GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
OFFICE OF PLANNING

Office of the Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Foreign Missions Board of Zoning Adjustment (FMBZA)

FROM: Ellen McCarthy
Director

DATE: December 18, 2005

SUBJECT: Supplemental Report - FMBZA Application 17382 – Embassy of Moldova
2101 S Street, NW

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The US Department of State, Office of Foreign Missions, submitted an application on behalf of the Embassy of the Republic of Moldova to the Foreign Missions Board of Zoning Adjustment (FMBZA) for review of its application to replace the windows of its chancery located 2101 S Street, NW (Square 2532, Lot 37).

Subsequent to the FMBZA's December 6, 2005 public hearing, Historic Preservation Review staff in the Office of Planning reviewed the revised proposal submitted by the Embassy of Moldova regarding the use of vinyl windows. While the Historic Preservation Office determined that the installed vinyl windows are incompatible with the historic building and the Historic Preservation Review Board's regulations for window replacements for historic properties, the revised submission's retention and repair of the existing second story windows (labeled #22-24 and #26-35 in the submission) and the replacement of the multi-light, curved top French doors (#25) in-kind are certainly improvements over the initial proposal to replace these windows with vinyl.

The second floor windows are perhaps the most distinctive on the building, with their curved sash and glass, transoms and the arched sashes on #25 and #26. They are also closest to the ground where pedestrians are more likely to notice and appreciate the characteristic profiles and dimensions of original wood windows than they would on the upper floors. While the windows on the first level (#36-40) are not as distinctive as those on the second floor in form or shape, because they are immediately at pedestrian eye level, OP strongly encourages the retention and repair of these original windows as well. Retaining the original windows on the first two floors of the building, as a compromise solution, would continue to convey much of the historic appearance of the building for the general public.

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BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT
District of Columbia
CASE NO. 17384
EXHIBIT NO. 37

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