

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

1. Nagorny Karabakh, Moldova, Ossetia

We deplore the continued fighting in Nagorny Karabakh. We urge the parties to the conflict to cease hostilities immediately and appeal to them to allow additional measures to be carried out such as a troop disengagement and the return of refugees to their native areas. We emphasize that we shall on no account recognize faits accomplis brought about by force. We appeal to all parties to the conflict to participate in the negotiations in Rome and later in Minsk with a view to finding a just and lasting political settlement in line with CSCE principles.

We observe with deep concern the escalation of the conflict on the left bank of the Dniestr in the Republic of Moldova. We urgently appeal to all parties concerned to cease hostilities at once and to refrain from any attacks.

We support the efforts to achieve a peaceful settlement made by the Presidents of the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation and Ukraine at the summit meeting of littoral states of the Black Sea in Istanbul on 25 June 1992, and support their appeal to the CSCE to help find a solution.

We appeal to all countries to allow no steps which might serve, politically or materially, to sustain the fighting.

We are pleased to note that the ceasefire in southern Ossetia is being largely observed and appeal to all parties concerned to do everything in their power to expedite a peaceful settlement of the conflict in Georgia. The political leaders in southern and northern Ossetia are again urged to sign and abide by the ceasefire agreement negotiated between the Presidents of the Russian Federation and Georgia. We call upon the parties concerned to quickly bring about a peaceful settlement of the dispute on the basis of CSCE principles, and to respect the territorial integrity of the states affected and the rights of the minority populations living there.

2. The Baltic States

Equal treatment of all minorities in the Baltic states is a basic ingredient of peace and stability in the area.

We understand the concern of the Baltic states about the deadlocked negotiations with Russia on the withdrawal of former Soviet forces. We are also aware of the practical problems facing Russia in removing them. However, these problems must not be allowed to hinder the application of the principle of international law to the effect that military forces may not be stationed on the territory of another state without its consent. It is therefore important to quickly reach agreement in the current negotiations on a timetable for the withdrawal of the troops.

3. Middle East

We reaffirm our unqualified support for the Middle East peace process initiated by the Madrid peace conference. We express the hope that the direct bilateral negotiations between the parties to the conflict, as well as the multilateral negotiations on regional issues, will lead to a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement based on Security Council resolutions 242 and 338.

We welcome the progress made by all five multilateral working groups at their recent first meetings. These talks are a major part of the efforts to promote confidence-building between the nations affected on the road to peace in the Middle East. We appeal to all sides to create an atmosphere of confidence and trust.

4. Iraq

We note that Iraq still refuses to comply with all resolutions of the Security Council without reservation. We shall continue to demand the elimination of all Iraqi weapons of mass destruction and the release of all prisoners. We warn the Iraqi regime against repressive actions against all the peoples of Iraq in violation of UN Security Council resolution 688.

Iraq must accept the responsibility for the well-being of its citizens and for the equal treatment of its minorities. It is essential for Baghdad to comply with Security Council resolutions 706 and 712 so that food and medical supplies can be distributed on an equitable basis. We condemn any use of