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LETTER DATED 8 MAY 1996 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF
THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Upon instructions of my Government, I have the honour to transmit the following information on the cooperation of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia with the international war crimes tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

The Yugoslav side has always maintained that the perpetrators of the war crimes and gross violations of international humanitarian law, regardless of their nationality, should be prosecuted. In order to demonstrate its readiness to cooperate with the Tribunal, up to now, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has undertaken the following steps:

- Mr. U. Klikovac, Deputy Prime Minister of the Federal Government and the Minister of Justice, and Foreign Minister M. Milutinovic held talks with the President of the Tribunal, Antonio Cassese, in Belgrade in January 1996.
- On 23 February 1996, Foreign Minister Milutinovic addressed a letter to the President of the Tribunal, informing him that the Yugoslav side was ready to allow that the Tribunal's Bureau be opened in Belgrade and that it was ready to negotiate the conclusion of the agreement on this issue.
- On 13 March 1996, negotiations were held with the Tribunal's representatives headed by Mr. Blewitt, Deputy Prosecutor and the draft agreement on the opening of the Bureau was considered. In those talks, the Tribunal's representatives did not dispute that the Bureau's activities and cooperation with the Yugoslav authorities would be pursued in accordance with the Yugoslav regulations. The agreement is currently subject to being approved by the Yugoslav side.
- At the Tribunal's request, and on the basis of the decision of the District Court in Novi Sad, on 30 March 1996, witnesses Drazen Erdemovic and Radoslav Kremenovic were handed to the Tribunal for the period of 60 days. Criminal charges were instituted against

D. Erdemovic in the District Court in Novi Sad for committing war crimes against civilians pursuant to article 142 (paragraph 1) of the Criminal Code of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The same court filed charges against R. Kremenovic for hiding Erdemovic.

- While testifying before the Committee for International Relations of the United States Congress, Mr. Peter Tarnoff, Under Secretary for Political Affairs in the State Department, said, inter alia, that Belgrade has undertaken steps to promote cooperation with the Tribunal.

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

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIĆ
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
