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LETTER DATED 23 MARCH 1999 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE
PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED
TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to forward herewith the reply of the President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Slobodan Milosevic, to the message of the Co-Chairmen of the Rambouillet meeting, the Foreign Ministers of France and Great Britain, Hubert Vedrine and Robin Cook (see annex).

I should be very grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIĆ
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

Reply of the President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to
the message of the Co-Chairmen of the Rambouillet meeting, the
Ministers for Foreign Affairs of France and Great Britain

This is my reply to the message you have sent to me.

The talks in Paris, which you called adjourned, did not take place at all. The delegation of the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the representatives of the Albanian separatist and terrorist movement never met to talk.

As concerns the signed "Agreement", two documents were signed in Paris.

One of the documents was signed by the representatives of all national communities from Kosovo, and these are the representatives of Kosovo. The other document was signed by the representatives of the Albanian separatist and terrorist movement and they, of course, are not the representatives of Kosovo.

That other document, which you call the Rambouillet Agreement, however, is not the Rambouillet Agreement. For neither in Rambouillet, nor in Paris, people who came to negotiate, did negotiate. There were no talks between them, therefore there could be no common document to be accepted or rejected.

Otherwise, the text you call the Rambouillet Agreement was published in the Kosovo press (the Albanian paper Koha Ditore) before the start of the Rambouillet talks.

Belgrade is tolerant, but not stupid. Thanks to the stupidity of someone else, the document which should have been the result of the talks which were still to take place was published.

Of course, we have nothing against preparing a draft document before the start of the talks. But we are strongly against not having talks at all, and being asked to sign something which could eventually be a draft agreement as an agreement, never meeting those with whom we should have agreed.

Therefore, my reply to your sentence "the agreement is on the table", is the following: Only a draft agreement could be on the table. But an empty table does not bring about an agreement. Nor can an agreement be reached if only one side of the table is filled. Those concerned with the agreement must sit at the table.

Regarding your threats with NATO military intervention, your peoples should be ashamed of them, for you prepare yourselves to use force against a small European nation, just because it protects its territory from separatism, protects its citizens from terrorism, and its historical dignity against thugs who know nothing about history or dignity.

/...

You say that large movements of our security forces are a matter of great concern. If you think they are a matter of concern for the separatists who would like to take away a part of the territory of Serbia and Yugoslavia, they, of course, should be concerned. If you have in mind some possible aggressors outside Yugoslavia, this should be a matter of concern for them, too.

Is it really possible for a normal person to think that somebody who is being threatened will not show the intention to defend himself.

You are Ministers for Foreign Affairs of two European countries, and as such are distinguished diplomats. In such a capacity, you have the right to mediate, to negotiate, to advocate goodwill, to strive for peace in Europe, for better relations among nations. But you do not have the right to threaten other countries and other citizens, or to arrange life in other countries.

We stay with our strong opinion to solve the problems in Kosovo and Metohija by peaceful means, through negotiations. The fact that negotiations did not take place in Rambouillet and in Paris does not mean that we should give up negotiations. At least from our peaceful and democratic standpoint.

Slobodan Milosevic
