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United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia

For Immediate Release

PRESS RELEASE

PR/2001/3

Tbilisi, 09 February, 2001

SEMINAR ON STATE-LEGAL ASPECTS OF CONFLICT SETTLEMENT

An international seminar addressing 'State-Legal Aspects in Conflict Settlement' will be held on 12 and 13 February 2001 in Pitsunda under the aegis of the Council of Europe, and in co-operation with the United Nations. Mr. Dieter Boden, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, and Mr. Alvaro Gil-Robles, Commissioner for Human Rights, Council of Europe, will co-chair the event. The high-level representation of the Council of Europe testifies to the interest this authoritative international organization takes in Georgia.

Delegations from the Georgian and Abkhaz sides consisting of three experts and three observers each will participate in the seminar, together with four international legal experts from the Council of Europe. The OSCE, the Group of Friends of the Secretary-General for Georgia, and the Russian Federation will send observers.

During the seminar, both the Georgian and the Abkhaz sides will present their respective concepts regarding state-legal aspects of the Abkhaz (Georgia) conflict settlement, which, as it is well known, have remained until now contentious. Presentations by the international legal experts may introduce additional aspects to the matter.

This is the first opportunity for the Georgian and Abkhaz sides to hold a direct discussion facilitated by the participation of international legal experts on some of the most salient issues related to the conflict settlement. It is hoped that the seminar will encourage new sustained efforts in the pursuit of a peaceful resolution of the conflict.

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