

I want to express gratitude towards your initiative, according to which the meeting of Joint Control Commission should have been held for February 20-21 in Austria, Vienna. Herewith, I express deep concern as Russia announced unexpectedly that it would not take part in mentioned meeting.

The initiative proposed by your Excellency aimed at reaching agreement between parties for implementing the provisions, that would be the basis for demilitarization process in Tskhinvali Region/"South Ossetia", for peaceful settlement of conflict.

I underline, that such actions from Russian side amounts to wrecking intentionally the initiatives directed to peaceful settlement of conflict and poses direct threat to the fulfillment of peace plan the importance of which was stressed on OSCE Ljubliana summit in December 2005 (MC.DOC/4/5/).

On this background, the statement of the leader of separatist Region Kokoiti seems as direct threat. He claims that "Every formation, which will express its will to take part in peace process, no matter under whose mandate it acts, except the Russian peacekeeping forces, will be perceived as an aggressor by the de facto government and will be destroyed on spot."

I express the hope that OSCE member states will perceive the motives of our concern with careful notice and will not give way to escalation of restraint.

Please, receive the our wide gratitude and respect.

Sincerely,

G. Khaindrava

[signed]