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International
Criminal Tribunal
for the former
Yugoslavia

Tribunal Pénal
International pour
l'ex-Yougoslavie

PRESS RELEASE

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REGISTRY

The Hague, 16 March 2006

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TRIAL CHAMBER LIFTS CONFIDENTIALITY OF MATERIALS IN MILOŠEVIĆ CASE TO ASSIST INQUIRIES

Trial Chamber I of the Tribunal today ordered that relevant confidential materials in the case against Slobodan Milošević be made available to Dutch authorities and a special Tribunal inquiry team.

Following Slobodan Milošević's death in the UN Detention Unit on Saturday 11 March 2006, Dutch authorities began an investigation under Dutch law that is independent of the Tribunal. In addition, under his authority under the Tribunal's Statute and Rules, Judge Fausto Pocar ordered an internal inquiry. He appointed Tribunal Vice-President Judge Kevin Parker to head it.

In today's order, Trial Chamber I stated that certain materials in the case were treated as confidential often because personal information about Slobodan Milošević is contained in them. It further stated that the Tribunal generally protects privacy interests of the accused. However, the Trial Chamber stated that once an accused is deceased and there is a need for a full inquiry, or an obligation to facilitate a Dutch inquest, then the interest of these investigations in unimpeded access to information outweighs any residual privacy interests.

The Trial Chamber further ordered that these materials remain confidential, unless and to the extent the interests of the Dutch authorities' inquest and the Tribunal's inquiry dictate otherwise.

The Tribunal indicted Slobodan Milošević with numerous crimes committed in Kosovo, Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1991 to 1999. He stood trial for these crimes from February 2002 until Tuesday 14 March 2006 when Trial Chamber III formally closed the proceedings against him.

The document can be found on our website at www.un.org/icty/milosevic/trialc/order-e/060316.htm.

Contact numbers:

Media Office: +31 70 512 5343/5356/8752

Internet address: <http://www.un.org/icty>

Media Office/Communications Service

Churchillplein 1, 2517 JW The Hague. P.O. Box 13888, 2501 EW The Hague. Netherlands

Tel.: +31-70-512-5343; 512-5356 Fax: +31-70-512-5355