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

Letter dated 28 October 1991 from the Permanent Representative
of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the text, in English and French, of a declaration of the European Community and its member States on the situation in Yugoslavia, issued on 28 October 1991 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) Robert J. VAN SCHAİK
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Declaration on the situation in Yugoslavia, issued on
28 October 1991

The European Community and its member States assessed the results of the seventh plenary session of the Conference on Yugoslavia, which took place on 25 October 1991 at The Hague under the chairmanship of Lord Carrington.

They concluded that five Republics had reiterated their readiness to cooperate on the basis of the draft arrangements submitted by Lord Carrington and the Presidency. They also noted that one Republic continued to reserve its position.

The European Community and its member States remain convinced that only a comprehensive arrangement, based on the principles as reflected in the draft arrangements submitted to the Conference on Yugoslavia, will ensure a peaceful solution to the present crisis. Notably, the principles of no unilateral change of borders, protection of human rights and rights of ethnic and national groups constitute universal, objective standards, which leave no room for compromise.

The European Community and its member States are appalled at constant violations of those principles. In this context, they refer to the Serbian position in the Conference, the coup d'état by four members of the Federal Presidency and their announcement of a plan aimed at the establishment of a greater Serbia. The statements and actions of the Yugoslav National Army (JNA), which were condemned in the Declaration on Dubrovnik of 27 October 1991, should also be seen in this light.

If the Yugoslavia Conference is to succeed, these principles must be unequivocally accepted by all the parties, which means that the Serbian reservation must be lifted. If at the next plenary session of the Conference on 5 November the Serbian reservation is lifted, the Conference, as presently constituted, will continue on the basis of the draft arrangements. If not, the Conference will proceed with the cooperative Republics to obtain a political solution, in the perspective of recognition of the independence of those Republics wishing it, at the end of a negotiating process conducted in good faith, as set out at Haarzuilens on 6 October. Non-cooperative parties can then expect restrictive measures to be taken against them by the European Community and its member States.

The European Community and its member States will ask the Security Council urgently to address the question of further restrictive measures under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. Ministers will take up the question of restrictive measures at their meeting on 4 November, with a view to taking a decision at a subsequent meeting later in the week on the basis of the results of the next plenary session of the Conference on 5 November.

In view of the significance of the meeting of 5 November, the Coordinator of the Conference, Ambassador Wijnaendts, will meet with relevant parties in Yugoslavia in a final attempt to bridge remaining differences. Lord Carrington will inform the Secretary-General of the United Nations today. In the meantime, the working groups of the Conference will continue to elaborate and refine the arrangements for the comprehensive settlement.

The Economic Community and its member States call on the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, as well as on the Security Council of the United Nations to continue to express support for their endeavours to bring about a peaceful solution to the Yugoslav crisis and to denounce the role played by JNA and the coup d'état by four members of the Federal Presidency.
