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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights  
Fifty-second session  
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL  
FREEDOMS, INCLUDING POLICIES OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND  
SEGREGATION, IN ALL COUNTRIES, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO  
COLONIAL AND OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES:  
REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMISSION UNDER COMMISSION ON  
HUMAN RIGHTS RESOLUTION 8 (XXIII)

Letter dated 28 July 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the  
Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the  
Chairman of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights

I have the honour to enclose herewith a statement by the Ministry of Justice and Ministry  
of Finance of the Republic of Serbia\* concerning real estate in the Serbian Province of Kosovo  
and Metohija.

I would like to ask you to have this statement issued as an official document of the  
fifty-second session of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights  
under item 2 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed): Branko Brankovic

Ambassador  
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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\* Reproduced as received, in English only.

Annex

Statement of the Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Serbia

The Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Serbia wish to inform that all contracts of sale and purchase, concluded after 10 June 1999, between Albanians and displaced Serbs and Montenegrins and members of other national communities, related to real estate in Kosovo and Metohija shall be considered null and void bearing in mind that they were concluded contrary to the constitution and laws in force of the Republic of Serbia and Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

1. The current situation in Kosovo and Metohija is characterized by the forced expulsion from the Province of more than 350,000 Serbs, Montenegrins and members of other non-Albanian ethnic communities, by lack of public law and order, lack of guarantees for physical and property safety of citizens, by illegal occupancy on the part of Albanians of all real estate. In such a situation there exist no conditions for freedom of expression by political parties, and consequently there exist neither conditions for conclusion of sale and purchase contracts for real estate given that all these contracts are being concluded under force - pressure, what represents the basis for invalidity of contracts.
2. These contracts have neither the necessary approval of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Serbia in accordance with the law on special conditions for trade with real estate.
3. On the basis of the aforesaid, such "contracts" cannot be verified with the competent court nor can they be the basis for record into land registers.

The competent authorities of the Republic of Serbia and Federal Republic of Yugoslavia shall continue to protect property rights of the citizens of Kosovo and Metohija in accordance with the constitution and laws of the Republic of Serbia and Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

28 July 2000

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