- 12. We are deeply concerned by the continuing escalation of hostilities in Bosnia, especially in the area of Sarajevo. We appeal to all parties to establish an immediate moratorium on military operations in order to allow political negotiations, without which no lasting solution is possible, to resume as quickly as possible on the basis of the Contact Group proposals which we urge the Bosnian Serbs to accept.
- 13. We condemn the taking of UN hostages by the Bosnian Serbs, their deplorable shelling of civilian populations and their obstruction of UNPROFOR's freedom of movement. We demand the immediate and unconditional release of the remaining hostages, and hold the Bosnian Serb leadership accountable for their safety. We call on the Bosnian government and all other parties to renew the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement, and to ensure the free passage of humanitarian assistance.
- 14. We welcome the decision of the UN Security Council to strengthen UNPROFOR and to provide it with a rapid reaction capacity to enhance its security and its ability to protect civilians, facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance and promote conditions for a lasting peace. The Rapid Reaction Force will be under UN command, as stipulated in the Security Council resolution, and operate in accordance with UNPROFOR's existing mandate.
- 15. We call for renewed impetus to be given urgently to the peace process and, in this connection, we welcome the appointment of Carl Bildt as EU negotiator, and offer our strong support to him and to UN negotiator Thorvald Stoltenberg in their efforts to achieve a durable settlement.
- 16. We call for early mutual recognition between the republics in the former Yugoslavia within their existing internationally recognized borders; recognition between Bosnia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia would be an important first step, and we urge President Milosevic to take it. The Bosnian-Croat Federation is a way to advance reconciliation, and we continue to support steps to help stabilize the situation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.
- 17. We remain concerned about the risk of further fighting in Croatia. Both the Croatian government and the Croatian Serbs must exercise restraint. We urge the parties to honour the March 29, 1994 ceasefire and to cooperate with the United Nations in implementing UNCRO's new mandate. We call for further development of the Economic Agreement between the two sides and the opening of political talks to achieve a settlement respecting the internationally recognized borders of Croatia while establishing autonomy for the Serb population on the basis of the principles underlying the Zagreb-4 Plan for Croatia.