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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 fédéral de la République fédérale de Yougoslavie. 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

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

**STATEMENT OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF THE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA**

The Federal Government at its today's meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Momir Bulatovic, reviewed the proceedings and the results of the meetings on Kosovo and Metohija held in Rambouillet and Paris, as well as the statement made by the two Co-Chairmen. The Federal Government noted that the further negotiations have been postponed. At the same time, some international representatives are calling into question the diplomatic means and have intensified fresh military threats against our country, which is reprehensible. The Federal Government noted that the Rambouillet talks had not brought about political agreement. This was confirmed in the statements of the Co-Chairmen, and on the basis of that assessment they suggested that the negotiations be continued. There were no talks in Paris. As a result, no agreement could have been reached. The text signed by some members of Kosmet Albanians is not the Agreement of Rambouillet but the text published before all the meetings. The delegation of the Republic of Serbia cannot be blamed for failure of the talks. By accepting the ten principles established by the Contact Group, it demonstrated its firm determination to achieve a political agreement.

The Federal Government urges that the initiated talks be resumed and that all the participants in these talks apply good will to bring the text of the political agreement, in all its segments, in line with the Contact Group's ten principles. The Federal Government fully supports the position of our multi-ethnic delegation not to accept those provisions of the political agreement bringing into question equality of national communities and giving Kosmet the status of a third federal unit or the status of an independent State. The Federal Government points out that no one has the right to force Serbia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to sign such a document. The Federal Government also supports the orientation of the delegation designated by the Republic of Serbia to first reach a political agreement and then to talk about its implementation. A political agreement whereby representatives of the political parties of Kosmet Albanians will accept autonomy and express respect for the territorial integrity and unity of the Republic of Serbia will be the best proof that they have given up the project of destroying the State whose full-fledged citizens they are. Upon signing the political agreement, representatives of the political parties of Albanians could participate in the talks on its implementation but only with members of the delegation of the Republic of Serbia.

The Federal Government has been informed about the unilateral decision of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office to withdraw the members of the Kosovo Verification Mission and noted that the Republic of Serbia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia have given no cause for making such a decision. The Federal Government reserves the right to draw appropriate conclusions from this unilateral and counter-productive act. The Federal Government condemns in the strongest terms the build-up of foreign troops on the border of FR Yugoslavia as well as public threats of NATO aggression against our country, which

directly undermines the process of political settlement in Kosovo and Metohija; represents support to separatism and terrorism; violates the fundamental principles enshrined in the UN Charter and the OSCE Helsinki Final Act, and threatens the very foundations of the international legal order. This, at the same time, could pose a threat to peace and security in the wider region of South Eastern Europe and sets a dangerous precedent in international relations. All those threatening to use force against our country must face the responsibility for the consequences of humanitarian problems which might arise as a result of the use of such force. Therefore, the Federal Government reiterates its call on the UN Security Council and the OSCE Permanent Council to take necessary steps to rule out force and the military threat against FR Yugoslavia, as an independent, sovereign and peace-loving country and a Member State of these organizations, and to uphold a peaceful political settlement in Kosovo and Metohija.