

The President and Prime Minister paid tribute to the work of the United Nations in the former Yugoslavia and to the courage and dedication of the troops who are ensuring that convoys get through. They welcomed the success of the UN and its agencies, despite all the odds, in delivering large quantities of aid to those in need. They agreed on the importance of enabling that effort to go ahead.

The United States and the United Kingdom have agreed to cooperate on a Resolution in the United Nations to enforce compliance with the 'no-fly' zone for Bosnia should violation of the existing ban continue. The aim of the resolution would be to prevent flights taking place other than those specifically authorized by the United Nations.

The President and the Prime Minister:

- (a) agreed that steps need to be taken to prevent the spread of fighting into Kosovo and Macedonia;
- (b) welcomed the decision to deploy UN troops in Macedonia and hoped that this UN presence would be stepped up over the coming weeks;

(c) agreed also to press for the very early increase in the numbers of observers in Kosovo;

(d) agreed that our attitude to sanctions would depend on a rapid and radical change of policy by Serbia;

(e) confirmed that they would be ready, depending on Serbia's response, to impose new sanctions. They could initially include cutting postal and telecommunication links and could lead to closing the borders and complete diplomatic isolation for years to come.

The President and the Prime Minister paid tribute to the work of Cy Vance and David Owen in trying to negotiate a peaceful settlement in the former Yugoslavia. Both Governments will continue to give the negotiators their full support.

Note: The joint statement was made available by the Office of the White House Press Secretary but was not issued as a White House press release. The statement referred to Cyrus Vance and Lord David Owen, Co-chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia.

Statement by Press Secretary Fitzwater on the President's Discussions With Foreign Ministers of Central European States

December 22, 1992

The President met today with the Foreign Ministers from Austria, Hungary, Poland, and Slovenia, representing members of the Central European initiative, to discuss the crisis in the Balkans. The Foreign Ministers emphasized their concerns over the direction of events in the former Yugoslavia.

The President expressed deep concern over the violence still wracking Bosnia and highlighted the efforts that the United States has taken, along with the EC and

other concerned nations, to help alleviate the suffering of innocents. He recognized the importance of stability to the new democracies of the region, including those represented in the meeting, and encouraged them to work in support of the efforts under the auspices of the United Nations and CSCE to help defuse the crisis and contribute to the search for a political settlement.