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WORKING GROUP ON ETHNIC AND NATIONAL  
COMMUNITIES AND MINORITIES

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## WORKING GROUP ON ETHNIC AND NATIONAL COMMUNITIES AND MINORITIES

### Albanians in Macedonia

1. The Group has repeatedly proposed resumption of trilateral talks with the Albanians and the Government. It seems, however, difficult to resume formal talks as long as the Albanians have not settled their internal political problems. Neither the Government nor the "moderates" from PDP are apparently prepared to sit at the same table with the Taci/Jaferi Group, so there is no clearly established interlocutor on the Albanian side. What can be done under these circumstances?

2. For a number of "old" requests from the Albanians, the Government has shown in the past readiness to compromise although satisfactory solutions have not yet been put into place:

- **Census**

Everything must be done so that the census may take place in June. The Government must speed up preparatory work according to the recommendations made by the International Expert Group. The Albanians must be convinced of participating in the census.

- **The Pedagogical Faculty**

The Albanians accepted a compromise with the Government to reopen the Pedagogical Academy and to transform it within two years into a faculty. In the meantime, it seems that the Government retracted several elements of this compromise. It should be made sure that the Government executes faithfully the whole package which has been agreed upon. It is in the interest of the Government that teachers for schools in Albanian are trained inside Macedonia.

- **Citizenship**

The Government claims that admission into citizenship is proceeding normally and that all pending requests will be resolved by June. Nevertheless, not only the Group but also CSCE High Commissioner van der Stoep have received several complaints of delays and complications. Pressure should be maintained on the Government for rapid and clear handling of all applications for citizenship.

- **Entrance examinations for secondary schools and university**

The Albanians request that a list of the secondary schools to be opened in Albanian language be published before the entrance examinations take place.

For the University they ask for an increased admission of Albanians (last year from the total of admitted students only 1,8% were Albanians, the quota of 10% for the nationalities having mainly been covered by students from other minorities). In both fields, the Government should be urged to quickly make positive gestures.

- **Media**

Promises had been given for the increase of emission time in TV and radio as well as to make "FLAKA e VELLAZERIMIT" a daily newspaper. But according to our information, they have not materialized, because the Government is claiming financial difficulties. Here again a gesture from the Government could produce substantial impact.

To have progress in all these things, it is not necessary to resume formally the trilateral talks. The task is essentially to get some tangible concessions from the Government. This would greatly facilitate the resumption of a meaningful dialogue between all the parties concerned.

3. In conclusion, informal bilateral talks seem to be for the near future the most promising strategy. Such "proximity talks" would have to include also the Taci/Jaferi group which cannot be ignored by the Conference, and probably also the Albanian Government in Tirana. During these talks a common platform regarding both substance and participation for a next round of trilateral talks will have to be prepared. Priorities for a next round of trilateral talks are subjects not yet ripe for immediate Government action such as:

- The solution of the language problem either within the law for local self-government or in a separate language law.
- The revision of the election law and the law on constituencies, as these issues will have to be solved before the electoral campaign in September.
- The creation of a TV channel for minorities.

8 April 1994

cc: LO  
TS  
GA  
MR  
SC  
AR  
Akashi  
Sznajder



030/6 -

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*Hand. Ahrens.*  
*Received by*  
*Mr. Stoltenberg*  
*from the Bulgarian*  
*Ambassador.*  
*15/3/94*  
*WS*

Geneva, 15 March 1994

*J.F. Masset*

Distinguished Co-Chairmen,

I have the honour to forward you attached herewith copies of the following statements:

1. Statement by his excellency, Mr. Stanislav Daskalov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria at the fiftieth session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, delivered on February 10, 1994.
2. Statement by Mr. Vladimir Sotirov, Representative of the Republic of Bulgaria to the fiftieth session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, on agenda item 12: "Question of the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in any part of the world".

Both statements address inter alia the question of the situation of Bulgarian minority in Serbia. The rights of this minority are being systematically violated on a large scale. Their constitutional right to use Bulgarian as an official language, as well as the right to education in Bulgarian have been practically done away with. The same holds true for their cultural and religious rights.

MR. THORVALD STOLTENBERG AND  
LORD DAVID OWEN  
CO-CHAIRMEN OF  
THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
ON THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA  
ATT.: AMBASSADOR G. AHRENS  
GENEVA

This issue falls directly within the mandate of the ICFY and I should like therefore to take this opportunity to draw your attention to the plight of the Bulgarian minority in Serbia.

It is the view of my country that the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia should deal not only with minority situations which represent an immediate threat to both regional and international peace and security, but also with situations having the potential to generate international tension. This would be a preventive measure to avoid spill-over of tension to other areas of the Balkans.

I am available for any comments and demands for further information, you may have, on any aspect of the situation of Bulgarian minority in Serbia.

I take this opportunity to renew to you, distinguished Co- Chairmen, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Valentin Dobrev  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

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**STATEMENT**

**BY HIS EXCELLENCY MR. STANISLAV DASKALOV  
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA**

**AT THE FIFTIETH SESSION OF  
THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS**

**GENEVA, 10 FEBRUARY 1994**



Mr. Chairman,  
Mr. Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour for me to speak here today, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria, before such a prestigious international forum as the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, whose significant contribution to the cause of human rights and fundamental freedoms is well-known all over the world.

Having a key position in the United Nations system as a specialized body in the field of human rights the Commission, for 50 years now, has been a symbol of highly noble ideals in whose name the World Organization had been set up following the tragic events that shook Europe and the world in the first half of our century as a result of the two world wars. In the course of all these years the Commission on Human Rights has kept alive the hope of millions of people deprived of their human rights, that the dream of mankind's most outstanding sons, and the founders of the United Nations, for a world without violence, oppression and human suffering is not a luxury, but inalienable human rights.

Undoubtedly the most important event in 1993 in the field of human rights was the World Conference on Human Rights, which confirmed the interrelationship, interdependence and inseparability of the different human rights. This interdependence stems from the indivisibility of the human personality and the various qualities in which an individual could manifest himself in the different spheres of social and political life, both on a national and international scale. This logical proposition determines the necessity to consider human rights questions universally, objectively and without a selective approach. It is our view that, after the World Conference, the most important task for all United Nations member-States is to significantly increase the effectiveness of the United Nations monitoring mechanisms, as well as that of the treaty bodies. In this respect we welcome the creation of the post of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The High Commissioner, in our opinion, should above all perform the functions of an organ of early warning of gross violations of human rights.

We would like to pay tribute to the Centre for Human Rights and its director, H.E.Ibrahima Fall, for the clear and practice-oriented plan of action of the Centre aimed at implementing the Vienna Declaration and the Programme of Action. We believe the Plan gives an adequate answer to the tasks for the United Nations stemming from the Vienna Programme of Action.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to point out with satisfaction that this anniversary session of the Commission is marked by two historic events: the mutual recognition between the State of Israel and the Palestinian Liberation Organization and the signing of the Israeli-Palestinian Declaration on Principles of Interim Self-Government as well as the successful completion of the multiparty negotiating process in South Africa and the conclusion of agreements on an interim constitution and electoral bill. As the Bulgarian delegation has already pointed out during the discussion under the relevant agenda items my country supports the peaceful solution of the long-lasting conflicts in those regions of the world and hopes for their final settlement. Let me at this juncture underline the substantial contribution of the Commission on Human Rights over the years to combat the human rights violations in Southern Africa and the Middle East and to assist in their promotion and protection.

Along with these accomplishments we cannot ignore the fact that today the world is faced with challenges that require urgent practical actions on the part of the international community. In different parts of the world we still witness flagrant and mass violations of human rights which result from extreme nationalism and even racial hatred, xenophobia, ethnic and religious intolerance, the latter becoming at times extreme fundamentalism. We witness events that seriously threaten international peace and security: children, women and men every day fall victim to "ethnic cleansing", illegal and arbitrary executions, torture and physical violence, inhuman and cruel treatment and involuntary disappearances, detention and persecutions on religious, ethnic, political or other grounds.

An ample example to this effect is the tragic situation of human rights in the territory of the former Yugoslavia. We are deeply concerned that despite the continuing efforts of the international community, including two Special



Sessions of this Commission, we are still facing a tragedy of unprecedented scale in the heart of Europe. Last Saturday the world was stunned by the brutal new evidence of the barbaric oppression of the right to life of the civilian population in the besieged Sarajevo. In this respect I would like to commend the relevant Commission's decision on this matter. The continuing conflicts in the territory of the former Yugoslavia generate serious concern in my country for at least two reasons: the threat of extension of the conflict to new regions thereof, and the dangerous precedents for the Balkans and for the existing system of maintenance of international peace and security, resulting from the policy aimed at tolerating accomplished facts and ethnic cleansing. Ethnic cleansing is still going on in Bosnia and Herzegovina and now it is being practised by all parties involved in the conflict. The fact that the initial perpetrators of ethnic cleansing remained unpunished served as a signal to the other parties that that was "the winning" policy to pursue.

The difficult situation of all minorities in the territory of former Yugoslavia is well-known to this Commission. My country is particularly concerned about the situation of human rights of the Bulgarian minority living in the Eastern part of Serbia and would like therefore to draw the attention of the Commission and its distinguished Special Rapporteur Mr. Mazowiecki thereto.

Mr. Chairman,

The Republic of Bulgaria holds the view that the radical changes that have shaken the world during the recent years reveal new perspectives for us to strengthen what we have already achieved. The seriousness of the challenges we are facing urges us to adopt a critical, constructive, pragmatic and complex approach to the quest for efficient means for overcoming the existing problems in the strife to effectively encourage and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms. Critical, for the realities of our time have taught us that self-deception on the ground of the successes achieved often leads in practice to the accumulation of problems and their turn to crisis phenomena with a long-lasting effect and a threat for their multiplication. Constructive, not only because the experience of the past decades proved that group confrontation has not always been the best way to facilitate the advance in the sphere of human rights, but also because of the diversity and

complexity of the existing problems, which are capable of being solved by involving the majority of the members of the international community. Pragmatic, because the victims of the human rights violations call not only for sympathy on our behalf, but for specific assistance.

Mr. Chairman,

I should like to take this opportunity to assure you of the firm commitment of my country to the cause of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Bulgaria has adopted the highest standards in the field of international protection of human rights. In 1992 my country became party to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. Bulgaria is a party to all major United Nations conventions in the field of human rights. In 1992 Bulgaria withdrew its reservations to the jurisdictional clauses of a number of human rights conventions. Moreover, Bulgaria has adopted the compulsory jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I would like to assure you that the Republic of Bulgaria will continue its active cooperation with the Commission on Human Rights and with the other United Nations human rights bodies.

Thank you for your attention!

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**STATEMENT**

**BY MR. VLADIMIR SOTIROV**

**REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA  
TO THE 50-TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS**

**AGENDA ITEM 12: "QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND  
FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD"**

**Geneva, 3 March 1994**



Mr. Chairman,

The 50-th anniversary of the Commission on Human Rights is marked by the continuing commitment of this United Nations body to eliminate cases of mass and flagrant violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in any part of the world. Since its creation the Commission has spared no effort in the endeavor to identify such cases and to find ways and means for solving the problems deriving therefrom.

Practice has shown that significant achievements have been gained in countries the Governments of which have been constructively cooperating with the Commission. We consider such a cooperation as a substantial condition for the improvement of human rights situations in the respective countries. Such cooperation is especially needed when Governments, due to severe internal conflicts or other problems such as rise of extreme nationalism, racial hatred, xenophobia, religious intolerance and ethnic tensions, are not in a position to deal successfully alone with grave human rights violations and need the assistance of the international community. We are pleased to note the ever increasing number of resolutions on country situations adopted by the Commission without a vote. We regard this as an evidence of a positive trend reflecting the vast potential, efficiency and authority of the Commission.

Today, however, the complexity and diversity of the situations of human rights violations require more than ever not only the efficient utilization of the experience gained so far but the need to explore new, flexible and unconventional approaches to the challenges we are faced with as well.

Mentioning the positive results, however, we would like to point out that there are a few countries with a pattern of severe and systematic violations of human rights, which have been creating legitimate concern for the Commission for years. The Governments of these countries refuse the cooperation with the Commission, considering it to be an interference in their internal affairs. The experience gained so far has proved, however, that such pattern of behavior could not, in the long run, be successful.

Mr. Chairman,

There are still countries in which the magnitude of mass and flagrant violations endangers regional and even international peace and security. In this statement I would like to focus on the situation in some of them, situated in geographical proximity to my own country. An ample example in this respect is the situation of human rights in the territory of the former Yugoslavia.

Despite the continuing efforts of the international community, two Special Sessions of the Commission including, we are still facing in Europe a tragedy of unprecedented scale. Every day we receive new reports on crimes committed against civilians, on brutal breaches of international humanitarian law. I would like to take this opportunity to express my delegations's gratitude to the distinguished Special Rapporteur, Mr. Tadeusz Mazowiecki, for his efforts to establish an objective fact-based picture of the human rights situation in the territory of the former Yugoslavia.

Mr. Chairman,

As my Foreign Minister stated on February 10, 1994 to this Commission, the continuous conflict in the territory of the former Yugoslavia generate serious concern in Bulgaria mainly for two reasons: the threat of extension of the conflict to other regions, and the dangerous precedent of tolerating the policy of fait accompli, leading to massive unprecedented violations of human rights and the international humanitarian law. We deeply regret that in Bosnia and Herzegovina only few of the recommendations made by the Special Rapporteur have been implemented by the parties involved in the conflict. Ethnic cleansing is continuing to be practiced on a large scale by all parties. The fact that the original perpetrators of ethnic cleansing remained unpunished, encouraged the other parties to pursue the same policy. In this respect we fully share the conclusion by the Special Rapporteur that such developments leading logically to consolidation of ethnically pure areas and division of Bosnia and Herzegovina along ethnic lines, were clearly identifiable and preventable. The situation we face now is a fait accompli which was created by the international community itself. My Government would like to



express its firm position that the practices and consequences of ethnic cleansing should in no way be legitimized. We confirm our support to Security Council resolution 808 of February 22, 1993, by which the latter decided to establish an international tribunal for the prosecution of persons responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law committed in the territory of the former Yugoslavia.

Mr. Chairman,

The summary and arbitrary executions, the transfer or relocation of population by force, torture, rape and other forms of inhuman and degrading treatment, mutilation of corpses and other atrocities in the former Yugoslavia, to mention just a few, are being committed under the false slogans of extreme nationalism. As stated by the Special Rapporteur, the abhorrent policy of ethnic cleansing is in its core not a consequence but rather the objective of the war waged in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The barbaric approach aimed at establishing ethnically homogeneous regions remains a matter of particular and most urgent concern. We insist that the provisional measures provided for by the International Court of Justice's orders of April 8, 1993 and September 13, 1993 be implemented and all acts of genocide on the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina be terminated. It is also necessary that certain positive steps be taken to abolish the consequences of ethnic cleansing to the possible extent by effectively granting the right to safe return to all refugees and internally displaced persons, willing to do so, as well as to establish the real facts about the destiny of all missing persons.

Mr. Chairman,

The brutal violations of fundamental human rights and especially the constitutional rights of minorities in the former Yugoslavia endanger the democratic processes in neighboring countries and may revoke exaggerated nationalistic fears and ambitions on the Balkans. Bulgaria is seriously concerned about the intensifying practice of intimidation and pressure on minorities in many parts of the territory of the former Yugoslavia, which encourages similar developments in other Balkan countries as well. It is our understanding that the Special Rapporteur should pay attention not only to minority situations representing an immediate threat to the regional and international peace and security, but also to the situation of other minorities in the territory of the former Yugoslavia, including the ethnic Bulgarian population. This would be a



preventive measure which could well inscribe itself in the philosophy of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur not to merely register incidents of human rights violations, but to lead to prompt and concrete measures which would benefit the victims of such violations.

Recently there have been many new attempts to intimidate the representatives of the Bulgarian minority in the Republic of Serbia. We share Mr. Mazowiecki's conclusion in his sixth periodic report (E/CN.4/1994/110, paragraph 124), that public life and media in this country are dominated by ethnic hatred and ultra-nationalist ideology. Thus a climate encouraging acts of discrimination has been created, notwithstanding the existing legal base, banning the rousing of racial and national hatred. The laws have not been implemented and perpetrators of violations have not been brought to justice. In Serbia, many of the ethnic Bulgarians do not venture to declare their ethnic affiliation because of the practiced psychological pressure, direct intimidation and other violations connected with the tolerated local administrative arbitrariness towards those who actively identify themselves as Bulgarians. The authorities systematically oppress any free and public expression of their opinions. Fundamental cultural rights and institutions of the Bulgarian minority have been practically done away with or there is an actual ban on their establishment. We hope that the rights of persons belonging to minorities, including the Bulgarian national minority in Serbia, will be carefully examined and duly reflected in the future reports of Special Rapporteur Mr. Tadeusz Mazowiecki.

Mr. Chairman,

We are convinced that a lasting solution to the crisis in the former Yugoslavia can be achieved only through respect for the principles of international law, in particular the inviolability of internationally recognized frontiers and respect for the universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms. In conclusion let me state that we subscribe fully to the idea that the prolongation of Mr. Mazowiecki's mandate as Special Rapporteur on the former Yugoslavia for another year is a necessity, determined by the present situation. We strongly support his proposal to deploy United Nations officials in parts of the territory of the former Yugoslavia to collect objective

information on human rights abuses. Such a deployment could provide a substitute for the former permanent missions of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe in Serbia and Montenegro.

Mr. Chairman,

We deeply regret that there are situations being on the agenda of the Commission on Human Rights for a long time which, such as the human rights situation in Cyprus, have not yet found adequate solutions. As a country situated in a geographical proximity to Cyprus, Bulgaria is concerned that this question with its human rights aspects still remains unresolved. We support the relevant resolutions adopted by the Security Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations calling for a comprehensive, just and lasting solution to the problem of Cyprus. My delegation believes that the mission of good offices of the Secretary-General of the United Nations has not exhausted its potential and could play an important role in the efforts to reach a mutually acceptable agreement corresponding to the vital interests of the Cypriot people.

We are equally concerned about the continuing gross and systematic violations of human rights in another turbulent area close to our borders, in the Caucasian region. Post-totalitarian intolerance towards political opponents mixed with ethnic and religious hatred inherited from the past has led to everyday loss of innocent lives and human sufferings.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, my delegation would like to reiterate its commitment to the cause of human rights and fundamental freedoms and its readiness to contribute to the efforts of the Commission aimed at the elimination of gross and flagrant violations in any part of the world, whenever they occur.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman!