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Announcement Of

Southeastern Europe Defense Ministerial Environmental Conference

Hosted by Slovenia April 11-13, 2000

Background.

At their meeting in Bucharest on November 30, 1999, Ministers of Defense participating in the Southeastern Europe Defense Ministerial (SEDM) process reaffirmed their commitment to implement a range of initiatives designed to foster regional security and improved defense cooperation. The Ministers agreed that effective implementation of SEDM-sponsored initiatives will contribute to the security dimension of the Stability Pact, which also aims to strengthen democratization and economic development in Southeastern Europe and its integration into Euro-Atlantic structures.

As an additional contribution to the SEDM process, the Slovenian Ministry of Defense, in consultation with the U.S. Department of Defense, invites your participation in the first SEDM Environmental Conference.

We hereby request that our Ministry of Defense colleagues identify two Ministry of Defense officials and one Ministry of Environment or other appropriate civilian official to participate in a conference at the expert level on defense-related environmental issues of interest to the region. Slovenia will host the conference in Bled, Slovenia April 11-13, 2000, at the Grand Hotel Toplice. We will provide you with additional details about the conference in the near future. We request that you work with appropriate Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Environment (or other appropriate Ministry) representatives to provide a response to the point of contact noted below by February 25, 2000.

Conference Objective

Increase awareness of defense-related environmental challenges, and identify opportunities for cooperative activities.

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