

and make freely available information about court proceedings generally, including to international organizations seeking to exercise legitimate monitoring functions.

Resolution of the General Assembly

The 1998 session of the General Assembly adopted by recorded vote a consolidated resolution on the situation of human rights in the territory of the former Yugoslavia (A/C.3/53/L.60). The resolution was adopted with 132 in favour, none opposed, 20 abstentions.

In the section on general considerations and concerns, the GA, *inter alia*: fully supported the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the annexes thereto (collectively the "Peace Agreement"); expressed disappointment at the continuing evidence of violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms taking place; called for the full and consistent implementation of the Peace Agreement and the Basic Agreement by all parties to them; stressed the crucial role of human rights in the successful implementation of the Peace Agreement; underlined the obligations of the parties under the Agreement to secure for all persons within their jurisdiction the highest level of international norms and standards of human rights and fundamental freedoms; stressed the need to focus international human rights efforts in the region on the core issues of the lack of full respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all individuals without distinction, the rule of law and effective administration of justice at all levels of government, the freedom and independence of the media, and freedom of expression, association, religion and movement; stressed the need for enhanced international human rights efforts to foster and effect the prompt and voluntary return of displaced persons and refugees in safety and dignity; called upon all parties and states in the region to ensure that the promotion and protection of human rights and effective and functioning democratic institutions will be central elements in the new civilian structures; and called upon all states and all parties to the Peace Agreement that have not done so to meet their obligations to cooperate fully with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

With regard to Croatia specifically (Section II), the GA, *inter alia*: welcomed the successful conclusion of the United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium (UNTAES) and the Civilian Police Support Group and the smooth and seamless transfer of monitoring responsibilities from the UN to the OSCE in October 1998; welcomed the programme for the return and accommodation of displaced persons, refugees and resettled persons; urged the government to implement fully its programme on the re-establishment of confidence, acceleration of return and normalization of living conditions in war-affected areas, and its refugee return programme in cooperation with the UNHCR; demanded that the government take immediate steps to facilitate the early voluntary return, in safety and dignity, of all refugees and displaced persons, including minorities, to their homes in all regions; called

on the government to undertake additional efforts to adhere to democratic principles and to continue efforts to attain the highest level of compliance with international norms and standards of human rights and fundamental freedoms, especially in regard to strengthening the independence of the judiciary, to freedom of association and assembly, and to the promotion and protection of free and independent media, in particular by providing for full freedom of expression in and access to all forms of media, including by the complete range of political parties; urged the impartial application of the law and the swift and complete implementation of judicial decisions for all citizens, irrespective of ethnicity, religion or political affiliation; reminded the government of its primary responsibility to restore the multi-ethnic character of Croatia, including by guaranteeing the representation of national minorities, including Serbs, at various levels of local, regional and national government; noted the improvement in the performance of the police; called on the authorities to prevent harassment, looting and physical attacks against displaced Serbs and other minorities and others; and called upon the government to ensure the non-discriminatory application of the amnesty law and to strengthen measures to end all forms of discrimination by authorities in the areas of property rights, employment, education, pensions and health care, among others.

SECURITY COUNCIL

Reports of the Secretary-General

The report of the Secretary-General on the UN Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium (UNTAES) covers the period from 4 December 1997 to the conclusion of the UNTAES mandate on 15 January 1998 (S/1998/59, January 1998).

On the question of national reconciliation, the report notes that the national media displayed a more constructive and conciliatory line in covering issues related to the Serb minority and that political and religious leaders had issued messages of tolerance and reconciliation. Progress at the national level, however, had not been matched at the local level, where reconciliation committees focussed mostly on technical issues related to returns, while ignoring the broader task of reconciliation.

Positive developments noted included, *inter alia*: an increase in the participation in Croatian political life by the region's ethnic Serb citizens; the convening of the first conference of the Independent Serb Democratic Party (SDSS), with the participation of senior representatives of the government and the ruling Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ); arrangements to ensure that there will be a continued media voice for the Serb community within the region; efforts of Serb members of Parliament to play a more active and visible role in national politics; the fact that almost all public services and enterprises had been reintegrated as, for example, with the agreement to finance full health facilities and equal access to health care for all residents of the region; the recall of text