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MINUTES OF THE MEETING BETWEEN THE GEORGIAN AND
ABKHAZ SIDES ON STABILIZATION OF THE SITUATION
ALONG THE LINE SEPARATING THE SIDES

The sides again confirmed their statements on the halting of the armed conflict and, on the basis of the Agreement on a ceasefire and separation of forces of 14 May 1994, undertake not to use force to resolve any contentious issues.

All differences of opinion shall be overcome exclusively by peaceful means with the cooperation of the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and the Russian Federation.

The sides reached agreement:

1. To bring the strength of the armed groups and the number of armaments in the security and restricted weapons zones into line with the Moscow Agreement of 14 May 1994.

Monitoring of compliance with this paragraph shall be conducted by military observers of the United Nations and the CIS collective peacekeeping forces jointly with the sides.

2. To complete the work on defining more accurately the line separating the armed formations in the region of Nabakevi-Khurcha and Otobaya-Ganmukhuri villages.

The sides undertake to study and resolve this issue by 1 October 1998. Until it is resolved, a temporary post of the CIS collective peacekeeping forces shall be established between them, jointly with the sides, and shall ensure compliance with the ceasefire regime.

3. For purposes of prompt solution of problems if conflict situations arise in the security zone, effective communications shall be established between the heads of the administrations in Gali and Zugdidi districts, and also between the leaders of the armed groups of the sides in the region of Nabakevi-Khurcha and Otobaya-Ganmukhuri villages.

4. The law enforcement agencies of the sides shall cooperate in halting terrorist and subversive activity.

5. The public prosecutors' offices of Abkhaz and Georgia shall establish working groups which by 1 October 1998 shall draw up and approve regulations governing the procedure for joint investigation of criminal cases involving acts of terrorism and subversion committed in the security zone.

For the Georgian side
(Signed) V. LORDKIPANIDZE
(Signed) K. TARGOMADZE

(Signed) D. GAKHOKIDZE
(Signed) D. BABIBASHVILI
(Signed) D. TEVZADZE

For the Abkhaz side

(Signed) S. BAGAPSH
(Signed) A. KCHACH
(Signed) A. TARBA
(Signed) A. JERGENIYA
(Signed) V. MIKANBA

From the United Nations

(Signed) L. BOTA

From the collective peacekeeping forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States

(Signed) S. KOROEKO

24 September 1998

[402 words]