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Souleymane Soukouna



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Item-in-KAA: DPKO Department of Peacekeeping Operations - 2003

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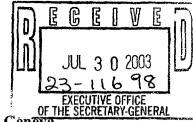
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UNOMIG: Second Meeting of the Group of Friends in Geneva

- The purpose of this note is to keep you informed of developments on Georgia. // 1.
- 2. On 21 and 22 July 2003, I chaired the second meeting of high-level representatives of the "Group of Friends" in Geneva. For the first time, Georgian and Abkhaz delegations attended part of the meeting. Ms. Heidi Tagliavini, your Special Representative for Georgia, also participated.
- As had been the case in February, the meeting exceeded expectations. The 3. "Friends" affirmed their commitment to a political settlement to the conflict, on the basis of the relevant Security Council resolutions and the UN's "Paper on Competencies"; the unity of the Friends was very much preserved, particularly in the meetings with the parties. Russia played a notably constructive role throughout the meeting.
- The separate meetings with the Georgian and Abkhaz delegations held on the second day were constructive and resulted in substantive outcomes; the parties themselves were moderate and refrained from well-rehearsed statements of principle. Coupled with the steps agreed amongst the Friends on the first day, we now have a plan of short- and long-term action, not the least of which is an agreement to explore options to strengthen the administration in Gali, with the aim of building confidence and promoting the return of internally displaced persons.
- DPA had been involved in the process leading up to the meeting, particularly in arranging funding from its Trust Fund for the participation of the two sides and the SRSG, and sent two representatives to attend.

Jean-Marie Guéhenno

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29 July 2003

cc: Mr. Prendergast

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