Statement to the Media: PIC Proceedings 9 December 1997

The High Representative is encouraged by the positive attitude displayed by all PIC member countries, and the clear International Community consensus on the continued importance of economic and military commitment to BiH. He welcomes the support from PIC countries for a more robust interpretation of the mandate of the High Representative, in particular for his demands for a stronger interpretation of Article 5 of Annex 10 of the DPA, which outlines the “final authority” of the High Representative in the theatre of operations.

He regretted that the remarks made by each of the three members of the Bosnian Presidency did not display a similar degree of consensus or recognition of the need for compromise.

However, the High Representative welcomed last night’s agreement between the members of the Presidency on he design of a common passport, and on laws on citizenship and the Council of Ministers. He urged Parliament to accept each of these when it meets next week.

Mr Westendorp pointed out that the importance of accountability to the tax-payers of contributing nations was essential if the commitment of the international community was not to falter. He recalled German Foreign Minister Kinkel’s emphasis on the need for ‘realism’ on the part of all the signatories to Dayton. “All the PIC contributors emphasised that substantial sums of money have been and continue to be spent in Bosnia, and the parties must live up to the responsibilities this aid places on them. This includes greater transparency and good governance in the use of public funds”.

A summary of the conclusions of the Bonn conference will be

made available at the time of the closing press conference, shortly after 13.00h. This will be available from our office.