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LETTER DATED 19 OCTOBER 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
POLAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to enclose the following letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland, in his capacity as Chairman-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, dated 16 October 1998, informing you of the signing of the agreement between the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on the Kosovo Verification Mission (see enclosure). I have the honour to request that the present letter, its annex and enclosure be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Eugeniusz WYZNER
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 16 October 1998 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs
of Poland addressed to the Secretary-General

I am writing to inform you that today I have signed, in my capacity as the Chairman-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the enclosed agreement between the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on the Kosovo Verification Mission.

This agreement, together with the agreement on the North Atlantic Treaty Organization-Kosovo Air Verification Regime signed yesterday at Belgrade, is aimed to support international efforts to solve the crisis in Kosovo and constitutes an important step towards the development of a political framework aimed at ensuring compliance with the demands set out in United Nations Security Council resolution 1199 (1998). The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe also took careful note of your report on the implementation of that resolution. The agreement highlights the verification of the compliance of the said resolution, as stipulated in its paragraph 16.

It is my understanding that the agreements will be acknowledged and supported by the Security Council in an appropriate resolution, in order to make these acts effective and to ensure the safety and security of international verifiers. I understand that your decision to send a mission to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia this weekend to assess developments on the ground and to continue reporting to the Security Council on the compliance by the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia with its resolutions 1160 (1998) and 1199 (1998), would not delay the decision on such a resolution.

Once this important political support is secured, I am ready to immediately begin deployment of the Kosovo Verification Mission on the ground. I have already decided to dispatch a small technical advance mission to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to start preparation of the operation, the scope of which goes beyond the previous experience of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. I am also considering a conclusion of an understanding/agreement with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization on cooperation with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in performing its tasks in Kosovo.

May I assure you, Mr. Secretary-General, of my awareness that the agreement is only a beginning of a new and decisive stage of a long process to solve the Kosovo crisis. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe stands ready to do its best in this regard, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

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I sincerely hope that the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe will enjoy the continued support of the United Nations in this process.

I will continue to keep you informed of further developments regarding the Kosovo crisis.

(Signed) Bronislaw GEREMEK

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