



**United States Department of State
and the Broadcasting Board of Governors
Office of Inspector General**

Inspection of Embassy Chisinau, Moldova



Embassy Chisinau

Embassy Chisinau is well managed, an impressive achievement given its limitations. For instance, its buildings are outmoded, although remodeling has alleviated some hazards, and completion of a Marine security guard post and a controlled-access area will also help. However, long-term resolution will only come with the construction of a new embassy compound.

OIG also raised a concern regarding the management implications that arise when embassy officers are assigned to important reporting and administrative positions, but have no prior experience in those roles. The embassy is particularly focused on bringing its political/economic section up to the necessary level of performance.

Conversely, OIG also found a number of positive indicators during the inspection. These include:

- Embassy Chisinau's Mission Performance Plan is a clear, accurate document that is used effectively as an ongoing tool. Post management accepted an OIG suggestion that it institute two additional interagency groups to deal with key goals.
- The public affairs section has a dynamic section chief, competent Foreign Service nationals (FSN), and enthusiastic post management. Getting most American officers involved in the public speaking effort and a careful system for tracking and staying close to Moldovan alumni of embassy programs were particular achievements.
- Consular services has noteworthy management and skillful, knowledgeable operations, a success in light of the staff's relatively limited professional experience.
- The administrative operation provides good services within acceptable standards, and American and FSN morale is high. Post management and the management officer are highly regarded and trusted by the FSN committee.

OIG Report No. ISP-I-05-12A, Report of Inspection – Embassy Chisinau

The fieldwork for this inspection was conducted by the Office of Inspections in October 2004. This is an unclassified summary of a full inspection report, which receives limited official distribution.



Map of Moldova

Moldova is a small, landlocked former Soviet republic the size of Maryland. Factors such as the collapse of the Soviet collective-farm system and the prolonged Transnistria secessionist movement have combined to hinder the country's economic development. Presently, Moldova is the poorest country in Europe. Dire economic conditions have encouraged an estimated 600,000 to 1 million of the nation's total 4.3 million population to leave the country. The country's extreme poverty makes it a major source country for persons trafficked to the Balkans, Western Europe, and the Middle East.

U.S. relations with the Republic of Moldova are generally good. Although elections in 2001 produced a landslide victory for the Communist Party, the U.S. government and Embassy Chisinau have remained engaged and retain substantial influence. The Ambassador maintains productive working contacts at the highest levels of the government and the Moldovan President actively seeks U.S. government advice through the embassy. Moldova is a major source of women smuggled for exploitation (trafficking), and embassy law enforcement, prosecution, training, public awareness, and rehabilitation programs have led to improved Moldovan government efforts in this area. Embassy Chisinau is staffed by 32 direct-hire American employees and 197 locally employed staff.

Office of Inspector General

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OIG's Office of Inspections provides systematic and independent evaluations of the operations of the Department of State, its posts abroad, and related activities. Inspections cover policy implementation, resource management, and management controls. As part of the inspection, particular attention is given to consular, security, and information technology operations.