The United States condemns the decision

by the Russian President to recognize as

independent states the Georgian regions of

South Ossetia and Abkhazia. This decision

is inconsistent with numerous United Nations

Security Council resolutions that Russia

has voted for in the past, and is also inconsistent

with the French-brokered six-point

cease-fire agreement which President

Medvedev signed on August 12 [16] \*, 2008.

The six-point agreement offered a peaceful

way forward to resolve the conflict. We expect

Russia to live up to its international

commitments, reconsider this irresponsible

decision, and follow the approach set out in

the six-point agreement.

The territorial integrity and borders of

Georgia must be respected, just as those of

Russia or any other country. Russia’s action

only exacerbates tensions and complicates

diplomatic negotiations. In accordance with

United Nations Security Council resolutions

that remain in force, Abkhazia and South

Ossetia are within the internationally recognized

borders of Georgia, and they must remain

so.