



United States Mission to the OSCE

Response to Ambassador Herbert Salber, Director of the OSCE Conflict Prevention Center

As delivered by Ambassador Ian Kelly
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
September 23, 2010

Ambassador Salber, we warmly welcome you back to the Permanent Council and thank you for your well-balanced, comprehensive report.

The work of the CPC in regard to Kyrgyzstan is well known to all members of the Permanent Council. Repeated visits by you, Ambassador Salber, and your colleagues to the country, coupled with intensive meetings with government representatives and representatives of participating States have resulted in a well-informed, deliberative process. We remain convinced that the decision of the Permanent Council on July 22 to deploy a Police Advisory Group to Kyrgyzstan was the right decision and that it should be implemented, particularly in the south of the country, as soon as circumstances will permit.

The events in Kyrgyzstan also bear out your call for increased attention to the need for early warning signals and the imperative that recommendations are followed up on in a thorough and meaningful way. The important work accomplished through the Corfu Process demands this of us. Similarly, the Center's operational planning capacity has proven itself to be an invaluable part of the process in developing and implementing the concept of the Police Advisory Group.

The support that the CPC provides to field operations, the OSCE Academy in Bishkek and the Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe are all excellent examples of the OSCE working in a collaborative manner for the benefit of all the citizens of the OSCE region. We will do well to keep these examples in mind as we move towards the Summit.

The U.S. is pleased at the prominence that the CPC has put on addressing UNSCR 1540 issues, and we applaud its attention to developing a well structured workshop and engaging the 1540 project advisor to help the OSCE address the importance of assisting participating States in the implementation of UNSCR 1540 and its related decisions.

We greatly appreciate the dedication, professionalism, and expertise of the Policy Support Service, whose staff help prevent and respond to conflict, facilitate ongoing efforts to resolve the Georgia, Transnistria, and Nagorno-Karabakh conflicts, and provide key links between OSCE field operations and the Permanent Council. We agree that in order for these efforts to be successful, participating States must show the necessary political will to move from early warning to early action. We hope to see substantial progress in this area at the Summit this fall.

We note the essential work of the Operations Service's Borders Team, which remains at the core of OSCE efforts to intensify engagement with Afghanistan and to increase participating States' capacities to counter transnational threats. In particular, we look forward to the implementation of projects designed to enhance security along participating States' borders with Afghanistan. Such activities will help counter illicit trafficking in narcotics, weapons, and people, a key shared aim. We also look forward to additional training courses at the Border Management Staff College and to the college's first staff course, which promises to benefit border security officials from across the OSCE region.

Ambassador, we agree with you that the CPC's Operations Service continues to show remarkable professionalism in its planning capability. We support the CPC through secondments of U.S. citizens and continue to urge other participating States to contribute resources of their own. We are also pleased to see that the Operations Service will continue its efforts to strengthen support to the mediation and good office efforts of the Chairmanship and to develop institutional memory. This is something we strongly supported during discussions in the framework of the Corfu Process.

In conclusion, thank you again Ambassador Salber for your report. We wish you and your team all the best in the coming year.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.