St. Egidio Agreement on Education, September 1, 1996

For some years now the educational system in Kosovo—from elementary schooling to university—has not been functioning normally.

By mutual consent the undersigned, Mr. Slobodan Milosevic, President of the Republic Serbia, and Dr. Ibrahim Rugova, have decided to proceed to the normalization of the education system for Albanian youth in Kosovo.

The agreement foresees the return of Albanian students and teachers back to schools.

The present agreement, because of its social and humanitarian significance, is beyond political debate. The concern shared by both of the undersigned for the future of Albanian children and youth has led them to reach this agreement.

Both the undersigned thank their joint friends from the Community of San Egidio for the generous commitment, help and support they have given to the dialogue.

Both the undersigned are furthermore certain about the commitment of all those who are in charge to implementing the agreement for the normalization of the education system. A mixed group (3+3) will be established to make the agreement at reality.

When young people do commit themselves with purpose to their educational and cultural improvement, and in so doing become responsible citizens, we achieve a victory for civilization itself and not a victory of one side over another.

Signed,

Dr. Ibrahim Rugova
Slobodan Milosevic
President of the Republic of Serbia