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Note by the Secretary-General

The attached document contains the report of the fact-finding mission that I dispatched in October 1993 to investigate the situation of human rights violations in Abkhazia, Republic of Georgia, including reports of "ethnic cleansing". My decision to send the mission was welcomed by the Security Council in operative paragraph 4 of its resolution 876 (1993) of 19 October 1993. The mission visited the area from 22 to 30 October 1993.

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Annex

Report of the Secretary-General's fact-finding mission to
investigate human rights violations in Abkhazia, Republic
of Georgia

INTRODUCTION

1. Following reports of violations of human rights in Abkhazia, Republic of Georgia, and urgent requests to me to ascertain their nature and extent, in October I decided to dispatch a fact-finding mission to investigate the situation of human rights violations in Abkhazia, including reports of "ethnic cleansing".
2. The Security Council, in its resolution 876 (1993), welcomed that decision. In its resolution 881 (1993), the Council reiterated its demand in its resolution 876 (1993) that all parties to the conflict in Abkhazia, Republic of Georgia, refrain from the use of force and from any violation of international humanitarian law, and looked forward to the report of the fact-finding mission.
3. The mission visited the area from 22 to 30 October 1993. It was headed by the Chief of the International Instruments Section of the Centre for Human Rights, who was assisted by two Professional staff members, one from the Centre in Geneva and the other from the Department of Political Affairs in New York.
4. Between 22 and 27 October 1993, the mission held meetings in Abkhazia (Gudauta or Sukhumi) with leading personalities responsible for the territory's administration, including the top political leader and his deputy; the officials currently responsible for foreign relations, interior affairs and justice; the Chairman of the parliamentary Commission on Human Rights and Ethnic Relations and his deputy; the chief of administration of Sukhumi region; and the head of the Commission on Prisoners-of-War and Defence of the Rights of the Civilian Population of Sukhumi. Additionally, it met with the chief of administration of Ochamchira region, the mayor of Ochamchira and the mayor of Gagra. The mission also had contact with the coordinator of the human rights group "Asarkial".
5. During its stay in Tbilisi, from 28 to 30 October 1993, the mission met with the following government representatives: Chairman of the State Committee for Human Rights and Ethnic Relations and his deputy; the head of the Commission for the Documentation on Atrocities Committed during the Abkhazian Conflict and the Commission secretary; and the Deputy Chairman of the Committee on Refugees and Displaced Persons; as well as the Prime Minister of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia, the First Deputy Prime Minister and the Chairperson of the State Committee for Human Rights and Ethnic Relations of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia.
6. Both in Abkhazia - in Sukhumi and villages in the district of Gulripsh, as well as in Ochamchira - and in Tbilisi, the mission had the opportunity to interview a number of victims or witnesses of human rights violations, or other civilians. In Tbilisi the mission visited three centres for displaced persons and spoke with a number of persons who, at different stages of the armed conflict, had left their homes in various parts of Abkhazia. Meetings were also