



Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1999/51
18 January 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 17 JANUARY 1999 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit, enclosed herewith, the Statement of H.E. Mr. Milan Milutinovic, President of the Yugoslav constituent Republic of Serbia, of 16 January 1999 concerning the most recent developments in Kosovo and Metohija, the Autonomous Province of Serbia.

I should be very grateful if you would have this letter and its annex distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIĆ
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

Belgrade, 16 January 1999

THE STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. MILAN MILUTINOVIC,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

In the wake of the statement of Ambassador William Walker, head of the OSCE verification mission in Kosovo and Metohija, the President of the Republic of Serbia, Milan Milutinovic, made the following statement:

When yesterday (15 January) police undertook to arrest terrorists who killed a police officer Svetislav Przic in a terrorist attack, in the vicinity of the village of Racak, municipality of Stimije, terrorists attacked them from automatic weapons, portable launchers and mortars. The police had to respond to such terrorist savagery, in line with their powers. The OSCE mission and Ambassador Walker were duly informed of the undertaking at the arrests. Immediately after the clash, an investigating team headed by an investigating judge of the Pristina District Court Danica Marinkovic and the Deputy District Prosecutor arrived at the scene but the terrorists who took positions on the neighboring hills, opened fire and prevented the on-site investigation.

Today, on 16 January, the on-site investigation was once again prevented because William Walker demanded the investigating judge to go there without police protection, thereby preventing the competent judicial authorities from carrying out their legal obligations. However, at the same time, Ambassador Walker accompanied by foreign journalists and journalists of Albanian separatist newspapers, whom he personally invited, visited the scene and took advantage of the absence of judicial and other state authorities so as to make a statement containing falsehoods and personal assessments which are totally baseless. He even went so far as to personally assess what had happened, to pass judgements and even give orders what should be done next - and all that in a sovereign country.

In this act of deceiving the world public opinion, according to well-known recipes attempting to stage some kind of new "Markale", Ambassador Walker secured the full cooperation of his proteges from the terrorist so called "KLA". With a series of lies and fabrications he accused our State authorities in an obvious attempt to divert the attention from terrorists, murderers and kidnappers and to once again protect them the way he has been protecting them all along. Ever since he came, he turned a blind eye only to the crimes of the terrorists. Security of citizens, security and responsibility of the police does not interest him and in his today's statement he has passed judgements on the authorities of Serbia and Yugoslavia, their competent authorities and accused them of "violating the cease-fire" - for what if not for the protection of terrorists to whose crimes he has remained silent.

The attacks of terrorists, even when launched from mortars and other heavy weapons he does not consider to be illegal. Such an attitude did not come for the first time to the fore in his statement and in his attempts to prevent the investigating judge to carry out her duty according to the laws of her own

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country. He probably forgot that he is not a Governor or a Prosecutor or a judge in Serbia or in the FRY but the representative of the organization of 54 equal states and the head of the mission whose task is not to rule the territory of a sovereign country but to observe and report accurately. By his statement of today, he got carried away because he seems to favor the role of the prosecutor and the judge at the same time.

Even though it is indisputably clear that the police was provoked and compelled to defend itself from terrorist attacks, Mr. Walker today ignored that fact and proclaimed the event as a conflict with the civilian population. Confronted with the actual facts in today's meeting with the Yugoslav authorities' representatives, Mr. Walker stated astoundingly that the world would anyway believe his version and not arguments and facts.

At the same time, without informing the Yugoslav authorities, he visited the village of Racak, seeking to ensure monopoly on the interpretation of what had actually happened. In this way, he most grossly violated his mandate of a verifier as well as the Agreement with the OSCE.

This is just another glaring example of not only a one-sided approach but of protecting terrorism and the self-proclaimed terrorist organization, KLA.

Such conduct of William Walker proves that he is not behaving as a representative of an international organization, but a representative and protector of separatism and terrorism. Lies are always more important to them than facts and truth. The Serb people has already paid a high price for such lies and will not allow such behavior any more.
