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LETTER DATED 26 MAY 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
ALBANIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF
THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour urgently to transmit to you the following.

Albania is deeply concerned about the extremely dangerous situation in Kosova. Recently the situation there has been dramatically aggravated by the increased oppression on the Albanian people of Kosova and the grave military movements in that region.

On 22 May, at 2300 hours, a grave incident happened in Gllogovc, a town of Kosova. During the night of 22 May, for 20 minutes there were shootings with various kinds of weapons. Two Serbian policemen were killed and five wounded from the attack, whose sources remain unknown. Immediately after the shootings there was a strong reaction of the police forces against the Albanians inhabiting the area. About 100 Albanians were arrested and many were severely beaten and injured during the expedition carried out immediately by great police forces. Military units soon came to enforce the emergency situation in the area, including the town of Gllogovc.

This armed incident, like similar incidents which have happened in the past, is part of the strategy of the Serbian occupation regime in Kosova aiming at compelling the Albanians there to give up their peaceful resistance and forcing them to take up their arms, thus giving the pretext to the Serbian regime to start the open conflict and massacres in Kosova.

Since 1989, when the emergency situation was applied to Kosova, a full military occupation has been existing there for more than four years. During this period the situation has been the most difficult one the Albanian people of Kosova have ever lived in. During this period, severe beating and maltreating, killing and imprisonment, torture and persecution of Albanians were carried out by Serbian military and police forces. Serbian authorities have massively dismissed Albanians and carried out dramatic discrimination against Albanians in education and health care and public services. The Serbian authorities have for years been carrying out ethnic cleansing against Albanians in Kosova. They have taken the appropriate legislative and administrative measures in order to ensure that ethnic cleansing against Albanians of Kosova should go on in hidden ways. The results of this hidden and silent process of ethnic cleansing are tremendous: more than 300,000 Albanians have been forced to leave the land of

their ancestors; a large number of Serbian colonists, coming from various territories of the former Yugoslavia, have settled in the lands of Albanians in Kosova, and these Serbian colonists are offered favourable conditions and facilities aiming at increasing the settlements of the Serbian colonists in that area. And as if all that was not enough, the Serbs have recently increased their military presence and the demonstration of force in Kosova, thus openly declaring their aim to start massive massacres against the Albanians of that region.

Intensified military movements are going on in Kosova at present, particularly in large cities and near the border with Albania. Every day, there are reports of deployment there of new Serbian military units and heavy weaponry, coming from several parts of Serbia. There has been increased activity of Serbian armed civilians and paramilitary units. Every day they provoke the Albanians, thus enhancing tensions in this region. Armed expeditions have been carried out recently by Serbian police forces throughout Kosova under the pretext of arms-searching, which has been accompanied with massive maltreatment and severe beating of Albanians. Bearing in mind this situation, it is difficult to realize the limits of the admirable patience shown by the Albanian people of Kosova until up to now.

Under these circumstances, when the tense situation in Kosova is being extremely aggravated by the increased Serbian military presence and the daily grave incidents like the recent one in Glogovc, Albania expresses its legitimate concern about the spill-over of the bloody conflict going on in Bosnia and Herzegovina to Kosova. It is obvious that a conflict in Kosova would have terrible consequences for the Albanian people of Kosova, and it would be very difficult to keep it under control. The serious threat to peace and security in the Balkans and Europe is evident.

Therefore, Albania urges the Security Council, as the only international body bearing primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, to take the necessary measures to prevent the conflict in Kosova. It calls on the Security Council, acting under the Charter of the United Nations, specifically under Article 34, immediately to initiate an investigation of the explosive situation in Kosova by sending a fact-finding mission there. The Government of Albania once again requests that the Security Council, in compliance with Chapter VII of the Charter, should consider the deployment, as soon as possible, of United Nations military troops in Kosova to prevent the outbreak of war in that region.

I would be grateful if you could have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Thanas SHKURTI
Permanent Representative
