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INFORMATION AND PRESS DEPARTMENT



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PRESS RELEASE

**Russian Federation's Annual Voluntary Contribution to the Budget of the Office of
the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**

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On April 27, 2006, the Russian Federation transferred 1 million US dollars to the account of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. This amount constitutes exactly half of the size of Russia's annual voluntary contribution to the Office's budget and is meant to support the implementation of human rights programs being carried out under UN auspices.

As is known, on December 17, 2005, the Government of the Russian Federation took a decision in accordance with which Russia, starting in 2006, will annually make a voluntary contribution to the budget of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights amounting to 2 million US dollars.

This step once again strikingly confirms the importance our country attaches to national and international efforts to encourage and protect human rights, including those within the United Nations framework. The Russian Federation is also committed to developing constructive engagement with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

April 28, 2006