

## **KOSOVO**

### **NATO Press Release (1999)038 22 March 1999**

In response to Belgrade's continued intransigence and repression, the Secretary General of NATO, to whom the North Atlantic Council had delegated on 30 January the authority to decide on air operations, is completing his consultations with the Allies to this end.

In view of the evolution of the situation on the ground in Kosovo, the North Atlantic Council has also authorised today the Secretary General to decide, subject to further consultations, on a broader range of air operations if necessary.

### **Statement by UK Defence Minister Paris, 22 March 1999**

...The time has come for President Milosevic to face up to his responsibilities. The demands of the international community were reiterated in the warning from NATO on 30 January. He must cease offensive military activity in Kosovo immediately. He must reduce force levels to those agreed in October. He must accept the interim settlement negotiated by the international community at Rambouillet...

We hope NATO military action will not be required. But we reaffirm that we are ready, with out NATO allies, to take whatever measures are necessary to avert a humanitarian catastrophe in Kosovo.

### **NATO Press Release (1999)041 24 March 1999**

I have been informed by SACEUR, General Clark, that at this moment NATO Air Operations against targets in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia have commenced.

In the last months the international community has spared no efforts to achieve a negotiated solution in Kosovo. But it has not been possible.

Clear responsibility for the air strikes lies with President Milosevic who has refused to stop his violent action in Kosovo and has refused to negotiate in good faith. ...

We must stop the violence and bring an end to the humanitarian catastrophe now taking place in Kosovo. We have a moral duty to do so.

NATO's men and women in uniform, who are carrying out this important mission, are among the best in the world. I am confident that they will be successful.

### **Excerpts from Security Council Discussion of 24 March 1999 SCOR (LIV), 3988<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

*USA*

We and our allies have begun military action only with the greatest reluctance. But we believe that such action is necessary to respond to Belgrade's brutal persecution of Kosovar Albanians, violations of international law, excessive and indiscriminate use of force... all of which foreshadow a human catastrophe of immense proportions.

*Netherlands*

...[t]he Council should be involved in any decision to resort to the use of force. If, however, due to one or two permanent members' rigid interpretation of the concept of domestic jurisdiction, such a resolution is not attainable, we cannot sit back and simply let the humanitarian catastrophe occur.

*Russia*

Attempts to justify the NATO strikes with arguments about preventing a humanitarian catastrophe in Kosovo are completely untenable. Not only are these attempts in no way based on the Charter or other generally recognised rules of international law, but the unilateral use of force will lead precisely to a situation with truly devastating humanitarian consequences.

*India*

The attacks against the FRY...are in clear violation of Article 53 of the Charter.... Among the barrage of justification we have heard, we have been told that the attacks are meant to prevent violations of human rights. Even if that were to be so, it does not justify unprovoked military aggression. Two wrongs do not make a right.