



General Assembly

Distr.: General
2 February 2001

Original: English

Fifty-fifth session

Agenda item 73

General and complete disarmament

Letter dated 1 February 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the statement regarding the completion of the reduction of excessive Russian conventional weapons and military equipment deployed in the territory of Georgia, in accordance with the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE treaty) and its integral part — Joint Statement of the Russian Federation and Georgia (Joint Statement) made at the Istanbul Summit of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) on 17 November 1999 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 73.

(Signed) Peter **Chkheidze**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex to the letter dated 1 February 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement by the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations

Upon instructions received from my Government, I am authorized to inform you that, in accordance with its obligations under the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE Treaty) and its integral part — Joint Statement of the Russian Federation and Georgia (Joint Statement) made at the Istanbul Summit of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) on 17 November 1999 — the Russian Federation, with the assistance of Georgia and other OSCE States, has completed its reduction of excessive Russian conventional weapons and military hardware located in the territory of Georgia by the set deadline of 31 December 2000 (see appendix). This reduction constitutes the first phase of the withdrawal of the Russian military presence from the territory of Georgia.

In spite of a number of difficulties that presented themselves during the negotiation process, the parties demonstrated the political will and commitment necessary to carry out the reduction of excessive Russian military equipment in a transparent and efficient manner. In this regard, we would like to express our gratitude and sincere appreciation to all countries involved in this process, whose support was instrumental to the success of the reduction.

Alongside of the above-mentioned we would like to stress that the Joint Statement contains another stage, even more crucial, which calls for the closure of the remaining Russian military bases in Georgia (located in Vaziani and Gudauta) by 1 July 2001. We hope that the second element will also be fully implemented in the spirit of transparency and cooperation.

Another important issue that is to be agreed according to the Joint Statement is the duration of the temporary deployment of two remaining Russian military bases in Georgia (located in Batumi and Akhalkhalaki). In that regard, I wish to focus your attention on two principal agreements reached during the negotiations:

1. The eventual goal of the Russian military forces reduction process is the complete liberation of the territory of Georgia from foreign military presence;
2. The duration of the functioning of Russian military bases in Georgia will be determined by a period necessary for the elimination of such functioning.

We would like to express our concern regarding the position of the Russian side, which stated that all provisions of the Joint Statement are interrelated and subject to implementation in all aspects.

In this regard, the Government of Georgia finds absolutely unacceptable any attempts to link improperly other obligations determined by the Joint Statement, leading therefore to their overall blockage.

We believe that the full, timely and unconditional completion of the withdrawal as set forth in the Russian-Georgian Joint Statement will contribute to

the normalization of relations between our two countries which had deteriorated in other spheres and strengthen the stability and security of the whole region.

The negotiations between Georgia and the Russian Federation are still in progress. We will keep the international community informed about the results of these negotiations.

Appendix

Information on the results of the reduction process of Russian treaty-limited equipment (TLE) in the territory of Georgia

