

Protocol of the fourth (second special) session of the
Coordinating Council of the Georgian and Abkhaz sides,
held in Tbilisi, on 22 May 1998

The fourth (second special) session of the Coordinating Council, which was established on the basis of the Final Declaration on the outcome of the meeting of the Georgian and Abkhaz sides (Geneva, 17 to 19 November 1997), was held in Tbilisi on 22 May 1998 at the request of the Abkhaz and Georgian sides, under United Nations auspices. It was chaired by Mr. Liviu Bota, Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

The Georgian side was represented by a delegation consisting of Mr. Vazha Lordkipanidze, Mr. Revaz Adamia and Mr. Tamaz Khubua.

The Abkhaz side was represented by a delegation consisting of Mr. Tamaz Ketsba, Mr. Viktor Khasbba and Mr. Otar Kakalia.

Opening the session, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General Mr. Liviu Bota, stated that, in the light of the events that had taken place in Gali district in recent days, the Abkhaz and Georgian sides had requested him to convene a special session of the Coordinating Council. Since both sides referred to the same events, both letters were included in the agenda of the Council's session in the order in which they had been received.

The following agenda was adopted:

1. Letter from the head of the Abkhaz delegation addressed to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General;
2. Letter from the head of the Georgian delegation addressed to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General;
3. Implementation of the decisions of the first special session of the Coordinating Council on 22 January 1998 on the development of a mechanism in which the representatives of the sides, the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) and/or the Collective Peacekeeping Forces could take part with a view to investigating and preventing incidents in violation of the Moscow Agreement on a Ceasefire and Separation of Forces (S/1994/583, annex I), namely, subversive and terrorist acts in the conflict zone.

The heads of the Abkhaz and Georgian delegations spoke in the order in which their letters had been received.

Representatives of the Russian Federation in its capacity as facilitator, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the States - members of the group of Friends of the Secretary-General of the United Nations (France, Germany, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States in their capacity as observers) took part in the discussion of the items on the agenda.

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General and representatives of the Russian Federation in its capacity as facilitator, the States that constitute the group of Friends of the Secretary-General, and OSCE appealed to the sides to refrain from any action that could aggravate the situation and to take urgent effective measures to defuse the situation. They also urged the sides to do

their utmost to support the peace process and demonstrate the necessary political will to achieve concrete results on the main issues of a settlement.

The Council adopted the following decisions:

1. To take steps to halt the armed confrontation in Gali district. To this end, the Georgian side insisted on the immediate withdrawal from Gali district of the additional forces of the Abkhaz side that have been brought there. The Abkhaz side insisted that the Georgian side halt its subversive and terrorist activities in Gali district and withdraw its armed groups that entered the district from outside Abkhazia's borders;
2. To instruct the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to hold, as soon as possible, consultations with a view to implementing the decisions of the first special session of the Coordinating Council on 22 January 1998 on the development of a mechanism in which the representatives of the sides, UNOMIG and/or the Collective Peacekeeping Forces could take part with a view to investigating and preventing incidents in violation of the Moscow Agreement on a Ceasefire and Separation of Forces, namely, subversive and terrorist acts in the conflict zone, and to submit information on the outcome of the consultations at the forthcoming Geneva meeting and make appropriate recommendations;
3. The sides must refrain from steps that could exacerbate the situation in the conflict zone and take practical measures to promote the peace process and ensure safety in the conflict zone.

(Signed) Liviu BOTA

(~i~~) V. LORFLKIPANIDZE

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(Signed) T. KETSBA

[732 words]