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PEOPLE WITHOUT THE RIGHT TO DREAM

STATEMENT  
BY  
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FOREIGN MINISTER OF SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO

Ljubljana, 5 December 2005

Excellencies,

Dear Friends,

Before I begin, I would like to express my gratitude to Dimitrij Rupel, Foreign Minister of Slovenia, for his exceptional stewardship of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) over the past year, as well as my congratulations and best wishes to the new Chairman-in-Office, Belgium's Foreign Minister Karel de Gucht.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the Slovak Republic and Eduard Kukan, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic, for kindly accepting our request for the exchange in the list of speakers.

After the United Nations, the OSCE is the largest international organization, charged with protecting human and civil rights, irrespective of nationality, faith, race, policy, sex or any other appurtenance. With stigmatizing the Evil and promoting the Good, with always being on the side of the right and against the might, with hectoring and harassing each and every government to respect the principle of human freedom.

For many people in the world, these principles are like a beautiful dream. For a European people, the Serbian people in Kosovo and Metohija, these principles are not even a dream, since most Serbs in Kosovo and Metohija today know not even the meaning of the very notions of freedom and hope.

Six and a half years ago, when the United Nations introduced a protectorate to Kosovo and Metohija, the slogans and declarations about the rule of law and the European level of the protection of the Serbian and other minorities in that Province were galore. Killings, expulsions and the mining and destruction of homes, churches and monasteries, even of cemeteries, however, brought the feeling of tragic helplessness to the mind and soul of that defenceless people. There is no safety of life. No freedom of movement. People live in enclaves, small islands scattered in the sea of the Albanian majority. Perhaps, the only hope they still cherish in those enclaves is the hope of God.

There is no higher calling either for the OSCE, Council of Europe, European Union, Contact Group or the Security Council than to restore human rights to those people. Yes, human rights. I insist on human rights, not on human happiness, for, to quote the great philosopher Schopenhauer, the essence of happiness is precisely in diminishing the size of suffering and misfortune.

The second great obligation of the OSCE, Council of Europe, European Union, Contact Group and the Security Council is to say NO to the ultimatums of the extreme representatives of the Albanian majority in Kosovo and Metohija that the remaining Serbs, as well as the international military and police forces themselves, will be prey of mass terror if that Province is not given the status of independent state. A crime as a foundation of a State and a State as a reward for crimes! Such an ultimatum is a shot into the moral and legal foundations of Europe and the world.

I hope that agreement will be reached in the negotiations on the future status of Kosovo to the effect that the status be human and European, with the highest respect for the rights of both the Albanian majority and non-Albanian minorities, of Serbia and of the entire region.

I trust and believe that the OSCE will make an important contribution to the achievement of such a solution.

I would also like to emphasize that my country supports the reform of OSCE which will be the result of agreement, not of polarization.

Thank you.