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COMMISSION DES DROITS DE L'HOMME  
Cinquante-cinquième session  
Points 9 et 14 b) de l'ordre du jour

QUESTION DE LA VIOLATION DES DROITS DE L'HOMME ET DES LIBERTÉS  
FONDAMENTALES, OÙ QU'ELLE SE PRODUISE DANS LE MONDE

GROUPES ET INDIVIDUS PARTICULIERS : MINORITÉS

Lettre datée du 22 mars 1999 adressée au Président de la Commission  
des droits de l'homme par le Chargé d'affaires par intérim  
de la Mission permanente de la République fédérale de Yougoslavie  
auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies à Genève

J'ai l'honneur de vous faire parvenir ci-joint \*/ une déclaration  
du Gouvernement de la République de Serbie. Je vous serais reconnaissant de  
bien vouloir la faire distribuer comme document officiel de la  
cinquante-cinquième session de la Commission des droits de l'homme au titre  
des points 9 et 14 b) de l'ordre du jour.

L'Ambassadeur  
Chargé d'affaires par intérim  
(Signé) Branko BRANKOVIĆ

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\*/ L'annexe est reproduite telle quelle, en anglais seulement.

**SERBIAN GOVERNMENT ENDORSES THE STAND OF ITS DELEGATION TO THE PARIS TALKS**

The Serbian Government held a session on Friday chaired by Prime Minister Mirko Marjanovic, at which it fully endorsed the stand of its delegation and of Serbian President Milan Milutinovic at the Paris talks on Serbia's Kosovo and Metohija province. The state delegation has upheld the principles and norms of international law and defended duly and in a principled manner the legitimate interests of the state and all its citizens regardless of their ethnicity, the Information Ministry said in a statement. However, the attempts to impose the US-ethnic Albanian agreement on separating a part of Serbia's and Yugoslavia's territory as a dictate constitutes an unprecedented violation of all international rules, the statement says. It clearly and openly demonstrates the intention to create a State within a State with the help of foreign troops, paving the way for discrimination of the majority of ethnic communities and for ethnic cleansing of Kosovo and Metohija of its non-ethnic Albanian population, which would lead to a gradual secession of the province and dismembering of Serbia and Yugoslavia, the statement says.

The Serbian Government most strongly condemns the NATO threats of aggression, which constitute open support to separatism and terrorism and a violation of the basic principles of the UN Charter, the Helsinki Final Act and the very foundations of the international legal order, the statement says. The NATO member-states are using their alleged concern with the movements of Yugoslav defense forces in their own land to draw the attention away from the concentration of their own troops and armaments in neighbouring states and thus cover up their aggressive plans for separating a part of Serbia's and Yugoslavia's territory, the statement says. We cannot and will not allow this. We shall not give up even the smallest part of our territory or our sovereignty to anyone, the statement says. The Serbian Government, its political leadership, all parliamentary parties and the entire people are determined to defend Kosovo and Metohija, the cradle and the heart of Serbia and the foundation of its statehood, the statement says.

Serbia's authority cannot be removed from Kosovo and Metohija, nor can the province be removed from Serbia. Serbia has always defended truth, principles, European and civilizational values. Serbia strongly rejects ultimatums and threats of aggression and remains steadfast in the defense of its legitimate national interests. Serbia will not allow discrimination, secession or occupation, the statement says. Problems in Kosovo and Metohija can and must be resolved only by peaceful and political means. Serbia remains committed to dialogue and consultations aimed at finding a political settlement for autonomy and political self-rule in Kosovo and Metohija, providing guarantees of equality to all ethnic communities within the framework of Serbia's and Yugoslavia's sovereignty and territorial integrity, on the basis of the 10 principles set by the Contact Group and of the highest international standards regarding protection of human rights, and in line with the supreme laws of Serbia and Yugoslavia, the statement says. A political agreement that should guarantee equality to all ethnic communities in Kosovo and Metohija can be reached only through dialogue among legitimate

representatives of all ethnic communities and representatives of the sovereign state, the statement says. Such a political agreement must be based on clear principles and provisions for self-rule, autonomy and equality, and can be implemented only by political means, the statement concludes.