



International Tribunal for the
Prosecution of Persons
Responsible for Serious Violations
of International Humanitarian Law
Committed in the Territory of
Former Yugoslavia since 1991

Case No. IT-96-19-Misc.1

Date: 29 March 1996

Original: FRENCH &
ENGLISH

IN TRIAL CHAMBER I.

Before: Judge Claude Jorda, Presiding
Judge Elizabeth Odio Benito
Judge Fouad Riad

Registrar: Mr. Dominique Marro, Deputy-Registrar

Decision of: 29 March 1996

THE PROSECUTOR

v.

COLONEL KRSMANOVIĆ

**DECISION CONCERNING
SERBO-CROATIAN INTERPRETATION**

The Office of the Prosecutor:
Mr Richard Goldstone
Mr Eric Ostberg

Defence Council
Mr Igor Pantelić

Amicus Curiae
Ms Vidović, Bosnia and Herzegovina representative

THE TRIAL CHAMBER,

TAKING NOTE of the application presented at the hearing by the Defence Council,

HAVING HEARD the Deputy Registrar and the Prosecutor at the hearing,

CONSIDERING that it appears from the explanations of the Deputy Registrar and the Prosecutor that the Tribunal has never encountered any difficulty in using the Serbo-Croat language;

CONSIDERING that the Registrar has consulted linguistic experts in the *Tadić* case in order to determine whether mutual comprehension between Serbs and Croats was ensured on the basis of Serbo-Croat;

CONSIDERING that these evaluations are available to the Defence at the Registry, if it wishes to consult them;

CONSIDERING that the result of these explanations largely supported the fact that the differences between Serb and Croat are so small that there exists no valid reason to justify the refusal of interpretation into the Serbo-Croatian language and that, accordingly, Serbo-Croat is a language which Colonel KRSMANOVIC understands which is a requirement of the Statute;

CONSIDERING that the hearing will be held on the basis of interpretation into Serbo-Croat;

FOR THESE REASONS,

REJECTS the application of the Council of the Defence.

Claude Jorda, President
Trial Chamber I

Dated this twenty-ninth of March 1996
At The Hague,
The Netherlands

(Seal of the Tribunal)