Joint Statement of the Presidents of the Russian Federation and Ukraine in Connection with the Signing of the Memorandum on the Bases for Normalization of Relations between the Republic of Moldova and Transdniestria

Moscow 8 May 1997

The Presidents of the Russian Federation and Ukraine, as heads of mediator States in the political process for the peaceful settlement of the Transdniestrian conflict, with the participation of the Chairman-in-Office of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

Welcome the signing of the Memorandum on the Bases for normalization of relations between the Republic of Moldova and Transdniestria as an important step toward the just and comprehensive settlement of the Transniestrian problem and the strengthening of mutual trust, stability, and security in the whole region,

Declare that the provisions of the Memorandum cannot contradict the generally accepted norms of international law, and also will not be interpreted or acted upon in contradiction with existing international agreements, decision of the OSCE, the Joint Declaration of 19 January 1996 of the President of the Russian Federation, Ukraine, and the Republic of Moldova, which recognised the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova.

Note their intention together with the OSCE to intensify the mediation efforts and call upon the parties to immediately initiate negotiations in order to complete in the near future an accord on a comprehensive document on the final settlement of the conflict and also a mechanism of appropriate guarantees,

Affirm the readiness of their countries, the Russian Federation and Ukraine, with the assistance of the OSCE, to act as guarantors for the compliance with the provisions set forth by the corresponding documents on the status of Transdniestria as a component part of a united and territorial whole Republic of Moldova.

(signed)

B. Yeltsin   I. Kuchma

With the participation of the Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE

N. Helveg Petersen