I am deeply concerned by today’s appeal

to President Medvedev by Russia’s Federation

Council and Duma, the upper and lower

Houses of Russia’s Parliament, to recognize

the Georgian regions of Abkhazia and South

Ossetia as independent countries. I call on

Russia’s leadership to meet its commitments

and not recognize these separatist regions.

Georgia’s territorial integrity and borders

must command the same respect as every

other nation’s, including Russia’s. Russia

agreed, when President Medvedev signed

the French-brokered cease-fire agreement,

to the opening of international discussions on

security and stability modalities in Abkhazia

and South Ossetia. This represents an internationally

endorsed approach to these issues,

which recognition would undercut. Recognition

would also be inconsistent with unanimously

approved United Nations Security

resolutions that Russia has consistently voted

for in the past.

The United States will continue to stand

with the people of Georgia and their democracy

and to support its sovereignty and territorial

integrity.