



Press Release

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SECRETARY-GENERAL RESPONDS TO PROPOSAL FOR CONVENING HIGH-LEVEL
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SITUATION IN FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

The following statement was issued today by the Spokesman for Secretary-General Boutros Boutros Ghali:

On 18 April, the Secretary-General received a letter from President Mitterrand of France asking him to convene a high-level international conference on the situation in the former Yugoslavia.

The Secretary-General informed the Security Council of his initiative, which is similar to one which the Secretary-General had discussed in June 1993 with the permanent members, as well as other members, of the Security Council. It had not been encouraged at the time.

The Secretary-General replied positively to President Mitterrand on Tuesday, 19 April, and is in contact with him about following up.

The Secretary-General has been briefed about President Clinton's initiative and is aware that consultations on the convening of a summit are in progress involving several leaders, including the President of the United States and the President of the Russian Federation.

The Secretary-General has always believed that only a settlement of the question of the former Yugoslavia as a whole can provide a solution to the problem in the former Yugoslavia, and that this should be sought by negotiation.

The Secretary-General supports the efforts in train and will be consulting with Governments concerned in the next few days.

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