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PRESS RELEASE

**UN Secretary General's Group of Friends of Georgia Visits the Region of the
Georgian-Abkhaz Conflict**

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On May 23-25, high-level representatives of the UN Secretary General's Group of Friends of Georgia (GFG) -- Germany (coordinator), Russia, Britain, France, and the United States -- visited Tbilisi, Sukhumi, and Batumi, where it held meetings with the leaders of both parties in the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict. The members of the GFG were received by the President of Georgia, Mikhail Saakashvili, and the President of Abkhazia, Sergey Bagapsh.

In the course of these contacts the Georgian side transmitted to the members of the Group of Friends its document containing thoughts on defining the basic principles of a joint roadmap for settlement of the conflict. Based on the readiness of Tbilisi and Sukhumi to continue the talks on advancing the peace process, their representatives will presumably consider this document, just as the previously-submitted Abkhaz "Key to the Future" plan, in order to determine and translate into practice the mutually acceptable elements therein contained.

The Group of Friends discussed with both sides their vision of ways for a comprehensive political resolution of the conflict.

The outcomes of the GFG trip will be conveyed to the UN Secretary General.

May 26, 2006