



United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement in Response to the Report of OSCE Representative to the Estonian Commission on Military Pensioners Captain Mahrenholtz

As delivered by Ambassador Stephan M. Minikes
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
December 4, 2003

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

We welcome Captain Mahrenholtz back to the Permanent Council and thank him for his detailed report and his dedication to his job and to OSCE.

We are especially pleased to note the excellent working relations that you have with Estonian authorities and we hope that those will continue to be used to good end here.

We also commend the constructive approach that the Estonian authorities are taking to these issues. We have followed developments in the Estonian courts concerning applicability of domestic laws and international commitments with respect to pensioners' rights to long-term temporary residency and, ultimately, in some cases, permanent residency.

We fully respect the laws of Estonia and the authority of Estonian courts to determine their application. We wish Captain Mahrenholtz all the best.

Thank you.