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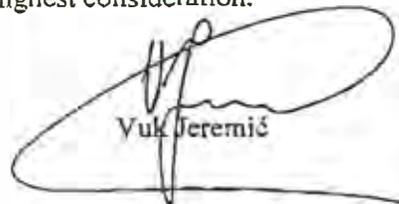
The Group, established without the proper legal and political basis, has nominated Pieter Feith, already appointed as the head of an unconfirmed European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX), to be the "International Civilian Representative (ICR) for Kosovo." Moreover, the Group has given Mr. Feith the authority to establish an "International Civilian Office (ICO)", to assist him in fulfilling his wholly illegitimate mandate.

The Group calls on "Kosovo's leaders" to take immediate steps to implement fully the **Ahtisaari Proposal**, never **accepted** by the Security Council, and, consequently, the Republic of Serbia. In addition, the Group welcomes the Kosovo Assembly's prompt approval of the "priority legislation called for in the Ahtisaari Plan." This formulation, as well as all stated above, makes it obvious that the main purpose of the creation of the Group and the initiation of its activities is to circumvent the authority of the Security Council and the parameters of Resolution 1244 (1999). This is also an attempt to sideline and render irrelevant UNMIK as the guardian of the activities legitimized by the Security Council under said Resolution.

Accordingly, the Republic of Serbia requests of Your Excellency to reassert the authority of the Security Council and its Resolution 1244 (1999), and to instruct the states who have established the Group that the scope of its activities fall outside of the Security Council's mandate.

Finally, the Republic of Serbia wishes to state that it ~~has never~~ agreed to the establishment and the mandate of EULEX, and that it therefore cannot give its consent to any of EULEX's activities. It follows, then, that the Republic of Serbia does not agree with any transfer of UNMIK's mandate—or parts thereof—to EULEX. The only proper authority to establish EULEX and endow it with any mandate is the Security Council, and it has not done so.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Vuk Jeremić

His Excellency
Mr. Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General of
the United Nations
New York



Serbia
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REPUBLIC OF SERBIA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Belgrade, 29 February 2008

Your Excellency,

It has come to our attention that the first meeting of the so-called "International Steering Group (ISG) for Kosovo" was held on 28 February 2008 in Vienna. It is formed by Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The Republic of Serbia finds wholly unacceptable the decision to establish this Group, and to provide it with a purpose and mandate inconsistent with, *inter alia*, the principles of the United Nations Charter, Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999), and the Helsinki Final Act.

The Group declares its intent to assist in the implementation of the Comprehensive Proposal for Kosovo Status **Settlement** (Ahtisaari Proposal). Permit me to recall that the Ahtisaari Proposal's implementation has **never** been agreed upon, much less endorsed by, the United Nations Security Council.

This fact alone places the activities of the Group clearly outside the limits of the position of the Security Council. Therefore, the activities of the Group cannot possibly be acceptable for the Security Council, and consequently for the Republic of Serbia as well.

As stated, the Group's action is conceived and executed by fifteen states that have "recognized or expressed [their] firm intention to recognize soon, the independence of Kosovo." This further indicates that the actions of the Group are not within the framework of Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999). Recall that this Resolution unambiguously reaffirms the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia—of which the Republic of Serbia is the sole successor—and that its text plainly includes the province of Kosovo and Metohija within the borders of my country.

In addition, it is stated that "Kosovo's leaders have formally requested" that the Group be established, "and have agreed to cooperate fully with it." This request cannot possibly be **taken** as a legitimate basis for the **establishment** of the Group, since **such** a request stands in direct violation of Resolution 1244 (1999) and the Constitutional Framework for Provisional Self-Government in Kosovo (UNMIK/RED/2001/9), which provides that **external** relations remain exclusively in the hands of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General.