

112th Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 112, Agenda item 4

DECISION No. 165

Recalling its Decision No. 160 of 27 March 1997,

Considering the need for immediate implementation of this Decision,

The Permanent Council decides

1. To authorize the Secretary General to incur commitments and make expenditures related to the OSCE presence in Albania up to the level of ATS 15 million, pending the approval of a budget to cover these costs at a later stage, without prejudging the question of whether or not these funds will eventually require additional resources for the 1997 unified budget;
2. To task the Secretary General with submitting a budget for the OSCE presence in Albania in accordance with the provisions of the Financial Regulations.

Statement by the Secretary General

Concerning the Decision just adopted, I would like to make two comments:

First, I believe that the authorization to incur commitments and make expenditures up to ATS 15 million is satisfactory, considering that we are talking here of a working fund to implement immediately the PC Decision of 27 March 1997.

With reference to the language in paragraph 1 of the Decision, it is superfluous for me to assure the PC that we shall do our utmost to cover as much as possible of these commitments and expenditures from existing resources within the 1997 budget.

But, that said, I would like to say just as plainly that the problem is likely to be not whether additional resources will be needed, but to what extent. On this point, Mr. Chairman, I would like to go on record.

Interpretative statement under paragraph 79 (Chapter 6) of
the Final Recommendations of the Helsinki Consultations

By the delegation of Albania:

(Letter from the Head of the Permanent Mission of Albania, Ambassador Zef Mazi, to the Chairman of the Permanent Council, Ambassador Lars Vissing)

“I am writing to you with regard to the Permanent Council Decision adopted subject to a silence procedure expiring on Monday, 28 April 1997, at 6 p.m., as it appeared in the document of the draft decision REF.PC/274/97/Rev.1, dated 24 April 1997 and in document PC.DEC dated 24 April 1997.

This does not mean that the Albanian delegation is breaking the silence procedure, nor should it be taken to imply that. My delegation wishes to reaffirm its adoption of the said Decision. The adoption of this Decision, however, does not and should not prejudice the question of the structure of the OSCE presence in Albania which, it is our understanding, is still an open question and about which consultations are continuing, including with the host country.

If by 6 p.m. on 28 April, no delegation has broken the silence procedure, and the decision is automatically considered adopted, I would kindly request you to attach this letter to the Decision.”