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**COMMITTEE OF LEGAL ADVISERS ON PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL LAW
(CAHDI)**

**29th meeting
Strasbourg, 17-18 March 2005**

**CONSIDERATION OF RESERVATIONS AND DECLARATIONS TO INTERNATIONAL TREATIES
APPLICABLE TO THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM**

OBSERVATIONS SUBMITTED BY THE RUSSIAN DELEGATION

Secretariat Memorandum
Prepared by the Directorate General of Legal Affairs



**PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
TO THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE**

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**Mr Terry DAVIS
Secretary General
Council of Europe
Strasbourg**

Strasbourg, 7 March 2005

N 41 ce

Dear Mr Secretary General,

With reference to your letter of 8 February 2005 addressed to Mr Sergey Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, I am authorized to inform you of the following.

The declarations made by the Russian Federation with regard to the International Convention for the Suppression of Financing of Terrorism made on 3 April 2000 (at the time of signature) and on 27 November 2002 (at the time of ratification), are political in nature. They are not aimed at either excluding or in any way modifying the legal effect of the Convention, but rather reflect the firm position of the Russian Federation concerning the principle of inevitable responsibility for commission of crimes that fall under its scope.

The declarations by Russia to the International Convention for the Suppression of Financing of Terrorism are not the first, nor the only ones of this kind. Similar declarations had been made by Russia earlier, with regard to the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings, the European Convention on Extradition and the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism. None of them has raised any negative reaction. It is also to be borne in mind that the Russian declaration to the European Convention on Extradition was elaborated with the assistance of Council of Europe experts.

In March 2003, at the 25th meeting of the Committee of legal advisers on public international law (CAHDI), the Russian side provided detailed explanations on this issue which seem to have fully satisfied the members of the Committee (document CAHDI(2003)8). At later meetings of the CAHDI the question was never raised by any delegation.

Therefore we assume that the issue of the declarations of the Russian Federation with regard to the International Convention for the Suppression of Financing of Terrorism should be closed and the declarations should be deleted from the “list of possibly problematic reservations and declarations to international treaties applicable to the fight against terrorism”.

Please accept, Mr Secretary General, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Orlov', written in a cursive style.

Alexander ORLOV
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative