

SUPREME DEFENCE COUNCIL

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MILITARY SECRET

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

STENOGRAPHIC RECORD

of the 15<sup>th</sup> Session of the

SUPREME DEFENCE COUNCIL

- held on 10 November 1993 -

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Belgrade

STENOGRAPHIC RECORD

of the 15<sup>th</sup> Session of the

S U P R E M E D E F E N C E C O U N C I L

held on 10 November 1993

The session began at 1200 hours.

Attending the session: Zoran LILIĆ, the President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia /FRY/ - President of the Supreme Defence Council; Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ, the President of the Republic of Serbia and Momir BULATOVIĆ, the President of the Republic of Montenegro – members of the Council; Dr. Radoje KONTIĆ, Federal Prime Minister; Pavle BULATOVIĆ, Federal Minister of Defence; Colonel General Momčilo PERIŠIĆ, Chief of the Yugoslav Army General Staff; Major General Slavko KRIVOŠIJA, Chief of the Military Cabinet of the President of the FRY – Secretary of the Supreme Defence Council.

(Stenograph taken by Jordan ŽIVANOVIĆ, senior debate stenographer – sub-editor in the General Secretariat of the FRY President)

The session was chaired by Zoran LILIĆ, President of the Supreme Defence Council.

At the proposal of the President, the session adopted the following

A g e n d a:

- Adoption of the minutes of the 14<sup>th</sup> Session of the Supreme Defence Council

1. PROPOSED TRANSFORMATION OF THE YUGOSLAV ARMY
2. PERSONNEL ISSUES
3. CURRENT ISSUES

(A stenographic record of the first item on the agenda – Proposed transformation of the Yugoslav Army – was not made).

ZORAN LILIĆ:

I propose that we adopt the minutes of the 14<sup>th</sup> Session of the Supreme Defence Council.

Are there any remarks to the minutes? (None).

I hereby declare the minutes of the 14<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council adopted without remarks.

Let's proceed to the second item on the agenda:

## 2. PERSONNEL ISSUES

- a) Discussion about personnel issues in the Yugoslav Army
- b) Regulation of entitlement issues to members of the Army of Republika Srpska and the Army of Republic of Serbian Krajina from the Yugoslav Army and the former JNA /Yugoslav People's Army/

I'd like to ask General PERIŠIĆ to make the introductory remarks.

Momčilo PERIŠIĆ:

We had a session of the Advisory Board of the Chiefs of the General Staff at which we concluded that, under the new Law, the following have to be dismissed from the Yugoslav Army: 303 colonels have already been pensioned off; the procedure is underway for the remaining 882 officers, because this is decided at a lower level of decision-making; 756 non-commissioned officers and 2,086 civilians – which means, a total of 4,027 persons.

Once the above-mentioned officers are pensioned off, the current number of officers will be as follows: we will still have a surplus of 233 officers in the Army, including the ones in Republika Srpska and the Republic of Serbian Krajina, since they have not been included in our needs but they exist.

Further on, we have a shortage of over 1,000 non-commissioned officers...

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

Well, why are you pensioning off so many of them if there is a shortage?

Momčilo PERIŠIĆ:

This will all be correlated with the newly projected forces. This means that only those whose retirement is mandatory and those who have in any way transgressed against the Officers' Code of Conduct will go.

Compared to the last time, there are 200 officers more in the Republic of Serbian Krajina, totalling 1,192, and another 561 are due to leave on 16 November. After that, we would have around 1,300 officers here.

The stand I took was to do everything for those men to go there, although you said different. If someone flatly refuses to go, then I'll do everything I can to help him leave the Army because, if he doesn't want to defend his people when they are most threatened, when will he defend them? Nevertheless, this will be done selectively. This means that the sole criterion will not be whether someone was born there, but that other criteria will also be taken into consideration.

In Republika Srpska the situation is as follows: 2,477 are there, another 2,140 are here and 205 will be leaving on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

That's the situation regarding the first point.

Everyone who fulfilled both conditions and whose departure was mandatory has left the Army as well as those with over 30 years of service and whose conduct was unbecoming to an officer of the Yugoslav Army.

That would be all for item a).

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

Radovan KARADŽIĆ called me up yesterday and asked for Colonel Boro STANIŠIĆ, whom you have pensioned off. KARADŽIĆ said: "Boro STANIŠIĆ from the Belgrade City Defence Command is the best colonel in the JNA."

Momčilo PERIŠIĆ:

Mr. President, I would like to explain the matter. He has, undoubtedly, helped them a lot, but in helping them he has given a lot and benefited from it.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

What, he has benefited from it?!

Zoran LILIĆ:

Momo, I've been told that if anyone could find proof that he acquired personal gain, they would reward him. They say he is a man who doesn't have a pair of shoes, flat or car – he's got nothing!

Momčilo PERIŠIĆ:

I can make an exception – that's within my competence. But you know that the MUP /Ministry of the Interior/ is now confiscating rifles and there are military rifles among them. Many people have issued rifles in various ways. You saw it: Ratko is constantly asking for weapons and I guarantee you that many of his men have three firearms each.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

They do, for sure!

Momčilo PERIŠIĆ:

That's another "good deed" Boro STANIŠIĆ, I'm certain of that.

Moving along, I propose that colonels who were appointed by decree be relieved of their duties; I don't have the right to do that:

1. Veljko DROBAC, son of Rade, he has risen up through the ranks and is a good officer but he is "taken ill" whenever he has to go to the Republic of Serbian Krajina. He's not ill to become a general, but he's ill when he has to go there.

2. Slave STOJANOVSKI, son of Vasil, a Macedonian. We can't appoint him to a key post. Otherwise, he's good.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

Keep him if he's good!

Momčilo PERIŠIĆ:

But, do we promote him to general?

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

I wouldn't conduct "ethnic cleansing" in the Army.

Momčilo PERIŠIĆ:

Mr. President, we are not conducting "ethnic cleansing"! But there is another Macedonian.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

He was born in 1943 – that means he's 50.

Momčilo PERIŠIĆ:

His status is currently undefined. We would have to find him a position. We are not sure, should he remain a colonel or become a general?

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

I wouldn't dismiss him because he's a Macedonian, I'd keep him.

Momčilo PERIŠIĆ:

That means he's staying! All right.

Next on the list is Vladimir ŠEPEC, son of Vladimir. He was born in 1939. He is now working at the Sector for Operations and hasn't been appointed. He was in the 5<sup>th</sup> Military District Command during the break-up.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

But he is already 54. Hasn't he exceeded the age-limit for a colonel?

Momčilo PERIŠIĆ:

Yes, he has and he should be pensioned off; before that, he should be relieved of his duty by decree.

Next on the list is Ejub KURČUB, born in 1939, who is now working at the Military Schools Centre. The men are very dissatisfied with having him as a professor while his people are fighting against Serbs. We propose to relieve him of his duties.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

What's he like at work?

Momčilo PERIŠIĆ:

He is now indecisive, not only he but all men of other nationalities who stayed here. They are in a difficult position because people don't accept them!

Mr. President, I am pro-Yugoslav orientated and I have fought with many men. They left everything and came to fight with us, led by the Yugoslav idea and they really fought. However, these men are in a very difficult position now. On hearing someone's name in a company or battalion, they refuse to obey him. Unfortunately, one type of nationalism generates another!

Momir BULATOVIĆ:

If he's good, I understand the problem. Our job here is to relieve of duties the men who were appointed by decree. The ethnic criterion doesn't have to be the only factor for someone to be pensioned off. It's not in our interest to promote anyone into the rank of general, other than through regular procedure. Our job is to revoke the decrees and then it's up to the Chief of General Staff to decide.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

I agree about KURČUB, but I see no reason for STOJANOVSKI.

Momčilo PERIŠIĆ:

All right, we'll keep him and the decree.

Moving on, RAKIĆ. He is a Serb and in his actions he has abused his position, stolen and so on.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

Well, then there's nothing to discuss!

Momčilo PERIŠIĆ:

That means we relieve RAKIĆ of his duties and I pension him off.

Next, Trpko ZDRAVKOVSKI, son of Pavle, born in 1938. He was the commander of the PVO /Anti-Aircraft Defence/ Centre in Zadar, we fought together. I can say he was an exceptional soldier. If his Centre had fallen, my Centre would have fallen too, with the hardware. I'm very sorry for him, but he hasn't been accepted either.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

Don't pension off men who have fought but haven't been accepted so easily.

Momir BULATOVIĆ:

Find him another post.

Momčilo PERIŠIĆ:

I request to leave him with the decree.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

Let him stay.

What about Vuk OBRADOVIĆ, the director of the Army Service? I don't know him personally, but bankers say he's a very professional and trustworthy man.

Momčilo PERIŠIĆ:

He's a professional and trustworthy, but according to the new job classification, his post does not require the rank of a general. Only men commanding troops and units should be generals.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

He earned his doctor's degree and we don't have bankers of his calibre.

Pavle BULATOVIĆ:

He has 44 years of service.

Momčilo PERIŠIĆ:

First of all, he is not a front-line man. My profound belief is that those men have achieved the highest academic title – he has earned his doctor's degree and he's well-established.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

The question is do you need men like him, you don't have such cadre.

Momčilo PERIŠIĆ:

I have a man with a doctor's degree as the head of the Financial Service; I have three men with doctor's degrees and they're of no use to me. His Chief of Finance has a doctor's degree, I have someone with a doctor's degree, Vuk has a doctor's degree but the Army doesn't have money to survive! I have no use of men

with doctor's degrees, Mr. President although I know it's not their fault that the situation is as it is.

Radoje KONTIĆ:

He's a good banker.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

A long time ago, I heard that you want to form a separate army bank.

That's a bad idea.

Momčilo PERIŠIĆ:

Mr. President, you couldn't have heard that from me!

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

I didn't hear it from you, it was before you came. I think it should be an Army Service at the National Bank of Yugoslavia and nothing else.

Zoran LILIĆ:

With even less authority than now!

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

Many bankers have contacted me, saying: We hear Vuk OBRADOVIĆ will be pensioned off. Check that out! If that position is as per establishment reduced to the rank of colonel, then he doesn't need a decree.

Momčilo PERIŠIĆ:

He was appointed by your decree. I am not authorised to take that from him, only the person who issued the decree.

Momir BULATOVIĆ:

They have been appointed generals by decree and he doesn't have the right to revoke the decree issued by us. We have to revoke the decree and relieve them of their duties temporarily.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

All right, I agree, but take care of the professional cadre.

Momčilo PERIŠIĆ:

Right!

Next we have Mujo ĆILIMOVIĆ who is in the Navy. He doesn't have a post as per establishment and I don't have place for him. There's no chance he'll become the Chief of Staff, Fleet or Navy Commander. We have to revoke the decree in his case.

The same goes for SUNARIĆ.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

SUNARIĆ was born in 1946, he's a young man.

Pavle BULATOVIĆ:

He must be a Croat?

Momčilo PERIŠIĆ:

Yes, he's a Croat.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

What's he been like?

Momčilo PERIŠIĆ:

He's good, there's nothing negative. However, the men won't have him as Fleet Commander or Navy Chief of Staff.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

I understand that, but he shouldn't be kicked out of the Army.

Momčilo PERIŠIĆ:

I'm not thinking of kicking him out of the Army. All I'm proposing is to revoke the decree.

I proposed the same for Mujo ĆILIMKOVIĆ, he was born in 1941.

Let's recapitulate.

Let's see, Slave STOJANOVSKI and Tvrtko ZDRAVKOVSKI stay with decrees and the decrees will be revoked for the others.

Momir BULATOVIĆ:

That means that the two Macedonians will stay with the decrees?

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

Yes. You heard what PERIŠIĆ said: "He fought in Zadar."

I urge that we Macedonians benevolently.

Momir BULATOVIĆ:

That means he'll become a general by decree?

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

Let him, why not, although he's a Macedonian. He fought in Zadar and elsewhere.

Momčilo PERIŠIĆ:

The next item on the agenda is

Deployment of generals

Last time we failed to appoint them all. In the meantime, we have appointed some by an order issued by me, but these are general posts and they should be appointed by decree:

1. Gradimir ŽIVANOVIĆ, the Chief of Cabinet of the Chief of General Staff, he has risen up through the ranks and completed all schools, and the Personnel Board proposed that we appoint him to the post of general by decree.

2. Miodrag SIMIĆ, a colonel; he is a good and capable man.

3. Svetozar MARJANOVIĆ, he's the Artillery Administration Chief and a soldier. He was the one who accepted all the pullouts in Karlovac and prevented

the fall of the Engineering School Centre in Karlovac. A price of several million German Marks was put on his head.

4. Konstantin ARSENOVIĆ, he is a colonel and currently the Technical Administration Chief.

5. Spasoje SMILJANIĆ, he's the Assistant Chief of the Centre of Military Schools of Higher Education for Specialised Training. He's a very capable man.

6. GRAHOVAC, Commander of the Centre for Specialised Training for the RV /Air-Force/ and PVO /Anti-Aircraft Defence/. At one time, he was one of the candidates for the post of Chief of the RV and the PVO.

7. Zlatoje TERZIĆ, he fought in Vukovar. He has been appointed Chief of Staff at the Novi Sad /?Corps/. He is a very eloquent and capable officer.

8. Milan ZEC for the post of Navy Chief of Staff. He is already an Admiral, but he should be appointed to the post by decree.

9. Milan RADOVIĆ, War Fleet Commander. We thought of SUNARIĆ for the post, but he's not accepted by the men because he's a Croat although he was born in Zaječar, but the men dislike him.

10. Radojica KADIJEVIĆ, who is at the Federal Ministry of Defence. He was the Navy Technical Service Chief with us. Perhaps the Minister knows something more about him?

Pavle BULATOVIĆ:

All I know is what you told me (addressing General PERIŠIĆ).

Momčilo PERIŠIĆ:

He is a stable man, he has completed all military schools and he's a mechanical engineer by profession.

That would be all.

The rank structure is as follows: a total of five lieutenant generals and 45 Major Generals. There are 50 of us. The ethnic structure is as follows: 33 Serbs from Serbia, three Serbs from the former Bosnia and Herzegovina, six Serbs from the former Republic of Croatia, six Montenegrins, one Hungarian, one Albanian and two Macedonians. Both Macedonians were born in Macedonia but their wives are Serbian.

Zoran LILIĆ:

All right, I propose that we adopt the Report of the Chief of General Staff Advisory Board as follows: to terminate the duties as contained in the comments of the Chief of the General Staff.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

Does this mean that the crime rate in the Army will drop when these men are pensioned off?

Momčilo PERIŠIĆ:

The crime rate should drop considerably. However, frankly speaking, Mr. President, the Army should be /illegible/ in relation to the other structures, but it's impossible to expect that crime in society does not affect the Army. My first task is to kick the criminals out of the army. Why? Because they steal things which directly affect combat readiness: rifles, ammunition and fuel. Men like that should not remain in the Army.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

We have arrested many with loads of firearms which they stole from Republika Srpska and the Republic of Serbian Krajina where weapons are needed for defence. What do they need firearms in Indija, Leskovac or Sremska Mitrovica? What they did was a crime, but you saw how they fared!

Zoran LILIĆ:

I propose that we adopt the Report of the Advisory Board of the Chief of General Staff - adopt decrees relieving of duty the colonels appointed by decrees, but leave the decrees for Slave STOJANOVSKI and Trpko ZDRAVKOVSKI.

Second, adopt the deployment of generals as proposed by the Chief of General Staff.

Do you agree? (Sounds of approval).

Let's move on to the second part of personnel issues.

Momo, go ahead!

Momčilo PERIŠIĆ:

The second part deals with problems to define the status in the Army of Republika Srpska and the Republic of Serbian Krajina.

Last time, we drafted an Order to which you agreed except for the clause which said that failure to go there meant termination of service in the Yugoslav Army.

We have changed the Order and prepared it for signing. You have received it.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

Will you be keeping this?

Momčilo PERIŠIĆ:

I'll keep it. We've solved the problem as follows: there's the 40<sup>th</sup> Training Centre and all officers of Republika Srpska who appear on our lists are there. An officer is appointed there as per the formation elements and the like, like in our case but he in fact works in Republika Srpska. We also have the 41<sup>st</sup> Centre which is for the Republic of Serbian Krajina. They have all the rights as if they were in the Yugoslav Army here, with regard to everything, except that they are physically absent, they're on the front.

We had to do it this way because the Law on Service in the Yugoslav Army doesn't offer any alternative to the problem and it doesn't fall within my competence to resolve anything for them without backing from a higher level and that's you as the Supreme Defence Council.

Please help me define the status of these men.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

I think we should help you.

Momir BULATOVIĆ:

The Order contains an illogical point. As we agreed last time, it contains all that was said. However, when it begins to be implemented, it will no longer be a secret. You spoke with these men. Some of them are undecided and

everyone knows that: if they don't go to the Republic of Serbian Krajina they can't stay in the Yugoslav Army.

The problematic part of the Order is that Article 2 rightly says that officers to whom this Order applies, at their own request and with the approval from the Personnel Centre Officer, are sent, deployed or transferred to the appropriate Personnel Centre. That's fine because it contains the element of voluntariness.

However, Article 4 says: "... who fail to obey orders of superior officers in the Yugoslav Army to be sent, deployed ..." and so on are punished in that they cannot be promoted.

This contradiction between Articles 2 and 4 should be eliminated.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

I think Article 4 is unnecessary, it's superfluous. That's within your competence (addressing General PERIŠIĆ) whether you will promote someone or not. You set the criteria and make the decision.

Momčilo PERIŠIĆ:

All right, let's strike out Article 4.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

You have general authorisation for that, so you don't need special authorisation for matters covered by general authorisation.

Zoran LILIĆ:

All right, let's modify the Order.

Do you agree? (Approval).

Momir BULATOVIĆ:

But it should remain confidential because this really is a very sensitive issue.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

There is only one copy and General Momo has it.

Momčilo PERIŠIĆ:

The order which will be delivered to the individual says: "Deployed to the 40<sup>th</sup> Personnel Centre." There is no mention of Republika Srpska or the Republic of Serbian Krajina.

There is another issue regarding this point.

We began that but we didn't have a complete assessment of these men and the matter involves passing a decree regarding the promotion of those officers of Republika Srpska and the Republic of Serbian Krajina to the rank of lieutenant general and major general who have already received this rank there and we have to verify it. This has already been proposed.

You have the list. Should I read it out loud? (No need.)

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

Has MLADIĆ reported to you on all this?

Momčilo PERIŠIĆ:

Yes, he has!

Zoran LILIĆ:

It the clause "who are in the Army of Republika Srpska and the Republic of Serbian Krajina" really necessary? They are, after all, on our payroll.

Momčilo PERIŠIĆ:

The decree will not contain that clause; this will not be in writing anywhere. That'll be in the explanation, but they will not be given a copy of the explanation.

Zoran LILIĆ:

All right, this means we'll pass a decree at the proposal of the Chief of the General Staff of the Yugoslav Army.

Momir BULATOVIĆ:

I'm not insisting and I don't intend to block this, but I completely disagree. I said this last time – this only involves their status, nothing else. They already have the rank in the Army of Republika Srpska. I'm afraid that our best intention may turn into its opposite, and that is to motivate all those men to resolve all their vital problems here. As far as I understand, this is only intended to get more points, the housing lists and other issues.

Otherwise, I'm not contesting anything, they are surely worthy men, soldiers, but they already have the rank, their reputation and treatment in the Army of Republika Srpska.

Momčilo PERIŠIĆ:

In doing this, we'll be giving them moral support. It's not just the matter of a flat or something like that. These men are fighting and by doing so, they're ensuring peace to us. I urge – and that's why I proposed – that they be given this since it would greatly motivate them. In doing so, we would recognise what they have done. Some of them have families there.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

This won't be sent to them?

Momčilo PERIŠIĆ:

No, it stays with me.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

I propose that we accept this, but that everything remains with you. There should be no papers going there, for them to boast in the newspapers.

Zoran LILIĆ:

All right, do you agree with these proposals? (Approval).

There's just one more personnel issue.

We have issued a decree to pension off General TERZIĆ. He has filed a lawsuit to protect his rights. There are no grounds to pension him off and he doesn't have the right to a pension.

Momčilo PERIŠIĆ:

I didn't propose that, this was done earlier.

Zoran LILIĆ:

It is not important whether it was proposed or not, the fact is that we have adopted a decision and it would be fair to correct it.

Momir BULATOVIĆ:

I received a desperate letter regarding the matter today. To tell you the truth, we did him an injustice.

Radoje KONTIĆ:

He appeared on the list at the last moment, otherwise he hadn't been on the list. I know him.

Zoran LILIĆ:

He "jumped into" politics. (Laughter).

I keep saying that Army men should not deal in politics, but they just love it – they adore it!

We should find a way to resolve his status, or leave it as is.

Momir BULATOVIĆ:

I don't know the man, and I don't know what he's done. But I think it would be reasonable to correct the mistake made against him.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

Momo, any suggestions?

Momčilo PERIŠIĆ:

Mr. President, I don't know who proposed him and how.

I think it would be best if we took him back and let him achieve his pension rights. However, too many similar cases might appear – in relation to the other 42.

Zoran LILIĆ:

He's the only one.

Momčilo PERIŠIĆ:

Since he's the only one who doesn't meet the criteria, I would be for his return and that we try to find a way to do this.

Pavle BULATOVIĆ:

I spoke with him twice. I don't know whether he's changed his mind, but he said it was out of the question for the decree to be revoked – he couldn't bear the fact that the Supreme Council revoke the decree in his case.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

Well, what does he want? I don't understand.

Pavle BULATOVIĆ:

He is looking for a way to buy out his years of service, he has 28.5 years of service.

Zoran LILIĆ:

He's been damaged financially, but he wants to stay out of the Army.

Radoje KONTIĆ:

He came to me to complain. I didn't know what to say to him.

Slavko KRIVOŠIJA:

Mr. President, the problem is that neither the new law nor any other regulation envisages the possibility to buy out years of service. The abridged text of the law does not provide for this. According to the draft law, years of service could have been bought out, but according to the abridged text years of service cannot be bought. Therefore, he's been left without a pension!

Zoran LILIĆ:

He'll become eligible for retirement in January next year.

Slavko KRIVOŠIJA:

He can't go in January since the clause applies until January. He got boxed in.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

In view of the fact that the decree has violated his working and retirement rights, he should return to a post but let's revoke the decree so as not to cause him any damage.

Momir BULATOVIĆ:

We can revoke the decree but put him in a state of suspension so that he'll be unassigned for a year.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

And give him a salary until he meets the requirements for retirement.

Zoran LILIĆ:

Can we do this? (Approval).

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

Pavle, talk to him. Whatever you two decide is fine with us. We didn't mean to and don't want to hurt him.

Zoran LILIĆ:

All right, if that's the conclusion. Call him and make a fair deal, so that he's not hurt, but that he doesn't have to come back.

Momir BULATOVIĆ:

And have him withdraw the lawsuit! (Laughter).

Pavle BULATOVIĆ:

He told me that the only reserved a number for a lawsuit at the court register, as a measure of precaution.

Slavko KRIVOŠIJA:

He only formally filed a lawsuit. A court cannot revoke a decision of the Supreme Defence Council.

Zoran LILIĆ:

All right, we've agreed on this.

We have completed personnel issues.

Let's go to the third item on the agenda:

### 3. CURRENT ISSUES

According to the conclusions of the previous session, there is the Business Aviation, the transformation of the SDPR /Federal Directorate of Supply and Procurement/ and I would add the Serbian Government's letter to Mr. KONTIĆ regarding some property-related matters. I also received a copy of this letter. There's also a letter regarding the UNPROFOR which has been using the army barracks in Pančevo for over a year.

Let's start from the beginning.

#### The matter of Business Aviation

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

I propose that we postpone this because I don't have a stand; I don't have any information about the matter. I don't know whether you have a report.

Radoje KONTIĆ:

I have a report.

There are two business aviations – an Army one and one of the Federal Government. I believe they should be incorporated in one place and the Army be given the most necessary equipment for its needs. There is no need for two parallel aviations, double maintenance, two stocks and so on.

We have one Falcon and two Lear-jets and they have one Falcon, one Lear-jet and four YAK aircraft. I think this isn't used rationally. Since it is a business aviation, it should be incorporated with the Federal Government and leave the Army the bare essentials – one aircraft – a YAK or something.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

Your point that it should be incorporated is very rational. The only question is where it should be incorporated. Practice has shown that the Army is much better in maintenance than the Government.

Radoje KONTIĆ:

That is not wholly true!

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

Because the Government aircraft are not flying, they all need repair.

Radoje KONTIĆ:

That's not true.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

The Falcon hasn't flown in the past six months.

Radoje KONTIĆ:

The Falcon flew non-stop, it went all over the world. It's their Falcon that hasn't gone anywhere. Besides, we cannot incorporate the business aviation with the Army – that would mean civilians going to /the military airfield in/ Batajnica where you need a special pass to enter.

Zoran LILIĆ:

The stand of the Ministry of Defence is completely contrary to this proposal.

Radoje KONTIĆ:

The Federal Ministry of Defence had no right to write that in the first place. The General Staff used to have a different stand, and when I spoke to PERIŠIĆ about it, he told me different.

Zoran LILIĆ:

I suggest that we don't discuss this now. Let's have the matter prepared, coordinated and a unified proposal presented to us. It would be good if the two were incorporated.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

First of all, it's not a business aviation. It's a transport brigade working for the leadership. It would suit us to have the Army in charge.

Radoje KONTIĆ:

We don't plan for it to fly only members of the leadership, we want to commercialise it and earn money from it. The Army can't commercialise it, and especially not from Batajnica.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

We should get an expert opinion on who has the better conditions for it. Why couldn't the Army keep it at /the civilian airport in/ Surčin.

Zoran LILIĆ:

I've reviewed both reports – the Federal Government's and the Army's. They both say it should be incorporated, but they both think that they have better facilities.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

I think it is more reasonable for the Army to do it, rather than a special service dealing only with the few aircraft it has. The Air Force is more involved with many matters. Why should we have an air force in two places?

Momčilo PERIŠIĆ:

Perhaps you could give it to us and when you want to use the aircraft, they would be placed at your disposal.

Pavle BULATOVIĆ:

This matter and that of the /?RVO/ /Air Force/ is what to do with the people. If the two are incorporated, will it be possible to give jobs to all pilots and mechanics from the Air Force in the Federal Government; will they all find jobs?

Radoje KONTIĆ:

Well, they can't find jobs because there would be double the number of pilots and other personnel.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

I think we agree on the matter of incorporation. Regarding where it should be, I think it should be within the Air Force.

Radoje KONTIĆ:

It depends on what we want. If we want to commercialise it, then it can't be Batajnica for sure.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

They'll fly everything approved by your Minister who is authorised to give approval, for a fee.

Radoje KONTIĆ:

Every country has an aircraft, based with the army, to fly the president, while passenger and business aviation are not with the army.

Momir BULATOVIĆ:

Neither side is using the right arguments. The aim of both sides is to have the incorporation on their side and prove it with arguments. The arguments appearing now, backed by the Minister of Defence, say aircraft maintenance was bad. On the other hand, there are arguments that the military aircraft cannot be used for business aviation purposes and so on. We are going around in circles and are not using it rationally.

I believe that the simplest solution would be for us not to meddle in these relations. We should make a unified list for use and that it is known that, for example, the government may use the four YAK planes for commercial purposes under certain criteria. Two men can work out a list of priorities in five minutes. The Army has to keep the Falcon for the head of state; it can use one Lear-jet for its needs and the second one can fly at the orders of one of our committees and that's that.

Radoje KONTIĆ:

We would then have to ask the Army's approval in writing and verbally, the arrivals and departures and so on. There is also the matter of the pilots, maintenance, parts, servicing and flying.

Momir BULATOVIĆ:

If you incorporate the business aviation with the Yugoslav Army, your staff at the civilian aviation is without a job because the Yugoslav Army won't take them since they don't meet its criteria.

Radoje KONTIĆ:

All right, the situation will remain as is. However, both sides are incurring high expenses.

Pavle BULATOVIĆ:

Perhaps we should accept the President's proposal to review the matter once again.

Zoran LILIĆ:

I think that the stand to incorporate the aviation should be greeted, but we should sit down and decide on the best solution.

Momir BULATOVIĆ:

The use of the aviation can be incorporated.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

Of course, incorporate its use.

Zoran LILIĆ:

I propose that we adopt the initial conclusion which was proposed – incorporate the two but we should review the matter once again to define the use and see who will do what and how.

Do you agree with this?

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

For civilian purposes, it is logical to base the aviation in Surčin because if a plane has to take off from and land at Batajnica, this is a major expense.

Depending on the technical capabilities there and the rational use of facilities on the ground and in the air, we should see where to base the business aviation.

Momir BULATOVIĆ:

There is an old system – find two men – one from the Air Force and one from the Civil Aviation and tell them to reach an agreement. They will find a solution, they have no choice.

Zoran LILIĆ:

Have Raja and General Momo do this.

Radoje KONTIĆ:

They won't agree because of what you said (addressing Momir BULATOVIĆ) – one of them loses this and the other loses that and that's why they can't agree. All right, we'll look into it once again. We have to see why they would fly – for what purposes, in what way, who would be using them and so on.

Zoran LILIĆ:

All right, we've finished that.

Let's move on to the next sub-item:

Transformation of the SDPR /Federal Directorate of Supply and Procurement/.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

Please, this is a matter of the state. It has to be seen who misappropriated and organised this because it was all done without authorisation. The state should have sole competence in this, not some kind of company.

Zoran LILIĆ:

They have numerous representative offices abroad, all with huge capital and enormous outstanding debts.

Radoje KONTIĆ:

(addressing Zoran LILIĆ) Can you issue an order to end this?

Zoran LILIĆ:

They have constituted themselves as a holding, with the approval of the Federal Government and the Chief of General Staff at the time.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

Abolish it all!

Zoran LILIĆ:

It says they cannot transform further until some property matters are defined. They are clear – it is all state-owned. It should all be cancelled by a government order and banned.

Pavle BULATOVIĆ:

Why hasn't the Ministry of Justice submitted a report?

Radoje KONTIĆ:

Oh, who cares about the Ministry of Justice!

Zoran LILIĆ:

Obviously, there are many interested parties. I think that a decision should urgently be adopted to discontinue any further transformation.

Pavle BULATOVIĆ:

I spoke to PALIGORIĆ and he told me that he had a favourable opinion from the Ministry of Justice. He said: "Do you want me to show it to you?"

and I said: "Don't show me anything, I hope I get it through the government." I still don't have it and he said he had it in his briefcase.

Zoran LILIĆ:

Up to and including 30<sup>th</sup> /illegible/, the outstanding debts incurred via the SDPR amounted to over 1.111 billion US Dollars.

Radoje KONTIĆ:

We must find a lawyer to draft a conclusion for the Government and the Government should discontinue any kind of transformation. We should prepare this for the Government session and finish it. It's our property.

Zoran LILIĆ:

This has to be cleared up; arrest the persons responsible and give credit to those to whom credit is due.

Momir BULATOVIĆ:

I heard that the name of Žika PANIĆ mentioned several times. I heard that Žika PANIĆ, although we have pensioned him off, is still engaged in some transactions. Is that true?

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

Žika PANIĆ had a contact which was treated as a private contact and this contact was very important to procure certain means towards Romania and

Bulgaria /as printed/. He was engaged only in this sense, not as an official of the Yugoslav Army.

Momir BULATOVIĆ:

I know, but I must say I am completely against that. We are all mortal and replaceable, even a private contact can be transferred to someone else. I think it's very bad if he's been engaged in some matters. We have found the best solution, both for him and us. We're all breathing more easily and I think we shouldn't make any more risks.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

We have to finish the deal he began.

Momir BULATOVIĆ:

I know, but every deal he started can be finished by someone else because he has retired.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

We can decide that – I have nothing against that! But, the usual practice is that if someone has a foreign contact, it is in the interest of the job to use them; it's difficult to introduce someone new. However, General PERIŠIĆ should make an assessment about that.

Momčilo PERIŠIĆ:

He has already been excluded because contact has been established;  
he's no longer working on that.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

That's what transfer of activities means.

Zoran LILIĆ:

He's no longer conducting activities here?

Momčilo PERIŠIĆ:

He's not conducting activities! He's brought an official into contact and  
he's got nothing to do with it any more.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

As far as I understand, he didn't close any deals?

Momčilo PERIŠIĆ:

Yes. He went as a private person to establish the contact and saw to it  
that the official went to the contact.

Zoran LILIĆ:

All right, let's proceed further.

Pavle BULATOVIĆ:

Will the Supreme Council adopt a stand on the Commission's Report?

Questions are being asked – what's going on, and so on!

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

Let that be, we've closed that chapter!

Momir BULATOVIĆ:

Does that mean we are shelving the report and dismissing the Commission which worked on it?

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

I think the matter is no longer relevant for the Supreme Council to be dealing with it. He is no longer an active general or the Chief of General Staff. If there is anything damaging for the Yugoslav Army in it, the Chief of General Staff can take measures. There is no reason for us to protect anyone in particular. However, it's no longer a matter with which the Supreme Defence Council should deal.

Momir BULATOVIĆ:

I know, but since we formed the Commission, we should take action towards it, not towards Žika PANIĆ. Therefore, we should dismiss the Commission.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

In view of the change in status, because of which the Commission had been formed in the first place, transfer the whole file to the Chief of General Staff for

further procedure if there's anything there. There is no longer a need for the Minister of Defence or the Supreme Defence Council to deal with it.

Momir BULATOVIĆ:

It is no longer within our competence.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

Yes. However, since it was within our competence, the file should be given to the Chief of General Staff for further procedure according to act according to his assessment about the matter.

Momčilo PERIŠIĆ:

I would like to ask you not to leak this into the public because a whole process will open up.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

Under no circumstances! This is a purely internal matter.

Zoran LILIĆ:

All right, let's go to the next sub-item:

The Serbian Government's Letter to the Federal Government

Since the letter is short, I'll read it out loud:

"As you know, the Republic of Serbia is letting the Yugoslav Army use the facilities in Bubanj Potok, which belong to the Republic of Serbia, as well as numerous facilities and equipment of the Territorial Defence of Serbia, following its disbanding.

The Republic of Serbia needs the army barracks in Zvezdara for the Serbian MUP /Ministry of the Interior/. In view of the above-mentioned, we ask that you give us the said army barracks for the Serbian MUP in order for us not to incur unnecessary expenses to build a new facility, at present. The value of the barracks is considerably less than that of the facilities being used. A joint commission of the Yugoslav Army and the Serbian MUP has determined that the Yugoslav Army did not need the mentioned barracks and they could be transferred to the Serbian MUP for its needs."

We need the Federal Government to decide on this.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

I would like to ask our respected Prime Minister to adopt this decision today. The Army is not even using the facility. We gave you not only Bubanj Potok, but we had weapons and materiel for 500,000 members of the Territorial Defence – it was all given to the Yugoslav Army without any compensation and it had all been purchased by the Republic. I think it is unnecessary to earmark funds from the budget to build a new facility for the police when we have one in the city centre.

Zoran LILIĆ:

I propose that the Government adopt this decision.

Radoje KONTIĆ:

The Federal Government is not in a position to do that. The Federal Government is the legal owner, but it cannot hand it over; handover is impossible according to the law. The Federal Government can only decide to sell, rent or exchange it, i.e. to make a swap. That is one aspect.

The other aspect is military. There are around 700 men in the barracks and they can be transferred to Bubanj Potok.

I suggest that an agreement be drawn up to exchange Bubanj Potok for the army barracks, with a promise to provide some of the pre-fabricated houses from the humanitarian aid.

Zoran LILIĆ:

Where will you put the humanitarian aid for the army?

Radoje KONTIĆ:

It's not for the Army, but for civilian pensioners. Part of it should be given to them to use.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

Let it be a gentlemen's agreement.

Zoran LILIĆ:

I think a decision should be taken on their exchange and that we do what we have already promised General PERIŠIĆ, we are constantly helping him.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

This should be done as soon as possible because winter is coming.

Momčilo PERIŠIĆ:

The move can be carried out in 10 days. There are also six warehouses, which should stay together with security. I spoke to Badža and he said there was no problem for it to stay. I will leave the guards.

Zoran LILIĆ:

All right, that's that.

I only have one more question.

We are now at the stage of appointing military attachés, some have been recalled, some will be pensioned off – Momo will pension them off. This used to be done under criteria established by the Army.

However, in view of the fact that these are very important positions at a diplomatic level, even with the title of ambassador, I think this should be decided by the Supreme Defence Council at the proposal of the Minister or the Chief of General Staff. Or, it could remain within the sole competence of the Army. However, I don't think the way it has been done so far is good because a lot of things were going on. Among the appointed men, some had been everything else but oriented in favour of this state.

Therefore, I believe that these proposals are sent to the Supreme Defence Council and are approved by the Supreme Defence Council and the Chief of General Staff.

Momir BULATOVIĆ:

How many military attachés do we have now?

Momčilo PERIŠIĆ:

There are 15 and many were flukes. For example, people in the United States told us they were better off without him because he caused more harm than good; the situation is the same in Hungary.

Zoran LILIĆ:

The attaché in Hungary said he does not recognise either of the republics.

Momčilo PERIŠIĆ:

The attaché's wife in Great Britain has Croatian citizenship. There are also indications that he kept his flat in Croatia and that they are holding it for him, that he goes to Croatia and so on. Perhaps he is even being paid by Croatia.

Momir BULATOVIĆ:

I agree that we take this in our own hands, but this means a revision of all those who are now abroad.

Zoran LILIĆ:

Absolutely, we've already started doing that.

Momčilo PERIŠIĆ:

I'll prepare a report of what we have done so far and what is to be done for the next session.

Zoran LILIĆ:

All right, let's move along.

The question of UNPROFOR and the Barracks in Pančevo.

The barracks in Pančevo are being used by UNPROFOR. They have 11 tanks, 35 armoured personnel carriers, etc. The Government let them use the barracks free of charge for a year.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

Come on, Yugoslavia let them use the Centre in Pančevo free of charge for a year. The year expired in April. We are no longer obliged to let them use it for free. They say it is not standard practice for the United Nations to pay rent in a country. Our reply should be that it is not standard practice that the country is under sanctions. They were issued a bill for 140,000 or 150,000 US Dollars per month and I would increase it. I'd just tell them: Gentlemen, it is not in our interest that you use this facility which we need, if you want to use it, you'll have to pay for it. That's one thing.

The other thing is that you can't keep military hardware on our territory. They brought tanks and personnel carriers which they wanted to take to Tuzla. Since Republika Srpska is not letting them pass through their territory, saying they are not letting through any military hardware, they are now keeping them here. They must remove the equipment from our territory.

I think we should make a rule for contacts with the UNPROFOR, the General Staff should also be consulted about their requests.

Momčilo PERIŠIĆ:

If they have been sent to the Republic of Serbian Krajina and are here only in transit, then we should see whether they want to accept them or not. The fact that they don't want to accept them and that they are stationed here, then they can't remain here. That should be resolved somehow.

Radoje KONTIĆ:

The Operations Group in charge of transport includes representatives of the Yugoslav Army, and this can be done only with the approval of the Operations Group.

Momčilo PERIŠIĆ:

But, no one counted on the fact that they wouldn't accept them.

Radoje KONTIĆ:

It's not that they don't want to accept them, the size of the vehicles is such that it exceeds the width of our roads and they need an escort which has to be

paid. And Republika Srpska doesn't even want to accept them, I'm not going into their reasons for that.

We asked them to pay 150,000 /Dollars/ and they offered 15,000 not in cash, but to work for it. We told them – if you can't transport them, take them back.

The question is whether we'll finally get it over with, put an end to it and say: Gentlemen, please – either this or that.

Momir BULATOVIĆ:

The UNPROFOR is not engaged in a peace-keeping operation in our country, it is only engaged logistically.

Radoje KONTIĆ:

But they are! There are the airports and if we consider Prevlaka as our territory, then they are engaged.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

They have observer status at airports, and military hardware is out of the question there.

I think the price should be increased because expenses have increased. We should ask for 250,000 US Dollars a month and give them seven days to either pay or leave the Centre. If they don't leave within seven days, their water and electricity supply should be cut off and they should be asked to leave.

Pavle BULATOVIĆ:

Since when does this apply, from April when the year expired?

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

Of course it's from April when the year expired.

Radoje KONTIĆ:

No, the Norwegian Battalion was there and not everything was used.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

If I book all rooms in a hotel, it doesn't matter whether they are all full or not - I have to pay for them anyway.

Zoran LILIĆ:

All right, we've settled that.

Is there anything else?

Momčilo PERIŠIĆ:

I'd like to ask that we look into the matter of recruitment. The situation has worsened now since spring is coming.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

I don't understand these figures. Momo, didn't you say that we had a recruitment contingent of 80,000?

Momčilo PERIŠIĆ:

Mr. President, the recruitment contingent of Serbs and Montenegrins is 45,000.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

All right, but that doesn't mean that the others aren't and can't be recruits.

Momčilo PERIŠIĆ:

No, it doesn't, but it does mean that Albanians and Muslims are not coming to the Army and they account for 17,000 to 20,000.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

I know that many Muslims want to go to the Army. Some of them are complaining that we are not calling them up. I received a delegation of Goranci /Slavic Muslims/ from Montenegro, who are 100% with us. They said that 70 of them have applied for a job in the Army and not a single one of them had been invited for a medical check-up because of their Muslim names. Therefore, use them. In the Prijepolje and Priboj area you have very loyal Muslims.

Momčilo PERIŠIĆ:

I'd like to say something – all military conscripts who have to serve their military term are called up according to normal procedure. The problem is that Albanians are boycotting the call-up.

I proposed – and I ask for a law to be passed, we now have a sub-law – that those who don't want to serve their military term have to pay for the cost of a professional soldier. Otherwise, they remain unpunished.

Zoran LILIĆ:

Momo, draft a proposal on the best ways to resolve this problem.

All right, are there any more questions to be discussed? (None).

We hereby end the session.

(The session ended at 1630 hours).