



საქართველოს საგარეო საქმეთა სამინისტრო Ministry Of Foreign Affairs Of Georgia

On August 22, 2006, Charges d' Affaires ad interim I. Vilinkin was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia and presented a protest note on the opening of consultation centre of Russia's Pension Fund in Tskhinvali, on August 19, 2006.

It was underlined at the meeting that the Georgian side had warned repeatedly the Russian side of the inadmissibility to come into any kind of contact with representatives of the separatist regimes of the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia and Abkhazia, Georgia without consent of Georgia's Central Authorities and of the necessity to comply with requirements of the Georgian laws while crossing the state border.

Acting in defiance of the Georgian side's above-said requirements, the Russian side seems to believe that it is quite within its rights to do things that violate even more grossly the Georgian laws and the norms and principles of international law and sets up on the territory of Georgia branch offices of the Russian state institutions, thus infringing sovereignty of the independent country in a completely undisguised manner.

The Georgian side emphasized that such acts provide added evidence that Russia still follows through with its policy aimed at actual annexation of Georgia's inalienable territory and is increasingly inclined to acquire the identity of a conflicting side.

The Georgian side expressed its strong protest and demanded from the Russian side appropriate explanations, immediate closure of the consultation centre of the Russian Federation's Pension Fund and withdrawal of Russian officials staying illegally on the territory of Georgia.

The Russian side abstained from making any clarifications and pledged to immediately advise Moscow of the Georgian side's position and demands.

August 22, 2006

Department of the Press and Information