JOINT STATEMENT

BY THE MEDIATORS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS PROCESS TOWARD A
POLITICAL SETTLEMENT OF THE TRANSNISTRIAN PROBLEM FROM
THE OSCE, THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AND UKRAINE

In early January 2005, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Moldova
informed diplomatic missions accredited in the country about the new procedure of
organizing trips to the “eastern parts of the Republic of Moldova,” which, Transnistria
apparently falls under.

In that context, one would like to remind that on numerous occasions, especially in the
periods of aggravation of the situation in the region, the efforts by the mediators from the
OSCE, Russia, and Ukraine, their direct contacts with the leadership of Transnistria
contributed to normalization of the situation and the return of the sides to solving of
contentious issues at the negotiation table.

Having studied carefully the proposed regulations regarding permission for entry into the
Transnistria region, the representatives of the three mediators cannot but note that the
measures proposed by the Moldovan side de facto impede the mediating efforts toward a
settlement of the Transnistrian problem undertaken at the request of the leadership of
the Republic of Moldova.

The restrictions introduced create serious difficulties for rendering timely assistance to
the parties in conflict, especially when crisis-like situations occur in the Security Zone,
which are fraught with dangerous consequences for the maintenance of peace and
stability in it.

The mediators restate their preparedness to facilitate by all the means at their disposal the
solution of the Transnistrian problem, based on territorial integrity of the Republic of
Moldova, call on the parties to refrain from unilateral measures, resume the negotiation
process, including with the purpose of resolving such practical matters as unimpeded
movement of persons and goods, restoration of telephone communication between the
two banks of the Dniester river, and other vitally important matters.

The mediators also express their hope that Moldovan authorities will once again examine
the current situation and particularly assess the negative consequences of the restrictions
introduced by them from the point of view of ensuring an efficient mediation effort, as
well as their impact on the political settlement of the conflict.

On behalf of the OSCE  On behalf of the Russian Federation  On behalf of the Ukraine

“18” January 2005