

REMARKS BY H.E. MR. PAUL HEINBECKER
SECURITY COUNCIL BRIEFING ON KOSOVO
NOVEMBER 16, 2000

Monsieur le Président,

Je voudrais tout d'abord remercier le Dr Bernard Kouchner pour les informations qu'il nous a communiquées aujourd'hui.

The demonstrations in Kosovo over the past few days have highlighted the importance of proceeding with the release of Kosovar detainees in Serb prisons.

As a minimum, the charges against them should be specified and due process of law afforded them.

This issue remains a key obstacle in diffusing inter-ethnic tensions in Kosovo.

While Canada congratulates the Yugoslav leadership on the release of Dr. Flora Brovina and other Kosovars, far too many remain imprisoned unjustly.

The Yugoslav government has the ability to help stabilize the situation in Kosovo and we encourage it to move quickly with these necessary steps.

It is also essential that Kosovar Albanians respect the rights of Kosovar Serbs and all other minority groups.

Canada welcomes the fact that the municipal elections on October 28th were held successfully.

It is the first step in the devolution of power to democratically-elected authorities.

The immediate challenge now is to implement the results of the municipal elections.

Of equal importance is the establishment of satisfactory conditions for province-wide elections.

The participation of all Kosovars throughout the entire election implementation process will greatly enhance the legitimacy of the results.

It will also be an indication of Kosovo's political maturity.

Monsieur le Président,

Le Canada appuie la mise en oeuvre totale de la résolution 1244.

Nous sommes toujours d'avis que la question du statut futur doit être résolue par la voie de la négociation.

Toutes les parties devront y consacrer du temps et faire preuve de patience et de bonne volonté.

Une coopération totale de toutes les parties avec le Tribunal pénal international pour l'ex-Yougoslavie sera également nécessaire.

Il n'y aura pas de paix durable sans réconciliation, et pas de réconciliation sans justice.
Merci, Monsieur le Président.