

131st Plenary Meeting

PC Journal No. 131, Agenda item 1

DECISION No. 190

The Permanent Council,

Recalling Decision No. 145 of 21 November 1996 to extend the mandate of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina until 31 December 1997, and noting its possible prolongation in the framework of the two-year consolidation period,

Recalling Decision No. 186 of 18 September 1997 authorizing the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Secretariat to start preparations for supervising elections in Republika Srpska,

Taking note of the 24 September 1997 statement on Bosnia made in New York by the Foreign Ministers of France, Germany, Italy, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States, as well as the Luxembourg EU Presidency, together with the European Commission and the High Representative,

- Decides that the OSCE will undertake supervision of Republika Srpska Assembly elections to be held on a date proposed by the President of Republika Srpska in consultation with the OSCE;
- Further decides to supervise other elections to be held in Republika Srpska at a later date in accordance with constitutional provisions, taking note of the agreement between Presidents Plavšić and Krajišnik signed in Belgrade on 24 September 1997 and looking forward to consultations with its signatories;
- Notes the possibility of partial financing through existing funds in the Voluntary Fund to support OSCE Action for Peace, Democracy and Stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina and authorizes the OSCE Troika to release any available funds for expenses related to the supervision;
- Decides to finance the residual expenses for supervision of Republika Srpska Assembly elections according to the regular scale of distribution of the OSCE; and
- Tasks the Secretary General with submitting necessary budget proposals concerning all the above-mentioned elections in a timely fashion and tasks the informal Financial Committee with considering these proposals.

PC.DEC/190
26 September 1997
Annex 1

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

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

By the delegation of the Russian Federation:

“In connection with the decision adopted today by the Permanent Council regarding OSCE supervision of the elections in Republika Srpska (Bosnia and Herzegovina), the Russian Federation proceeds from the assumption that this decision will not create a precedent when examining the financing of any other OSCE operations.”

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

By the delegation of the United States of America:

“The United States is pleased that a decision has been reached which will allow the supervision of the Assembly elections to proceed. The additional elections, which may be scheduled in the Republika Srpska at some time in the future according to constitutional procedures, are a much more difficult problem for the OSCE.

Consultation with the OSCE on setting any date in order to ensure time for adequate preparation will be critical to the successful conduct of any elections. And, of course, any elections which OSCE supervises must meet OSCE standards. This will require, *inter alia*, the use of OSCE developed voter lists; provisions for refugee and displaced persons to vote; free media and movement; full compliance with Dayton provisions and PEC rulings, including on the rights of individuals and parties to participate in the elections and on other matters; and printing, processing and counting of the ballots under OSCE supervision.

This is a formidable task which will need our full attention at such time as any elections are agreed and scheduled through the constitutional process in consultation with the OSCE. Moreover, since we have not agreed on a financing mechanism for any further elections after the Republika Srpska Assembly elections, this will be an additional hurdle to overcome if further elections are scheduled.”