PRESIDENCY OF THE SOCIALIST FEDERATIVE REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA

Record no. 144

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

DRAFT MINUTES
of the 144th session of the Presidency of the Socialist Federative Republic of Yugoslavia held on 3 October 1991

Belgrade
PRESIDENCY
OF THE SOCIALIST FEDERATIVE
REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA
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DRAFT MINUTES
of the 144th session of the Presidency of the Socialist Federative Republic of
Yugoslavia, held on 3 October 1991

Dr. Branko KOSTIĆ, the Vice-President of the SFRJ Presidency, chaired the session.
The following members of the SFRJ Presidency attended the session: Jugoslav
KOSTIĆ, Sejdo BAJRAMOVIĆ and Dr. Borislav JOVIĆ. Absent were Dr. Vasil
TUPURKOVSKI, Bogić BOGIĆEVIĆ and Dr. Janez DRNOVŠEK. /handwritten:
And presumably MESIĆ too!/

The following also attended the session on request: Veljko KADIJEVIĆ, the
Federal Secretary for National Defence, Colonel General Blagoje ADŽIĆ, the Chief
of the General Staff of SFRJ Armed Forces, and Stane BROVET, the Deputy Federal
Secretary for National Defence.

The following agenda was adopted:

AGENDA

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Current issues from the domain of all people’s defence → Adopted agenda for the
144th session

1. “Agreement on ensuring continuity of the work of the SFRJ Presidency based on
conclusions adopted by the SFRJ Presidency at its 143rd session on 1 October 1991
regarding the state of imminent threat of war and the change in the working of the
SFRJ Presidency in conditions of imminent threat of war.”

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2. Some current issues from the domain of all people’s defence.

Item 1

The SFRJ Presidency noted it had analysed the domestic political and security
situation at its 143rd session held on 1 October, and unanimously concluded that we
were facing an all-out civil war and the country was in a state of imminent threat of
war, about which the national and international public had already been informed by
means of an official announcement from that session.

Proceeding from the above conclusion, the SFRJ Presidency noted that the
requirements had been met for the SFRJ Presidency to start working and functioning
as envisaged by the SFRY Constitution in a state of imminent threat of war, and in
accordance with the SFRJ Presidency Decision number 36, of 21 November 1984. The changeover to work in conditions of imminent threat of war will enable the SFRJ Presidency to avoid the possibility of having its work obstructed and to take over certain functions of the SFRY Assembly, which is unable to convene.

The SFRJ Presidency adopted the Decision on the work and methods of the Presidency in the event of imminent threat of war, which will ensure the continuity of its work. According to the Decision, the SFRJ Presidency will adopt decisions by a majority vote of its present members. The Decision also excludes the Slovene member of the SFRJ Presidency from the right to command the SFRJ Armed Forces, handwritten in left margin: DRNOVŠEK, page 6/, "because on 18 July 1991, with the approval of the Republic of Slovenia, the SFRJ Presidency adopted a decision to dislocate all JNA /Yugoslav People's Army/ commands, units and institutions from the territory of the Republic of Slovenia, while recruits from the Republic of Slovenia will be discharged and new recruits will not be sent to the JNA."

With regards to the implementation of the Decision it was concluded that all members of the SFRJ Presidency be immediately informed that the SFRJ Presidency will continue to convene in Belgrade during the imminent threat of war, which makes it necessary for the members of the SFRJ Presidency to stay in or near Belgrade, so that the Presidency can begin its work within two hours of convening a session.

Also, it was concluded that the members of the SFRJ Presidency who were absent from today's session, be informed of the contents of this Decision should be informed when they arrive in Belgrade, because it cannot be faxed to them owing to the high degree of confidentiality.

Item 2

The SFRJ Presidency listened to and adopted the Report by the Federal Secretary for National Defence, General of the Army Veljko KADIJEVIĆ, on the situation in crisis areas and problems with mobilisation.

The SFRJ Presidency approved the activities of the Armed Forces Supreme Command so far in implementing the decisions of The SFRJ Presidency regarding mobilisation, handwritten in left margin: Page 7//illegible// did not adopt such a decision/, and at the same time adopted a position that the regulations pertaining to mobilisation in the event of imminent threat of war must be applied consistently.

In this connection, the SFRJ Presidency concluded that the Specialist Services of the SFRJ Presidency and the Federal Secretariat for National Defence would analyse decree – laws already adopted by the Presidency, and recommend to the Presidency possible amendments to them and how they need to be applied in the present state of imminent threat of war.

The SFRJ Presidency noted the existence of strong unity within the leadership of the Armed Forces and expressed its full support.

The SFRJ Presidency also approved the work of the Federal Secretary for National Defence in implementing the ceasefire agreement so far, including the Agreement signed in Igalo, and the programme of future activities connected with it. At the same time, the SFRJ Presidency agreed that the Federal Secretary for National Defence, Army General Veljko KADIJEVIĆ should attend a meeting on 4 October 1991 in The Hague, handwritten in left margin: Page 7/, in which the President of the Republic of Serbia and the President of the Republic of Croatia will participate in
securing a cease-fire in the Republic of Croatia, and it adopted positions regarding his participation in the meeting.

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With regards to the warning of the director of *Jugoskandika* enterprise that a large-scale financial crime has occurred at *Privredna banka* in Zagreb, the SFRJ Presidency concluded that the Federal Secretariat for the Interior should immediately launch an investigation into the case and report the findings to the SFRJ Presidency.

The session lasted from 1100-1530 hours.

Shorthand notes from the session are an integral part of the minutes.

GENERAL SECRETARY
Anton STARI

VICE-PRESIDENT
Dr. Branko KOSTIĆ