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STATEMENT BY NATO SPOKESMAN
FOLLOWING NAC

The Council:

- NATO strongly supports the continued presence of UN forces in the former Yugoslavia. It believes that the UN Peace Forces perform an essential mission and that withdrawal can be considered only as a last resort;
- NATO's planning for a possible UN withdrawal is therefore on a contingency basis only. In this context, following intensive work in the Military Committee on contingency planning for withdrawal, the Council is fully engaged in the process of considering and approving the planning as a matter of priority;
- NATO's planning will be continuously updated and will only be finally approved by Council if and when a withdrawal operation needs to be implemented following a UN request.

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