

SHORTHAND NOTES

From the 12th session of
SUPREME DEFENCE COUNCIL
held on 23rd and 25th August 1993

The session started at 1520 hrs. Attendees: Zoran LILIĆ, President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia – Council President; Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ and Momir BULATOVIĆ – Council members; Radoje KONTIĆ, President of the Federal Government; Pavle BULATOVIĆ, Federal Defence Minister; Colonel-General Života PANIĆ, Chief of the Army of Yugoslavia Main Staff; and Colonel Slavko KRIVOŠIJA, Head of the Army Cabinet of the President of Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Shorthand typist – Jordan ŽIVANOVIĆ, senior debate shorthand editor in the Office of the President of Federal Republic of Yugoslavia).

Zoran LILIĆ, President of the Supreme Defence Council, was presiding.

Zoran LILIĆ:

I suggest that we start working.

We postponed the previous meeting due to the activities of the President MILOŠEVIĆ and President BULATOVIĆ. In the view of the results I think we have no reasons to regret the postponement.

You were given the agenda proposal for today's session.

I suggest that we go over the item related to termination of active military service for generals-admirals in the Army of Yugoslavia, and then to go over the Supplement to the report of the State Commission.

Do you agree? (Approval).

Are there any remarks to the minutes of the 11th session of the Supreme Defence Council? (No).

I declare that the minutes are adopted.

I suggest that we first discuss the termination of active military service for generals and admirals in the Army of Yugoslavia, and to postpone appointing of generals of the Army of Yugoslavia, until the consultations are finished. This meeting

would be held very soon – in two days we could organise a new session that would refer to the naming. With regard to the issues of retirement, we should finish that today.

These three information that you received, are used primarily for your personal information, and these are mostly the tasks coming within the competence of our Minister, Defence Ministry and our Government, and we will assist as much as we can.

Are there any suggestions for the supplement?

I suggest that we extend this, make it a joint conclusion, so that in future the rank of colonel can be awarded at the proposal of the Chief of Main Staff, which is his right, but that it cannot be done without the opinion of the Personnel Commission.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

It is not that the Chief of Main Staff, proposes and we appoint them; he is the one who appoints them.

Života PANIĆ:

Nothing is done here without the Personnel Commission. I appoint him at the proposal of the Personnel Commission. According to the law, the Chief of Main Staff can accept the proposal of the Personnel Commission, but he does not have to.

Zoran LILIĆ:

In the last “Official Gazette” there was a little broader explanation of our attitude, and it wouldn’t be good to make it random.

Života PANIĆ:

That’s not good. The Ministry should not have done it – have the colonels promoted as everybody else.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

I don’t know – what’s the problem?

Života PANIĆ:

In the law, in the “Official Gazette”, the Ministry stipulated, without consulting us, that all those who meet the requirements can be awarded. This is the way to pile up a large number of colonels, without appointments. We used to award to the rank of colonel and to the rank of general once a year, in accordance with the opinion of the Personnel Commission. As soon as we found out that it was published in the “Official Gazette”, we made remarks; you were informed about that.

Zoran LILIĆ:

I was informed via “Official Gazette” because I keep track of the issue. At the moment, there is a threat that everybody could become a colonel, regardless of their competence.

Života PANIĆ:

At this moment, we have 260 surplus colonels.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

We should stick to the rule that was always implemented in the Army: anyone can be promoted to the rank of colonel, under condition that they develop accordingly. The rank of colonel is not guaranteed to anyone. Therefore, someone could get retired as lieutenant colonel. Colonels are officers who show remarkable competence and they are candidates for future generals. Nobody can become a colonel automatically.

Pavle BULATOVIĆ:

According to the law in force, if I understood it right, and if I was properly informed by the Legal Administration, the former practise was to do it on 22nd December. Since that holiday no longer exist as the official Army holiday, the opinion was to promote them the moment they meet legal requirements. Is this the violation of law or not, I have no idea.

Života PANIĆ:

They should be promoted once a year; whether it should be on the Unit’s Day or the Army Day – we have to choose the day. The Army of Yugoslavia needs to have its day; this would probably be resolved soon. And the promotion into

colonels and generals would take place on that day. The occasional, extraordinary promotion – that's another thing.

Zoran LILIĆ:

I didn't want to bring up new subjects, but it needs to be checked out. It shouldn't go automatically.

I suggest that we first discuss the termination of active military service for the Yugoslav Army generals. We should leave the appointing of Yugoslav Army generals and some other officials for the next session, after consulting members of the Defence Council.

You were given the Supplement to the State Commission Report and we can discuss it later.

Do you agree? (Approval).

Momir BULATOVIĆ:

Does that mean that we are leaving the Report Supplement for the next session?

Zoran LILIĆ:

No, first we should solve the issue of the termination of active military service and then deal with the Report Supplement.

You received the Information on the situation with the generals, with the proposal for termination of active military service in 1993. This was signed by the Chief of Main Staff of the Army of Yugoslavia.

I was personally given the opportunity to visit all three of our services, to visit both, the Airforce and the Navy; to see a lot of people and talk to them.

With regard to the group of the first eight of them, I think we can accept the proposal of the Main Staff, but apart from General SIMOVIĆ, who would stay, I would also like to add General STEVANOVIĆ, as a General whose service in the Army will be prolonged for a certain period of time – you would decide for how long. That is the first group – that's mandatory.

In the second group, those who turned sixty, I think that General DRAGOJEVIĆ could stay by General BIJELIĆ, considering that I know him

personally, and we worked together a lot – which doesn't necessarily mean anything in the final decision.

In the third group: Vladimir STOJANOVIĆ – I think we can accept the proposal on termination of active military service; Andrija BIORČEVIĆ, son of Dušan, as well; Jevrem COKIĆ, son of Marinko, should stay – I don't think there should be any disagreements about it; Radomir EREMIJA, termination of military service; Nikodin JOVANOVIĆ, son of Uroš - I think his service in the military should be terminated. About General MANDARIĆ and General POLIĆ the proposal was to terminate their military service; maybe the Chief of Staff could take over that position for some time until the new one is appointed – I think that they should stay.

STOJKOVIĆ, termination of active military service as proposed; ANTUNOVIĆ – termination of active military service; BABIĆ should stay; BAJIĆ – termination; BUCAN – termination; BOLJEVIĆ – termination; BOJOVIĆ – to stay as proposed; CAREVIĆ – termination; ČAĐO and ČUPIĆ – termination; ČOPIĆ – to stay as proposed; DAMJANOVIĆ – to stay as proposed; JOVANOVIĆ to stay; Krsman MILOŠEVIĆ – termination; NEDELJKOVIĆ – termination; PERIŠIĆ – termination; PERIĆ – termination; RADMANOVIĆ – termination; ŠIPČIĆ – termination; TRAJKOVIĆ and VELIČKOVIĆ – to stay as proposed; ŽERAJIĆ – termination; LAZOVIĆ – termination; ŽUNIĆ – termination.

From the fourth group, when it comes to recommendations for financial compensations: ERCEGOVIĆ – termination of active service; ELEMIROV – termination; MILETIĆ – to stay as proposed; Sava PUSTINJA, son of Petar should stay as proposed; and the last two, as it was proposed - termination of active military service.

And according to the decision of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, considering that they haven't met the requirements: Slobodan ĐORĐEVIĆ, son of Dimitrije - termination of active military service – as proposed; KASUM – termination as proposed.

We would extend this list by including the Generals ŠLJIVIĆ and RADINOVIĆ and Admiral SIMIĆ.

I think that this mostly agrees with the proposal of the Main Staff, with the exception of few cases.

Of course, this is all subject to the discussion.

Momir BULATOVIĆ:

Mister President, I couldn't keep track of all this. DAMJANOVIĆ should terminate his military service, that is the fourth group?

Zoran LILIĆ:

Yes, DAMJANOVIĆ's service would be terminated.

Momir BULATOVIĆ:

And MILOŠEVIĆ under 21?

Zoran LILIĆ:

MILOŠEVIĆ – termination, as well.

Momir BULATOVIĆ:

Dragoljub PERIŠIĆ?

Zoran LILIĆ:

Termination of service, as well.

Momir BULATOVIĆ:

RADMANOVIĆ?

Zoran LILIĆ:

Termination of service!

Momir BULATOVIĆ:

TRAJKOVIĆ?

Zoran LILIĆ:

Stays!

Momir BULATOVIĆ:

VELIČKOVIĆ?

Zoran LILIĆ:

Stays! This is all based on the consultations that I had.

Momir BULATOVIĆ:

LAZOVIĆ?

Zoran LILIĆ:

Termination!

If I counted them well, that is 38; which is a little more strict than it was suggested.

Života PANIĆ:

I would like to express my opinion about this.

We proposed SIMONOVIĆ as a transitive solution – if he would be accepted for a Chief of Main Staff, and PERIŠIĆ should be appointed his deputy. PERIŠIĆ should be there for a year in order to prepare himself to take over duty from SIMONOVIĆ. So, the Supreme Council would extend service for SIMONOVIĆ for a year.

Personally, and I have plenty of reasons for that, I wouldn't like Božidar STEVANOVIĆ to stay. Gentlemen, the situation won't be good as long as Mika STEVANOVIĆ is there. I know everything about how things are; I know that they were telling him something about that – I wouldn't go into that now. But, the officers are coming, and the others from the Airforce. They think of him as "STALIN". There is a group of officers that he brought over there; they are not very respected in the Airforce.

We discussed this a lot. Our suggestion is that he should definitely be retired. The Airforce won't collapse if he leaves, and somebody else takes his place. Anyone who comes to the position of the Chief of Staff will always have big problems with the ambition of Mika STEVANOVIĆ.

You estimate all this. I will respect every decision that you make. But, personally, I wouldn't like him to stay, and my co-workers feel the same. We talked a lot about it, because we assumed that something like this could happen.

I think that Mika STEVANOVIĆ's retirement is in the interest of the Army of Yugoslavia.

Additionally, Nikodin JOVANOVIĆ in SDPR /expansion unknown/; he works very well with this organisation. He went into this business, he is well known in the world; he worked a lot. I think it would be wrong if he would separate

from this firm, and if somebody else would come to this position. I don't know if he has any weaknesses, and if there are some, we should take a look at it!

Nikola MANDARIĆ and Rade POLIĆ. Earlier, we decided that Nikola MANDARIĆ should take on several duties – we were discussing it here; all of this has been postponed. Personally, I agree – if that is possible – that Nikola MANDARIĆ remains to carry out tasks of the Chief of Staff, and he can also take on the position of the Army Commander for a year, and we could get him a man who would take on the position of the Chief of Staff for a year.

Rade POLIĆ was born in 1934. He works at the First Administration – he could be retired, but he does not have to. We thought of bringing a man – KOVAČEVIĆ – who could do this work, to the First Administration. However, we were not explicit whether he should be retired or not. If he can stay – let him.

I do not know why was it suggested that Veljko ANTUNOVIĆ, who was born in 1939 should be retired. He is the Commander of the Kragujevac Corps. We have no information that might indicate that he should be retired. For now, he is accomplishing the tasks correctly.

You suggested the BAJIĆ should be retired. We proposed to make BAJIĆ the Aircraft Commander. He does come from Bosnia and Herzegovina, but he is a recognised pilot, a good officer; he carried out tasks in the area of Zagreb. General STEVANOVIĆ appointed him the Chief of Staff. When he wanted to bring some of his men, this one confronted him a little by some demands and opinions. Then he fired him and talked badly of him. I think of him as an excellent pilot and a man admired by the pilots.

It is my duty to tell you how I feel about this.

ČAĐ is 41 years old. He is in the Second Administration now. He made great improvements in the Intelligence Service; we are receiving good information. I do not think we should bring another man to the Second Administration because he got things going. I have not known ČAĐ before; now I am collaborating with him a lot. I know that he does his job correctly; he acted very well when he worked in that group with UNPROFOR in Sarajevo.

We too agree about Sreten ČUPIĆ, although it was not us who proposed his retirement.

Krsman MILOŠEVIĆ, born in 1939. He has been in service for 41 year. We thought he could take on this duty – Information Service – instead of

BAUCALO. I cannot say that he is exceptionally good or bad, but he is doing a good job.

Dragoljub PERIŠIĆ, born in 1939. He is a Chief of Staff in the Defence of Belgrade. We thought of bringing him to the Fourth Administration or keep him as the Chief of Staff. However, should there be such a decision or some problems that we are not aware of – I agree.

Momčilo LAZOVIĆ, born in 1939, 40 years of service. He is doing excellent work at the Military Academy; he is a rector. I think it would be a shame to get rid of this man; let him stay for a year, if possible.

ELEMIROV, born in 1936. He is a traffic officer, in charge of the Traffic Administration; he is a good officer. I do not know if we should get rid of him. But if there is a need for that, there would be no problems for him to leave.

This is what I had to say.

Zoran LILIĆ:

Go ahead!

I said that we should discuss the termination of active military service today, and the appointments after consulting the members of the Defence Council, including the position of the Chief of Main Staff.

We have to see what needs to be left on this list.

Radoje KONTIĆ:

We should determine the criteria.

Zoran LILIĆ:

The criteria have been determined.

Radoje KONTIĆ:

But to determine the criteria for those who can stay.

Života PANIĆ:

As far as I am concerned, I would bring a young man right away. Then we would meet this first criteria by the law.

Pavle BULATOVIĆ:

I think that we agree that this is an extraordinary important issue that might effect the functioning of the entire Army. In my opinion, keeping the status quo and looking for a compromise, is not good in terms of consequences for the Army.

In this review, we are missing a column that would refer to the actual years of service, and not only to the length of service for retirement, I am talking about the years of service in terms of calendar. I think that this would clear up the individual cases.

I think that this proposal should have been processed via the Personnel Service. They would probably have added some new names to the list, or remove some of those listed. But, in those terms, we would have less chance to make a mistake.

Personally, I know around ten of these people. The others I know only from hearsay or from somebody's opinion, and the opinion is always subjective and can lead to a false conclusion.

In my opinion, the criteria is absolutely clean if one implements the law; so, meeting the requirements for retirement. If we take only one person off this list of eight – regardless of that person's identity – it would have negative effect on the Army; by not denying anybody's qualities, not discrediting anybody's merits etc. But, I think that there could be some comments and negative implications. By doing it like this, the Law is implemented, there were no additional decisions; for me, this would be a clean solution.

If we go over to the other groups, then we must have a lot of information about every person in order to take the specific and firm stand.

Under the item Other Business, I would like to inform you about the findings of the inspection regarding certain acquisitions. Indeed, this is the initial estimation, which is also rough. But, if anything from this inspection report would remain, then I would ask myself whether JOVANOVIĆ should stay or not.

Zoran LILIĆ:

But he is not staying.

Pavle BULATOVIĆ:

This inspection report is not final until the work is completed. But, given the information from this report, he should go. We can also discuss each individual.

For example, I know BAJIĆ; he has 49 years of service for retirement. I know CAREVIĆ – with 44 years, he is looking at termination; such proposal was probably based on some arguments. I have no arguments that would support such a proposal; there is a possibility that he is involved; maybe I am not informed well enough.

That is all.

Zoran LILIĆ:

I said that this was all based on some of my impressions, on the inspection, and on everything that I saw. We requested the opinion of the Main Staff and the Chief of Main Staff.

In the first group of eight, the difference is only in one name – that is General STEVANOVIĆ.

Života PANIĆ:

And SIMONOVIĆ!

Zoran LILIĆ:

SIMONOVIĆ stays, that was your proposal.

Života PANIĆ:

Yes, we suggested it, but based upon the decision of the Supreme Defence Council.

Zoran LILIĆ:

We will see what will we decide. I am repeating what I said earlier.

In the second group, over sixty percent of proposals match. There is only in one name – DRAGOJEVIĆ – that does not match with the initial proposal.

In the third group that are 31 name, 15 names are different. In the fourth group, only one name is different – ELEMIROV. There are no discrepancies in the fifth group, including the fact that we added three more names to that group, which can be easily explained.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

I am interested in General PANIĆ's proposal about LAZOVIĆ. What is he like as an Officer?

Života PANIĆ:

He is very good; he does excellent job; he has been deeply involved in education; he is a doctor. It is a well-known Officer. He could work for another two years.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

He has 38 years of service, he is a rector. I think that we should accept General PANIĆ's reserve concerning the rector.

With regard to other proposals made by President LILIĆ, I agree with them.

Momir BULATOVIĆ:

The discussion is obviously connected. /as stated/ I do not know most of the people here, and above all, I support the proposal given by the President LILIĆ.

But the issue is the following. I also support the proposal to review the appointments on the oncoming session, in two or three days. But we have to decide who will be the new Chief of Main Staff. I think that the new Chief of Staff, together with the Personnel Commission, should give us the proposal for appointments of generals.

So, today when we decide about retiring the generals, we have to know who will be the Chief of Main Staff. Obviously, we need many delicate elements, which we objectively cannot obtain, to decide about the appointment.

I have no special objections to this proposal, except for two questions. I think that they are closely connected: Ljubomir BAJIĆ, son of Miloš, Major General that should be retired according to this proposal – probably because Mika STEVANOVIĆ should stay. It is obvious that there are such problems between the two of them.

In my opinion they should both be retired, SIMONOVIĆ and STEVANOVIĆ, so, all eight of them from the first group, and we should look for the Chief of Staff among the young people.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

I did not realise that the proposal for BAJIĆ's retirement was made so that Mika STEVANOVIĆ could stay. Because, nobody should be retired because of

someone else. I do not know, LILIĆ has probably had some criteria in mind. It would not be good to have somebody retired because somebody else should stay - and the other way around.

Zoran LILIĆ:

Momir, in order to explain about the Chief of Main Staff, I thought that we should decide today about the number of people that will be retired – we do not have to announce any names; tomorrow, we should see those people, and break it to them gently, and the day after tomorrow, we should appoint the Chief of Main Staff, exactly as you said – he should propose the new appointments together with the Personnel Commission, and it would all be finished by consulting all of us.

That would be the main idea, we should see whether it is good.

Momir BULATOVIĆ:

I absolutely agree. I am reading the proposal about the persons who are about to end their active military service: Božidar STEVANOVIĆ, and the person that should replace him – Ljubomir BAJIĆ. This is why I think that they are connected to each other.

Zoran LILIĆ:

As far as I know, BAJIĆ is not in Batajnica; is he at the Main Staff?

Života PANIĆ:

He used to be the Chief of Staff of the Air Force and Air Defence and he came to the Main Staff. I can say that he works well.

I know that this is needless to say, but it is my duty to say it. We should be looking at the consequences.

Zoran LILIĆ:

This is why you are here – to tell us this; there is no need to talk about the things in general. You are the Chief of Main Staff, and you know best what is going on.

Života PANIĆ:

The best thing to do would be – because I wish only good for the Army of Yugoslavia – for this group to be retired; that you immediately appoint a young man for the Chief of Main Staff, so he could slowly settle in the routine. People are already talking about some things all over.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

Žika is raising an important issue – what is the clever thing to do. The Army is, after all, a huge organisation. Hasty changes, without any transition period, could be very difficult.

This thing about Mika, we all know that Žika and Mika are in a personal conflict. But we did not take seriously what Mika was saying against Žika and the other way around. These are their personal, or I would rather say, professional disagreements. But privately, they never quarrelled about anything.

Života PANIĆ:

I did not! I treat him correctly.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

Žika is – that is my impression, I know him as well as you from the Army – he is very popular in the Airforce.

Života PANIĆ:

That is not true!

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

If I have the wrong impression, it is not good. However, whenever I talked to the people from the Airforce, they highly regarded him; he is attentive, he has a good relationship with the men, you can really sense order when you go there, the atmosphere there is quite good.

We too had disputes with him over certain things just as he did with us individually, over some ideas, concepts, etc. All that was in function of finding the best solution for the Army, and not for someone's own interest. Nobody's personal interest depends on how the Army will be established and organised, if the discussion centres on some concepts that are already familiar.

I have always tried to disregard those personal criteria.

Života PANIĆ:

We should talk to those people and see about it.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

He did a good job; he did a good job during the war. During the war, he pulled out everything that could be pulled out.

Života PANIĆ:

It was BAJIĆ who pulled all that out!

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

He did some work that needed to be done. One has to be fair and tell him that.

Života PANIĆ:

I know that Mr President, but he meets the conditions for retirement. For instance, he has the least credit for the pulling out. To be honest, it was all pulled out by JURJEVIĆ; he had nothing to do with that! JURJEVIĆ was the Airforce Commander. BAJIĆ and him pulled out everything from Slovenia and Croatia. Him and me are great friends. We are still in touch, although he never calls; I have to call him. He will do that to everybody. He has always been attacking his superiors, ever since I have known him; first he was attacking TUS, and he wrote all the time; who knows how many meetings were held because of that. When TUS left, he was attacking JURJEVIĆ. We are great friends, and yet he constantly attacks me without a reason. The things he asks from me is something that not even you as the Supreme Defence Council can give him.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

Ok, that is related to money.

Života PANIĆ:

There is no other reason.

I assure you that this is nothing personal. However, I believe that it would be very bad if he stays in the Army; it would be very bad both for the General Staff and for the Army.

Please, I ask you what kind of a man sends to individuals to lobby for his appointment as the Chief of General Staff /as stated/?

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

As far as I know, he was not lobbying!

Života PANIĆ:

He sure was!

Zoran LILIĆ:

Units do not appoint the Chief of General Staff.

Života PANIĆ:

Yes, but he seeks support.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

I have called Mika /or Miko/ to ask him about the interview, and he said that it was not true.

Života PANIĆ:

How could he say that? Have you listened to the recording?

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

No, I have not listened to the recording.

Života PANIĆ:

When I called him and asked him why was he giving interviews when he knew about our agreement, he said, "You and the security officer have framed me with all this". A news reporter woman wrote it, brought it, handed it over, the recording exists.

He advocated the most for “Opera”; now, he rejects “Opera”. He advocated the most for VASILJEVIĆ; now he rejects that too. Whatever is done, he simply rejects it. That cannot be tolerated.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

I do not understand – why all this campaign against him? If he really did not give those interviews, and they broadcasted it, then I do not know.

Života PANIĆ:

Why does he not sue them?

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

Why should he sue them? It is better that he does not sue them. Why all this campaign against Mika, I do not understand. It is not possible that a general of his age, with his past gave an interview and then lied that he did not do it, etc.

Života PANIĆ:

I do not understand how is that possible – a news reporter comes, he speaks in front of his associates, it is recorded, it is written down. RAPAJIĆ did not want to give an interview to “Duga” magazine, instead he gave it to “Svet” magazine, and now he says - I did not say that, they framed me up with all that. Somebody always frames him.

I have nothing against /him/; it is just that I am obliged to state out the stand of the General Staff. I have said it.

Zoran LILIĆ:

Is it this that is written here?

Života PANIĆ:

No, it is what I have just stated about Mika, and this what I have said here right now.

I think that it would be much better for the Yugoslav Army and the Airforce if he would go into retirement.

I agree that SIMONOVIĆ remains as a provisional solution. Although, today they came to see me and told me that Mika is going to be the Chief of General Staff, and that it has already been decided.

Zoran LILIĆ:

For the last two months, I have been doing nothing but dealing with the Army, reading letters about them accusing each other.

Života PANIĆ:

You received no letter from me.

Zoran LILIĆ:

There were various letters – I would not want to bother President BULATOVIĆ and President MILOŠEVIĆ with it.

It is my opinion – Minister BULATOVIĆ was with me and together we visited all the armies – that the Army is in a desperate need for a move that will point it in the direction of interest for this country. All this that is being done right now works against the Army and everything that swirls in the army.

I have said about general STEVANOVIĆ that that was my personal impression based on what I saw at the airport, where everything was in much better order and the discipline was much better; the relationship between him and the senior officers was different than in other armies, where generals came when the Supreme Commander came, in their short-sleeves shirt, without a belt support, without boots, in their summer shoes, etc.

Života PANIĆ:

That was in the 2nd Army?

Zoran LILIĆ:

Never mind where it was.

At the same time, all these past several days, an enormous pressure is put on Mika; I do not know why; there is probably some truth in all that. However, it would be fair to back it up with valid arguments.

I too heard some good things about General BAJIĆ, however, there are other opinions as well.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

I, for instance, heard that he is never sober!

Života PANIĆ:

That is not true; really, it is not true! He is up there all the time.

Zoran LILIĆ:

You said that he was an excellent pilot. When was the last time he flew?

Života PANIĆ:

Mika does not fly, that is, he flies, but Brane pilots. When did he pilot an aeroplane himself?

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

When PANIĆ flew with him, as Milan PANIĆ certainly did not pilot the aeroplane. (Laughter)

Zoran LILIĆ:

Regarding that interview, whether he said it or not; I had the opportunity to listen to a part of that interview that was recorded on a tape. I must say that he did say some of it that is written there, but the part that is imputed to him, that he said those things about President MILOŠEVIĆ, President BULATOVIĆ, the State, etc, it does not exist on the tape. If it exists, then it would be right to bring the tape so we could play it to the members of the Supreme Defence Council.

Života PANIĆ:

If you decided that he stays, let him stay, it makes no difference!

Zoran LILIĆ:

The decision is not my to make, the decision is ours!

It is a bad thing to say that the Army will colapse because of Mika!

Života PANIĆ:

It will not collapse; far from it that the army will collapse because of that. It is just not right that he stays!

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

I think that President LILIĆ has approached his work very conscientiously. I even think that it is a logical thing to do, because it is his obligation to deal with these issues, more than it is BULATOVIĆ's and mine as members of the Supreme Defence Council, as he is also the Supreme Commander. We can only be grateful that he is doing it in a very thorough manner, guiding himself with the experience of a man who led a very successful collective for several years, who did his job successfully, who visited and saw all that for himself, and tried to be informed.

To me, these names do not mean much. I might have seen and met some of them, but I definitely would not know their names.

I think that President LILIĆ has focused on that in the past few months. We have been avoiding to deal with these issues, not because we are not ready to put our foot down and reach a decision, but merely because we have been holding ourselves back, as we did not have enough information and a personal view about all that. In such circumstances, one is always reluctant so he would not do something wrong or make a mistake.

However, considering such intensive work by our President in dealing with those issues, and considering that 90% of his proposals correspond with the proposals of the General Staff, and also having in mind some of my own impressions about certain people and the information I was able to obtain myself, I think that he has made good proposals and that we can support those proposals.

One of the few I know personally is Mika STEVANOVIĆ. When I heard about those interviews, I really asked myself was that possible, was that normal? So I called to ask him, "Man, what is going on?". He swore that the interviews were made up and false. He said, "Am I crazy to say such things and do such things, after all, why would I do that?" He said that it would be damaging to his own reputation, and how could one be working so hard against himself.

I believe that the interviews were false. I was really stunned and I asked him what was it all about and how was that possible. He said that it was not true.

However, if that is the case, then it really raises the question what is behind all that, where did this fabrication come from, why was all that done! When

“Duga” magazine publishes that kind of interview, then it is clear to everybody that it is against him! I happen to have that interview in my briefcase. Only a crazy man could say such things against himself. And, he is no fool! It says here, “Who Silenced the Serbian General”. That is enough to “bury him into the ground”. I asked him nicely, “what is this?” – he said that it was not true. He said that some news reporter woman came, he had been informed about her visit, and that he said – I have nothing to say, you should leave and write about other things, I have nothing to say to you. One has to be fair to all people, especially when he is reaching some decisions. When something like this is done by “Duga” magazine, I tend to assume that it is some fabrication. It is hard to find a shred of honesty and principle, but it is not our job to discuss that.

Momir BULATOVIĆ:

Is it true that this man has met all the conditions for the compulsory retirement?

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

Yes, there is no argument about it. However, I am not for that kind of approach at all. Then we should not be making any decisions; we should just let some computer calculate how many people have met the conditions, and we will know exactly how many of them should go into retirement.

Therefore, it is all in accordance with the Law. A decision of the Supreme Defence Council is also in accordance with the Law. The life is what it is meant for in the first place.

Momir BULATOVIĆ:

I just want to centre our discussion on the subject. It would have to be a man who absolutely does not arouse a shred of doubt. And, all of us here are in doubt over his appointment – is this true or not, this interview, the second one, all those interviews, the statements that he gave to the public, etc. This is another interview, in which he said, “If I am forced to stay, I will have great problems. Because, when the Army solves its internal problems, the next step will be the State. The army is bound to come in conflict with the State, because the State believes that

the Army should be some clothe it can clean its shoes with. That is not going to happen! If I am appointed Chief of the General Staff, we shall quickly bring everything in order in the Army and regain its reputation in society. But, what good will that do when our State is a criminal one. The State should be transformed by the same principles as the Army". This interview was given to a Novi Sad newspaper.

Zoran LILIĆ:

This is almost the same interview as in "Svet" magazine, only with a different headline.

Života PANIĆ:

No, this is a different interview. "Duga" magazine did not want to publish this one.

Zoran LILIĆ:

I have no intention of defending Mika STEVANOVIĆ. It was all written by the same news reporter. One was published in "Duga" magazine, the second one in the Novi Sad "Dnevnik" newspaper, and the third one was published in "Svet" magazine. It is the same news reporter and text. It was written with a pen of the same news reporter.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

Two or three years ago, "Srpska Reč" fabricated and published two or three of my interviews. There was a name, a photograph, everything... Questions, answers, etc. I did not react at all. You simply spit on it and dump it. It is clear to every normal person that I would not give an interview to "Srpska Reč" magazine. Unfortunately, our journalism is on that level.

If it is true what it is written there, then Mika should be relieved and not sent to retirement.

Zoran LILIĆ:

I ask that we do not postpone this, because we do not have time to prolong things constantly.

Života PANIĆ:

The decision is made, and it has to be accepted.

Zoran LILIĆ:

If the decision were made, we would not be discussing this.

Života PANIĆ:

When I called him, he said to me, “You set me up with all this; VASILJEVIĆ and DIMITRIJEVIĆ.” Do you see how far this has gone? That was low! DIMITRIJEVIĆ is an honourable man, who carries out his assignments right. I do not even know this news reporter woman.

Do you remember how much pressure you put on me to end the VASILJEVIĆ scandal, and he constantly insisted, “No, no and no...” and he would still sue him. You will see how many lawsuits he will file tomorrow; I will be sued as well. He is like that.

However, you make decisions; I am not a member of the Supreme Defence Council, I am only responsible for the implementation and technicalities.

Zoran LILIĆ:

I would leave the lawsuits aside. The quality and the necessity – that Momir was talking about – are at issue: whether General STEVANOVIĆ should be there or not.

Momir BULATOVIĆ:

I would like to remind you that two or three weeks ago, the Supreme Defence Council reached the decision to appoint Colonel DIMITRIJEVIĆ; indeed, it was not until later that I was consulted about it over the telephone. Colonel DIMITRIJEVIĆ gave us the information, which we all remember. We reached the decision to appoint him to that position. If we keep General STEVANOVIĆ, then we should remove Colonel DIMITRIJEVIĆ immediately; they are not compatible.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

The appointment of DIMITRIJEVIĆ was a misunderstanding. I am not questioning his good intentions or the performance of DIMITRIJEVIĆ. I know nothing about them. I receive serious information.

I do not know, what is the problem; what information did DIMITRIJEVIĆ give?

Momir BULATOVIĆ:

Well, we discussed it at a meeting of the /Supreme/ Defence Council.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

Information on Mika STEVANOVIĆ?

Momir BULATOVIĆ:

On the influence of the Serbian Radical Party.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

Mika has nothing to do with the Serbian Radical Party.

Momir BULATOVIĆ:

The hell he does not.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

Of course, the Serbian Radical Party is trying to recruit individual senior officers of the Yugoslav Army, however, Mika STEVANOVIĆ is not one of them. That is for sure! If they are so capable and ingenious to hide it, I take my hat off to them. So far, they were not able to hide anything. I know nothing about any information that would imply that Mika co-operates with the Serbian Radical Party.

Momir BULATOVIĆ:

Well, we heard it here; General PANIĆ read it to us.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

Information on STEVANOVIĆ's co-operation with the Serbian Radical Party? I am sorry, but I know nothing about this information.

Života PANIĆ:

There is some information on the 12th Corps, Novi Sad.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

Mika was not mentioned there.

Života PANIĆ:

There were some things, but right now, I cannot remember the information exactly; you have those documents.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

I think I would remember it. I remember that it was something about the 12th Corps, but I do not remember Mika being mentioned.

Života PANIĆ:

He has some man that takes care of it for him – a certain Prof. PAVIČEVIĆ; he goes everywhere, writes all kinds of things. He is a retired colonel and he is always in Mika's office.

Zoran LILIĆ:

He met me in Zlatibor and said the same thing to me too. He mentioned Momir, Milo, etc. If we are going to take into account what everyone says, we will not go very far. He is 84 years old and he has considerable influence over everyone!

Momir BULATOVIĆ:

Is it true that ŠEŠELJ has his eye on BIORČEVIĆ now?

Zoran LILIĆ:

It is true! We saw it on television as well. That is why I said that we need to centre our discussion on the arguments.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

Mika is not connected to the Serbian Radical Party; that is for sure!

I suggest that the three of us call Mika, and he can answer all the questions we might have.

Momir BULATOVIĆ:

I suggest that we do not call him at all. There is no point in using such method. The State's stand cannot be based on someone's word.

My stand is that he should retire! I think that it would be a real disaster if he were appointed Chief of General Staff. Although my powers are not so great, I will oppose that as much as I can, at the cost of my participation in the Supreme Defence Council!

After all that we have been through here, we do not have a single reason to keep him. Because, if we keep him in the Army, he would have to be appointed Chief of General Staff, absolutely!

And, it is my belief that we should appoint a younger man and go with a more radical reorganisation. There will be chaos if he stays. In his revengeful ecstasy, he will be removing and appointing new people. Regardless of Nedo BOŠKOVIĆ that he created and brought, and regardless of what happened in the last pre-election campaign.

I would be crazy to give my vote to a man who wanted to ruin me!

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

Did he make any statements against you?

Momir BULATOVIĆ:

He did not make statements; he did everything he could. Him and many other officers from this list, but I want to leave that out of this. Whenever possible, my vote will be against him, because he was after my "head"!

If you feel that that is how it should be, that we should create our own crisis too because of something that is absolutely unnecessary; it is unnecessary, because it will cause an additional rift here. I see the discussion that we are having as if we are sticking a thorn in our flesh for no reason!

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

I suggest that we leave this and move on to see if there are any more of such arguable points, so we can locate the problem.

Momir BULATOVIĆ:

This discussion has located it – this is the focal point.

Zoran LILIĆ:

Is everything else settled?

Momir BULATOVIĆ:

It is settled – I do not know 90% of the people here /?on the list/.

Zoran LILIĆ:

What the Chief of General Staff has suggested and what I have said about the consultation with the people I do not know, most of these suggestions correspond, except in BAJIĆ's case.

We have accepted LAZOVIĆ; this that the general said is not at question.

If the problem is only with STEVANOVIĆ and BAJIĆ, the rest is settled then.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

As far as Mika is concerned, I stand in no different position from you. Because, if I believed that, then it would be clear. I cannot believe that he could do that. Perhaps you know that he was working against you Momo, but I do not know that he was working against you. Mika did not bring that BOŠKOVIĆ character, it was Branko KOSTIĆ, and you know that! As far as Mika is concerned, BOŠKOVIĆ did not work for him, as he was in retirement.

Života PANIĆ:

Mika advocated for him; he did work for him.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

He worked for him later, when he was reinstated. When Branko KOSTIĆ, who was the Supreme Commander at that time, suggested it to him, he accepted it; what else could he do. But, he did not force BOŠKOVIĆ; he was the Airforce Commander when Branko KOSTIĆ reactivated him. It was a mistake. I am

partly responsible for it, because I unquestioningly accepted Branko's stand about BOŠKOVIĆ, who proved himself to be not only dishonest, but crazy as well.

Mika has a great reputation in the Airforce. That is my impression.

I think that we should reach an agreement on the things that we are discussing; we should not be confronting each other or outvoting each other. I could never accept that; in an organ of three people, outvoting is ridiculous. It would be a violent act. However, Momo, that other thing you mentioned a moment ago is not right either, "I will step out and I will not co-operate with this organ". We should act as decent people and let it go; no one should be blackmailing anyone. Swinging from extreme to extreme is not good.

Momir BULATOVIĆ:

Are you aware that we have been thinking about this for two months, and that all of us have been gathering information in any way we can?

Since there is so much difference in our opinions on this specific issue, I think that we should solve it by taking minimal risk.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

Yes, but under the condition that it does not involve people. When people are involved, then it should be brought out in the open, all arguments should be put on the table, so we can analyse it together.

That is why I suggested that we call him and talk to him to hear and see if "the devil is as black as it appears to be" or not.

There is the other side of the story, which should be taken into account. If these were set-ups, then we have some other things to clear out. If this is true, then you can rest assured that our opinions will not be different. But, to tell you the truth, something "stinks" here a lot; to give that many interviews knowing it can harm him; he should be put under observation if did it.

Pavle BULATOVIĆ:

They say that there is a tape; I did not listen to it.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

Neither did I listen to any tape. But, if the tape exists, we should listen to it.

Života PANIĆ:

Neither did I listen to the tape, but I know that it exists!

Zoran LILIĆ:

None of us listened to the tape, and yet we invoke the tape and the interview.

Života PANIĆ:

If you want the tape, I will have it brought.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

Bring the tape!

Života PANIĆ:

There are some additional names for retirement, which are not written here.

Zoran LILIĆ:

It is ŠLJIVIĆ, RADINOVIĆ, and SIMIĆ.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

We have agreed on everything, except on Mika STEVANOVIĆ.

Zoran LILIĆ:

We said that LAZOVIĆ should remain.

Života PANIĆ:

President (addressing MILOŠEVIĆ), I hold you in high esteem and I am saying it without beating around the bush. But I don't think that it would be good if Mika remains. I am telling you this, first of all, as the Chief of General Staff; and then I am telling you as a colleague, friend, however you want it! Why should we create problems for no reason?

Even if the Air Force accepts him, the rest definitely will not. To be most honest. Otherwise, he fulfils all requirements for retirement.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

Dear Žika, I highly respect your opinion on all of that, but I can't help feeling that here was lot of frame-up!

Života PANIĆ:

There was not a single frame-up! If there was a frame-up, than we should force an issue into the open!

Imagine that his security officer, who is also suspicious – you know due to whom and why – assembles all Air Force security officers and forbids them any contact with Army Ground Forces and other security offices; Air Force is completely separated from Yugoslav Army, and Air Force is a form of armed forces that only provides support; that is the way all over the world. Only in America, since Air Force is big, it is separate and has it's own General Staff and the rest.

This way will enable normal functioning of everything and I think that Army will be perfect! Why should we sacrifice all for one men?

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

I would not sacrifice any value of the Army for anyone, not for any of you either. Army is extremely important institution to us. However, it should come within normal organisation. If we look at the entire Army, it pays 64 thousands salaries. That is, approximately, same as the Serbian Railways. Presumably it is not insuperable company, even more, there exists a hierarchy, ranks, a vertical etc. Presumably it can function well and work well.

Života PANIĆ:

The army is eating cans from reserves. How can it function when it does not have money, can not buy anything, we have low living standard, apartments, nothing? These are extraordinary efforts of the Army, especially in Kosovo; they live in camp conditions.

Zoran LILIĆ:

I have prepared myself thoroughly in regard of some key men from this list. Some of them have even sold the apartments they got for 50 or 100 thousand DM. There is no point in opening these issues now.

Života PANIĆ:

I don't know who could have done something like that?

Zoran LILIĆ:

How come – I know, and you don't?!

Pavle BULATOVIĆ:

Mister President, if you remember General STEVANOVIĆ's report on the Air Force; it speaks about how deep is a conflict between the Air Force and the General Staff, when he said "so called General Staff".

Zoran LILIĆ:

I declare responsibly that General Staff decisions are not implemented in any army.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

I guess the army could earn as much as our railways is earning, and they are not earning anything! Economically it is not any harder to resolve army than railways, and we need it.

Zoran LILIĆ:

I started working on it. It is amazing what could be done with military-industrial sector; but it is not functioning; the economy does not function. We need the primary issue and a budget.

Života PANIĆ:

The army has nothing to do with it!

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

That is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry.

Pavle BULATOVIĆ:

Have you proposed that DRAGOJEVIĆ should remain?

Zoran LILIĆ:

Yes. I hope that you have nothing against it?

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

Since he is your assistant, it would be good to hear your opinion.

Pavle BULATOVIĆ:

General DRAGOJEVIĆ is, as much as I have worked with him, an extremely fair person. I have no objections to his work. It is possible that he got a bit tired. He heads military-industrial sector. There is also general RADOVIĆ who is Head of Administration for production, armaments and military equipment. I do not see any other two men within the Ministry who could take that over.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

You don't have there any other General!

Pavle BULATOVIĆ:

Why it has to be General? It can be an excellent engineer; Head of financial administration does not have to be General or Colonel; further, Head of legal administration does not have to be a military person. But, we should speak about it once we speak about aims and concept of the transformation.

Proposal given here by the General Staff is that it should be ŠLJIVIĆ, and FILIPOVIĆ should be instead of RADOVIĆ; President LILIĆ proposed that ŠLJIVIĆ should also retire.

Života PANIĆ:

MILOVANOVIĆ could come. He was working on tank M-84.

Pavle BULATOVIĆ:

If DRAGOJEVIĆ would remain I have no reason to insist on termination of his service. He may be slow, he may be non-operational, but in the key issues I think that he is in full control.

As for RADOVIĆ, we can raise an objection for RADOVIĆ to leave, I suppose, on the grounds that he is a member of the State Committee. (Laughter).

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

He is leaving because he has turned 60, and not because he is a member of the State Committee.

I don't know that FILIPOVIĆ, but comparing FILIPOVIĆ and RADOVIĆ, I would rather choose RADOVIĆ.

Života PANIĆ:

DRAGOJEVIĆ is a good man, but indecisive. The military-industrial sector will never start working properly under him.

Pavle BULATOVIĆ:

It is not his fault; it is the fault of the Republics, chambers, the Ministry and the General Staff! There should be a consent of the Ministry, the Republics, the General Staff and then such and such program should go to Surdulica, then you could see how DRAGOJEVIĆ would carry it out.

Života PANIĆ:

Instead of RADOVIĆ I would bring FILIPOVIĆ; he is now director of special purpose production in "Zastava". He is excellent! It can be next year when conditions will be met that he can replace him. DRAGOJEVIĆ should remain, and FILIPOVIĆ should come instead of RADOVIĆ. He handles special purpose production in Kragujevac.

Pavle BULATOVIĆ:

If he handles well the special purpose production, the question is whether these other two work in an inferior manner?

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

I propose we bring this to an end, and we will settle that afterwards. There is no point in wasting this much time. We could reach a decision; to be published today that we have discussed personnel issues in the Yugoslav Army and reached a decision on termination of active military service for 38 Generals and Admirals, and that in

course of it's work the Supreme Council will be considering further solutions and issues for organisational and personnel improvements etc.

Zoran LILIĆ:

I propose we leave this as debatable. I think that there is no point to outvote each other; we have to reach unanimous decision.

Momir BULATOVIĆ:

But we have not yet reached a final decision – wether it will be 38, 39 or 40 Generals. There is no point in informing the public that we have retired 38, and then to retire one or two more.

Pavle BULATOVIĆ:

It is my opinion that the Supreme Council should go out with a precise announcement when retirement is in question, not to open any possibilities for tomorrow. Now, the announcement should contain precise number. It is my conviction that in the last two months no one was working, only thinking, calculating who will remain and who will leave.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

Was this announcement not precise?

Momir BULATOVIĆ:

It was not! It depends on our decision – could be 39, could be 40.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

There could always be more; there will not be less that 38.

Zoran LILIĆ:

Momir insists on the first eight Generals?

Momir BULATOVIĆ:

Yes. If we announce now that we are retiring 38, than we have announced that we are leaving these two.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

Yes, but we have not yet announced names; tomorrow there can be 40 and 39, but it will not be 37.

Života PANIĆ:

I propose that once you reach an agreement each of you informs superior officers under your jurisdiction that so-and-so has been retired.

For Lieutenant Generals, I propose that I should carry it out together with the President of the State, the Supreme Commander.

Afterwards, a public announcement should be issued, from my side as Chief of General Staff, Army commanders and the others. I am saying it to avoid that the public announcement is issued first, and only that we are informing them.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

LILIĆ has proposed to summon all Generals – from Major-Generals up to Generals and to announce the decision, to prepare a reception in their honour, to thank them for serving in the armed forces etc. There are 99% of men on this list that have worked honourably all their life. The termination of the active military service is part of everyday life; fifty years back every year active military service has been terminated for someone.

Zoran LILIĆ:

Me and you (addressing General PANIĆ) will invite them all to announce it together.

I propose to appoint Chief of General Staff on Wednesday, so that he can give proposal for other positions together with the Personnel Committee, and afterwards we can go for holidays, not to have holidays first and then rearrangements.

Momir BULATOVIĆ:

In my view the whole point of today's work would be to reach a decision on the number of retirements; further to decide who will be new Chief of General Staff and to announce it. President and General PANIĆ should receive those officers, no photos needed, to thank them; and that should be a public announcement.

The question is whether we can resolve the issue of the new Chief of General Staff. Slobodan, I understand that your proposal is that Chief of General Staff should be STEVANOVIĆ.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

I propose to first clarify who is remaining in the Army.

Momir BULATOVIĆ:

On assumption that he remains and that all this is fabricated, do you think that he should be Chief of General Staff.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

I do not know what and how it is, but I believe that we should clarify it all the way to the end, to see who is behind what. It is not good, there will be some stains, same as it was after VASILJAVIĆ; I do not know any more who is not under the trial from the Army.

If you are asking me about the Chief of General Staff, if this goes like this, it is logical – we are not appointing anyone yet; that means everyone is represented by person remaining on the spot. Accordingly the duty of the Chief of General Staff will be carried out by SIMONOVIC until a decision is reached – either SIMONOVIC should be appointed Chief, or some third person should be appointed Chief. That is the way of the army at all levels – whoever leaves, he is replaced.

Zoran LILIĆ:

Since Colonel DIMITRIJEVIĆ has arrived I propose to interrupt the session and hear the tape.

(Recess at 1830 hrs).

RESUMPTION OF THE SESSION OF THE DEFENCE SUPREME COUNCIL,
25. AUGUST 1993, AT 1615 HRS

Zoran LILIĆ:

We continue with the work.

The day before yesterday we have interrupted the discussion regarding Item:

TERMINATION OF ACTIVE MILITARY SERVICE FOR GENERALS
AND ADMIRALS OF THE YUGOSLAV ARMY

Following this we shall proceed with the appointment of the Chief of General Staff and everything else we have said.

Last time we said that we should hold consultations in order not to repeat hopeless situation.

Therefore, according to mandatory retirement – we should retire all eight Generals from the first group.

Further, out of those who have reached 60 years of age Dr Jovan BJELIĆ, Head of Military Medical Academy should remain on this list, and DRAGOJEVIĆ and RADOVIĆ should retire. Here we have no more changes.

I would also add General Milorad TERZIĆ here, an engineer.

Pavle BULATOVIĆ:

The big question is whether he is 60 years of age?

Zoran LILIĆ:

He goes under the decision of the President of FRY; it is a pecuniary compensation.

All together 41 Generals and Admirals!

If you have any more proposals or suggestions, say it.

Should we repeat the entire list?

(Interruption: Repeat).

As per mandatory retirement the following are going:

Generals PANIĆ, VOJVODIĆ, SIMONOVIĆ, STEVANOVIĆ, STRUGAR, UZELAC, AJDUKOVIĆ, ARANĐELOVIĆ.

With reached 60 years of age the following are leaving: dr. Milorad DRAGOJEVIĆ, and dr. Jovan BIJELIĆ remains, and Aleksandar RADOVIĆ leaves

Out of third group with 40 years of service the following are leaving: Vladimir STOJANOVIĆ, Andrija BIORČEVIĆ; Jevrem COKIĆ remains; Radomir EREMIJA leaves; Nikodin JOVANOVIĆ leaves; remain MANDARIĆ and POLIĆ; STOKOVIĆ leaves, ANTUNOVIĆ leaves; BABIĆ remains, BAJIĆ leaves, BAUCAL leaves, BOLJEVIĆ leaves; Milovan BOJOVIĆ remains; Svetozar CAREVIĆ leaves; Branko ČAĐO leaves; Sreten ČUPIĆ leaves; Nedeljko ČOPIĆ remains; Jovan DAMJANOVIĆ leaves; Velibor JOVANOVIĆ remains, leave MILOŠEVIĆ, NEDELJKOVIĆ, PERIŠIĆ, PERIĆ, RADMANOVIĆ and ŠIPČIĆ; remain TRAJKOVIĆ and VELIČKOVIĆ; ŽERAJIĆ leaves; we have agreed to propose to LAZOVIĆ to remain; ŽUNIĆ leaves.

Out of the fourth group – entitlement to pecuniary compensation – leaving are Nikola ERCEGOVIĆ, Jovan ELEMIROV; remaining are MILETIĆ and PUSTINJA; leaving are Milan ZAKLAN and Miladin MOJSILOVIĆ.

Out of the fifth group, based on a decision of the President of FRY, leaving are Slobodan ĐORĐEVIĆ, Dušan KASUM, ŠLJIVIĆ, RADINOVIĆ, SIMIĆ and Milorad TERZIĆ.

All together that is 41 Generals and Admirals.

Pavle BULATOVIĆ:

Should this Shiptar remain, KRASNIĆI?

Života PANIĆ:

I do not have information about him, but I think that he is already on. If not, we can insert him. He is not deployed.

Zoran LILIĆ:

Which condition does he fulfil?

Života PANIĆ:

He can leave only based on your decision.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

Why should he leave, let him stay, if he does not fulfil requirements?

Pavle BULATOVIĆ:

He does not have any task.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

Let him, why would he be a harm?

Zoran LILIĆ:

All right, let him remain.

Any more proposals?

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

There is nothing else. We should link this with the decision on appointment of the Chief of General Staff, but we will consult on that later during the day, so that General PANIĆ can complete the minutes.

Zoran LILIĆ:

Which is to say 41 Generals, and that goes as announcement, no names mentioning today.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

I would like to propose to Momir that he drafts an announcement proposal, according to his ideas, so we can take a look at it.

Zoran LILIĆ:

All right, should we discuss today the supplement to the State Committee report?

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

I do not think that we should discuss about it today, we should leave it for the next time.

Zoran LILIĆ:

Do you agree with it? (Acclamation).

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

I would not introduce that into the agenda at all.

Zoran LILIĆ:

Right, we did not discuss about this and it should not be put into agenda.

Have you taken a look at this paper, it needs consent for payment?

(Acclamation).

Života PANIĆ:

What about DOMAZETOVIĆ?

Momir BULATOVIĆ:

We can say: upon an insight into documentation and a conversation with him, he is being retired based on regular procedure; if that means anything to him.

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

I agree. That means something to both us and him.

Života PANIĆ:

And regarding the promotion?

Slobodan MILOŠEVIĆ:

You were mentioning that, but you never gave us a proposal.

Života PANIĆ:

When I realised that he had been suddenly retired and when you invited me here – I gave up.

Momir BULATOVIĆ:

In this way we are admitting our mistake, and enabling him quietly as the others. /as stated/.

Zoran LILIĆ:

Consequently, the proposal is to cancel the previous decree and he goes with the group he belongs to. If men is not guilty that needs to be admitted.

So, all together 42 Generals and Admirals are retiring.

Any more questions? (No).

I am closing the session of the Defence Supreme Council.

/Session ended at 1650 hrs).