CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

- 1. This occasion has been given added meaning by the full participation in the political discussions of the President of the Russian Federation. This partnership, which is a reflection of the reforms that have taken place in Russia, reaffirms our wish to tackle together today's problems in a constructive and responsible manner.
- 2. We strongly believe that the parties to the Bosnian conflict should accept the plan presented to them on July 6th in Geneva. We urge them to do so before July 19th. If the opportunity is not seized, there is a grave risk of renewal of war on a larger scale. The parties should refrain from any military action.

We shall ensure that the measures made known to the parties in the event of either acceptance or refusal are implemented.

We support the Action Plan undertaken by the UN for the rehabilitation of Sarajevo and we welcome the signature on July 5th by the European Union and the parties concerned of the Memorandum of Understanding on the EU administration of Mostar.

Concerning the UN protected areas in Croatia, we urge compliance with the ceasefire, the resumption of talks and the mutual recognition of existing borders.

- 3. Following the death of Kim Il Sung, we must continue to seek a solution to the problem created by North Korea's decision to withdraw from the IAEA. We urge the DPRK to continue to engage the ROK and the international community, including a continuation of the talks with the US and going forward with the scheduled summit with the ROK. We also urge the DPRK to provide total transparency in its nuclear program through full and unconditional compliance with its non-proliferation obligations and to remove, once and for all, the suspicions surrounding its nuclear activities. We support the renewed efforts to resolve the North Korean nuclear issue through dialogue and we stress the importance of the DPRK's ensuring the continuity of IAEA safeguards and maintaining the freeze on its nuclear program, including no reprocessing spent fuel or reloading its nuclear reactors.
- 4. We have welcomed the Israeli-Palestinian Declaration of Principles and the signing of the Gaza-Jericho agreement as a first step in its implementation. We recognize the need to speed up the delivery of assistance and create the circumstances for a real improvement of living conditions. Progress on the other