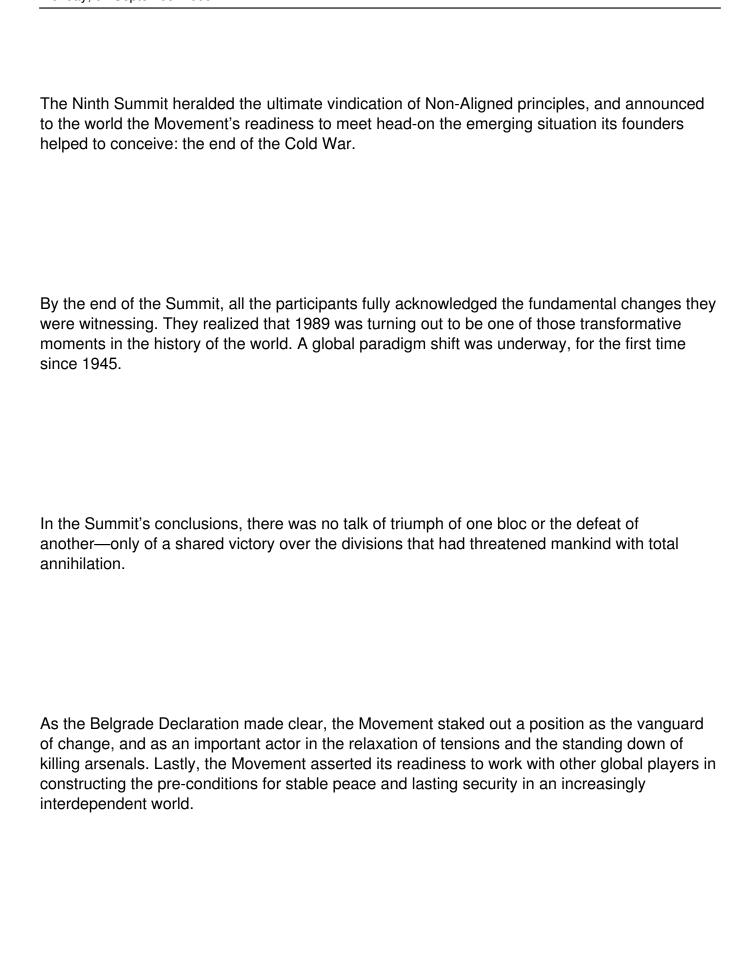
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President Vassiliou,
Minister Maigri,
Ambassador Bassiouny,
Deputy Prime Minister Dacic,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Monday, 07 September 2009.
On behalf of the Republic of Serbia, I would like to welcome you all to Belgrade on the 20 th anniversary of the Ninth Summit of the Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Movement.
I am particularly pleased to acknowledge the attendance of representatives from all the former Yugoslav republics. As one of the six successor states, Serbia shares its NAM bequest with them equally. It is a source of commonality and shared experience that we should proudly celebrate.
Ladies and Gentlemen,
We have gathered to remember and reflect on that first week of September of the year 1989 in Belgrade.



Remarks to the 20th Anniversary Conference Celebrating the Ninth Summit of the Non-Aligned Move Monday, 07 September 2009.
_adies and Gentlemen,
t is an irony of history that at the peak of its strategic capacity to influence the future course of the global currents it worked so hard to bring about, the Movement was not able to fully grasp the opportunities opened up by the release of the winds of change.
This can be explained in various ways, but I would like to touch upon one in particular.
1989 turned out to be the year when one of the founding states of the Movement began to fall apart. In a sense, one could say that Yugoslavia was victorious in foreign affairs, yet before long ost its struggle for domestic peace and stability.
The Ninth Summit was Yugoslavia's swan song on the world stage. It is almost as if, during that irrst week in September 1989, Yugoslavia raised up the Movement's torch of victory over bipolarity, only to collapse—soon thereafter—of exhaustion and over-exertion.

Monday, 07 September 2009.

Remarks to the 20th Anniversary	Conference Celebrating	the Ninth Summit	of the Non-Aligned N	<i>l</i> lovemen
Monday, 07 September 2009.			_	

In the interdependent world of the 21st century, Serbia's membership in the EU would give a ne w,

more profound

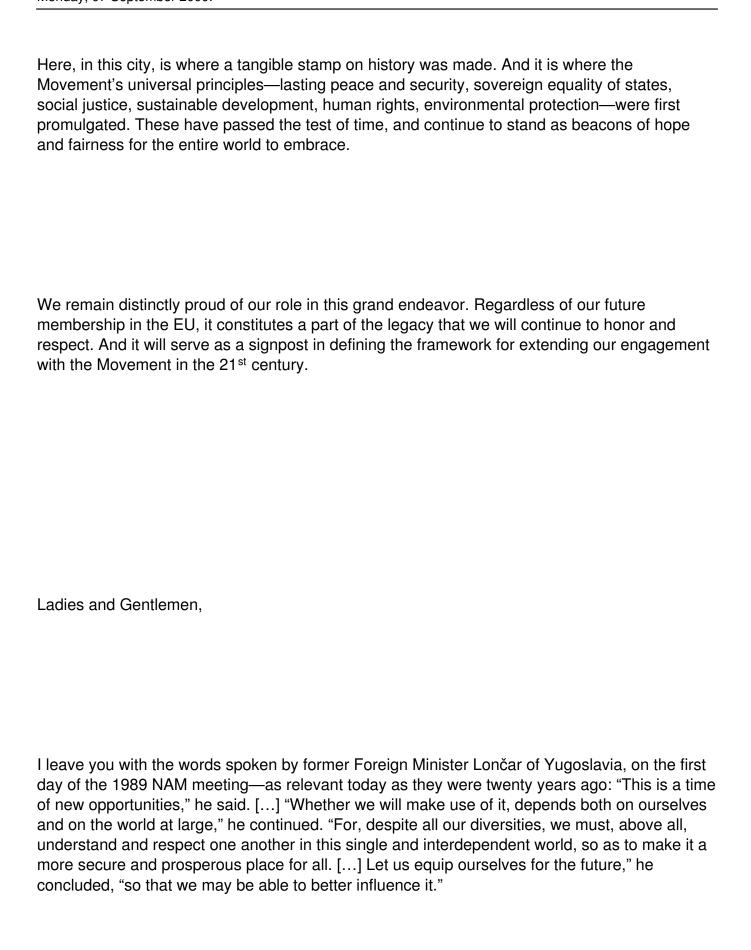
meaning to our relations with NAM member states. This would not only ensure that more than one hundred nations would have a good friend in Brussels, but it would also lead to an increase in both understanding and cooperation between the Movement and the Union. I am in no doubt that this would be advantageous to everyone concerned.

Let me underline that this is not just an issue of honoring the legacy that comes with being the largest successor state to Yugoslavia. It is not about simply reaffirming traditional friendships, either. It is also about the fact that Serbia believes international stability and prosperity cannot be consolidated without taking into account the views of the majority of the global family of nations.

In addition, re-invigorating our engagement with NAM countries is about ensuring enhanced respect for the binding principles of the international community by all. Working in concert with one another to strengthen a rules-based approach to international relations is in our common interest. And few are as basic as the fundamental respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of internationally recognized states.

Remarks to the 20th Anniversary Conference Celebrating the Ninth Summit of the Non-Aligned Movemen Monday, 07 September 2009.
Ladies and Gentlemen,
This brings me to one of the most profound challenges that my country faces today—that is, the attempt by the ethnic-Albanian authorities of our southern province of Kosovo and Metohija to secede from Serbia.
Once again, I would like to express my deep appreciation for the commitment of close to eighty-five percent of Non-Aligned countries to the fundamental principles of the international system. We remain profoundly grateful to them for their solidarity on the crucial issue of not recognizing UDI—the unilateral declaration of independence by the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government in Pristina.
As is by now well known, we chose to respond to the attempt to forcibly partition Serbia peacefully, and with maximal restraint. We decided to harness all the diplomatic resources at our disposal to counter UDI and contain its potentially destabilizing consequences.
In large part due to the principled support of a vast majority of Non-Aligned countries, the UN General Assembly last year overwhelmingly passed resolution 63/3, tasking the International Court of Justice to determine whether Kosovo's UDI is in accordance with international law.

Remarks to the 20th Anniversary Conference Celebrating the Ninth Summit of the Non-Aligned Movemen Monday, 07 September 2009.
This case will constitute a strong precedent. It marks the first time ever that the Court has been asked to consider the legality of a unilateral attempt by an ethnic minority to secede from a UN member State, in defiance of its Constitution and the will of the Security Council.
Accordingly, the Court's conclusions will have extensive consequences for the entire international community—perhaps for some NAM states most of all. It is therefore particularly important for everyone to respect the fact that the International Court of Justice is actively engaged on the issue. Its deliberations should not be pre-judged, and its work should not be obstructed. The Court's proceedings have to be allowed to run their course, unhindered by political pressures, such as further recognitions of Kosovo's UDI.
On the 20 th anniversary of the Ninth Non-Aligned Summit—during which respect for international law was highlighted as a founding principle of the Movement—Serbia actively encourages all the non-recognizing countries represented in this room to stay the course. By maintaining respect for Serbia's sovereignty and territorial integrity, together we will help ensure that international law continues to close in on UDI.
Ladies and Gentlemen,



ank you for your a	tention, and for b	eing with us her	e today.	