

CLASSIFICATION: SECRET

### BACKGROUND MEMO TO TELEPHONE INTERCEPTS

On August 7, 2008 the Georgian Ministry of Internal Affairs intercepted two telephone conversations between an Ossetian duty officer located at the Roki tunnel and the Border Guard Headquarters, located in Tskhinvali.

The first call was initiated at 03:41.09 while the second call was initiated at 03:52.13.

The transcripts represent both calls in their entirety, conducted in Ossetian and are available in audio form. The translation was done by native speakers of Ossetian language.

The location of the antennas where the intercepts came were two MAGTICOM transmitter posts located at the Roki tunnel and in Tskhinvali.

**The intercepted calls confirm that the first units of the Russian regular army with heavy armor had entered and passed through the Roki tunnel during the early morning of August 7, more than 12 hours before Georgian forces started to mobilize and 20 hours before Georgian forces entered the conflict zone.**

**The intercepts also reveal another interesting fact that on August 7 the Russians took control of the state border by stationing their regular troops at the southern portal of the Roki tunnel. This happened for the first time ever and was not expected by the South Ossetians as well.**

The source of all intercepts is confirmed by the fixed database maintained and registered by MAGTICOM. This information is also confirmed by a parallel, time/day/minute automatic billing system. Furthermore, any attempt to alter or change these records is immediately traceable and visible.