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COMMISSION DES DROITS DE L'HOMME  
Cinquante-cinquième session  
Point 9 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

Lettre datée du 5 avril 1999 adressée à la Présidente 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 lettre que Son Excellence M. Zivadin Jovanovic, Ministre fédéral des affaires étrangères de la République fédérale de Yougoslavie, a adressée à S. E. M. Federico Mayor, Directeur général de l'UNESCO. 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 du point 9 de l'ordre du jour.

L'Ambassadeur,  
Chargé d'affaires par intérim  
(Signé) Branko **Brankovic**

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\*L'annexe est reproduite telle quelle, dans la langue dans laquelle elle a été reçue.

Belgrade, 3 April 1999

Mr. Director-General,

With reference to your letter of 2 April 1999, I should like to inform you of further escalation in bombing the territory of the FR of Yugoslavia by NATO aggressors.

The aggressor air forces increasingly and more extensively bomb civilian targets - cities and villages, infrastructure. As I have already informed you, particularly endangered are cultural monuments across the Yugoslav territory.

The latest example of this barbaric act is the destruction of a bridge on the Danube, which connected Novi Sad with Petrovaradin. I would like to draw your attention to the fact that this bridge has a particular place in cultural-historical heritage of Yugoslavia and Europe and is under State protection. In April 1942, Nazis shot and threw in the river thousands of arrested civilians, primarily Jews and Serbs from that bridge.

In the immediate vicinity of the Bridge of Sorrow, there is a Square of the Victims of Fascism, with the monument containing the names of killed Serbs and Jews, symbolizing the unity of multi-ethnic Vojvodina in the fight against the Fascist occupier.

Unfortunately, today these sacrosanct symbols of history and culture not only of Yugoslavia but of entire Europe as well, have been lastingly scarred by the barbaric aggression of USA and NATO, contrary to all civilizational norms. The destruction of the bridge has left 600.000 residents without water, and the navigation along this international waterway has been discontinued.

I again call upon you to raise your voice so that UNESCO may engage that his senseless aggression by NATO he immediately stopped, threatening with its barbaric nature the holiest values of European culture and historical heritage.

Please accept, Mr. General Director, the assurances of my high consideration.

Zivadin Jovanovic  
(signed)

Mr. Federico Mayor  
General-Director  
U N E S C O  
Paris

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