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LETTER FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF YUGOSLAVIA ADDRESSED TO THE  
SECRETARY-GENERAL DATED 15 JANUARY 1948 AND ENCLOSED NOTE  
CONCERNING CANDIDATES FOR GOVERNOR OF THE FREE TERRITORY OF TRIESTE

Sir:

At the instruction of my Government, I have the honour to refer to your letter of December 19, 1947, No. 1204-5-1/DP, relative to the decision of the Security Council on the matter of a candidate for Governor of the Free Territory of Trieste, and to tender in reply the enclosed note of January 12, 1948 from my Government, addressed to the Security Council.

I avail myself of this opportunity to assure you, Sir, of my highest consideration.

Respectfully yours,

(signed) Joza Vilfan

Permanent Representative of the F.P.R.  
of Yugoslavia to the United Nations

Enclosure

\* This document has been selected for unrestricted circulation by the decision of the Security Council at its two hundred and thirty-third meeting on 23 January 1948.

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In connection with the decision of the Security Council of 18 December 1947 recommending that the governments of the Federal Peoples Republic of Yugoslavia and of Italy reach an agreement by 5 January 1948 on the issue of the person for Governor of the Free Territory of Trieste, and on the basis of the communication of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the Government of the Federal Peoples Republic of Yugoslavia in letter No. 1204/5/1/DP regarding this decision, the Government of the Federal Peoples Republic of Yugoslavia has the honour to submit to the Security Council a report on the outcome of its efforts to achieve agreement with the Government of Italy on the person for Governor of the Free Territory of Trieste.

1. On 23 December 1947, the Government of the Federal Peoples Republic of Yugoslavia conveyed instructions to its minister in Rome to engage in negotiations with the Italian Government on this question.

2. On 24 December 1947, the Minister of the Federal Peoples Republic of Yugoslavia in Rome, Mr. Ivekovic, requested an urgent appointment with the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Sforza. Mr. Sforza replied that on the question of the Free Territory of Trieste, negotiations with our Minister would be conducted by Mr. Franconi, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

3. Only on 26 December 1947 did Mr. Franconi receive Minister Ivekovic, who, on that occasion, submitted to Mr. Franconi the list of candidates for Governor. The Government of the Federal Peoples Republic of Yugoslavia proposed the following candidates:

Emil Stang	--	President of the Supreme Court of Norway
Bohuslav Ecer	--	General; Chairman of the Czechoslovakian Delegation to the International Military Tribunal at Nurnberg
Georg Branting	--	Swedish Senator

Mr. Franconi did not submit any list of candidates and declared that the Italian Government as yet did not have one as the suggestion of the Security Council came to the Italian Government quite unexpectedly. Minister Ivekovic expressed his bewilderment at the fact that the suggestion of the Security Council could come unexpectedly for the Italian Government in view of the fact that on 25 October 1947 the representative of France to the Security Council already had proposed that the Federal Peoples Republic of Yugoslavia and Italy agree on the question of electing a Governor of Trieste, which proposal was afterwards accepted by the permanent  
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members of the Security Council. Minister Ivekovic asked for the quickest possible reply to the Yugoslav list of candidates, respectively, for a counter-proposal of the Italian Government.

4. Not until the morning of 31 December 1947 did the Secretary-General, Mr. Franconi, invite Mr. Ivekovic to a discussion. He appraised him of the opinion of the Italian Government, i.e. that it would be necessary to choose a candidate for Governor from a neutral country, concretely from Switzerland, because it is difficult for Italy to accept a candidate who is a citizen of a country with which it had been at war. For this reason the Italian Government rejected all three candidates of the Federal Peoples Republic of Yugoslavia. Minister Ivekovic could not accept the point of view of the Italian Government as this would mean virtually excluding from responsible functions citizens of all countries which are members of the United Nations, and would be to the advantage of countries which stood passively aside in the anti-fascist war of liberation, respectively, which, through their passivity, even served the forces of the Axis; and, further, it would mean the identification of present-Italy with fascist-Italy. Besides, this reason as such does not apply to two of the three candidates proposed by the Federal Peoples Republic of Yugoslavia. One of them is Swedish, and N Sweden was an entirely neutral country, and the second is a Norwegian, and Norway was not at war at all with Italy, and the exclusion of such a candidate for reason of his citizenship would infer that the Italian Government considers it necessary to exclude all countries against which Germany perpetrated aggression, even though fascist-Italy was not at war with them. Mr. Franconi declared that only in the afternoon, after a discussion with Mr. Sforza, could he communicate the names of the Italian Government.

5. In the afternoon of 31 December 1947, Mr. Franconi communicated the names of these candidates, namely, Henri Guisan, Swiss General, and Walter Stucki, Swiss diplomat.

6. On 31 December 1947, the Government of the Federal Peoples Republic of Yugoslavia issued instruction to Minister Ivekovic to reject these candidates. Their choice indicated that the Italian Government did not seriously intend to reach agreement with the Government of the Federal Peoples Republic of Yugoslavia on the question of the person for Governor, both candidates having already once refused such candidacy, i.e. Mr. Guisan in April 1947 and Mr. Stucki in September 1947. The Government of the Federal Peoples Republic of Yugoslavia made still another effort and submitted as candidates Mr. Maurice Dejean, French Ambassador in Prague, and Mr. Pablo de Azcarate, ex-Ambassador of the Spanish Republic in London,

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who was proposed as a candidate by the French Government as well.

7. On 3 January 1948, Minister Ivekovic transmitted the above mentioned proposal of the Government of the Federal Peoples Republic of Yugoslavia to the Italian Government.

8. On 5 January 1948, Mr. Franconi informed Minister Ivekovic that the Italian Government had refused the new Yugoslav proposal as well, as and that it was proposing new candidates of its own, i.e. Mr. Paul Ruegger, Swiss diplomat, and Mr. Leif Egeland, South African diplomat. Mr. Franconi did not offer any reasons for rejecting the candidates of the Government of the Federal Peoples Republic of Yugoslavia but that the Italian Government considered its candidates would better respond to the functions as Governor.

The Government of the Federal Peoples Republic of Yugoslavia is convinced that it must have been clear in advance to the Italian Government that the candidates submitted in this proposal would also be unacceptable for the Government of the Federal Peoples Republic of Yugoslavia and it can only interpret the entire manner of procedure of the Italian Government as revealing a complete lack of desire for agreement on the person for Governor, while the act of proposing candidates serves only as a formality to avoid responsibility for the failure of the negotiations.

The Government of the Federal Peoples Republic of Yugoslavia therefore believes that all further efforts towards a mutual selection of the person for Governor would be futile and that further negotiations with the Italian Government on this question would only delay the appointment of Governor, an appointment which is urgent and necessary in the interest of the Free Territory of Trieste and for the protection of world peace.

The Government of the Federal Peoples Republic of Yugoslavia takes this opportunity to express its deep respect to the Security Council of the United Nations.

B e o g r a d,  
12 January 1948.

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