

State Duma
Committee on International Affairs

23 January 1995

To: Chairman of the State Duma
I. P. Rybkin

To: PRESIDENT
OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
B. N. YELTSIN

Esteemed Boris Nikolayevich!

From January 30 to February 4 in Strasbourg (France) the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) will convene its meeting of the 46th session. [At this meeting] it was intended to consider the issue of Russia joining this influential European organization.

Currently, by decision of three main PACE Commissions, this issue has been removed from the session's agenda. The reason is – accusation against the Russian federal forces of massive and cruel violations of human rights in the Chechen Republic in the process of carrying out of military operations.

In order to develop a position for the Russian parliamentary delegation to the PACE session it is absolutely necessary for us to have clear, concrete answers supported by documents to the questions that our PACE colleagues put to us:

1. What is, in the opinion of the federal authorities, the legal basis for using of army units in the resolution of the Chechen conflict?
2. Who gave the order for aerial bombardment of Grozny and other cities of the Chechen Republic?
3. What is the real situation, according to documents and fact, with the President of Russian Federation's decision to stop bombardment on December 24, 1994, and if they were not stopped, who bears responsibility for the continuation?
4. How many military and civilians died and were wounded in the course of this operation?
5. What destruction resulted from the military actions in Grozny and in the Chechen Republic as a whole?
6. Precisely which of Dudaev's armed formations were disarmed in the course of the operation and which are currently active?

7. What are, in concrete facts, the human rights violations: a) on the part of the federal troops and other Russian services; b) on the part of Dudaev's armed formations?
8. Have V. S. Chernomyrdin and Dudaev's representatives (Imaev, Abubukarov) achieved a ceasefire agreement without preliminary conditions by 18:00 on January 18, and if it was achieved, why was it not realized?
9. What is the factual situation with the refugees in connection with the Chechen crisis? What does the government intend to do to resolve this problem? What resources will be needed for this and from which parts of the budget will they come?
10. What is the assessment, with concrete facts, of the situation with human rights in the Chechen Republic in the three-year period preceding the start of military actions?
11. How does the President explain the failure to appear by the government members responsible for the conduct of the operation in Chechnya at the meetings of the RF Federal Assembly devoted to consideration of this problem? Have those actions been cleared with their immediate superiors?

Unfortunately, we still have not received clear answers to these questions.

We ask you to give us all possible assistance in obtaining answers to these questions. In order to clarify the details of the official position of the executive on this issue, we would be ready to meet with you and with the head of the Russian government on the eve of the departure of the Russian Federal Assembly Delegation to the 46th session of the PACE.

Head of the permanent delegation
of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation to PACE
Chairman of the State Duma Committee on International Affairs

V. P. Lukin

Translated by Svetlana Savranskaya for the National Security Archive

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