Dushanbe - Foreign Minister Solomon Passy and his Tajik counterpart Talbak Nazarov signed Thursday a Protocol for Cooperation between Bulgaria and Tajikistan and attended the signing of an agreement on the clearance of antipersonnel land mines for 2004 between the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Swiss Federation.

(08.04.2004)

Passy had a two-hour meeting with Tajik President Emomali Rakhmonov, after which he made a statement that he regarded Tajikistan's advancement highly and had expressed readiness to support the implementation of reforms in that country. Later the Bulgarian Foreign Minister held a series of meetings with leaders of political parties and representatives of civil society. During his talks he acclaimed the Tajik government for abiding by the peace agreement that put an end to the civil war of 1991-1997 and for the advancement achieved after that in the national dialogue with opposition.

Passy's visit to Tajikistan was the last but one leg of his tour of Central Asian countries in his capacity as OSCE Chairman-in-Office will end Thursday evening. He will leave for Turkmenistan, where he is scheduled to meet Turkmen President Saparmurat Niyazov, that country's parliamentary chairman and foreign minister.

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