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Kosovo Statement 10/12/98

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In recent weeks, faced with a deepening and dangerous crisis in Kosovo, the United States and our allies have pressed President Milosevic to stop the violence and repression and put the people of Kosovo on the path to peace. Last month, the United Nations Security Council, through Resolution 1199, demanded that President Milosevic implement a cease-fire, withdraw the forces he has recently sent to Kosovo and garrison the rest, allow refugees to return to their villages, give immediate access to humanitarian relief workers, and agree to a timetable for autonomy negotiations with the Kosovar Albanians. President Milosevic has not yet complied with the international community's demands.

Faced with President Milosevic's intransigence, the sixteen members of NATO have just voted to give our military commanders the authority to carry out air strikes against Serbia. This is only the second time in NATO's fifty year history that it has authorized the use of force -- and the first time in the case of a country brutally repressing its own people.

The international community now is prepared to act militarily -- but, as I have said from the beginning, we would prefer to resolve this crisis peacefully. That is why I sent Ambassador Richard Holbrooke on a mission to make clear to President Milosevic what the world expects him to do to avert NATO airstrikes. Ambassador Holbrooke has reported to me, and in the past few hours to NATO, that, faced with a solid international front, President Milosevic has made a series of important commitments that -- if fully implemented, and that is a critical "if" -- could achieve the international community's objectives.
verification system that will be established, NATO has agreed to suspend military action temporarily while we monitor President Milosevic's steps toward compliance.}

President Milosevic has agreed, first, to fully comply with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1199. Second, he has accepted an intrusive international inspection system to verify compliance. Third, he has agreed to a timetable for autonomy talks with the Kosovar Albanians.

If these commitments are met -- and the international community will be able to see for itself whether they are -- they can provide the basis for peace and progress. All along, our objective has been clear: to end the violence in Kosovo which threatens to spill over into neighboring countries and spark instability in the heart of Europe; to reverse a humanitarian catastrophe in the making, as tens of thousands of homeless refugees risk freezing or starving to death in winter; and to seek a negotiated peace. If President Milosevic fully complies, we can achieve these objectives.

But let me be very clear: commitments are not compliance. Balkan graveyards are filled with President Milosevic's broken promises. In the days ahead, we will focus not on what President Milosevic says, but on what we see through an on-the-ground and in-the-air verification system.

It will include about 2000 inspectors in Kosovo, who will serve as international watchdogs to ensure that the cease-fire holds and Serb forces withdraw, while building confidence among Kosovars to return to their homes. And it will involve unrestricted NATO overflights and surveillance, to monitor compliance and quickly detect violations.

NATO's genuine threat to use force moved President Milosevic from the battlefield to the bargaining table. Now, we are determined that -- one way or another -- NATO's resolve keeps
him there, because the situation in Kosovo is a direct challenge to our interests and our ideals. If
the violence were to continue, it could destabilize the delicate balance of the Balkans --
undermining the peace we have worked so hard to build in Bosnia... exacerbating political
tensions and civil disorder in neighboring Albania... triggering massive refugee flows into the
fragile new democracy of Macedonia... and threatening the different regional interests of our
NATO allies, Greece and Turkey.

The violence in Kosovo already has created a humanitarian crisis. In recent months, Serbian
forces have steadily escalated a campaign of repression and brutality. They have forced more
than 250,000 people to flee their villages. About 70,000 remain homeless. With a cold winter
looming and food and medicine scarce, we have no time to spare in helping the refugees begin to
rebuild their lives.

I hope that the commitments President Milosevic has made create a peaceful way forward.
That has been our preference all along. But together with our NATO partners, we will determine
whether President Milosevic follows words with deeds -- and we will remain ready to take
military action if Mr. Milosevic fails to make good on his commitments.

As we approach the next century, we must never forget one of the most indelible lessons of this
century: that America has a direct stake in keeping the peace in Europe before contained acts of
violence turn into large-scale wars. Today, determined diplomacy backed by force has paid off
in a commitment to peace. Now, we must and we will do what is necessary to ensure that
commitment becomes reality.
**Master Talking Points**

**Kosovo**

- In an effort to resolve the crisis in Kosovo, we have put intense international pressure on President Milosevic to comply with international demands under UNSCR 1199. He has not yet complied.

- Faced with President Milosevic’s intransigence, the sixteen members of NATO have just voted to give our military commanders the authority to carry out air strikes against the FRY.

- NATO is prepared to act militarily, but we have said all along that we would prefer a diplomatic solution to the use of force. That is why Ambassador Richard Holbrooke has been in Belgrade to make clear to Milosevic what he must do to comply.

- Ambassador Holbrooke has reported to us that, faced with a solid international front, President Milosevic has made a series of important commitments that, if implemented, would achieve our objectives.

- These commitments include:

  1. full compliance with UNSCR 1199 (which calls for an immediate cease-fire, withdrawal of Serb forces from Kosovo, immediate access for humanitarian relief organizations, cooperation with ICTY).

  2. acceptance of an intrusive verification regime including an OSCE mission with about 2000 verifiers in Kosovo and a NATO air component that allows unrestricted aerial surveillance of Kosovo.

  3. a timetable for completion of an interim political settlement that would give Kosovo self-government and its own local police.

- Experience dictates that we do not take Milosevic at his word, however. Thus, NATO has agreed to hold off execution of military action for 96 hours while we see if Milosevic demonstrates an intention to fully comply with 1199 and to follow-through on his agreement for a verification regime.
Verification Regime

- To ensure that Milosevic does not back-slide on his commitments, we have secured his agreement to intrusive measures on the ground and in the air to verify compliance.

- The ground presence, to be organized and led by the OSCE, would consist of 2,000 personnel on the ground with the authority and expertise to report on and verify compliance in all key areas identified by UNSCR 1199.

- The OSCE mission would have broad rights and immunities, including authority *inter alia*:
  - to establish permanent presences at any location in Kosovo,
  - to accompany movements by Serbian police and military border units,
  - to help coordinate relief efforts and return people to their homes,
  - to convene national political representatives to provide guidance on implementation of the agreement on a Verification Mission,
  - upon a political settlement, to supervise elections and help establish institutions and local police,
  - to demand removal and/or punishment of individuals or units who violate compliance.

- The ground element would not only provide an international watchdog over all elements of Serbian forces to ensure continued compliance, but its presence would help build confidence among Kosovars needed for them to return to their homes and accept a political settlement.

- Ground verification personnel would be unarmed and in civilian clothes. They would report to the OSCE Verification Mission headquarters, in Pristina. The Verification Mission headquarters would analyze and validate reports of non-compliance, in coordination with NATO authorities, including a NATO Air Verification System.

- For the Air Verification System, Milosevic has agreed that NATO reconnaissance aircraft and other systems will have unrestricted aerial surveillance of Kosovo. Air defense systems will be removed from Kosovo or stored in cantonment
areas, and no FRY fighter aircraft will fly within Kosovo or in a surrounding “mutual safety zone” during NATO manned reconnaissance missions.

- A special cell would synthesize reporting from the ground and air missions and provide integrated reports on compliance to NATO political authorities.

- The NATO Air Verification Mission provides an immediate and additional means to verify FRY compliance, while also reminding Milosevic of the proximity of NATO air power.

Progress on Settlement

- President Milosevic has agreed to make unilateral concessions regarding an interim settlement with the Kosovar Albanians on the status of Kosovo.

- He has agreed to finalize face-to-face talks with the Kosovar Albanians by November 2.

- He has agreed that the Kosovar Albanians will have self-government and to the creation of Kosovar institutions of government.

- He has agreed to establishment of Kosovar local police.

Next Steps

- Ambassador Holbrooke continues discussions with Milosevic to finalize and ensure the implementation of his commitments.

- We will be working with NATO and the OSCE to establish the verification regime.

- NATO ACTORD remains in effect, but we are holding off execution of military action for 96 hours, as we watch whether Milosevic follows through on these commitments.

- Potentially an important victory for diplomacy backed by the threat of force. Key now is for Milosevic to comply with UNSCR 1199 and follow through on his commitments to implement terms of the verification regime and maintain military preparations and resolve to use force in case of backsliding.
PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
STATEMENT ON KOSOVO
NEW YORK, N.Y.
OCTOBER 12, 1998
In recent weeks, faced with a deepening and dangerous crisis in Kosovo, the United States and our allies have pressed President Milosevic to stop the violence and repression and put the people of Kosovo on the path to peace. Last month, the United Nations Security Council, through Resolution 1199, demanded that President Milosevic implement a cease-fire, withdraw the forces he has recently sent to Kosovo and garrison the rest, allow refugees to return to their villages, give immediate access to humanitarian relief workers, and agree to a timetable for autonomy negotiations with the Kosovar Albanians.
President Milosevic has not yet complied with the international community's demands.

Given President Milosevic's intransigence, the sixteen members of NATO have just voted to give our military commanders the authority to carry out air strikes against Serbia. This is only the second time in NATO's fifty year history that it has authorized the use of force -- and the first time in the case of a country brutally repressing its own people.
The international community now is prepared to act militarily -- but, as I have said from the beginning, we would prefer to resolve this crisis peacefully. That is why I sent Ambassador Richard Holbrooke on a mission to make clear to President Milosevic what the world expects him to do to avert NATO airstrikes. Ambassador Holbrooke has reported to me, and in the past few hours to NATO, that, faced with a solid international front, President Milosevic has made a series of commitments. If fully implemented -- and that is a critical "if" -- these commitments could achieve the international community's objectives.
In light of President Milosevic’s pledges, and the independent verification system that will be established, NATO has agreed to delay action for 96 hours.

President Milosevic has agreed, first, to fully comply with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1199. Second, he has accepted an intrusive international inspection system to verify compliance. Third, he has agreed to a timetable for completing autonomy talks with the Kosovar Albanians.
If these commitments are met -- and the international community will be able to see for itself whether they are -- they can provide the basis for peace and progress. All along, our objectives have been clear: to end the violence in Kosovo which threatens to spill over into neighboring countries and spark instability in the heart of Europe; to reverse a humanitarian catastrophe in the making, as tens of thousands of homeless refugees risk freezing or starving to death in winter; and to seek a negotiated peace.
But let me be very clear: commitments are not compliance. Balkan graveyards are filled with President Milosevic’s broken promises. In the days ahead, we will focus not on what President Milosevic says, but on what we see that he does through an on-the-ground and in-the-air verification system.

I hope that the commitments President Milosevic has made can create a peaceful way forward. That has been our preference all along. But together with our NATO partners, we will determine whether President Milosevic follows words with deeds.
And we will remain ready to take military action if Mr. Milosevic fails to make good on his commitments.

As we approach the next century, we must never forget one of the most indelible lessons of this century: that America has a direct stake in keeping the peace in Europe before isolated acts of violence turn into large-scale wars. Today, determined diplomacy backed by force has paid off in a commitment to peace. Now, we must and we will do what is necessary to ensure that commitment becomes reality.
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Milosevic’s pledges, and the independent verification system that will be established [TK: is it credible to say verification system will be in place to monitor first 96 hours of compliance?], NATO has agreed not to act for 96 hours and to use that period to monitor carefully whether President Milosevic is following through on his commitments. [TK: do we need to say what happens then, i.e. if he’s following through, NATO will further postpone action, if he’s not, NATO will use force?]

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If these commitments are met -- and the international community will be able to see for itself whether they are -- they can provide the basis for peace and progress. All along, our objective has been clear: to end the violence in Kosovo which threatens to spill over into neighboring countries and spark instability in the heart of Europe; to reverse a humanitarian catastrophe in the making, as tens of thousands of homeless refugees risk freezing or starving to death in winter; and to seek a negotiated peace. If President Milosevic fully complies, we can achieve these objectives.

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building confidence among Kosovars to return to their homes. And it will involve unrestricted NATO over-flights and surveillance, to monitor compliance and quickly detect violations.

NATO’s genuine threat to use force moved President Milosevic from the battlefield to the bargaining table. Now, we are determined that -- one way or another -- NATO’s resolve keeps him there, because the situation in Kosovo is a direct challenge to our interests and our ideals. If the violence were to continue, it could destabilize the delicate balance of the Balkans -- undermining the peace we have worked so hard to build in Bosnia... exacerbating political tensions and civil disorder in neighboring Albania... triggering massive refugee flows into the fragile new democracy of Macedonia... and threatening the different regional interests of our NATO allies, Greece and Turkey.

The violence in Kosovo already has created a humanitarian crisis. In recent months, Serbian forces have steadily escalated a campaign of repression and brutality. They have forced more than 250,000 people to flee their villages. About 70,000 remain homeless. With a cold winter looming and food and medicine scarce, we have no time to spare in helping the refugees begin to rebuild their lives.

I hope that the commitments President Milosevic has made will create a peaceful way forward. That has been our preference all along. But together with our NATO partners, we will determine whether President Milosevic follows words with deeds -- and we will remain ready to take military action if Mr. Milosevic fails to make good on his commitments.

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violence turn into large-scale wars. Today, determined diplomacy backed by force has paid off in a commitment to peace. Now, we must and we will do what is necessary to ensure that commitment becomes reality.
STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

The Situation in Kosovo

A short while ago in Brussels, the 16 members of NATO voted to give our military commanders the authority to carry out air strikes against Serbia. This is only the second time in NATO's fifty year history that it has authorized the use of force -- and the first time in the case of a country brutally repressing its own people.

The international community now is prepared to act militarily -- but, as I have said from the beginning, we would prefer to resolve this crisis peacefully. That is why I sent Ambassador Richard Holbrooke on a mission to make clear to President Milosevic what the world expects him to do to avert NATO airstrikes. Ambassador Holbrooke has reported to me, and in the past few hours to NATO, that, faced with a solid international front, President Milosevic has made a series of important commitments. If fully implemented, these commitments could achieve the international community's objectives.

President Milosevic has agreed, first, to fully comply with U.N. Security Council Resolution 1199, including implementing a cease-fire, withdrawing forces he recently sent to Kosovo and ordering the rest in garrison, allowing refugees to return to their homes, and giving full access to humanitarian relief workers. Second, he has accepted an intrusive international inspection system to verify compliance. Third, he has agreed to a timetable for completing autonomy talks with the Kosovars.

If these commitments are met, they can achieve our objectives: an end to violence and repression and a start to a negotiated peace between President Milosevic and the Kosovar Albanians. But commitments are not compliance. Balkan graveyards are filled with President Milosevic's broken promises. In the days ahead, we will focus not on what President Milosevic says, but on what we see that he does through an on-the-ground and in-the-air verification system.
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Faced with President Milosevic’s intransigence, the sixteen members of NATO have just voted to give our military commanders the authority to carry out air strikes against Serbia. This is only the second time in NATO’s fifty year history that it has authorized the use of force -- and the first time in the case of a country brutally repressing its own people.

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verification system that will be established, NATO has agreed to suspend military action temporarily while we monitor President Milosevic’s steps toward compliance.

President Milosevic has agreed, first, to fully comply with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1199. Second, he has accepted an intrusive international inspection system to verify compliance. Third, he has agreed to a timetable for autonomy talks with the Kosovar Albanians.

If these commitments are met -- and the international community will be able to see for itself whether they are -- they can provide the basis for peace and progress. All along, our objective has been clear: to end the violence in Kosovo which threatens to spill over into neighboring countries and spark instability in the heart of Europe; to reverse a humanitarian catastrophe in the making, as tens of thousands of homeless refugees risk freezing or starving to death in winter; and to seek a negotiated peace. If President Milosevic fully complies, we can achieve these objectives.

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NATO’s genuine threat to use force moved President Milosevic from the battlefield to the bargaining table. Now, we are determined that -- one way or another -- NATO’s resolve keeps
him there, because the situation in Kosovo is a direct challenge to our interests and our ideals. If
the violence were to continue, it could destabilize the delicate balance of the Balkans --
undermining the peace we have worked so hard to build in Bosnia...exacerbating political
tensions and civil disorder in neighboring Albania... triggering massive refugee flows into the
fragile new democracy of Macedonia... and threatening the different regional interests of our
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The violence in Kosovo already has created a humanitarian crisis. In recent months, Serbian
forces have steadily escalated a campaign of repression and brutality. They have forced more
than 250,000 people to flee their villages. About 70,000 remain homeless. With a cold winter
looming and food and medicine scarce, we have no time to spare in helping the refugees begin to
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I hope that the commitments President Milosevic has made will create a peaceful way forward.
That has been our preference all along. But together with our NATO partners, we will determine
whether President Milosevic follows words with deeds -- and we will remain ready to take
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As we approach the next century, we must never forget one of the most indelible lessons of this
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commitment becomes reality.
- 96 hours okay

- Act and set for complaint.
- Default to untrue commoner in 96 hrs unless affirmative return to delay again.

  Judge at the PDE following thru on complaint

  "Execution will begin after 96 hrs. of notice."
In recent weeks, faced with a deepening and dangerous crisis in Kosovo, the United States and our allies have pressed President Milosevic to stop the violence and put the people of Kosovo on the path to peace. Thus far, President Milosevic has failed to comply with international community demands. Therefore, a short while ago in Brussels, the sixteen members of NATO voted to give our military commanders the authority to carry out air strikes against Serbia. This is only the second time in NATO’s fifty year history that it has authorized the use of force -- and the first time in the case of a country brutally repressing its own people.

The international community is now prepared to act militarily -- but we would prefer to resolve this crisis peacefully. That is why I sent Special Envoy Ambassador Richard Holbrooke on a mission to make clear to President Milosevic what he must do to avert NATO airstrikes and meet his obligations to the world. Ambassador Holbrooke has reported to me that -- faced with intense international pressure -- President Milosevic has made a series of important commitments that if fully implemented would achieve our objectives. In light of these pledges, NATO has agreed to suspend military action, while we see President Milosevic’s commitment to peace.

President Milosevic has agreed: first, to fully comply with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1199, including a cease-fire, withdrawing Serb forces from Kosovo, allowing refugees to return to their villages and giving full and immediate access to humanitarian relief.
workers second to accept a highly intrusive international inspection system to verify compliance; and third, he has agreed to a timetable for autonomy talks with the Kosovar Albanians.

If these commitments are met -- and the international community will be able to see for itself whether they are -- they can be the basis for peace and progress. All along, our objective has been clear: to end the violence in Kosovo, which threatens to spill over into neighboring countries and spark instability in the heart of Europe; and to reverse a humanitarian catastrophe in the making, as tens of thousands of homeless refugees risk freezing or starving to death in winter. If President Milosevic fully complies, we can achieve these objectives.

But let me be very clear: commitments are not compliance. Balkan graveyards are filled with President Milosevic's broken promises. In the days ahead, we will focus not on what President Milosevic says, but on what we see through an on-the-ground and in-the-air verification system. It will include 2000 inspectors in Kosovo, who will serve as international watchdogs to ensure that the cease fire holds and Serb forces withdraw, while building confidence among Kosovars to return to their homes; and it will involve unrestricted NATO over-flights and other surveillance, to monitor compliance and quickly detect any violations.

NATO's threat to use force moved President Milosevic from the battlefield to the bargaining table. Now, we are determined that, one way or another, NATO's resolve keeps him there, because the situation in Kosovo is a direct challenge to our interests and our ideals. If the violence were to continue, it could destabilize the delicate balance of the Balkans -- undermining the peace we have worked so hard to build in Bosnia... exacerbating political tensions and civil disorder in neighboring Albania... triggering massive refugee flows into the fragile new
democracy of Macedonia... and threatening the different regional interests of our NATO allies, Greece and Turkey.

The violence in Kosovo has already created a humanitarian crisis that could become a catastrophe. In recent months, Serbian forces in Kosovo have steadily escalated a campaign of repression and brutality. They murdered a thousand people... including women, children and the elderly... many of whom were summarily executed. They destroyed some 200 villages... forcing 250,000 people to flee their homes. About 70,000... have no homes to return to. Their homes have been burned, bombed or razed to the ground. With a cold winter looming and food and medicine scarce, we have no time to spare in helping the refugees return home so that they can begin to rebuild their lives.

I hope that the commitments President Milosevic has made will lead to a peaceful end to this crisis. That has been our preference all along. But together with our NATO partners, we will verify that President Milosevic follows words with deeds... and we will remain ready... to take military action if Milosevic fails to make good on his commitments.

As we count down to the next century, we must never forget one of the most important lessons of this century -- that America has a profound stake in keeping the peace in Europe before contained acts of violence turn into large-scale wars. Today, determined diplomacy backed by force has paid off... in a commitment to peace. Now, we must and we will do what is necessary to ensure that commitment becomes reality.
10/12/98 4 p.m.

PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
REMARKS ON KOSOVO -- "ACTORD Version"
PLACE TBD.
OCTOBER 12, 1998

In recent weeks, faced with a deepening and dangerous crisis in Kosovo, the United States and our allies have pressed President Milosevic to stop the violence and repression he started and put the people of Kosovo on the path to peace. Last month, the United Nations Security Council, through Resolution 1199, demanded that President Milosevic implement a cease-fire, withdraw Serb forces from Kosovo, allow refugees to return to their villages, give immediate access to humanitarian relief workers, and begin autonomy negotiations with the Kosovar Albanians. President Milosevic has failed to comply with the international community’s demands.

Faced with President Milosevic’s intransigence, the sixteen members of NATO have just voted to give our military commanders the authority to carry out air strikes against Serbia. This is only the second time in NATO’s fifty year history that it has authorized the use of force — and the first time in the case of a country brutally repressing its own people. I think this is okay, NATO has gone to ACTORD several times before, but only in context of Bosnia.

The international community is now prepared to act militarily — but, as I have said from the beginning, we would prefer to resolve this crisis peacefully. That is why I sent Ambassador Richard Holbrooke on a mission to make clear to President Milosevic what the world expects him to do to avert NATO airstrikes. Ambassador Holbrooke has reported to me that, faced with a solid international front, President Milosevic has made a series of important commitments that — if fully implemented, and that is a critical “if” — would achieve the international community’s objectives. In light of these pledges, and the independent verification system we will establish —
President Milosevic has agreed, first, to fully comply with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1199. Second, he has accepted an intrusive international inspection system to verify compliance. Third, he has agreed to a timetable for autonomy talks with the Kosovar Albanians.

If these commitments are met -- and thanks to a robust verification regime the international community will be able to see for itself whether they are -- they can provide the basis for peace and progress. All along, our objective has been clear: to end the violence in Kosovo which threatens to spill over into neighboring countries and spark instability in the heart of Europe; to reverse a humanitarian catastrophe in the making, as tens of thousands of homeless refugees risk freezing or starving to death in winter, and to seek a negotiated peace. If President Milosevic fully complies, we can achieve these objectives.

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NATO's genuine threat to use force moved President Milosevic from the battlefield to the bargaining table. Now, we are determined that one way or another, NATO's resolve keeps him there, because the situation in Kosovo is a direct challenge to our interests and our ideals. If the violence were to continue, it could destabilize the delicate balance of the Balkans — undermining the peace we have worked so hard to build in Bosnia... exacerbating political tensions and civil disorder in neighboring Albania... triggering massive refugee flows into the fragile new democracy of Macedonia... and threatening the different regional interests of our NATO allies, Greece and Turkey.

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I hope that the commitments President Milosevic has made will create a peaceful way forward. That has been our preference all along. But together with our NATO partners, we will remain ready to take military action if Milosevic fails to make good on his commitments.

As we approach the next century, we must never forget one of the most indelible lessons of this century: that America has a direct stake in keeping the peace in Europe before contained acts of violence turn into large-scale wars. Today, determined diplomacy backed by force has paid off in a commitment to peace. Now, we must and we will do what is necessary to ensure that commitment becomes reality.
In recent weeks, faced with a deepening and dangerous crisis in Kosovo, the United States and our allies have pressed President Milosevic to stop the violence he started and put the people of Kosovo on the path to peace. Thus far, President Milosevic has failed to do what the international community demands. Therefore, a short while ago in Brussels, the sixteen members of NATO voted to give our military commanders the authority to carry out air strikes against Serbia. This is only the second time in NATO's fifty year history that it has authorized the use of force -- and the first time in the case of a country brutally repressing its own people.

The international community is now prepared to act militarily -- but we would prefer to resolve this crisis peacefully. That is why I sent my Special Envoy, Ambassador Richard Holbrooke, on a mission to make clear to President Milosevic what he must do to avert NATO airstrikes and meet his obligations to the world. Ambassador Holbrooke has reported to me that -- faced with intensive international pressure -- President Milosevic has made a series of important commitments that, if fully implemented, would achieve our objectives. In light of these pledges, NATO has agreed to suspend military action while we test President Milosevic's commitment to peace.

President Milosevic has agreed: first, to fully comply with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1199, including a cease-fire, withdrawing Serb forces from Kosovo, allowing refugees to return to their villages and giving full and immediate access to humanitarian relief
workers; second, to accept a highly intrusive international inspection system to verify compliance; and third, to start face-to-face autonomy talks with the Kosovar Albanians.

If these commitments are met -- and the international community will be able to see for itself whether they are -- they can be the basis for peace and progress. All along, our objective has been clear: to end the violence in Kosovo, which threatens to spill over into neighboring countries and spark instability in the heart of Europe; and to reverse a humanitarian catastrophe in the making, as tens of thousands of homeless refugees risk freezing or starving to death in winter. If President Milosevic fully complies, we can achieve these objectives.

But let me be very clear: commitments are not compliance. Balkan graveyards are filled with President Milosevic's broken promises. In the days ahead, we will focus not on what President Milosevic says, but on what we see through an on-the-ground and in-the-air verification system. It will include 2000 inspectors in Kosovo, who will serve as international watchdogs to ensure that the cease fire holds and Serb forces withdraw, while building confidence among Kosovars to return to their homes. And it will involve unrestricted NATO over-flights and other surveillance, to monitor compliance and quickly detect any violations.

NATO's threat to use force moved President Milosevic from the battlefield to the bargaining table. Now, we are determined that NATO's steadfast determination will keep him there, because the situation in Kosovo is a direct challenge to our interests and our ideals. If the violence were to continue, it could destabilize the delicate balance of the Balkans -- undermining the peace we have worked so hard to build in Bosnia... exacerbating political tensions and civil disorder in neighboring Albania... triggering massive refugee flows into the fragile new
democracy of Macedonia... and threatening the different regional interests of our NATO allies, Greece and Turkey.

The violence in Kosovo has already created a humanitarian crisis that could become a catastrophe. In recent months, Serbian forces in Kosovo have steadily escalated a campaign of repression and brutality. They murdered a thousand people... including women, children and the elderly... many of whom were summarily executed. They destroyed some 200 villages, forcing 250,000 people to flee their homes. About 70,000 have no homes to return to. Their homes have been burned, bombed or razed to the ground. With a cold winter looming and food and medicine scarce, we have no time to spare in helping the refugees return home so that they can begin to rebuild their lives.

I hope that the commitments President Milosevic has made will mean a peaceful end to this crisis. That has been our preference all along. But together with our NATO partners, we will verify that President Milosevic follows words with deeds -- and we will remain on a hair trigger to take military action if Milosevic fails to make good on his commitments.

As we count down to the next century, we must never forget one of the most important lessons of this century -- that America has a profound stake in keeping the peace in Europe before contained acts of violence turn into large-scale wars. Today, our determined diplomacy backed by force has paid off in a commitment to peace. Now, we must and we will do what is necessary to ensure that commitment becomes reality.
A short while ago in Brussels, the sixteen members of NATO agreed that President Milosevic -- faced with intensive international pressure -- has made a series of important commitments that, if fully implemented, will put Kosovo on the road to peace.

The commitments President Milosevic has made are: first, to fully comply with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1199, including a cease-fire, withdrawing Serb forces from Kosovo, allowing refugees to return to their villages and giving full and immediate access to humanitarian relief workers; second, to accept a highly intrusive international inspection system to verify compliance; and third, to start face-to-face autonomy talks with the Kosovar Albanians.

Of these commitments are met -- and we the international community will be able to see for itself whether they are -- they can be not just for peace and progress, but for verification. If President Milosevic fully complies, we will achieve these objectives.

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President Milosevic says, but on what we see through an on-the-ground and in-the-air verification system. It will include 2000 inspectors in Kosovo, who will serve as international watchdogs to ensure that the cease fire holds and Serb forces withdraw while building confidence among Kosovars to return to their homes. And it will involve unrestricted NATO over-flights and other surveillance, to monitor compliance and quickly detect any violations.

NATO’s threat to use force moved President Milosevic from the battlefield to the bargaining table. [To keep him there, NATO today gave our alliance’s military commanders the authority to order air strikes against Serbian targets in Kosovo and in Serbia itself should President Milosevic renege on his commitments. This is only the second time in NATO’s fifty year history that it has authorized the use of force -- and the first time in the case of a country brutally repressing its own people. The authorization to use force will remain in effect until NATO decides to end it, based on our assessment that President Milosevic is in full compliance.] [TK: some disagreement over whether this is only second time ACTORD voted -- according to NSC/Bosnia, may have been voted multiple times during Bosnia crisis. Need to clear up.]

NATO must and will remain vigilant because the situation in Kosovo is a direct challenge to our interests and our ideals. If the violence were to continue, it could destabilize the delicate balance of the Balkans -- undermining the peace we have worked so hard to build in Bosnia... exacerbating political tensions and civil disorder in neighboring Albania... triggering massive refugee flows into the fragile new democracy of Macedonia... and threatening the different regional interests of our NATO allies, Greece and Turkey.
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They speak a different language ... they practice a different faiths. This was always understood in the old Yugoslavia. But when Milosevic became the Serbian leader in 1989, he stripped away Kosovo's autonomy. He denied Kosovars any say in their government, suppressed their culture, restricted education and health care, and distorted history to inflame hatred.

Beginning this February, Milosevic turned to violence. Small numbers of Kosovars, angry from a decade of repression, began to fight for self-government. Milosevic responded by sending Serbian security forces into Kosovo to further the repression. Over the past eight months, they have steadily escalated the violence and terrorized the population. They committed terrible atrocities. Roughly 200 villages have been destroyed and a thousand people murdered ... including women, children and the elderly. Some 250,000 people have been forced from their villages. Many have no homes to return to. Their homes have been burned, bombed or razed. With a cold winter looming ahead and food and medicine scarce, this is a humanitarian disaster waiting to happen.

Milosevic's campaign offends basic human rights. And it directly threatens American interests because it destabilizes the delicate balance of the Balkans. If the violence in Kosovo continues, it could undermine the peace we have worked so hard to build in Bosnia. It could exacerbate political tensions and civil disorder in neighboring Albania. It could trigger massive refugee flows into the fragile new democracy of Macedonia. It could threaten the different regional interests of our NATO allies, Greece and Turkey.
Two weeks ago, the United Nations demanded an end to the violence in Kosovo. It made clear the steps President Milosevic must take: implement a cease-fire ... withdraw Serbian special forces from Kosovo ... allow refugees to return to their homes ... grant immediate access for international humanitarian groups ... and begin negotiations with Kosovar leaders on autonomy.

We would prefer to end this crisis peacefully. But together with our NATO partners, we are prepared to act militarily if Milosevic fails to comply with the will of the international community. The powerful air campaign we have planned is designed to convince Milosevic to move from the battlefield to the bargaining table, or to make it very difficult for him to continue his campaign of aggression against the Kosovars.

In two months, we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights – based on our own Declaration of Independence. The best way we can give meaning to words like “human rights” and “freedom” is to make sure that they are universal ... that people from different backgrounds respect both their differences ... and the humanity that unites them. It’s time to restore humanity to Kosovo – for the sake of America’s interests ... and our ideals.

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A short while ago in Brussels, the sixteen members of NATO agreed that President Milosevic -- faced with intensive international pressure -- has made a series of important commitments that, if fully implemented, will put Kosovo on the road to peace.

The commitments President Milosevic has made are: first, to fully comply with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1199, including a cease-fire, withdrawing Serb forces from Kosovo, allowing refugees to return to their villages and giving full and immediate access to humanitarian relief workers; second, to accept a highly intrusive international inspection system to verify compliance; and third, to start face-to-face autonomy talks with the Kosovar Albanians.

The international community has reason to welcome these commitments, even as it must remain very wary that President Milosevic follows his words with deeds. All along, our objective has been clear: to end the violence in Kosovo, which threatens to spill over into neighboring countries and to spark instability in the heart of Europe; and to reverse a humanitarian catastrophe in the making, as tens of thousands of homeless refugees risk freezing or starving to death in winter. If President Milosevic fully complies, we will achieve these objectives.

But let me be very clear: commitments are not compliance. Balkan graveyards are filled with President Milosevic's broken promises. In the days and week ahead, we will focus not on what
President Milosevic says, but on what we see through an on-the-ground and in-the-air verification system. It will include 2000 inspectors in Kosovo, who will serve as international watchdogs to ensure that the cease fire holds and Serb forces withdraw, while building confidence among Kosovars to return to their homes. And it will involve unrestricted NATO over-flights and other surveillance, to monitor compliance and quickly detect any violations.

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As we count down to the next century, we must never forget one of the most important lessons of
this century -- that America has a profound stake in keeping the peace in Europe before
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to ensure that commitment becomes reality.

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- Lost field, buy down on milk to comply.
- Tody, Nato has taken steps.
- At some time, paving diplo treat.
I'd like to talk with you about the dangerous situation in Kosovo – what's at stake for America and what we're doing about it.

Kosovo is a province of the Serbian state, created from the old Yugoslavia, along with Bosnia, Macedonia, Croatia and Slovenia. Many of these place names are unfamiliar to Americans, but they are important to us, because they represent the new world that has been emerging across Europe since the Iron Curtain lifted.

Quite a few people in the Balkans are enjoying freedom for the first time. But in a few places, politicians have seized power by fanning the flames of ethnic hatred. The Serbian leader, Slobodan Milosevic, was behind the invasion of Bosnia. Now he is leading Serbs on a campaign of hatred against the innocent people of Kosovo, who constitute part of his country, but are ethnically different from him and his supporters.

This violence threatens to spill over into neighboring countries. And it has already created a humanitarian crisis that could become a catastrophe, as tens of thousands of homeless refugees risk freezing or starving to death in winter. As we count down to the next century, we must remember one of the most important lessons of the past century ... America has a profound interest in keeping the peace in Europe before small acts of violence turn into large-scale wars.
Kosovo is and should remain a province of Serbia. But it is a special place, with its own customs. Nine out of ten Kosovars share a heritage that is Albanian rather than Serbian. They speak a different language ... they practice a different faith. This was always understood in the old Yugoslavia. But when Milosevic became the Serbian leader in 1989, he stripped away Kosovo’s autonomy. He denied Kosovars any say in their government, suppressed their culture, restricted education and health care, and distorted history to inflame hatred.

Beginning this February, Milosevic turned to violence. Serbian forces were sent to Kosovo to intimidate people. In the past month, they committed terrible atrocities. Roughly 200 villages have been destroyed and a thousand people murdered ... including women, children and the elderly. Some 250,000 people have been forced from their villages. Many have no homes to return to. With a cold winter looming ahead and food and medicine scarce, this is a humanitarian disaster waiting to happen.

Milosevic’s campaign offends basic human rights. And it directly threatens American interests because it destabilizes the delicate balance of the Balkans. If the violence in Kosovo continues, it could undermine the peace we have worked so hard to build in Bosnia. It could exacerbate political tensions and civil disorder in neighboring Albania. It could trigger massive refugee flows into the fragile new democracy of Macedonia. It could threaten the different regional interests of our NATO allies, Greece and Turkey.
Two weeks ago, the UN demanded an end to Milosevic’s campaign of hatred. It made clear the steps he must take: implement a cease-fire ... withdraw Serbian special forces from Kosovo ... allow refugees to return to their homes ... grant immediate access for international humanitarian groups ... and begin negotiations with Kosovar leaders on autonomy.

We would prefer to end this crisis peacefully. But together with our NATO partners, we are prepared to act militarily if Milosevic fails to comply with the will of the international community. The powerful air campaign we have planned is designed to convince Milosevic to move from the battlefield to the bargaining table, or to make it very difficult for him to continue his persecution of the Kosovars.

In two months, we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights – based on our own Declaration of Independence. The best way we can give meaning to words like “human rights” and “freedom” is to make sure that they are universal ... that people from different backgrounds respect both their differences ... and the humanity that unites them. It’s time to restore humanity to Kosovo – for the sake of America’s interests ... and our ideals.

Thanks for listening.

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Good evening. Earlier today, with my approval, the NATO North Atlantic Council (NAC) voted to authorize NATO air strikes against Serbia.

With this decision, NATO military commanders are authorized to take military action unless President Milosevic immediately and clearly demonstrates compliance with international demands in UN Security Council Resolution 1199. The NAC decision sends the strongest signal of NATO resolve short of actual use of military force. This resolve will hopefully convince Milosevic to fully comply with UNSCR 1199 and avert the need for military action.

NATO has agreed to act because the stakes are high and the time is now to end the very dangerous situation in Kosovo. The violence there threatens to spill over into neighboring countries, sparking instability in the heart of Europe. And it has already created a humanitarian crisis that could become a catastrophe, as tens of thousands of homeless refugees risk freezing or starving to death in winter. As we count down to the next century, we must remember one of the most important lessons of the past century ... America has a profound interest in keeping the peace in Europe before small acts of violence turn into large-scale wars.

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