

**Record of the First Extraordinary Session of the Coordinating Council
of the Georgian and Abkhaz Parties held in Tbilisi on 22 January 1998**

The First Extraordinary Session of the Coordinating Council established on the basis of the Concluding Statement on the outcome of the meeting between the Georgian and Abkhaz parties (Geneva 17-19 Nov 1997) took place in Tbilisi on 22 January 1998 at the request of the Abkhaz side, under the auspices of the United Nations and the Chairmanship of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General Mr. Liviu Bota.

The Georgian party was represented by a delegation consisting of Mr. Vazha Lordkipanidze, Mr. Revaz Adamia, and Mr. Tamaz Khubua.

The Abkhaz party was represented by a delegation consisting of Mr. Tamaz Ketsba, Mr. Sergei Tsargush, and Mr. Viktor Khashba.

Representatives of the Russian Federation in its capacity as facilitator, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the states belonging to the Group of Friends of the Secretary-General — France, Germany, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States of America — acting as observers, participated in the work of the session.

In opening the session the Special Representative of the Secretary-General Mr. Liviu Bota referring to the escalation of the diversionary terrorist activity in the zone of conflict stated that he rejected firmly resorting to force for the settlement of the conflict, condemned the acts of terrorism and violence, and called upon parties to take all necessary and effective measures to halt any activity by illegal armed formations, terrorist and subversive groups and individuals, including those penetrating Abkhaz territory from outside, which could destabilize the peace process and precipitate a resumption of hostilities.

Representatives of the parties, the Russian Federation acting as facilitator, the OSCE, and the Group of Friends of the Secretary-General made a statement during the course of this work.

The agenda of the session was

1. Review of the Working Groups I and III
2. Recent diversionary activities and measures to strengthen security in the zone of conflict.

General Harun-ar-Rashid, who chaired Working Group I and Mr. Marco Borsotti who chaired Working Group III submitted reports on the work carried out by the respective groups.

The Council adopted the following decisions:

1. Approved the mandate of the needs assessment mission as recommended by Working Group III.
2. Instructed Working Group I, in the course of one month, to set up a mechanism in which representatives of the Parties, UNOMIG, and/ or the CIS PKF might participate, for investigation and prevention of acts that represent violations of the Moscow Agreement on Ceasefire and Separation of Forces, and diversionary-terrorist acts perpetrated in the zone of conflict.
3. Requested Working Group II to meet during the first half of February 1998 and to consider the implementation of the tasks entrusted to it.
4. To convene the next session of the Coordinating Council not later than the first week of March to consider reports from the Working Groups and in particular the report and recommendations related to the outcome of the needs assessment mission.