

# **Security Council**

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LETTER DATED 25 JUNE 1995 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit the attached report which was addressed to me on 23 June 1995 by the Co-Chairmen of the Steering Committee of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, concerning the operations of the International Conference's Mission to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). This report by the Co-Chairmen contains the certification referred to in Security Council resolution 988 (1995).

I should be grateful if you would bring this information to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(<u>Signed</u>) Boutros BOUTROS-GHALI

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# <u>Annex</u>

Operations of the Mission of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)

#### I. INTRODUCTION

- 1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 13 of Security Council resolution 988 (1995) of 21 April 1995. In that resolution, the Council requested that the Secretary-General submit every 30 days for its review and no fewer than 10 days before 5 July 1995, a report from the Co-Chairmen of the Steering Committee of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia on the border closure measures taken by the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro).
- 2. It will be recalled that, on 4 August 1994, the following measures were ordered by the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), to come into effect the same day:
- (a) "To break off political and economic relations with the 'Republika Srpska';
- (b) "To prohibit the stay of the members of the leadership of the 'Republika Srpska' (Parliament, Presidency and Government) in the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia";
- (c) "As of today the border of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is closed for all transport towards the 'Republika Srpska' except food, clothing and medicine."
- 3. On 19 September, 3 October, 2 November and 5 December 1994, 5 January, 3 February, 2 and 31 March, 13 April and 18 May 1995, the Secretary-General transmitted to the Security Council reports from the Co-Chairmen of the Steering Committee of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia on the state of implementation of the above-mentioned measures (S/1994/1074; S/1994/1124; S/1994/1246; S/1994/1372; S/1995/6; S/1995/104; S/1995/175; S/1995/255; S/1995/302; and S/1995/406). The report dated 18 May 1995 contained the following certification from the Co-Chairmen:

"In the light of the foregoing developments during the past 30 days, based on the Mission's on-site observation, on the advice of the Mission Coordinator, Mr. T. J. Nieminen, and in the absence of any contrary information from the air, either from the airborne reconnaissance system of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization or national technical means, the Co-Chairmen conclude that the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) is continuing to meet its commitment to close the border between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and the areas of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina under the control of Bosnian Serb forces. The Co-Chairmen also conclude that during the period covered by the present report there have been no

commercial transshipments across the border between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina."

Developments since the last report are outlined below.

# II. LEGISLATION/REGULATIONS ON THE BORDER CLOSURE

- 4. The legislation of the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) closing the border with the Bosnian Serbs continues to be in effect.
- 5. The authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) have provided the Mission with the following list of confiscations conducted along its border with Bosnia and Herzegovina for May 1995:

| Petrol                      | 9.9   | tons         |
|-----------------------------|-------|--------------|
| Diesel                      | 34.9  | tons         |
| Motor oil                   | 1     | ton          |
| Cigarettes                  | 26.4  | tons         |
| Construction materials      | 155.6 | tons         |
| Wood                        | 443   | cubic metres |
| Alcohol                     | 3,005 | litres       |
| Food                        | 21.8  | tons         |
| Textile, clothing, footwear | 286   | kilograms    |
| Vehicles                    | 6     |              |
| Electrical gadgets          | 813   |              |
| Coffee                      | 11    | kilograms    |
| Fertilizer                  | 12.6  | tons         |
| Military boots              | 120   | pairs        |
| Other goods                 | 7.8   | tons         |

6. There were 116 new customs offence procedures initiated during the reporting period and 92 were finalized. Fines and penalties amounted to 534,350 dinars. There were substantial increases in confiscations in most categories this month over the previous month and well above the average of the previous 9 months. Similarly, the value of penalties emanating from cases finalized and the number of new offence cases continues to increase.

# III. ORGANIZATION, FINANCING AND WORK OF THE MISSION

- 7. As of 22 June 1995, 185 international Mission personnel were on duty with the Mission. The Mission personnel to date have come from the following countries: Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.
- 8. On 29 May, the Mission received information of a physical kidnap threat to United States observers in the border areas. All United States observers were

withdrawn from the border crossing-points and patrol areas and employed in secure areas only. On 2 June, it was decided, as a precautionary measure, to put all French observers on the sidelines until security conditions allowed for the resumption of duties in the field. After consultation with the United States and French Embassies in Belgrade, a decision was reached on 7 June authorizing selective deployment along the border of all United States and French observers. The authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) have responded to Mission concerns as to its responsibility for the security of the Mission personnel with an increased security presence at border crossing-points and at various headquarters.

9. The Mission is now covering 19 border crossings 24 hours a day. Of these, two are train stations. The financial situation of the Mission has now improved and the Co-Chairmen have authorized an increase in Mission personnel to 200.

# IV. FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT OF THE MISSION

- 10. The Mission continues to enjoy full freedom of movement within the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro).
- 11. Nevertheless, there have been some minor incidents, mostly in conjunction with the developments in Bosnia and Herzegovina. On 27 May, in Banja Koviljaca, between 0200 and 0230 hours, one Mission vehicle was stolen and four others had their tires slashed in front of the hotel where Sector Alpha headquarters is situated. The police were notified immediately and a thorough investigation of the issue ensued.
- 12. On 26 May, observers at the Scepan Polje border crossing-point (Sector Charlie) reported hearing 20 to 25 rounds of small arms fire at night on the Bosnian side. The following night a hand grenade detonated 10 metres from the crossing-point. The following day, a Mission monitor approached the river on the border to get some water and three "warning shots" were fired by the Bosnian Serb "police". They spoke with the monitor across the river and the conversation ended with a promise to cease threatening Mission observers. The chief of police of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) was informed of those incidents and he initiated an investigation, which is continuing.
- 13. On 26 May, in Becka Pec (10 kilometres north of Vracenovici, in Sector Charlie) a villager, angered by the constant efforts to close the road at the Mission's request, threatened to shoot the Mission patrol if it returned to the area again.
- 14. On 6 June, at 2228 hours, small arms fire was heard in the immediate vicinity of border crossing-point Vracenovici (Sector Charlie). The police shift commander advised Mission members to leave the crossing-point with an escort. The crossing-point was remanned about one hour after the incident.
- 15. On 11 June, an attack on an Irish observer occurred at the Nudo border crossing-point, Montenegro. Whilst checking adjacent footpaths that bypass the crossing, the observer was assaulted with a blunt instrument and sustained head

wounds and minor abrasions. He put up a spirited resistance however, and his attacker ran off in the direction of Nudo village. The wounds necessitated immediate treatment and he was taken by car to Niksic hospital where he was X-rayed and received stitches for the head wounds. He was then flown to hospital in Belgrade, where he once again received immediate and expert attention and was released later in the evening. The authorities, both in Montenegro and in Serbia, reacted promptly in both the matter of the medical evacuation and the investigation of the incident.

- V. COOPERATION OF THE AUTHORITIES OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA (SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO) WITH THE MISSION
- 16. Cooperation with the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) continues to be good.
- 17. On 13 February 1995, the Mission concluded a memorandum of understanding with the Yugoslav federal customs concerning search procedures on buses. According to the memorandum, all buses must be partially checked and, additionally, 20 per cent of long-distance or highway coaches are fully checked. This means that baggage and people are off-loaded from the coach. After four months of steady improvement, the Mission Coordinator has reported that the compliance of the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) is now fully satisfactory. Local border officials increasingly deny passage to buses carrying commercial quantities of goods and regularly confiscate fuel and other commodities. The Mission's good cooperative working relationship with the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) on the border has also contributed to this higher level of enforcement. The Mission Coordinator signed a second memorandum of understanding on 3 April to improve the Yugoslav Red Cross's internal safeguards and to give the Mission enhanced verification procedures where vehicles are loaded. This memorandum has proven to be a very useful and necessary tool. As a result, there has been a significant increase in the amount of contraband found and fuel seized by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) customs from hidden compartments in vehicles during the month of May and the first half of June.

# VI. INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM NATIONAL AND OTHER SOURCES

18. The operating principle of the Mission is to base its reporting and evaluations on its own observations and on information that it has verified. The Mission Coordinator has maintained a standing request to Governments possessing the technical capacity to provide it with information relevant to its mandate. The Mission Coordinator has not received any such information since the last report.

# VII. PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED AND REPRESENTATIONS MADE TO THE AUTHORITIES

- 19. In the previous report to the Security Council on 18 May 1995 (S/1995/406), two problematic areas with violations of the border closure were mentioned:
- (a) Smuggling of fuel across the Drina river in the Citluk-Culine area (12 kilometres south of Mali Zvornik, Sector Alpha);
- (b) Use of the pedestrian bypass at the Metaljka border crossing-point (Sector Bravo).

The violations have continued in these areas since the last report as described below. It seems that the local authorities are having some difficulty in controlling the situation in these areas.

- 20. On 16 May, a mobile patrol in the area of Citluk witnessed a smuggling operation across the Drina: two boats tied up and equipped with an engine, manned by three persons carrying 12 to 15 200-litre barrels, crossed the river and were unloaded on the Bosnian side of the border. On 18 May, a mobile patrol reported from the same place that it observed one vessel crossing the Drina with 7 or 8 barrels, which were unloaded on the Bosnian side of the border. On both occasions the police and Yugoslav Army liaison officer were notified immediately. On 19 May, the head of Sector Alpha met the local authorities and raised the matter. They offered to coordinate the actions of the police, the Yugoslav Army and special customs squads. The Yugoslav Army liaison officer requested that the head of the Sector notify him of the movements of the Mission's mobile patrols in this region in order that he could provide adequate security cover. He pointed out that that type of smugglers constituted a possible danger for Mission monitors. On the same day, the Mission Coordinator received a letter from the Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Yugoslav Army, Lieutenant-General B. Kovacevic. He affirmed that the perpetrators in the first incident had been apprehended by Yugoslav Army patrols and handed over to the police authorities. They confirmed that the suspects were known smugglers, who had been punished for similar offences. Charges had been brought against them.
- 21. On 26 May, a mobile patrol reported from Citluk area that it had observed from higher ground near the main road a boat with four 200-litre barrels crossing the Drina from Bosnia and Herzegovina into the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). On their way down from the observation post, the patrol was stopped by a civilian carrying a mobile telephone. He ordered the patrol to stop and wait for the police to arrive; no explanations were given. The patrol proceeded and spotted another boat on the Bosnian side of the border, four 200-litre barrels and a man standing nearby. The sector headquarters was notified about both occurrences. On the way back, the patrol observed a lorry with a boat trailer in the same area on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) side. When the patrol approached the cars, a vehicle manned by two policemen, which had been parked nearby, moved towards the patrol car. One of the policemen requested the Mission's patrol to leave the area immediately and did not allow the monitors to ask any questions. The patrol left the area and reported the incident to headquarters. On 27 May, the

head of Sector brought the matter to the attention of the local police commander, who excused the behaviour of his men, saying that they were new recruits and still not fully aware of the procedures. The head of Sector found this explanation unacceptable and requested the authorities to undertake measures to clamp down on such illegal crossings.

- 22. On 8 June, a Mission mobile patrol again saw a boat in the area of Citluk-Culine crossing the Drina from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to Bosnia and Herzegovina. The boat seemed to be heavily loaded with 10 barrels of 200 litres each. Three persons were on board. The Sector headquarters informed the special police in Loznica.
- 23. On 22 May and 13 June, the Mission's Senior Customs Adviser met with the Deputy Director of the Customs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), Mr. B. Knezic, to discuss the smuggling activities in the Citluk-Culine area. The Mission explained that it was expecting more confiscations to take place and made demands for effective action to block these smuggling routes. Meanwhile, a barrier had been erected on the access road to the Drina in Culine. In the second meeting the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) authorities also presented a survey of goods confiscated in the Citluk-Culine area. On 20 different instances during the period from March to May, smugglers have been apprehended in the area and 5,220 litres of diesel fuel confiscated. Among other items confiscated are 18,000 litres of Coca Cola, various foodstuffs, accumulators, fertilizers, fodder and one 7.62 calibre pistol. Although the smuggling has not been totally prevented, the authorities are taking action when consignments are discovered.
- 24. On 16 May, in Metaljka, the police apprehended a smuggler with 20 litres of gasoline and 35 litres of diesel as he tried to use a well-known pedestrian bypass behind the border crossing-point. On 19 May, at the same crossing-point, a bold smuggling action took place: one car stopped near the bypass, the driver unloaded 3 cartons, took them through the bypass to the Bosnian side and handed them over to a Bosnian Serb soldier, waiting for him on the top of the hill. Then the driver returned, got into his car and passed through the crossing-point unhindered, while smiling at the monitors. During a meeting with the Montenegrin authorities on 18 May, the Mission Coordinator raised the issue of the frequency of bypassing the Metaljka border crossing.
- 25. However, the problem of the Metaljka border crossing-point has remained unsolved, in spite of the lengthy negotiations with the local authorities. On 24 May, a driver of a car tried to enter Bosnia and Herzegovina at Metaljka with a 20-litre jerrycan of fuel. When refused entry, he went to the bypass and took the jerrycan on the Bosnian side up to the hill, then returned and crossed into Bosnia without problems. A similar incident happened on the following day. On both occasions the customs and police warned the Mission monitors about the danger of conducting observations at the bypass. Again on 7 June, three jerrycans of fuel were carried across the border by using the bypass. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia authorities have issued orders to the police in Montenegro to relocate the border crossing-point so as to prevent usage of the bypass road.

- 26. Unarmed uniformed personnel continue to cross the border between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and Bosnia and Herzegovina. During the reporting period, 688 such incidents were recorded, 610 of them at Sremska Raca. On seven separate occasions uniformed policemen were allowed to cross carrying a sidearm: on 17 May in Sremska Raca, on 31 May in Metaljka, on 31 May, 1 June and 17 June in Vracenovici, on 31 May in Vilusi and on 7 June in Badovinci. All these were registered as violations. In contrast, in Trbusnica during the period from 22 to 24 May, uniformed personnel and two military vehicles were not allowed to cross into Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- 27. On 18 May, in Sremska Raca (Sector Belgrade), the customs officials chose not to confiscate a load of tools (drill, perforator, etc.) and chemicals of unknown origin, which they discovered hidden inside a declared load of pesticides. On 31 May, at the same border crossing-point, it was reported that one truck had its canopy wire cut and rejoined. Upon inspection, 3,000 empty plastic bottles were found and 30 kilograms of bronze ballbearings, 700 kilograms of iron bars and various spare parts for vehicles were hidden inside the declared load. The truck was impounded and the driver charged with a customs offence. On 16 June, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) customs seized 15 tons of coffee and 5 tons of detergent in Sremska Raca, demonstrating the close and diligent working relationship between the Mission and customs teams at the border crossing. Also on 16 June in Sremska Raca, one passenger carrying a pistol was arrested.
- 28. On 28 May, also at Sremska Raca, customs officials and the monitors on the night shift discovered a false bulkhead in a truck with a trailer. Behind the bulkhead a huge container with 12.5 tons of diesel fuel was found. The vehicle was seized, the driver arrested and fuel confiscated. On 30 May, the customs officials discovered a false floor fuel tank with 1.2 tons of fuel in a truck that attempted to cross into Bosnia. The vehicle was impounded and the fuel confiscated. On 3 June, a false bulkhead fuel tank with 4 tons of fuel in it was discovered in a truck. The vehicle was impounded and the driver charged. On 4 and 7 June, similar incidents occurred with the same results. It seems that there are increasing numbers of attempts to smuggle significant quantities of fuel in hidden fuel tanks on trucks. The Mission Coordinator is satisfied that the controls that have been introduced and the cooperation built up between the observers in Sector Belgrade and the local customs ensure that most of these attempts are unsuccessful and that appropriate action is taken.
- 29. On 24 May, Port of Belgrade observers reported that the customs officials discovered hidden double-floor fuel tanks in two lorries, and in another truck a canopy wire was cut and undeclared items (beer, fertilizer) hidden inside the load. These trucks were rejected, the contraband seized and the registration numbers put on the "offence action list" to avert further occurrences with the same vehicles. On 26 May, monitors at Novi Sad loading area reported that the customs officials discovered a load of 36 electrical motors hidden inside a declared load of flour. The vehicle was detained, the contraband confiscated and the consignor and the vehicle were "offence action listed". On 29 May, about 30 boxes of chocolate and "Nivea" cream were found at Belgrade Port in a truck that declared its load as medicine. These goods were confiscated. On 2 June, at the same location, 2 tons of coffee were confiscated from two trucks and customs offences filed against the drivers.

- 30. On 20 May, a mobile patrol in Gradac (8 kilometres south of Ljubovija, Sector Alpha) observed a boat crossing the Drina to the Bosnian side and unloading there two jerrycans and several bags. This was reported at once to the police. On 27 May, near Badovinci, the police arrested three smugglers attempting to cross into Bosnia with two 200-litre barrels of fuel. On 7 June, a special police/customs patrol confiscated 1,500 litres of diesel fuel near the junction of the Drina and Sava rivers. Five smugglers were arrested. On 12 June in Mali Zvornik (Sector Alpha), more than 30 bags of grain were allowed to be carried across the border to Bosnia.
- 31. Another troublesome bypass was discovered by the Mission observers on 20 May near the village of Sula (Sector Bravo). At the time, the bypass was patrolled by the police, who claimed to be present there 24 hours per day. On 28 May, the Mission observers noticed that an empty truck with a trailer that was denied entry into the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) through the Sula border crossing-point was later spotted in the village of Sula, on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) side, apparently having crossed the border via the bypass. On 8 June, the head of Sector Bravo, together with the Mission Special Envoy to Montenegro, patrolled the bypass road and met a truck loaded with goods crossing the border into Bosnia and Herzegovina without being checked. The tracks on the road indicated that several vehicles had used the road lately. The Mission will try to solve this problem by moving the Sula crossing-point closer to the border so that the entrance to the bypass can be controlled from the new location.
- 32. On 15 May, the police captured 2 smugglers in Vilusi (Sector Charlie) with 2 vehicles, carrying a load of 60 litres of gasoline and 2,400 litres of diesel. On 19 May it was reported from the same crossing-pint that 2 vehicles, with approximately 300 kilograms of groceries, were allowed to cross into Bosnia and Herzegovina. Also a trailer with window frames and construction materials was allowed to cross into the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro).
- In Vracenovici (Sector Charlie), on 18 May, a van with supermarket goods (juice, toilet paper, etc.) was allowed to cross into Bosnia and Herzegovina, a repeat of a similar incident on 8 to 10 May. The police claimed that there was a small shop beyond the border crossing-point on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) side. However, the monitors were able to follow the van visually and confirmed its actual crossing into Bosnia and Herzegovina. On 21 May, a car was allowed to cross the border with about 150 kilograms of food, another with 15 cases of beer, and a third with at least 9 boxes of fruit. On 23 May, at the same crossing-point, a van loaded with boxes crossed the border unchecked. On the next day the same van was allowed to cross into Bosnia and Herzegovina with approximately 400 kilograms of food and a minibus with many empty beer bottle crates was allowed to enter into the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). The matter was raised again with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) authorities and, on 26 May, the Chief of Niksic police reprimanded his personnel involved. Even then the lax behaviour of the customs officers in Vracenovici (Sector Charlie) has continued. On 12 June, a car full of groceries and a car with 20 crates of beer was allowed to cross to Bosnia. On 14 June, a van with

covered windows crossed twice each way without being checked. Another van was allowed to cross the same day with 800 kilograms of cattle feed.

- 34. On 15 May, a mobile patrol reported that the barricades on the Becka Pec and Vrbica uncontrolled border crossings (between Vracenovici and Krstac, Sector Charlie) had been tampered with again. There were traces of spilled oil. This was reported to the Yugoslav Army Liaison Officer, who ordered the reconstruction of the barricade. On 16 May, at the Becka Pec uncontrolled border crossing, 10 soldiers were located there and a stationary Yugoslav Army patrol was positioned at the Vrbica uncontrolled border crossing. On 18 May, it was discovered that the barricade at Becka Pec had been dismantled once again and no Yugoslav Army presence was evident. On 20 May, a Mission patrol noticed that the barricades on all the bypasses had been restored, with the police and special customs squads present and active. The latter managed to apprehend two trucks attempting to smuggle decorative stones into Bosnia and Herzegovina. The trucks and the load were confiscated. However, on 21 May, one of the barriers had again been removed and there were recent tracks around it. On 18 May, the Mission Coordinator had met with Major General Obradovic in Podgorica and informed him that the area north of Vracenovici continued to be of concern, owing to the ineffectiveness of the barrier plan. He promised to take steps to correct the problems at the border.
- 35. The Mission mobile patrol reported on 22 May that, at the Becka Pec uncontrolled border crossing, 12 soldiers had erected a barricade. On 23 May, the barricade there was removed and the road used. On 24 May, two Yugoslav Army patrols were seen near the barricade. On 26 May, a strong Yugoslav Army presence was observed at the Becka Pec and Vrbica uncontrolled border crossings, as well as a couple of nearby villagers. They claimed they owned land on both sides of the border and had to use the roads through the uncontrolled border crossings to till it. On 28 May, all barricades were checked and found intact, and the Yugoslav Army and police were present. On 30 May, the Yugoslav Army Liaison Officer informed the Sector Commander about the decision to establish permanent Yugoslav Army posts on the troubled Becka Pec and Vrbica uncontrolled border crossings. On 3 June, a mobile patrol observed that all principal bypasses between the Vracenovici and Vilusi border crossing-points were controlled by permanent Yugoslav Army posts, as well as the main crossroad near Crkvice, which leads to these bypasses.
- 36. Since the last report, no unexplained radar contacts have been reported by airfield monitors of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR). The Mission's air operations officer is conducting a ground survey in the Sectors to locate positions for aerial monitoring of the border. He will establish contacts with UNPROFOR and the local authorities in order to respond in a timely way to potential air border violations and their investigation.
- 37. Although the above list of violations and incidents is lengthy, the qualities and characteristics of the problems are not significant as such. There is a regular and consistent pattern of confiscations and refusals, which shows that the authorities are effectively implementing their border closure measures. Generally, the customs officials, especially the special customs squads, and police perform their duties in a highly professional manner.

#### VIII. CERTIFICATION

38. In the light of the foregoing developments during the reporting period, based on the Mission's on-site observation, on the advice of the Mission Coordinator, Mr. T. J. Nieminen, and in the absence of any contrary information from the air, either from the airborne reconnaissance system of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization or national technical means, the Co-Chairmen conclude that the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) is continuing to meet its commitment to close the border between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and the areas of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina under the control of Bosnian Serb forces. The Co-Chairmen also conclude that, during the period covered by the present report, there have been no commercial transshipments across the border between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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