Statement by Lord Carrington, The Presidents of the republics of Croatia and Serbia, and the
Minister of National Defence

Igalo, 17 September 1991

This country is only days away from a state of irretrievable civil war. On that at least there is no
argument.

I therefore call upon the three leaders most directly concerned with the current grievous loss of life
to come together, before the Yugoslav peoples and the peoples of the world, to state the following
without equivocation or reserve:

“There are deep and dangerous divisions between us about the responsibility for what is now
happening in Yugoslavia, and equally about the political future of this country. But on one thing we
are united: that no viable solution for our peoples can result from violence and killing, and that we
must talk together to determine if we can agree the future relationship between our peoples.

We therefore pledge ourselves that everyone within our control and under our political and military
influence should cease fighting immediately. When forces are closely intertwined, there are
inevitable problems of provocation, real or imagined, and retaliation. It is therefore imperative for
the forces on the ground instantly to withdraw sufficiently to guarantee a genuine and total
ceasefire. This means that instantly and simultaneously all armed formations, including the
paramilitary forces, irregular units, the Croat National Guard and the JNA [Yugoslav Peoples Army]
shall withdraw from immediate contact and from actual or previous areas where hostilities have
taken or are taking place. All paramilitary forces and irregular units shall disarm and disband; the
Croat National Guard reserve forces shall be demobilized; the JNA shall return to barracks. This
process too shall be immediate and simultaneous. We welcome readiness of the EC Monitors to
oversee such a cease-fire, and we undertake to facilitate their work in reasonable conditions.

We recognize that this is the last chance for a de-escalation and cessation of actual warfare without
which there can be no meaningful negotiation on the future of our peoples. We are fully conscious
of the heavy responsibility we share at this crucial moment in our history.”