

PRESS RELEASE
CSCE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
NORTH ATLANTIC ASSEMBLY

Chisinau, 28 February 1994

On the invitation of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova, the delegations of the CSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the North Atlantic Assembly observed the elections in Moldova on 27 February 1994.

The delegation of the CSCE Parliamentary Assembly was composed of Mr Javier Ruperez, Head of Mission, Spain, Mr Pavel Seifer and Mr Josef Krupík of the Czech Republic, Mr Andrus Villem, Estonia, Senator Graziani and Mr Cresco, Italy, Mr Antanas Račas, Lithuania, Mr Corneliu Balan, Mr Emil Cojocaru, Mr Cornel Protopopescu, Mr Marcel Moldoveanu, Mr Nicolae Bateanu, Mr Ludovic Rakoczi, Mr Ion Dobrescu and Mr Mihail Viziru from Romania, Mr Peeter Luksep, Sweden, Mr Ahmet Inceoz, Turkey, and Mr Yury Elchenko, Ukraine. Mr John Finerty and Ms Victoria Showalter of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, USA, Mr Pentti Väänänen and Ms Gina Dark from the CSCE Parliamentary Assembly Secretariat also participated.

The delegation of the North Atlantic Assembly was composed of Lord Lucas of Chilworth, Head of Delegation, United Kingdom, Mrs Brigitte Schulte, Germany, Mr Ismet Sezgin, Turkey, Mr Antonio Del Pennino, Italy, and Mrs Catherine Guicherd, Mr Craig Oliphant and Mr Christopher Legallo from the staff of the North Atlantic Assembly.

In order to have a better understanding of the background to these elections, the two delegations met with the President of the Republic of Moldova, Mr. Mircea Snegur, with the Speaker of the Parliament, Mr. Petru Lucinschi, with representatives of the Central Electoral Commission and other authorities, as well as representatives of different national minorities and political parties. They also visited Tiraspol and Comrat and met with the leaders of the Transdniester region and the Gagauz community.

On election day the members of the delegations visited more than 60 polling stations in all parts of the Republic.

The two delegations recognize that these were the first multi-party elections in the Republic of Moldova. Lack of democratic tradition may have caused difficulties in the carrying out of these elections. They also recognize that Moldovans living in the Transdniester region had only very limited possibilities to participate in the elections due to obstacles posed by the authorities in Tiraspol.

With these two reservations and based on observations made up until the time of the end of voting, the two delegations feel that the elections in Moldova were carried out in a free and fair manner. They congratulate the Moldovan authorities, political parties and movements, different communities and in particular the Moldovan people for taking this important step in building democracy. They

recognize the new Parliament as democratically representing the Moldovan people and will welcome its contribution to the work of the two organizations.

The delegations of the CSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the North Atlantic Assembly thank the Moldovan Parliament and all those who have helped them in their work. They also express their particular gratitude to the CSCE Mission to Moldova and the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights for their invaluable cooperation and assistance.