

*Statement on***THE SECOND ROUND OF PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS
IN THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA***by**the United Nations**and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe*

International observers from the United Nations, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) Parliamentary Assembly, the CSCE Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), and the CSCE Mission in Skopje concluded that the second round of the parliamentary elections held in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on 30 October was conducted in a generally orderly and peaceful manner. Some improvements have been made to electoral procedures following complaints about irregularities which were brought to the attention of electoral procedures following complaints about irregularities which were brought to the attention of the State Election Commission after the first round of voting held on 16 October. The delegations observed the elections at the invitation of the Assembly and the Government of the country. The delegations emphasize that no conclusive statement concerning the first and second rounds will be made until detailed reports are prepared by the CSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the ODIHR.

The monitors believe that the electorate had adequate opportunity to express its voting preference. To the delegations, voting appeared to be conducted in a regular manner. The delegations note that there was less confusion in the use of identity cards than in the first round. In most democracies, it is the responsibility of citizens to ensure their inclusion in the voter registry, while the Government has the responsibility to facilitate the process. Consideration appeared to be given to eligible citizens who had been omitted from the original lists.

The 1994 parliamentary elections were held in the framework of outdated laws on parliamentary elections, voter registration lists, and districts. These existing laws are a matter of great concern because they do not fully address some provisions of the Constitution, which was adopted subsequent to the laws. These laws are in some cases imprecise and open to loose interpretation by the election commissions and judiciary.

The delegations note that, against the recommendations of the international community, some opposition parties insisted on boycotting the second round of these elections, and the actions of some opposition activists dissuaded a sector of the electorate from voting. Speculation over the first round of the elections was fuelled by a lack of information from the State Election Commission. More information could have instilled greater confidence in both the political parties and the electorate as a whole.

These elections provided the opportunity for citizens to express their will in democratic elections. The dedication of local election authorities to the spirit of the election regulations was evident, and their desire to provide an opportunity for the electorate to express its voting intention was clear. The delegations wish to express their gratitude to all those who have assisted them during the elections.

Skopje
31 October 1994