



United States Mission to the OSCE

Response to the Ukrainian Statement on the Death of a Ukrainian Journalist

Delivered by Ambassador Stephan M. Minikes to the
Permanent Council, Vienna
April 10, 2003

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I heard with great sorrow about the death of your countryman, Taras Protsuk, as well as of the others, in the April 8 incident.

My government takes these deaths most seriously and is investigating the incident and we will report back the results of that investigation.

In that connection, I might add, that Vice President Cheney just yesterday commented on the allegations that US troops deliberately targeted journalists was totally false.

We thank our Ukrainian colleagues for the acknowledgement of U.S. adherence to its commitments within the framework of the OSCE and for Ukraine's confidence in our investigation of this tragic death of one of its citizens.

Finally, we take and, in the light of the April 8 incident, are re-examining the measures that are taken to guarantee the security of journalists in the conflict zone and will obviously continue to do everything that is possible to prevent future incidents of this sort.

Thank you.