

ENGLISH only



United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement on the Decan Monastery

As delivered by Chargé d' Affaires Samuel C. Laeuchli
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
June 19, 2008

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

The United States is aware of reports that the municipality of Decani/Decan is challenging the implementation of UNMIK decisions on the return of property to the Decan Monastery. We understand that UNMIK is working with other international actors to see that action is taken to safeguard the monastery's property.

The United States is also aware of reports that UNMIK officials have been threatened with violence in Decani/Decan although it has not been established whether the threats are related to the property dispute.

The United States understands that the Government of Kosovo, through the Kosovo Trust Agency, is working to enforce the legal status of these lands. The United States reiterates its confidence that, with time and dialogue, this situation will be resolved satisfactorily by UNMIK and the Government of Kosovo.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.