



United States Mission to the OSCE

Response to the OSCE Representative to the Latvian-Russian Joint Commission on Military Commissioners

As delivered by Deputy Chief of Mission Carol Fuller
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
November 4, 2010

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

We welcome the return of Lt. Col. Napiontek to the Permanent Council and thank him for his report.

The United States considers relations between neighbors an important indicator of the successful realization of our shared principle of cooperative and indivisible security.

For that reason, we have been pleased with the successful cooperation between Latvia and Russia in past years in implementing the terms of their 1994 Agreement on Military Pensioners. We welcomed the productive working atmosphere in the Commission and saw the steadily declining volume of cases before the Commission as further evidence of its success.

Given this history of success, we regret that the question of procedures to determine the eligibility of potential additional candidates on the list of Military Pensioners remains unresolved. We urge the two sides to seek an amicable and just resolution to this issue in accordance with the good spirit of cooperation which had hitherto prevailed in the Commission. Based on Colonel Napiontek's report, the issues do not seem overly complicated and perhaps a solution could be found by the application of a cut-off date or other similarly uncomplicated procedure.

We commend Colonel Napiontek for his work and look forward to an early resolution of the single outstanding issue before the Commission.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.