Stockholm Meeting of the CSCE Council

Summary of Conclusions

Stockholm, 15 December 1992

Shaping a New Europe — The Role of the CSCE


The Ministers consulted on a broad range of issues, in particular the aggression in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia, the crisis in parts of the former Yugoslavia, other regional crises and issues together with the strategy and structure of the CSCE.

In the light of serious threats to peace and security in the CSCE area the Ministers agreed to pursue a strategy of active diplomacy. They will provide the necessary resources.

The Ministers expressed their continuing commitment to use the CSCE to consolidate human rights, democracy, the rule of law and economic freedom as the foundation for peace, security and stability and to prevent, manage and solve conflicts in the CSCE area.

The Ministers condemned the extended use of force in Europe which has bred ever more violence and hatred. They strongly rejected continuing flagrant violations of human rights. They committed themselves to act to counter the growing manifestations of racism, anti-semitism and all forms of intolerance in the CSCE area.

The Ministers agreed to improve cooperation with relevant international organizations. They decided, in particular, to increase co-ordination with the United Nations.

Important aspects of the CSCE strategy include:
- Strengthening the CSCE's operational capabilities through structural reforms and the appointment of a Secretary-General;
- Emphasizing the CSCE's ability to provide early warning through the appointment of a High Commissioner on National Minorities who will enjoy the full political support of all participating States;
- Active use of missions and representatives as part of preventive diplomacy to promote dialogue, stability and provide for early warning;
- Enhancing opportunities for the peaceful settlement of disputes through the approval of a comprehensive set of measures to this end. The Ministers stressed their expectations that participating States will avail themselves increasingly of these mechanisms;
- Effective use of missions and representatives in crisis areas as part of a strategy of consultation, negotiation and concerted action to limit conflicts before they become violent;
- Co-operating, as appropriate, with international organizations and with individual participating States to ensure that the broad spectrum of CSCE mechanisms and procedures, including peacekeeping, can be applied;
- Increased efforts at treating the root causes of conflicts by applying all aspects of the human dimension of the CSCE and by involving non-governmental organizations and individual citizens more directly in the work of the CSCE;
- Making all governments accountable to each other for their behaviour towards their citizens and towards neighbouring States and holding individuals personally accountable for war crimes and acts in violation of international humanitarian law;
- Greater use of the Forum for Security and Co-operation as a place for negotiation and dialogue which can ensure continued progress in reducing the risks of military conflict and enhancing stability in Europe;
- An active programme to help newly-admitted participating States to participate fully in the structures and work of the CSCE.
Decisions

1. Regional issues

Former Yugoslavia

1. The CSCE has given early and special attention to the tragic conflict in the former Yugoslavia which has led to all-out war and immense human suffering and which poses a growing threat to peace in the region.

2. Primary responsibility for the conflict lies with the present leaders of Serbia and Montenegro and with the Serbian forces operating in Bosnia-Herzegovina. In defiance of all efforts by the entire international community, these authorities continue to pursue territorial gain through the use of force and to violate basic human standards through the odious practice of ‘ethnic cleansing’, and other brutalities affecting many parts of the former Yugoslavia. All this must stop immediately.

3. The Ministers expressed their collective and individual determination to pursue all efforts to restore peace in former Yugoslavia. They did so on the basis of the special moral and political authority represented by the principles and commitments of the CSCE. They presented the leaders of Serbia and Montenegro with a clear choice. If there is a radical change of their policy towards their neighbours and their own people and genuine co-operation in the peace process, Serbia will be gradually readmitted to the international community; if, on the other hand, the Belgrade regime continues its present policies, the international community will take sterner action to ensure compliance with the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and the decisions of the International Conference on Former Yugoslavia.

4. The Ministers are using the means available to the CSCE to contribute to international efforts to end the fighting and prevent spillover of the conflict. They are working towards several immediate objectives:

- An end to systematic aggression in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia, exemplified by recent stepped-up attacks against Sarajevo and other cities and villages in other parts of Bosnia-Herzegovina by Serb forces, and the prevention of a further expansion of the conflict to other areas of the former Yugoslavia and to countries neighbouring on Serbia and Montenegro.

- Cessation of violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, specifically the policy of ‘ethnic cleansing’ in particular in Bosnia-Herzegovina as well as in Kosovo, Sandjak and Vojvodina and the systematic rape of Muslim women, and steps to ensure prosecution of those personally accountable.

- Expansion of humanitarian assistance to ease current suffering and measures to assure its rapid delivery to those most in need.

- An end to the systematic destruction of mosques, Catholic churches, synagogues and other religious monuments as well as other sites of cultural heritage in areas under Serbian control.

- A negotiated political settlement to the current conflict that preserves the integrity of Bosnia-Herzegovina, denies any gain through the seizure of territory by force and provides for the safe return of refugees and displaced persons to their homes.

- Effective fulfilment of the UNPROFOR mandate in the UNPA zones in Croatia and full implementation of the Vance Plan.

5. The Ministers requested the Chairman-in-Office, assisted by the Troika, to report to the Steering Committee of the International Conference on Former Yugoslavia on 16 December 1992, and to work to ensure closer co-ordination between the CSCE and the ICFY.

6. They requested her, assisted by the Troika, to travel to Belgrade prior to the elections