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MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

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The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Moldova presents its compliments to the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and has the honour to inform the latter as follows.

As mentioned in the Republic of Moldova's Reports on the implementation at the national level of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Antipersonnel Mines and on their Destruction for years 2001 and 2002, forwarded to the United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs, in accordance with Articles 4 and 5 of the Convention, the Republic of Moldova finished on November 26, 2002, the destruction of all stockpiles of anti-personnel mines that it had possessed and completed in August 2000 the destruction of all antipersonnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control.

However, the Reports underscore that the Republic of Moldova's constitutional authorities do not have any information concerning antipersonnel land mines belonging to the Russian troops that are presently deployed in the Transnistrian region, currently being controlled by anti-constitutional regime of Tiraspol.

The fact that the Transnistrian region became a black hole of transborder organized crime, including drug smuggling, human trafficking and arms smuggling constitutes a concern of international community, especially OSCE and European Union.

In this respect, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is sorrowfully surprised that ICBL's Landmine Monitor Report concerning Moldova for years 2002 and 2003 contains a subparagraph entitled *Pridnestrovie Moldavian Republic*.

In connection with this, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Moldova stresses that it is illegal to attribute to the Transnistrian region a name of an independent state and it is in contradiction with international law since this secessionist region is not a subject of international law and is not recognised by any subjects of international law.

The above-mentioned error generates the Ministry's distrust for the Ukrainian NGO that provides information on Moldova and determines the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Moldova to ask International Campaign to Ban Landmines to transfer the obligation of providing the information on Moldova to a non-governmental or governmental organisation from the Republic of Moldova.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Moldova avails itself of this opportunity to renew to International Campaign to Ban Landmines the assurances of its highest consideration.

Chişinău, 4 February 2004

INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO BAN LANDMINES

