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STRENGTHENING OF SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES BETWEEN STATES

Letter dated 1 November 1990 from the Permanent Representative of Albania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the facsimile copy of the letter dated 30 October 1990 that the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, Mr. Reis Malile has addressed to you (see annex). Enclosed you will also find the texts of the joint communiqué, as well as the message from the Meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Balkan States, which was held at Tirana on 24 and 25 October 1990, to the Paris summit meeting of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, to be held in November 1990.

The originals of the letter and of the documents will be sent to your office as soon as they arrive with the diplomatic mail.

I would be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 68, 69 and 139.

(Signed) Bashkim PITARKA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the
People's Socialist Republic of
Albania to the United Nations

ANNEX

Letter dated 30 October 1990 from the Minister for Foreign
Affairs of Albania to the Secretary-General

Allow me in the first place to extend to you the sincere thanks for the message you addressed to the Meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Balkan States, held at Tirana on 24 and 25 October 1990.

Availing myself of this occasion, I have the pleasure to inform you that the Tirana meeting highly appraised the role of the United Nations as an important instrument for the preservation of peace and security, as well as for the democratization of international relations.

In my capacity as representative of the host country, I have the honour to enclose herewith the joint communiqué (see appendix I) of the Meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Balkan States and to kindly request that it be distributed as an official document of the United Nations.

I am also enclosing herewith, for your knowledge, a copy of the message (see appendix II) that the above-mentioned meeting decided to address to the Paris summit Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe to be held in November this year.

(Signed) Reis MALILE

APPENDIX I

Joint communiqué

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Balkan States met at Tirana, on 24 and 25 October 1990.

The Chairman of the Presidium of the People's Assembly of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, Ramiz Alia, addressed the meeting.

The meeting was attended by: The Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, Lyuben Gotsev; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic, Antonis Samaras; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Romania, Adrian Nastase; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, Ahmet Kurtcebe Alptemoçin; the Federal Secretary for Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Budimir Loncar, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, Reis Malile, who was elected Chairman of the meeting.

In a friendly and co-operative spirit, the ministers exchanged views and appraised the advancement of the process of Balkan co-operation to date, which was initiated with the first Meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs at Belgrade in 1988, and defined the main lines and objectives of this process for the future.

They noted with satisfaction that all the Balkan peoples have hailed and the international public opinion has well-received Balkan co-operation as a realistic course to the benefit of the national interests of participating countries, of peace and security in the region, which is in harmony with the positive developments that are currently taking place on the European scene.

The ministers pointed out the importance of Balkan activities successfully carried out so far in various fields of common interest and agreed that the co-operation in the fields already specified, or to be further identified, should be materialized in concrete terms, including signing of relevant agreements.

The ministers underlined that the multilateral co-operation, as a positive political element in the Balkans, does also provide favourable conditions for the strengthening of bilateral relations, which remain an important factor for the improvement of the overall atmosphere and development of substantial co-operation.

The ministers reiterated the strict adherence of their countries to the principles of respect for independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, inviolability of frontiers, equal rights and non-interference in internal affairs. They underlined that the situation in Europe and in the world has significantly changed since the Belgrade meeting and that recent developments in Europe are in line with the process of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE), which is actually moving towards its institutionalization. The ministers observed that a new concept of European security, away from the spirit of divisions and confrontation, based on understanding, mutual confidence and

co-operation, is taking shape. They expressed the view that political stability is closely linked with economic development and co-operation.

Consistent with these realities, the ministers reaffirmed the commitment of their countries to consolidate and further promote Balkan co-operation on the political, economic, cultural and humanitarian planes, and raise it to a new qualitative stage.

The ministers stressed that Balkan co-operation is an integral part of positive European processes. A stable Balkans, which is advancing on the course of current developments, is a factor of peace and security for the entire Mediterranean region and Europe.

The meeting hails the Paris CSCE summit and decided to forward a message to it.

The ministers emphasized their countries' commitment to democracy and common European values, in compliance with the Helsinki Final Act and other CSCE documents, thus making their contribution with a sense of responsibility to a better future in Europe.

The ministers underlined, along with the strengthening of regional groupings and co-operation, the enhanced role of the United Nations Organization, which remains an important instrument for the preservation of peace and security, as well as for the democratization of international relations.

Having in mind a common commitment of the Balkan countries that would satisfy the aspirations of their own peoples for peace and good-neighbourliness, and willing to contribute to the deepening of the processes that have already occurred in the continent, the ministers agreed that a working group should be set up to elaborate a document of principles of good-neighbourliness in the Balkans based on the Charter of the United Nations, the CSCE documents and international precedents.

Recognizing that the positive attitude towards national minorities, as referred to in the Helsinki Final Act and the corresponding CSCE documents and in accordance with principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, is one of the basic factors of good-neighbourliness, mutual confidence, stability, cohesion and democracy in the Balkans, the Ministers agreed that persons belonging to the national minorities, have the right, within the existing constitutional order of their country, which guarantees equal rights and status for all, to freely express, preserve and develop their ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity, and to enjoy all human rights and fundamental freedoms in full equality with other citizens.

The ministers reaffirmed the determination of the Balkan countries to consolidate the progress achieved in various fields of inter-Balkan co-operation and to extend their multilateral political dialogue.

The ministers reiterated the wish for the materialization of contacts among their respective parliaments by creating parliamentary groups of Balkan multilateral co-operation.

The proposal to hold a meeting of Heads of State or Government of the Balkan countries was discussed, and the importance of creating the conditions for convening it in the near future was underlined. The ministers agreed to revert to the subject at their next meeting.

The ministers agreed that the Meetings of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Balkan States will be held annually. The next meeting will be convened at Sofia in the fall of 1991.

The ministers decided that, in view of the increased activities of Balkan co-operation, the country that hosts the Foreign Ministers' meeting should play the role of co-ordinator until the next ministerial meeting.

The ministers devoted particular attention to the economic co-operation among the Balkan countries, considering it to be very important for the promotion of overall relations in the region. Having that in mind and in order to provide guidance for the objectives, scope and organizational framework and economic dimension of the Balkan co-operation, they recommended that economy or foreign trade ministers of the Balkan countries should meet on a yearly basis.

They also stressed that the preparations for the establishment in Athens of the Research Institute for Balkan Economic Co-operation should be intensified.

The ministers recommended that the next meeting of the ministers of transport should be convened at Tirana in 1991.

The ministers also recommended that a meeting of the ministers of health should be convened in Turkey in 1991.

The ministers underlined the need to embark upon new and concrete activities to ensure a more extensive utilization of opportunities for expanding co-operation in the field of trade, including the exchange of commodities and services and border trade, transport, industry, tourism, energy, agriculture and water management, veterinary medicine and protection of plants and forests, environment and health protection.

The ministers emphasized the importance of the exchange of views on co-operation in the field of telecommunications, banking, science and technology, culture, sports, information and informatics.

The ministers pointed out the role of cultural relations as an avenue to promote better understanding and friendship among the Balkan countries. They agreed that the first Balkan Arts Festival should be held in Turkey in 1991.

They agreed to establish a working group to examine the feasibility of founding a Balkan Development Bank, with the intention of allocating additional financial resources, to facilitate implementation of projects of common interest.

They stressed that the preparations for signing a regional convention on environmental protection in the Balkan Peninsula should be intensified.

They underlined the need to implement the understanding reached in connection with co-operation in combating terrorism and illicit arms and drugs trafficking and recommended that a meeting of the Balkan countries' experts on international terrorism and illicit arms trafficking should be convened in Yugoslavia in 1991.

They expressed their readiness to continue to consider confidence- and security-building measures among the Balkan countries.

The ministers stressed the importance of and expressed their full support for co-operation at the non-governmental level.

It was agreed to continue holding twice a year the meetings of the high officials of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs with the task of studying all the proposals and co-ordinating further activities in all fields of multilateral co-operation. The next meeting of high officials will be held in Turkey in April 1991.

The ministers delegated the high officials to study all aspects of forming the Balkan Forum, which would comprise periodic meetings taking place in the framework of Balkan co-operation, as well as Balkan institutions of multilateral co-operation in various fields and to submit their report to the next Meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Balkan States.

During the meeting, a great number of other proposals were made. The ministers agreed that the high officials would consider them at their meetings with a view to working out the appropriate recommendations.

The ministers reiterated their determination to ensure full and effective implementation of all relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions to secure the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait.

They have stressed the importance they attach to an early peaceful solution of the problem and to the full restoration of the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the State of Kuwait.

They observed that achieving this objective would also benefit the Balkan countries by limiting the heavy economic losses they suffered as a result of Iraq's invasion and occupation of Kuwait.

The meeting entrusted Albania to inform and send its documents to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

The participants expressed their commendation for the way in which the meeting was conducted and conveyed their gratitude to the Government of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania for the warm hospitality extended to the participating delegations.

APPENDIX II

Message from the Meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Balkan States to the Paris meeting of Heads of State or Government of the States participating in the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, from 19 to 21 November 1990

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, the People's Republic of Bulgaria, the Hellenic Republic, Romania, the Republic of Turkey and the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia - convened at Tirana, on 24 and 25 October 1990, addressed this message to the meeting of the Heads of State or Government of the States participating in the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe to be held in Paris. They wish to underline the historic importance of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) for a secure and peaceful future and prosperity of European countries and peoples and bring to the knowledge of the participants in the Paris summit the achievements of Balkan regional co-operation as an integral part of the CSCE process and its objectives for the future.

Welcoming the positive changes in Europe, the Balkan countries view the Paris summit as a significant stage in the CSCE process towards its institutionalization. They emphasized the need of development of the rule of law, pluralistic democracy, democratic institutions and market economy. Measures aimed at overcoming the differences in the level of economic development and resolving economic difficulties of the Balkan countries would also be conducive to greater political stability in Europe.

Intensive regional co-operation in the Balkans, following the historic Meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Balkan States, at Belgrade in 1988, reflects the determination of all Balkan countries to improve their multilateral and bilateral co-operation in a variety of fields of mutual concern, surmounting the differences and disputes among them through a stable development of comprehensive co-operation and strengthening of mutual understanding and confidence-building. At the Tirana meeting they agreed on a number of further steps to be taken in that direction. In view of the expansion of confidence- and security-building measures in Europe, they highlighted the need to continue to consider confidence- and security-building measures among the Balkan countries as a way to contribute to the further consolidation of security and stability in Europe. In the development of their mutual co-operation, the Balkan countries are guided by the general principles of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as by the principles, goals and achievements of the CSCE process. They are convinced that this co-operation helps strengthen stability and peace in the region and in Europe. Thereby, they are making a concrete contribution to the promotion of the CSCE process and to the establishment of a new order and co-operation in the continent.

The ministers welcomed the request of Albania for full participation in CSCE and expressed their wish to see it realized.

Proceeding from the paramount importance of making progress and establishing co-operation in the humanitarian field, the Balkan countries emphasize their commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms in every respect. They attach particular importance to the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, as referred to in the Helsinki Final Act and the corresponding CSCE documents as a factor of cohesion, stability, friendship and good-neighbourliness, in accordance with the principles and norms of international law.

The growing interdependence of countries and of the interrelatedness of problems characterizing the world today more than ever, and especially the relations in our continent, make the objectives of Balkan co-operation a single, Balkan and all-European interest in which every Balkan country, individually and all of them together, see their highest national interest.
