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**SECOND GENEVA MEETING OF THE
GROUP OF FRIENDS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL**

On 21 and 22 July 2003, high-level representatives of the "Group of Friends" of the Secretary-General (France, Germany, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, and United States) met in Geneva to review progress in the Georgian-Abkhaz peace process. The meeting was chaired by the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Georgia also participated.

On the second day of the meeting, representatives of the Georgian and Abkhaz sides were each given an opportunity to share their views. This significantly enriched the exchanges of the "Group of Friends".

The Group of Friends was encouraged by the constructive engagement of the two sides on economic cooperation, IDP and refugee return, and political and security matters, following the Group's first meeting, at the invitation of the Secretary-General, in February and the subsequent summit of Presidents Putin and Shevardnadze in March.

They were gratified by the commitment of the two sides to continue their work on specific issues and were pleased to find common ground, which they hope will make substantive progress possible.

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