

## JOINT STATEMENT

### by Presidents of the Russian Federation and Ukraine on the Signing of the Memorandum on the Bases of Normalization of Relations between the Republic of Moldova and Pridnestrovie

The Presidents of Russia and Ukraine as heads of states-mediators in the political process of a peaceful settlement of the Pridnestrovian conflict with the participation of the Chairman-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

welcome the signing of the Memorandum on the Bases of Normalization of Relations between the Republic of Moldova and Pridnestrovie as an important step towards the fair and comprehensive settlement of the Pridnestrovian conflict and strengthening of a climate of mutual trust, stability, security across the region,

declare that the provisions of the Memorandum cannot be contrary to generally accepted norms of the international law, as well as will not be interpreted and implemented in contradiction with existing international agreements, decisions adopted by the OSCE, the Joint Statements of January 19, 1996 by Presidents of Russia, Ukraine and Moldova which recognize the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova,

emphasize their intention together with the OSCE to intensify mediation efforts and call on the parties to immediately commence negotiations in order to complete mutual approval of a full-scale document on the final conflict settlement, as well as the mechanism of relevant guarantees in the near future,

confirm willingness of their countries – the Russian Federation and Ukraine – with the assistance of the OSCE to act as guarantors of implementation of provisions of Pridnestrovie's special status as an integral part of a unified and territorially whole Republic of Moldova, as defined by relevant documents.

**B. Yeltsin**

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**L. Kuchma**

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**With the participation of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office**

**N. Helveg Petersen**

Moscow

May 8, 1997