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DURING THE PAST YEAR, THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HAS TRIED TO END THE VIOLENCE AND BLOODSHED IN THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA. THE UNITED NATIONS HAS ESTABLISHED THE INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL ON WAR CRIMES AND ELECTED ITS JUDGES, INCLUDING A CANADIAN, JUDGE JULES DESCHENES. THE UN COMMISSION OF EXPERTS IS GATHERING INFORMATION THAT COULD BE USED IN PROSECUTING SUSPECTED WAR CRIMINALS. UN TROOPS HAVE BEEN DEPLOYED IN SIX "SAFE AREAS" IN BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA, INCLUDING SREBRENICA WHERE CANADIAN TROOPS ARE HELPING SHELTER MORE THAN 50,000 PEOPLE.

DESPITE THESE EFFORTS, THE VIOLENCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES HAVE CONTINUED AND THE LIST OF ATROCITIES GROWS DAILY. PLACES LIKE MOSTAR, GORAZDE, MEDAK AND UZDOL HAVE JOINED SARAJEVO, VUKOVAR AND SREBRENICA AS PLACES SYNONYMOUS WITH ETHNICALLY-BASED VIOLENCE THROUGHOUT THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA. IT IS PARTICULARLY DEPLORABLE THAT "ETHNIC CLEANSING" CONTINUES TO BE USED AS A WEAPON IN THIS SENSELESS WAR.

THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ATROCITIES AND ABUSES IN THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA MUST BE UNDER NO ILLUSION. THEY WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR ACTIONS.

FINALLY MR. CHAIRMAN,

WHILE THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HAS COME A LONG WAY IN DEFINING AND CODIFYING THE RIGHTS OF INDIVIDUALS TO EQUALITY, PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT, IT IS EVIDENT TO ALL THAT WE STILL HAVE A LOT OF WORK TO DO. BUILDING ON THE VICTORIES ACHIEVED, AND BEARING IN MIND THE TRAGEDIES THAT PERSIST, WE MUST EXERT NEW VIGOUR TO COMBAT THE PLAGUE OF RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION.

THANK YOU MR. CHAIRMAN.