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**COMMUNIQUE FOLLOWING THE MEETING OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL
ON THE SITUATION IN THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA**

The Alliance, with the full solidarity of its members, condemns in the strongest terms the outrageous behaviour of the Bosnian Serbs.

The Alliance condemns the killing and detention of UN peacekeepers and the making of unacceptable threats against the lives of those who are being held hostage. It salutes the courage and dedication of all UN peacekeepers in the former Yugoslavia whose mission is humanitarian and to support the search for peace. Holding peacekeepers hostage is a violation of international principles and of all norms of civilized behaviour. NATO demands that the Bosnian Serbs release these UN peacekeepers immediately, and supports every effort of the UN to ensure their safety and bring about their release.

The Alliance also condemns the barbaric shelling of the UN-designated safe areas, in particular the attacks on Tuzla, which has led to the slaughter of a large number of innocent civilians. We demand that the Bosnian Serbs stop these attacks on the safe areas and comply with the UNPROFOR ultimatum to remove all heavy weapons from the Sarajevo exclusion zone or place them under effective UN control. The Alliance remains ready to respond to requests from the United Nations for further action in support of these objectives.

The Alliance calls upon the parties to the conflict to de-escalate the military confrontation and to seek solutions through diplomacy rather than war. The Alliance supports the continued presence of the UN Peace Forces, with their safety assured and a strengthened ability to carry out a clear mandate. The Council has requested the NATO Military Authorities to examine additional means the Alliance could adopt to support UN Peace Forces in the conduct of their mission.

***NATO Information is also available on E-Mail via the following address:
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