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LETTER DATED 17 MARCH 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF POLAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to draw to your attention the text of Decision 218 concerning the situation in Kosovo, adopted at the special session of the Permanent Council of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe on 11 March 1998.

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

(Signed) Eugeniusz WYZNER
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Decision 218 on the situation in Kosovo, adopted at the special session of the Permanent Council of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, on 11 March 1998

The Permanent Council, meeting in a special session,

Deeply concerned about the crisis in Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and urging those involved to cease unconditionally any form of violence,

Condemning the excessive and indiscriminate use of force during Serb police actions in Kosovo, which have led to the death of some 80 people over the past week,

Stressing the unacceptability of any terrorist action, and calling on all concerned actively to oppose the use of violence to achieve political aims,

Recalling the statements of the Chairman-in-Office of 2 March and 10 March 1998 on the situation in Kosovo,

Recognizing that the crisis in Kosovo is not solely an internal affair of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia because of violations of the principles and commitments of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) on human rights and because it has a significant impact on the security of a region, as well as taking into account the need for immediate efforts by the international community to prevent further escalation,

Calling upon the authorities in Belgrade and the leadership of the Kosovar Albanians to assume their responsibility to enter without preconditions into meaningful dialogue, based on full observance of OSCE principles and commitments, including those of the Helsinki Final Act, and expressing the readiness of OSCE to assist in this process,

1. Takes positive note of the activities of the Chairman-in-Office undertaken with regard to the crisis in Kosovo, and encourages him to continue efforts aimed at an effective OSCE contribution to its peaceful resolution;

2. Supports a new mission by Mr. Felipe Gonzalez as the Personal Representative of the Chairman-in-Office for the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, which would include a mandate for addressing the problems in Kosovo;

3. Expresses gratitude for the work of Mr. Max van der Stoep, whose experience and expertise remain invaluable in helping OSCE in its efforts to resolve the problems in the region;

4. Authorizes the following operational measures to be taken to allow adequate observation of the borders with Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and the prevention of possible crisis spillover effects, as already requested by the Chairman-in-Office:

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- The monitoring capabilities of the OSCE presence in Albania and, as appropriate, the OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje will be temporarily enhanced for the fulfilment of those tasks;
- The respective heads of mission will report regularly on their observations;

5. Requests the representatives of the OSCE Troika members accredited in Belgrade to coordinate arrangements for continuous monitoring of the situation in Kosovo by diplomatic representatives in Belgrade of the OSCE participating States. The Permanent Council will be kept informed about relevant findings;

6. Calls upon the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia:

- To halt the excessive use of force in Kosovo, to vigorously investigate and to accept the international investigation of reported summary executions and to bring to justice those found responsible;
- To cooperate fully with the OSCE Chairman-in-Office's Personal Representative to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Mr. Felipe Gonzalez;
- To initiate a meaningful dialogue with Kosovar Albanian representatives which will lead to concrete steps towards the resolution of ongoing political problems in the region;
- To allow access to Kosovo for the International Committee of the Red Cross and other humanitarian organizations;
- To implement without delay the Education Agreement and seek agreements on further confidence-building measures;
- To accept without preconditions, an immediate return of the OSCE missions of long duration to Kosovo, Sandjak and Vojvodina, with the understanding that the return of these missions is essential for future participation in OSCE by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.
