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PC.DEL/244/26
12 March 2026

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT IN EXERCISE OF THE RIGHT OF REPLY BY
MR. DMITRY POLYANSKIY, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1557th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

12 March 2026

In response to the statement by the representative of Moldova

Mr. Chairperson,

Since my country has been mentioned, I should like to exercise my right to reply and make a few comments on some of the issues raised.

In his statement, the Moldovan representative quite rightly recalled the victims of the tragic events of the hot phase of the Transdnistrian conflict in 1992. At the same time, he deliberately failed to mention that the conflict was caused by the actions of the authorities in Chişinău, which first provoked inter-ethnic tensions through overtly nationalistic decisions and then used force against citizens who disagreed with their policy line.

It is also understandable why he should be reluctant to tell the truth about the role played by the Russian soldiers from the 14th Army, whose selfless actions made it possible to stem the bloodshed. Launched as a result of challenging negotiations and with the most active mediation of our country, the peacekeeping operation has remained a crucial element in the safeguarding of peace and stability in the region for over 33 years, serving as a guarantee that the conflict will not be resumed.

In view of this, we are downright disgusted by the attempts to distort Russia's role in the process for bringing about a peaceful settlement on the banks of the Dniester. Flying in the face of obvious historical facts, the authorities in Chişinău are doing their utmost to try to shift responsibility for the bloodshed on to Russia. A glaring example of this approach is the publication of history textbooks for Moldovan schoolchildren in which Russia is referred to as a party to the conflict.

In reality, however, our country, as a guarantor of peace, has been actively engaged in diplomatic efforts throughout this period with a view to achieving a sustainable settlement of the Transdnistrian conflict that would take into account the interests of all parties. Its most important element, underpinning the stability of the entire peace architecture, must of necessity be a special status for the region.

However, the Moldovan side is showing itself completely unwilling to participate in these efforts. Thus, at the initiative of the authorities in Chişinău, the "5+2" format, the sole internationally recognized

negotiation mechanism dealing with the Transdniestrian conflict, has remained frozen since 2019. The Moldovan leadership has, instead, focused its efforts on attempting to get rid of the Russian peacekeeping contingent, which has proved its effectiveness in maintaining peace. Need one say that this contingent today remains the only serious obstacle to the implementation of plans for the “forced reintegration” of the region, that is, the destruction of its inhabitants’ aspirations for an identity of their own? It is difficult not to make associations with the acute crisis in a neighbouring region, which entered a hot phase owing to a similar disregard for the interests of the Russian-speaking population on the part of the authorities. The rakes are already lined up – all that the authorities in Chişinău need to do is step on them.

Against this backdrop, the presence of Russian peacekeepers on the left bank of the Dniester becomes even more relevant. Our premise is that their mandate is far from exhausted. They must continue their mission, which it is no exaggeration to call an important one. As for the issue of changing its parameters, that can only be raised once a viable formula has been found for a political settlement of the situation regarding Transdniestria.

We also wish to point out that the Operative Group of Russian Forces continues to guard the military depots in the village of Cobasna. The Russian Federation is prepared to consider the removal and disposal of their contents once the necessary conditions are in place, in particular after the conclusion of the conflict in Ukraine, through whose territory the relevant logistical routes pass.

Thank you for your attention.