

CSCE  
FIFTEENTH MEETING OF THE  
COMMITTEE OF SENIOR OFFICIALS  
PRAGUE 1992

JOURNAL NO. 2

2nd DAY OF THE FIFTEENTH MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE

1. Date: Friday, 14 August 1992  
Opened: 10.40 a.m.  
Suspended: 10.45 a.m.  
Resumed: 8.50 p.m.  
Suspended: 9.45 p.m.  
Resumed: 11 p.m.  
Closed: 11.15 p.m.
  
2. Chairman: Mr. J. Kubis (Czech and Slovak Federal Republic)  
Mr. I. Busniak
  
3. Subjects discussed:  
Agenda item 3: Further action to be taken by the CSO on the basis of its decisions of 10 June and 7 July 1992 relating to the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and in the other parts of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia:
  - (a) consideration of recommendations prepared by the exploratory mission to Kosovo, Vojvodina and Sandjak
  - (b) consideration of the human rights situation in the former Yugoslavia, especially the conditions in the detention camps in Bosnia-Herzegovina, in particular in its northern and eastern parts
  - (c) reply to the letter of the Secretary-General of the United Nations addressed to the Chairman-in-Office of the CSCE Council concerning possible role of the CSCE in responding to the peacekeeping requirements in the former Yugoslavia  
Agenda item 4: Review of current issues  
Agenda item 5: Any other business  
Agenda item 6: Formal closure

4. Statements:

Agenda items 3(a), (b), and (c):

Russian Federation, Bulgaria, United States of America, United Kingdom, Poland, Sweden, Austria, Hungary, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Ukraine, Canada

Agenda item 4: None

Agenda item 5: Chairman, Director of the CSCE Secretariat, Russian Federation

The Chairman announced the intention of the Chairman-in-Office of the Council to appoint Mr. Adam Rotfeld (Poland), Director of SIPRI in Stockholm, as his personal representative. His mandate is to examine the appeal to the CSCE that it should contribute to the settlement of the conflict in the left bank Dniester areas of the Republic of Moldova and to submit to the Chairman-in-Office, after consultation with the interested parties, especially in the Republic of Moldova, appropriate proposals as to how the CSCE might best be able to help.

Agenda item 6: Chairman

5. Decisions:

(a) Under agenda item 3 the Committee adopted a text entitled "Decisions of the Committee of Senior Officials" (Annex 1).

It was agreed that the following texts, which were also adopted, would be attached to these Decisions:

- (i) Decision on Human Rights Situation
  - (ii) Decision on Missions of Long Duration
  - (iii) Decision on the Presence of Observers in Countries Bordering on Serbia and Montenegro
- (b) The Committee agreed the wording of the reply to the letter of the Secretary-General of the United Nations dated 31 July 1992 (Annex 2).
- (c) It was agreed that the report of the CSCE Exploratory Mission to Kosovo, Vojvodina and Sandjak would be regarded as a CSCE document (cf. 12-CSO/Journal No. 1, item 5, point (b)).

6. Interpretative statements under paragraph 79 (Chapter 6) of the Final Recommendations of the Helsinki Consultations:

By the delegation of the Russian Federation:

"The delegation of Russia considers yesterday's invitation extended to the representatives of Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina to be present and to make statements at the meeting of the Steering Group as an exceptional case with respect to Steering Group's normal deliberations."

7. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 16 September 1992, in Prague (see point 9 of Annex 1)

Chair: Czech and Slovak Federal Republic

Decisions of the Committee of Senior Officials

1. The Committee of Senior Officials met on 13 and 14 August 1992 at an urgently called meeting to consider further steps required to deal with the worsening aggression against Bosnia-Herzegovina and other critical aspects of the crisis in other parts of the former Yugoslavia.

2. There was consensus among participating States that the worsening crisis requires greater action within the context of the CSCE. They expressed their determination to fully apply the decisions of the Helsinki Summit in order to help alleviate humanitarian problems and support the search for peace. In particular they agreed to despatch a rapporteur mission to Bosnia-Herzegovina to investigate the humanitarian situation with special reference to detention camps and to send long-duration missions to Kosovo, Sandjak and Vojvodina. They also agreed that the presence of observers in neighbouring countries would help to avoid a spillover of tension to their territories and would help oversee the fulfilment of United Nations sanctions.

3. The discussions reflected the alarming developments which have occurred since approval of the Declaration on the Yugoslav crisis by Heads of State and Government at the Helsinki Summit on 10 July 1992.

- Despite repeated promises by Serbian authorities, a lasting ceasefire has not been possible. Humanitarian convoys are regularly subject to military attack; heavy artillery continues to bombard Sarajevo and other cities of Bosnia-Herzegovina and some bordering cities in Croatia.
- Evidence has continued to mount that Serbian authorities are using the conflict to carry out disgraceful policies of so-called "ethnic cleansing" and detention of innocent civilians. Cases of human rights and international humanitarian law violations have been registered on all sides of the conflict. Treatment of those held in detention camps violates all standards of decency. The number of refugees continues to rise to tragic levels.
- Human rights abuses by Serbian authorities continue at a high level. Serbian Government-controlled media subject the Serbian population to a constant barrage of hate and xenophobia. Repression of the non-Serbian population in Kosovo, Sandjak and Vojvodina and elsewhere continues. Tensions in these areas are high and the danger of the spread of armed conflict continues to grow.
- Continued conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina raises the danger of spillover of tensions to neighbouring countries. Serbia continues to seek avenues for evasion of United Nations sanctions.

4. The participating States agreed that the crisis has entered a new phase which will require even more co-operation and concerted action throughout the international community. They reiterated their rejection of any aspiration of Serbia and Montenegro, or of any other party involved, to change borders or ethnic composition by force or intimidation. They reaffirmed the need to respect the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

5. The outrage that resulted from revelations about detention camps underlines the sense of anger felt everywhere about the catastrophe which is taking place.

6. Serbian authorities must understand that they are isolating themselves increasingly from the democratic community of States represented by the CSCE. Continued violation of the basic norms of international humanitarian law can lead only to disaster for themselves and their people.

7. The participating States welcomed the intention of the United Nations to expand its activities in the former Yugoslavia. They expressed strong support for United Nations Security Council resolution 770 which foresees the use of all necessary measures to guarantee humanitarian assistance and for United Nations Security Council resolution 771 on war crimes, which holds Serbian leaders and others personally responsible for their behaviour. They intend to co-operate closely with the United Nations and to provide assistance to the fulfilment of United Nations goals wherever possible. They request the Chairman-in-Office to reply in that spirit to the letter of the Secretary-General of the United Nations of 31 July 1992. They decided to start consultations on matters referred to in the letter of the Secretary-General of the United Nations in an open-ended ad hoc group established in Vienna.

8. They underlined once again the imperative need for an urgent negotiated political solution in the former Yugoslavia. In that respect they welcomed the Conference hosted by the European Community and the United Nations in London on 26 August 1992 as a means of carrying forward negotiation and achieving a lasting settlement to the crisis. They requested the Chairman-in-Office to present decisions of the CSCE at this meeting and to determine how the CSCE process can be used to further the goals of this Conference.

9. The Meeting was preceded by a working session of the Steering Group on the Yugoslav crisis of 11 participating States established at the 13th Meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials on 8 July 1992. The participating States agree that more detailed work is now necessary and that more frequent meetings of the Steering Group are needed. To this end they decided that the Steering Group should meet in Vienna as from now until the next CSO Meeting scheduled to be held in Prague on 16-18 September 1992. The Steering Group will assist the Chairman-in-Office in the implementation of today's decisions further to the tasks already assigned to it on 8 July 1992. While operating in Vienna the Steering Group will maintain a liaison with the Consultative Committee of the Conflict Prevention Centre.

10. The participating States also welcomed the intention of the Chairman-in-Office, accompanied by representatives of the Troika, to travel to the former Yugoslavia within the next few days. They asked him to transmit the strong political message contained in this decision document to Serbian authorities and to undertake any discussion that may expedite its implementation.

Decision on Human Rights Situation

The Committee of Senior Officials,

Remaining very deeply concerned about the failure by the Serbian authorities to observe human rights and international humanitarian law, and especially by the disgraceful practice of "ethnic cleansing",

Outraged by the existence of detention camps, which is completely unacceptable,

Aware of the acute danger of an even more rapid increase in the number of refugees and displaced persons, which is already approaching two million,

Welcoming the adoption of United Nations Security Council resolution 771, and the decision by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights to appoint a special rapporteur on this issue,

Underlines the importance of observing international humanitarian law;

Demands an end to the practice of "ethnic cleansing";

Demands the immediate disbandment of any detention camps, and the release of the innocent civilian population held there;

Reminds all responsible for the administration of such camps that, in the meantime, they must ensure that such places of detention are run humanely, in full respect for the Geneva Conventions;

Reminds all those who commit or order the commission of breaches of the Conventions that they bear individual responsibility for such breaches;

Calls on the Serbian authorities to create all necessary conditions to enable the earliest possible return of the refugees and displaced persons to their original homes in conditions of safety and dignity, including the adoption of an amnesty law for those having refused to fight, and an end to the call-up;

Considers that an initial step in this direction could be the establishment of safe havens in Bosnia-Herzegovina, under international control;

Decides, further to United Nations Security Council resolutions 770 and 771, to request that the Chairman-in-Office establish contact with the United Nations and other relevant international organisations to undertake an urgent examination of conditions for possible establishment of safe havens for refugees and displaced persons in Bosnia-Herzegovina;

Decides to establish a rapporteur mission to investigate allegations of human rights abuses; its primary task should be, in close co-ordination with the International Committee of the Red Cross and the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, to ensure that all alleged places of detention are inspected within the shortest possible time; the CSCE rapporteur mission, in common with other international bodies, should be guaranteed immediate, free and continuous access to all such places of detention;

Requests the Chairman-in-Office to establish the rapporteur mission as soon as possible; its first report should be available to the Committee of Senior Officials at its next meeting in September.

Decision on Missions of Long Duration

The Committee of Senior Officials,

With reference to:

- the Declaration on Yugoslavia adopted by the Helsinki Summit;
- the Committee of Senior Officials' Decision of 10 June 1992 to send an exploratory mission to Kosovo, Sandjak and Vojvodina;
- the conclusions and recommendations in the report submitted to the Committee of Senior Officials by this mission;
- Chapter III, paragraphs 6-11, in the Helsinki Decisions on the political management of crises, and

In support of the efforts of the Conference on Yugoslavia,

Decides to establish, in co-operation with the relevant authorities, a continuous presence in Kosovo, Sandjak and Vojvodina, in the form of missions of long duration.

The missions will:

- promote dialogues between the authorities concerned and representatives of the populations and communities in the three regions;
- collect information on all aspects relevant to violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms and promote solutions to such problems;
- establish contact points for solving problems that might be identified;
- assist in providing information on relevant legislation on human rights, protection of minorities, free media and democratic elections.

The missions should be sent out as soon as possible in accordance with paragraphs 9 and 10 of Chapter III of the Helsinki Decisions. Further elaboration of modalities is delegated to the Steering Group on Yugoslavia established by the Committee of Senior Officials on 8 July 1992.

The operational control of the missions will be maintained by the Chairman-in-Office assisted by the other members of the CSCE Troika and with practical support from the appropriate CSCE institution(s).

Except where provided on a voluntary basis, the expenses of the missions will be borne by all participating States in accordance with the scale of distribution.

Developments regarding the missions will be reported to the Committee of Senior Officials not later than at its regular September 1992 Meeting.



Decision on the Presence of Observers in Countries  
Bordering on Serbia and Montenegro

The CSO welcomes the efforts under way to extend the European Community Monitoring Mission to neighbouring countries of Serbia and Montenegro to help avoid the spread of tension to their territory. It decided to examine possibilities for contribution of material support to this effort. It welcomed the agreement with the authorities in Budapest to extend EC Monitoring Mission activities to Hungarian territory. It looks forward to the agreement on memoranda of understanding with authorities in Sofia and Tirana. Such missions can contribute to enhancing stability in the region. In this context, it decided to explore with authorities in Skopje the possibility of despatch of similar missions under CSCE auspices.

A further important task is to strengthen mechanisms to ensure full compliance with UN sanctions. The Chairman-in-Office is requested to undertake discussions to examine means of assisting appropriate States bordering on Serbia and Montenegro in this task, including through the placement of experts on their territories. The CSO will review the decision at its next meeting.

Draft reply to United Nations Secretary-General's letter

In response to your letter dated 31 July 1992, I requested the CSO to meet on an urgent basis for preliminary consultations on 13 and 14 August 1992. Following these consultations, I have the pleasure to communicate to you that the CSCE is willing to help the United Nations in carrying out peacekeeping activities including the establishing and managing of a mechanism for supervising the heavy weapons of the Parties in Bosnia-Herzegovina. In particular, the CSCE is prepared to co-ordinate individual or collective contributions by its participating States to these efforts.

The Helsinki Decisions provide the capability for the CSCE itself to establish and manage such a mechanism, although the possibility for the CSCE to act is dependent upon contributions from participating States, individually or collectively. To ensure an effective and co-ordinated response, the CSCE has established an ad hoc group which will examine relevant issues closely and report its conclusions to me.

I will inform you as soon as possible of the results of these consultations.