

**COMMISSION ON
SECURITY AND COOPERATION
IN EUROPE**

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July 21, 2004

His Excellency Imomali Rakhmonov
President of the Republic of Tajikistan
Dushanbe, Tajikistan

Dear President Rakhmonov:

We are writing in response to the declaration of July 3, 2004, which you co-signed, regarding the ongoing work of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. We agree with the signatories that the OSCE should occupy a key place among European security structures, especially in light of its comprehensive nature and membership. As the OSCE approaches its 30th anniversary, it is our hope that all participating States, including Tajikistan, will work to advance cooperation within the OSCE framework.

We noted with surprise, however, the statement that the "Organization is failing to implement in an appropriate manner" fundamental OSCE documents. It is important to recognize that responsibility for implementation of OSCE commitments rests with the participating States themselves. Accordingly, we should look to capitals when failures in implementation arise, not Vienna. The OSCE and its institutions serve as resources to assist participating States in meeting their commitments and obligations. The challenge arises when a participating State fails to implement its freely undertaken OSCE commitments and is unwilling to undertake corrective measures with or without these resources.

The OSCE has achieved success far beyond that anticipated by those who signed the Helsinki Accords in 1975. In large measure, this is due to its adaptability over the years. As issues have changed, so have OSCE priorities and institutions, perhaps contributing to a perceived "imbalance" of emphasis. We fully support strengthening all aspects of the OSCE process, but not to the detriment of the human dimension.

In fact, since the idea of disequilibrium between OSCE dimensions was raised several years ago, the organization has undertaken a conscious program to fully develop all OSCE institutions. Recently there has been a resurgence of activity on political-military issues, with far-reaching agreements being achieved on export controls of MANPADs, uniform standards for travel documents, and assistance for reduction of ammunition stockpiles. The June 2004 Annual Security Review Conference, where more than a dozen ideas for OSCE cooperation against terrorism were introduced, built on this progress, as did proposals for enhanced border security and local policing.

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In like manner, we welcome the attention that has recently been focused on the economic dimension of the OSCE. At the Edinburgh OSCE PA Annual Session, parliamentarians adopted a series of initiatives aimed at strengthening cooperation. Specifically, there was a call for a meeting of Ministers of Justice and Interior to initiate a long-term cooperative strategy against terrorist financing, encouragement for all OSCE States to be admitted to the World Trade Organization, and renewed efforts to combat corruption. Robust implementation of these and other objectives of the Maastricht Economic Strategy and Edinburgh Declaration is the best guarantee for active OSCE engagement on critical economic and environmental issues. We believe it is also important to upgrade the status of the OSCE Coordinator for Economic and Environmental Affairs. We hope that you will join us in a thorough "talent hunt" for a strong, innovative official for this position.

Members of the Helsinki Commission have also taken the lead in the global fight against crimes that adversely affect all participating States, such as trafficking in human beings. OSCE leadership in this regard is having an impact elsewhere. Following the OSCE Action Plan against Human Trafficking, NATO countries have just agreed to a unified anti-trafficking policy, which should greatly increase our ability to fight this scourge on the "demand" side. We would welcome your specific, detailed proposals for further actions that could be taken to develop the economic and political-security baskets of the OSCE.

With respect to a disproportionate monitoring of human rights in countries of the former Soviet Union and Yugoslavia, you should be aware that since January 2003 alone, the Helsinki Commission has addressed human dimension questions in NATO countries on some eighty-five occasions, including in public hearings and statements. The concerns range from policing activities, anti-Semitic acts and religion laws, to internal migration, Roma rights and free media. We have also spoken out on occasions when the United States appeared to be out of compliance with the Helsinki Accords, including in cases of torture, complicity in human trafficking and treatment of prisoners. Election observation is an important OSCE function in all participating States, and the United States welcomes the team that will observe our national elections this November.

As you note, OSCE field activities are currently located in south-eastern and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. These areas have a poor implementation record on OSCE commitments and have shown only slow progress in democratization, as the Helsinki Commission publication *Democracy and Human Rights Trends in Eurasia and East Europe* documents. The participating States have continued to believe in the need to have an active presence to facilitate improvement. All such activities have been agreed by consensus, so that the basis for their establishment and continuation reflects the interests of every State. Unfortunately, the trends in these areas have not been encouraging and argue for the continued necessity of these field offices.

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For example, in the case of Tajikistan, previous elections have not met OSCE standards. It is essential for your country's hopes of democratization and continued stability that the February 2005 election reverse that trend. We look forward to the passage of an election law that will make possible a free and fair contest. It was also discouraging that well-known journalist, Dodojon Atovulloyev, recently had to leave Tajikistan, after returning from years in exile. We had hoped his return would signal a genuine commitment to freedom of the media. While Tajikistan has a registered political party based on Islam, we are concerned about government efforts to suppress independent Muslim communities. If individuals at mosques are involved in actual criminal activity, the individuals should be punished, but closing independent mosques that refuse to accept government control or government-appointed imams unduly penalizes entire communities and limits religious freedoms. We also hope any new religion law will conform with OSCE religious freedom commitments and urge your government to request technical assistance from the OSCE Panel of Experts on Freedom of Religion or Belief.

In all of our activities, we have adhered to the principle of the 1991 Moscow Concluding Document which states: "They [the participating States] categorically and irrevocably declare that the commitments undertaken in the field of the human dimension of the CSCE are matters of direct and legitimate concern to all participating States and do not belong exclusively to the internal affairs of the State concerned." It is this collective interest in human welfare that sets the OSCE apart and allows it to help all participating States in the continuous effort to live up to the Helsinki principles.

We look forward to continuing to work with you to improve OSCE compliance throughout the region and to reach our goal of true security and cooperation in Europe.

Sincerely,



Ben Nighthorse Campbell, U.S.S.
Co-Chairman



Christopher J. Dodd, U.S.S.
Ranking Member



Christopher H. Smith, M.C.
Chairman



Benjamin L. Cardin, M.C.
Ranking Member

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21 июля 2004 г.

Его Превосходительству
Имомали Рахмонову
Президенту Республики Таджикистана
Душанбэ, Таджикистан

Уважаемый Господин Президент!

Настоящим письмом мы отвечаем на подписанное Вами заявление от 3 июля 2004 г. относительно текущей деятельности Организации по безопасности и сотрудничеству в Европе (ОБСЕ).

Мы согласны с подписавшимися, что ОБСЕ должна занимать ключевое место в архитектуре европейской безопасности, особенно с учетом ее всеохватывающего характера и большого количества участников. По мере того, как ОБСЕ подходит к своему тридцатилетию, мы надеемся, что все государства-участники, в том числе и Россия, будут стремиться к упрочению сотрудничества в рамках ОБСЕ.

Однако, мы с удивлением отметили замечание о том, что «организация не выполняет в должной мере основополагающие документы». В данном случае следует понять что сами государства-участники несут ответственность за выполнение обязательств ОБСЕ. Поэтому ответ на вопрос о невыполнении обязательств следует искать в столицах стран-участниц, а не в Вене. ОБСЕ и ее институты являются ресурсами, с помощью которых государства-участники могут выполнять свои обязательства и обязанности. Трудности возникают, когда государство-участник или не выполняет добровольно взятые на себя обязательства или не желает предпринять коррективные меры как с помощью, так и без помощи этих ресурсов.

ОБСЕ добилась успеха далеко превосходящего ожидания тех, кто подписал Хельсинское Соглашение в 1975 году. В немалой степени, это

Президенту Имомали Рахмонову

21 июля 2004 г.

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объясняется ее умением адаптироваться за прошедшие годы. Вместе с изменением стоящих перед Организацией задач, меняются приоритеты и институты ОБСЕ, что, по всей вероятности, и создает представление о некоем «дисбалансе» в приоритетности рассматриваемых задач. Мы полностью выступаем за укрепление всех аспектов процесса ОБСЕ, но не за счет человеческого измерения.

Кстати, с тех пор, как идея о дисбалансе между измерениями ОБСЕ была поднята несколько лет назад, Организация предприняла целевую, программу, направленную на всестороннее развитие всех институтов ОБСЕ. В последнее время возобновилась работа по военно-политическим вопросам, в результате которой были достигнуты существенные договоренности, относящиеся к контролю за экспортом портативных зенитно-ракетных комплексов (MANPAD), единообразию требований, предъявляемых к выездным документам и помощи при сокращении вооружений. В июне 2004 года этот прогресс получил дальнейший импульс на Ежегодном совещании по оценке выполнения, где было выдвинуто больше десятка идей на тему совместных усилий по борьбе с терроризмом в рамках ОБСЕ, а также предложения по улучшению режима безопасности в приграничных зонах и совершенствованию работы местных правоохранительных органов.

Аналогично, мы рады вниманию, которое уделяется в последнее время экономическому измерению ОБСЕ. На состоявшейся на прошлой неделе ежегодной сессии ПА ОБСЕ в Эдинбурге парламентарии приняли ряд инициатив, призванных усилить сотрудничество. В частности, речь идет о призыве созвать совещание министров юстиции и внутренних дел в разработки долгосрочной кооперативной стратегии, направленной против финансирования терроризма, к оказанию содействия всем странам ОБСЕ во вступлении в ВТО и к возобновлению усилий в борьбе против коррупции. Решительное выполнение этих и иных целей, провозглашенных в Маастрихтской Экономической Стратегии и Эдинбургской Декларации представляет собой наилучшую гарантию того, что ОБСЕ будет вплотную заниматься критическими вопросами в области экономики и охраны природы. Мы также призвали к повышению статуса Координатора ОБСЕ по вопросам экономики и

