

IT-02-54-T
The Prosecutor
Aleksandar Vukobratovic
KOSOVOExhibit # 315, TASS

Date Admitted: _____

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STATEMENT FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S MEETING

At today's extraordinary session, chaired by Prime Minister Momir Bulatovic, the Federal Government considered the latest events in Kosovo and Metohija and the pressure put on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The government thinks it is a new campaign of the international community and decisively refused the groundless, false and malevolent assertions on events that took place in the village of Racak.

The Federal Government considered the activities of William Walker, the director of the OSCE Mission for Verification in Kosovo and Metohija, and concluded they are in flagrant contrast with the provisions of the Agreement on OSCE Mission. Mr. Walker's activities were far beyond his mandate defined by the Agreement. The Agreement envisages the respect of obligations determined by the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations (1961).

Having in mind the Vienna Convention and on the basis of the Agreement on OSCE Mission (1st part, article 8), where it is stated precisely that the Mission has diplomatic status (article 9 of the Vienna Convention), the Federal Government decided to pronounce William Walker an unwelcome person (persona non grata); Mr. Walker is to leave the Yugoslav territory within 48 hours.

Regarding cooperation with the Hague Tribunal, the government confirmed Yugoslavia's readiness to fully implement the agreement signed with the Tribunal. However, the Hague Tribunal has no jurisdiction in Kosovo and Metohija whatsoever, since the issue is not war but terrorism and our state's legitimacy to fight it.

The representatives of the Tribunal may come in our country and negotiate on the realization of the Agreement, but they can't inspect and investigate in Kosovo and Metohija.

The Federal Government reminds that Yugoslavia's readiness for cooperation is affirmed by cooperation with independent experts for forensic medicine from Finland and other countries.

The government reaffirms its readiness to continue the cooperation with the Mission for Verification and OSCE, and to fully implement all agreements, in assurance it is mutual interest of both the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and OSCE.

Belgrade, 18.01.1999.