COUNTRY ASSESSMENT

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA

COUNTRY INFORMATION AND POLICY UNIT

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COUNTRY BRIEF

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA

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I INTRODUCTION

1.1 This assessment has been produced by the Country Information & Policy Unit, Immigration & Nationality Directorate, Home Office, from information obtained from a variety of sources.

1.2 The assessment has been prepared for background purposes for those involved in the asylum determination process. The information it contains is not exhaustive, nor is it intended to catalogue all human rights violations. It concentrates on the issues most commonly raised in asylum claims made in the United Kingdom.

1.3 The assessment is sourced throughout. It is intended to be used by caseworkers as a

signpost to the source material, which has been made available to them. The vast majority of the source material is readily available in the public domain.

1.4 It is intended to revise the assessment on a 6-monthly basis while the country remains within the top 35 asylum producing countries in the United Kingdom.

1.5 The assessment will be placed on the Internet at the following address, (http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/ind/cipu1.htm). An electronic copy of the assessment has been made available to the following organisations:

Amnesty International UK
Immigration Advisory Service
Immigration Appellate Authority
Immigration Law Practitioners' Association
Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants
JUSTICE
Medical Foundation for the Victims of Torture
Refugee Council
Refugee Legal Centre
UN High Commissioner for Refugees

II GEOGRAPHY

Location & Climate

2.1 The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY), which comprises the two republics Serbia and Montenegro, lies in south-eastern Europe. The FRY is bordered to the north by Hungary to the east, by Romania and Bulgaria; and to the south by the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Albania. Montenegro, to the south-west, has a coastline on the Adriatic Sea and the FRY's inland western border is with Bosnia and Herzegovina and with Croatia. The province of Kosovo occupies the south-west portion of the Republic of Serbia and Vojvodina occupies the northern part. Belgrade is the capital of the FRY, as well as being the capital of the Republic of Serbia. Podgorica, formerly known as Titograd, is the capital of the Republic of Montenegro. [1]

2.2 The climate is continental in the hilly interior and Mediterranean on the coast, with steady rainfall throughout the year. The average summer temperature in Belgrade is 22 C (71 F), the winter average being 0 C (32 F). [1]

Population, Language & Religion

2.3 The territory of the FRY has an area of approximately 102,173 square kilometres (approx. 39,449 sq. miles). Official estimates (based on the last official census on 31 March 1991) indicate a total population of about 10.5 million (mid-1995) with over 9.7 million living in Serbia. Of the total population 63% are Serbs and 17% are ethnic Albanians, most of whom live in Kosovo, where they account for well over 90% of the province's population of about 2 million. The remaining 20% are made up of various minority groups including Bosniak Muslims, Croats, Hungarians and Roma. The principal language is Serbian (sometimes known as "Montenegrin" in Montenegro, and formerly known as Serbo-Croat). It is written in a Cyrillic script. Other languages, most notably Albanian and Hungarian, are also spoken in the FRY. [1]

III HISTORY

3.1 A summary of the complex history of Yugoslavia before the Second World War has not been attempted for the purposes of this assessment but may be found in Europa Eastern Europe Survey if required. (ref. Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States 1999, Fourth

Edition) However, some historical context is provided in the following brief history of the region from 1945 onwards.

3.2 On 29 November 1945, the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia was declared. Josip Broz "Tito", leader of the Communist Partisans during the war, became President and remained in power until his death 35 years later. In 1946, a Soviet style constitution was adopted, establishing a federation of six republics: Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia, Macedonia, Montenegro; and two autonomous provinces, Vojvodina and Kosovo. Further new constitutions followed in 1953,1963 and 1974. These reflected political and social changes such as the move away from a command economy and the introduction of "socialist self-management" after the 1948 break with Moscow. With the 1963 Constitution, the country's name was changed to the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (SFRY). After Tito's death in 1980, his responsibilities were transferred to the collective State Presidency. The position of head of state rotated annually between the Presidency's eight republican and provincial members. [1]

War in the Balkans 1991-1996

3.3 After Slobodan Milosevic became President of Serbia in 1989, relations between Serbia and the other republics and provinces began to deteriorate. In 1990, Milosevic moved to consolidate Serbia's power and his own by abolishing the autonomy of Kosovo and Vojvodina. In June 1991, after political relations with Serbia had broken down, the Republics of Slovenia and Croatia declared their independence. The Federal Army entered Slovenia in response, but was soon forced to retreat after a relatively unsuccessful campaign. Macedonia then declared it's independence in September 1991 and Bosnia-Herzegovina followed suit a month later. In December 1991, the Federal President Stipe Mesic declared the old SFRY non-existent. [1]

3.4 The Federal Army retreated from Slovenia via Croatia, where it backed local Serb militias fighting against Croatian forces. The Serb-Croat conflict continued until an UN-sponsored cease-fire came into effect in January 1992, at which point Croatia was recognised by the EC. UN peacekeepers were deployed to monitor the cease-fire. Nearly one-third of Croatia was occupied by the "Republic of Serbian Krajina". [1]

3.5 The Bosnian civil war began in March 1992 when the Bosnian Serb delegates of the Assembly in Sarajevo walked out and declared their own republic based in Pale. The conflict drew in

Bosnian Muslims, Serbs and Croats and was to last for nearly four years. [1]

3.6 In April 1992 The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) was declared, consisting of the only republics now remaining from the SFRY, Serbia and Montenegro, and a new constitution was adopted. [1]

3.7 In January 1995, the Croatian government announced that it would not renew the UN mandate in March 1995. A re-armed and re-trained Croatian Army took back most of the Serb occupied territories in two operations in May and August 1995. In November the same year, the Dayton Peace Accord brought peace to the region. [1]

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

3.8 The FRY was only officially recognised by member states of the European Union on 9 April 1996. However the international community does not recognise the FRY as the sole successor state to the former Socialist Republic of Yugoslavia. Accordingly, the FRY still is not permitted to take the Yugoslavia seat in the UN, nor to participate in the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) or other international organisations and financial organisations. [2] During December 1999, the four Yugoslav successor states, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia and Slovenia sought international backing to further isolate the FRY by forcing its expulsion from the UN. [3]

Kosovo

3.9 Under the 1974 Constitution, both Kosovo and Vojvodina enjoyed considerable autonomy, and had representation at Federal level which in practice equalled that of the republics. Kosovo was permitted to use the Albanian language and the administration in Pristina was largely composed of ethnic Albanians. Although ethnic Albanians (aka Kosovars) formed the overwhelming majority of the population (over 90%), Serbs living in Kosovo disapproved of the power granted to them, claiming that it undermined their own cultural identity.

3.10 Serbs and ethnic Albanians both claim Kosovo as the cradle of their respective civilisations and provide their own accounts of the region's history in order to justify their claims. Two historical events are of particular importance to the consciousness of their respective ethnic identities. For the Serbs, it was their battle at Kosovo Polje in 1389, which they lost to the Ottoman Turks, effectively

ending the independent Serbian kingdom based in Kosovo. For the ethnic Albanians, it was the foundation of the ethnic Albanian League of Prizren in 1878, which began the Albanian national revival movement and also took place in Kosovo.

3.11 By the early 1980's, ethnic Albanians had become deeply discontented about the discrimination they suffered from the Serb authorities and with the lack of economic development in Kosovo. They began to demand full republican status and widespread nationalist agitation led to a series of violent clashes with the Serbian authorities during the spring of 1981. There followed several years of almost continuous civil unrest, accompanied by the migration from Kosovo of many Serbs and Montenegrins, both for economic and political reasons.

3.12 When President Milosevic came to power in September 1987, the level of repression towards Kosovan Albanians escalated sharply. In 1989-90 Serbia introduced constitutional amendments which stripped Vojvodina and Kosovo of their autonomy. [4] The Serb government forced the Kosovo Assembly to approve the amendments to the Serbian Constitution, thus abolishing the autonomous status of the region.

3.13 The removal of Kosovo's autonomy in 1990 began a period of increasing Serb repression of the ethnic Albanian majority. Serbs and Montenegrins had been encouraged to settle in Kosovo (with little success) and Belgrade's long term policy seemed to be to exert political, economic and psychological pressure on Kosovars to emigrate. [4] This included routine harassment by the police, the dismissal of 15,000 ethnic Albanians from official positions and the closure of all Albanian language schools. These moves provoked widespread social unrest, which met with brutal retribution and a number of ethnic Albanians were killed by Serb forces during this time.

3.14 The government's decision to change the school curriculum, with teaching in Serbian only, and history from a completely Serbian viewpoint, led to a boycott of state schools by Kosovars. They started to operate a virtually parallel society, with people contributing to a separate social welfare and education system through a local tax collected by the Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK). Kosovars boycotted Serbian elections and, in 1992, they elected their own Republic Assembly and Government. The parallel education, health and political system was deemed illegal by the FRY authorities and was frequently used as a pretext for the continued systematic abuse of the human rights of Kosovars.

Armed conflict

3.15 By 1994 the situation had become very tense with growing reports of armed resistance from Kosovars and a large Serbian special police and military presence in the region. The situation escalated with the emergence of the Kosovan Liberation Army (KLA) or Ushtria Clirimtare e Kosoves (UCK in Albanian) which carried out a series of murders of Serbs during 1996 and 1997. In January 1998, the KLA announced its intention to achieve independence for Kosovo.

3.16 From late February 1998, Serb special police force actions increased in areas known for their KLA presence. Three villages in the Drenica area were attacked, killing at least 28 people. This incident was a watershed in the Kosovo conflict, with thousands of ethnic Albanians who had been committed to the non-violent politics of their political leader Ibrahim Rugova joining the KLA. The KLA enjoyed some success for a while and established "no-go" areas across large tracts of western Kosovo during the Spring. But by July, the security forces had extended their operations to reclaim the "liberated zones" and KLA resistance eventually faltered against a series of co-ordinated attacks that included the use of heavy armour and artillery.

3.17 In the ensuing months, Serb forces systematically destroyed towns and villages and farmers' crops and livestock to drive out the ethnic Albanian population and discourage any return. There is evidence that the Serb forces carried out widespread atrocities, including mass rapes and summary executions, with the majority of victims being civilians. Within months, at least 250,000 ethnic Albanians had been displaced or fled abroad, with an estimated 35,000 particularly at risk of exposure to the elements. The Council for the Defence of Human Rights and Freedoms reported that 1,934 ethnic Albanians, including women and children, were killed in Kosovo during 1998 and more than 40,000 homes were destroyed. [5] The KLA also committed serious violations of international law, including the taking of hostages and extrajudicial executions. [6]

Kosovo Verification Mission

3.18 In September, the UN Security Council demanded an immediate cease-fire in Kosovo, the withdrawal of Serbian troops, access for humanitarian aid and meaningful negotiations (Resolution 1199) for the peaceful resolution of the conflict. On 16 October, Milosevic agreed to a cease-fire, the partial withdrawal of Serbian forces and the presence of a 2,000 strong OSCE Kosovan Verification Mission (KVM). The KVM's role was to verify maintenance of the cease-fire, monitor force movements, assist the return of refugees, supervise elections and help in the forming of elected

self-administration bodies and police forces. [1] [7] The Serbs also issued a unilateral statement of principles governing their approach to negotiations with the Kosovo Albanians.

Rambouillet

3.19 The cease-fire was scantly observed and fighting between Serb and KLA forces quickly escalated until the discovery on January 15 1999, of the massacre of 45 ethnic Albanians at the village of Racak. This event appeared to galvanise the West into pushing the protagonists towards a political solution. [8] The six country Contact Group (USA, UK, France, Germany, Italy and Russia) summoned the two sides to negotiations at Rambouillet, France. After more than 2 weeks, the protracted negotiations reached a "provisional" accord which provided for a form of limited autonomy for Kosovo. Further talks began in Paris on 15 March but were suspended because the talks' chairmen, Robin Cook and Hubert Védrine, concluded that the Serbian side was not negotiating in good faith. The ethnic Albanians had signed the peace accord on 18 March but the Serbs refused to do so.

NATO bombing

3.20 Despite Serbian commitments made during the peace negotiations, Serb forces continued to operate in Kosovo with increasing brutality towards ethnic Albanians. On 24 March 1999, after repeated warnings, NATO launched air strikes against military targets in Serbia and Serb forces in Kosovo. Serb militia activity escalated in Kosovo, systematically forcing the ethnic Albanian population from their homes, sexually abusing women and abducting and executing men. [5] [9] Within days, ethnic Albanians began to arrive in Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in huge numbers. In addition to those who made their own way, the Serbs expelled thousands of people by special "refugee trains" to Macedonia. [10]

Refugees

3.21 During April and May 1999, international agencies, governments and a special humanitarian task force from NATO called AFOR began to construct dozens of camps for refugees. Some 444,600 refugees fled to Albania; 244,500 to Macedonia and 69,900 to Montenegro. Because of the political pressures on the Macedonian government, more than 90,000 ethnic Albanians were airlifted to 29 countries for temporary safety. The UK accepted 4346 on the Humanitarian Evacuation Programme.

3.22 Nato continued intensive bombing of targets in Serbia and Kosovo for 78 days, until on June 3, FRY accepted a peace plan requiring the withdrawal of all forces from Kosovo and the entry of peacekeepers under a UN mandate. The international peacekeeping force, known as KFOR, entered Kosovo on June 12, followed the next day by UNHCR and other humanitarian forces. Despite appeals by NATO and UNHCR to be patient, refugees began to flood back into Kosovo, with 600,000 returning within 3 weeks of the end of the conflict.

Information about Kosovo since the conflict provided in a separate section at chapter IX.

IV POLITICAL SITUATION

Legal Framework

4.1 Under the 1992 Constitution, federal legislative power in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) is vested in a bicameral Federal Assembly, comprising the 138 Chamber of Citizens (the members of which are directly elected), and the 40 member Chamber of Republics (comprising 20 representatives each from Serbia & Montenegro). Executive power is held by the Federal President who is elected by the Federal assembly and responsible for proposing the Federal Prime Minister. [1] Slobodan Milosevic, leader of the SPS party, has been President of the FRY since 23 July 1997.

4.2 Republican legislative power is vested in the respective (directly elected) republican assemblies of Serbia and Montenegro. Each republic has its own elected President as well as its own government. The Serbian and Montenegrin Presidents propose Prime Ministerial candidates who are then elected by the respective assemblies. [1] The Serbian province of Vojvodina has an elected assembly. The assembly of the province of Kosovo was dissolved by the Serbian government in 1990. Since June 1999, Kosovo has been directly administered by the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), chapter IX. [1]

General current situation

4.3 FRY is dominated by Slobodan Milosevic, who continues to control the country through his role as President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and President of the Socialist Party of Serbia (SPS) (a dual arrangement proscribed by the federal Constitution) and his domination of other formal and informal institutions. Although the SPS lacks majorities in both the Federal

and Serbian Parliaments, it controls governing coalitions and holds key administrative positions. Its coalition partners are the JUL party, run by Milosevic's wife Mirjana Markovic and the ultra-nationalist Radicals of Vojislav Seslj, the Deputy Prime Minister of Serbia.

4.4 As a key element of his hold on power, President Milosevic effectively controls the Serbian police, a heavily armed and well-paid force of some 100,000 officers that is responsible for internal security. Milosevic has ignored the constitutional role of the Supreme Defence Council, essentially establishing himself as commander-in-chief of the Yugoslav Army (VJ). [2]

Serbia - since the Kosovo War

4.5 "Besides the usual three pillars of power (army, finances and media control), Milosevic has the fourth - bad opposition," observed Dusan Pavlovic of the Belgrade Institute for European Studies in September 1999. [11] Following the war in Kosovo and the destruction of Serbia by the NATO bombing, some opposition parties combined to form the Alliance for Change, a movement which organised a series of large scale rallies demanding elections and Milosevic's resignation. The first major anti-Milosevic rally since the war was held in Cacak on June 29 and was attended by some 10,000 people. As opposition to Milosevic continued to grow, the numbers of demonstrations increased along with the number of protestors. On one occasion, over 30,000 marched to the President's official residence. Initially attended by many thousands across the country, the numbers began to dwindle, probably because of relentless police brutality, fear of reprisals and lack of unity and leadership among the opposition parties. By December 1999, the marches had been abandoned altogether. [2] [12] [13] [14] [15] The opposition cause was particularly undermined by the ambivalent attitude of its most charismatic leader, Vuk Draskovic, of the Serbian Renewal Movement, who even described the marches as a waste of time.

4.6 In October 1999, Draskovic was injured and four of his aides were killed in a car crash, which took place in suspicious circumstances. Draskovic filed charges against the Serbian security forces for carrying out state terrorism in December, maintaining he had been the target of an assassination attempt. [3] [16] In January 2000, the Serbian paramilitary leader Zeljko Raznatovic (better known as "Arkan"), who had been indicted for war crimes charges in Bosnia, was assassinated at Belgrade's Intercontinental Hotel. Three weeks later Defence Minister Pavle Bulatovic was shot in a Belgrade restaurant. [17] [18] [19]

4.7 In January 2000, the opposition parties put aside their differences and agreed a strategy for overthrowing Milosevic, calling for elections by April. In the first major test of their unity, the Alliance for Change parties staged a rally in the centre of Belgrade on 14 April which was attended by 100,000 people and passed off peacefully. The key opposition figures, Draskovic and the Serbian Democratic Party leader spoke of their hope that Serbia could follow Croatia's recent example and rejoin the European mainstream. Further action on a daily basis is planned to keep up the pressure on Milosevic.

4.8 Local elections are due in the second half of 2000, national elections in September 2001 and a presidential ballot in December 2002. [20] A law passed by the Serbian parliament in April 2000 gave Milosevic's allies control over the upper house, allowing him to change the constitution. This move will let allow Milosevic to run for a second term as President. [21]

4.9 There have been suggestions that Milosevic may be seeking to consolidate his position by seeking to provoke further conflicts in Montenegro, (see section IV), Mitrovica, (see paragraph Mitrovica - Kosovo) and the Presevo valley area of South East Serbia, close to the border with Kosovo, which has a large ethnic Albanian population. (see paragraph 7.8).

4.10 From the end of the Kosovo war, the US and EU states have sought to bolster the anti-Milosevic movement in Serbia and substantial aid has been promised for Serbian reconstruction in supplies of heating oil to several Serb towns that are controlled by opposition parties. This was intended to strengthen the campaign to oust Milosevic, by demonstrating that aid would be forthcoming if he was removed. [22]

Montenegro - since the Kosovo War

4.11 With its population of just 600,000, Montenegro may be seen as the junior sister republic to Serbia within the FRY. Milosevic has sought to exploit the relative size of Serbia's population and economy compared to that of Montenegro. Despite this, Montenegro has made progress in its democratisation process and is now a multi-party, multi-ethnic parliamentary democracy under the leadership of President Milo Djukanovic. The OSCE broadly endorsed the Presidential elections in 1997 and the parliamentary elections in 1998. [2] [23]

4.12 In the months following the crisis in Kosovo, the Montenegrin government began to

demand more control and to move away from the federal control of the Milosevic regime. [2] [14] [24] In August, Djukanovic called for the federation structure to be revised into a confederation, and for the federal governing bodies to be dissolved. He also asserted the Montenegro authorities' right to control the army on its soil and to establish its own currency.

4.13 In November, Montenegro introduced the German Deutschmark as a parallel currency to the Dinar. Milosevic responded then with a partial economic embargo, which has since become a full economic blockade. [25] This was followed in December by a stand-off between the Federal army and the Montenegrin police at Podgorica airport. Although, this ended quickly and peacefully, the move was seen as a warning from Milosevic. [2] [26] When Djukanovic agreed with the Albanian government to open the Montenegro / Albania border in March 2000, Milosevic's response was to move some of his forces to set up two checkpoints about 2 km from the border. [2] [27] [28]

4.14 Djukanovic has talked of calling a referendum on independence for Montenegro if the Federal Government does not address his proposals for a new relationship between the republics. However, Western leaders have urged caution for fear that an early move to force independence could divide the country's population and lead to instability. [2] [29] [30] The US and EU have provided substantial financial aid to Montenegro. (see chapter V)

4.15 The FRY Second Army, whose ranks were increased from 12,000 to 40,000 during the Kosovo war remains stationed in Montenegro. During the conflict the federal authorities declared martial law and demanded that the republic's police should be placed under military control, a request that Djukanovic rejected. There are reports that Milosevic has sent "Special Forces" to join the FRY army. The Montenegrin police force are well trained and equipped. In addition the paramilitary Montenegrin Liberation Movement claims to have 20,000 armed men at its disposal. [2] [31]

V ECONOMY

Serbia

5.1 Following the formation of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (SFRY) in 1945, Tito's Federal Government established a soviet style collective agricultural and industrialised economy. This was modified in 1950 with the introduction of self-management for the state-owned industries. The SFRY's economy was based chiefly on industry (including mining), agriculture and tourism. However, following a period of serious economic decline during the 1980s and the highly destructive break up of SFRY in 1991, all sectors of the FRY's economy were in a state of crisis from its inception in 1992. [1]

5.2 With its reconstituted borders, FRY lost access to most tourist areas, thus depriving it of much needed foreign currency from tourism. The economy also suffered severely as a result of UN-imposed trade sanctions during the war in Bosnia and its exclusion from the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in June 1992 and from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in December 1992. [1] FRY's gross domestic product, based on figures from all sectors of the economy, declined significantly in the period 1990-1996. As a result of the UN trade sanctions, the deprivation of foreign investment and poor economic strategy during the 1970s and 1980s, FRY experienced hyper-inflation, which was eventually controlled by the introduction of a new unit of currency. The suspension of UN sanctions following the Dayton Agreement in December 1995 failed to stimulate growth significantly and high levels of unemployment and underemployment remained.

5.3 With the corruption and economic mismanagement of the Milosevic regime, the FRY economy continued to decline in the latter part of the 1990s. Additional taxes were imposed and a major devaluation in 1998 was followed by renewed inflation. Following events in Kosovo, new economic sanctions were imposed by the EU and the FRY continued to be excluded from international financial institutions. The NATO bombing also impacted upon the economy. According to an estimate by the German Bundeswehr University in Munich, industrial and infrastructure damages caused by the bombing amount to some 18 billion Euros.

5.4 It is believed that the economy is operating about 50% of the level in 1989. The government has often resorted to printing cash to pay pensions and wages, in order to stave off social turmoil and it is estimated that money supply has grown by 60% in 1999. Average monthly salaries have halved to around $39 from about $80 a year ago. [32] The cost of food and utilities alone

for a family of four is estimated to be $120 per month. Unemployment and underemployment remain high, reaching at least 60 percent. [2]

5.5 The bomb destruction of power transmission sources, storage and oil refineries has put heavy pressure on fuel and heating supplies. Some towns such as Nis and Pirot, which are run by opposition parties received fuel aid from the EU 'Energy for Democracy' programme during the Winter. Milosevic's response was to delay these deliveries through excessive bureaucracy at border crossings and to levy a 20 per cent sales tax.

5.6 Following the accidental bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade, China has also provided some financial aid to Serbia. There are around 100,000 Chinese people living in Serbia and there have been reports that citizenship will be granted to a further 40,000 who are beginning to arrive in the country. This is thought to be a tactic to secure Milosevic votes or a product of his wife, Mira's obsession with Chinese communism. The move has angered officials in Vojvodina, where 350,000 people are unemployed. [2] [33] [34] [35] [36]

Montenegro

5.7 The Montenegrin economy is in transition from a Communist system to a market-based system. The republic's tourism-dominated economy suffered as a result of the NATO air campaign against Serbia. Although Montenegrin sites were largely unscathed, tourist activity fell sharply. The government estimated that the economy contracted by 13.8%, tourism fell by $60m and industry declined by $75m. Exemptions exist in relation to Montenegro for most EU sanctions. Unemployment rose significantly to about 35.8 per cent. GDP per capita is estimated at $937 for the year. [2]

5.8 In November the Deutschmark was introduced as a parallel currency. There are also plans to privatise a number of state businesses, including telecommunications and electrical companies. [2] [37] Sanctions were imposed by Serbia in February this year which banned the export of food products to Montenegro. After Montenegro had received $20 million credit from Germany in March, Serbia closed the border for all goods and allowed only coal, steel and aluminium to cross **from** Montenegro. The government has been forced to import from Slovenia and Croatia which is considerably more expensive. [38] [39]

5.9 Western governments are providing substantial financial backing to Montenegro. A Montenegrin diplomat told the BBC that up to half of Montenegro's GDP now comes from foreign aid, some from EU and some from the US. [40] Foreign aid from the United States has been increased to $44 million, with a further $37 million planned for further this year. [38] [39]

5.10 Smuggling has been a key element of the Montenegrin economy for centuries and remains so. [41]

VI HUMAN RIGHTS: GENERAL

Judiciary

Serbia

6.1 The Constitution provides for an independent judiciary. However, in practice, Federal and Serbian courts are largely controlled by the Government and rarely challenge the will of the state security apparatus. The Milosevic regime effectively controls the judiciary and respects the country's legal framework only when it suits its immediate political interests. Serbian authorities frequently deny fair public trial to non-Serbs and persons whom they believe oppose the regime. Judicial corruption is also widespread. [2]

6.2 The court system comprises local, district and supreme courts at the republic level, as well as a Federal Court and Federal Constitutional Court, to which republic supreme court decisions may be appealed. There is also a military court system. The Federal Constitutional Court rules on the constitutionality of laws and regulations and relies on the constituent republic authorities to enforce its rulings. [2]

6.3 The Federal Criminal Code of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia remains in force. Considerable confusion and room for abuse remain in the legal system because the 1990 Constitution of Serbia has not yet been brought into conformity with the 1992 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Under federal law, defendants have the right to be present at their trial and to have an attorney represent them, at public expense if needed. The courts must also provide interpreters. The presiding judge decides what is read into the record of the proceedings

and both defendant and prosecutor have the right to appeal the verdict. [2]

6.4 Although generally respected in form, defence layers, especially those representing minority clients, have filed numerous complaints about flagrant breaches of standard procedure, which they believed undermined their clients' rights. Even when individual judges admitted that the lawyers were correct, the courts ignored or dismissed the complaints. Many legal scholars have expressed concern over the Act on Lawyers, passed on July 1998, which they believe restricted the freedoms of lawyers. [2]

6.5 Since 1998, republic-level judges no longer have mandates for life and are required to seek office periodically through election. Local observers fear that this provision makes judges functionaries of the regime, easily removed if they do not co-operate. Three judges were dismissed in December 1999, the first for his membership in an intellectual group of economists known as G-17 Plus, which is highly opposed to Milosevic's polices. The other two, a supreme court judge and a municipal court judge were members of a non-government union of judges. [2] [42]

Montenegro

6.6 The Constitution provides for an independent judiciary and the government respects this provision in practice. The judiciary provides citizens with a fair judicial process. However, there is a backlog of cases, the system suffers from a lack of resources, and minor corruption remains a problem. There are no reports of political prisoners. The court system consists of local, district and supreme courts at the republic level. There is also a military court system under the control of federal authorities. [2]

Political rights and freedom of political opinion

Serbia

6.7 Federal and Serbian Constitutions provide for the right of citizens to change their government. However, in practice they are prevented from exercising it by the Milosevic regime's domination of the mass media and manipulation of the electoral process. The regime also sought to undermine the effectiveness of the opposition leadership of most major cities through its control of funding. The 1997 Presidential elections were seriously flawed, involving widespread fraud. Earlier

in the same year, electoral rules and districts were changed to the ruling coalition's advantage. A fraud, which followed the 1996 municipal elections, perpetrated mainly through the judicial system, led to protracted street protests until the correct results were reinstated.

6.8 During the past year, the Serbian government continued to take repressive measures against all citizens who challenged or criticised its authority. [43] With the poor state of the FRY economy, and the fact that the ruling SPS party continues to dominate and control state industry and commercial enterprises, many FRY citizens are reluctant to associate openly with opposition groups for fear of economic reprisals, such as dismissal. Also, laws regarding conspiracy, threats to the integrity of government and state secrets are so vague as to allow easy abuse by the regime.

6.9 Federal and republic level constitutions provide for freedom of peaceful assembly and association, but the Serbian and Federal governments restrict this right. During the Kosovo conflict, an edict was issued prohibiting gatherings and demonstrations, which remains in force even though the state of war was lifted in June 1999. US State Police abuse against those publicly demonstrating against the government were a common occurrence throughout the year. [43]

6.10 There were numerous incidences of the Serbian authorities seeking to prevent the expression of anti-government views. Many of the rallies and protest marches organised by the Alliance for Change were violently dispersed by police acting in a brutal manner. The following represents a small selection of examples of government repression.

6.11 On June 21, Serb refugees from Kosovo demonstrated in Belgrade - the leaders were sentenced to 30 days in jail. On July 2, four opposition activists in Novi Sad who were part of the League of Social Democrats of Vojvodina were detained for handing out leaflets advertising an anti-government rally. On July 6, police in Uzice banned an anti-government demonstration and used force to prevent the erection of a sound system. On the same day in Leskovac, police beat and used tear gas on some 2,000 protesters who had assembled at a police station to call for Milosevic's resignation and the release of a local television broadcaster. The broadcaster was detained and sentenced to 30 days imprisonment. [2] [12] [13] [44] On September 29 in Belgrade, police used batons and water cannons to disperse 30,000 demonstrators, many of who were injured or arrested. On October 13, thirty young men attacked anti-government protestors in Belgrade. On October 14, police in Nis beat antigovernment protesters. On November 9, police attacked and beat student

demonstrators in Belgrade. [2] [16] [24] [45] [46] [47]

6.12 There were fewer incidents in the early part of 2000, while the Alliance for Change campaign was suspended, but recently there have been reports of physical attacks on activists by groups of well-organised men "in black leather jackets", who frequently disrupt opposition gatherings as these are resuming. [48] As noted in paragraph 4.6 chapter IV above, there were several murders or possible assassination attempts during the year which may have been politically motivated.

Montenegro

6.13 The Montenegrin Constitution provides citizens with the right to change their government peacefully, and citizens exercise this right with respect to republic institutions, but not with federal-level institutions. In 1998, President Djukanovic became the first president popularly elected in free and fair elections. The government enjoys the support of a multi-ethnic coalition in the republic assembly. [2]

The Media

Serbia

6.16 Federal law provides for freedom of speech and of the press. However, the Serbian and Federal Governments severely restricted this right in practice. A decree issued in 1998 effectively allowed press censorship, which reflected a recognition of the threat to the regime of the free flow of information and ideas on issues related to the situation in Kosovo and the possibility, at that time, of a conflict with NATO. It later passed a new information law, which allowed private citizens or organisations to bring suit against media outlets for printing materials not sufficiently patriotic, or "against the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of the country." Media outlets can also be fined for publishing items of a personal nature without the consent of the individual concerned i.e., political cartoons etc. The rebroadcast of foreign news programs, including the BBC and the Voice of America was banned. Media organisations, which do not comply with the new law, are subject to exorbitant fines, payable at 24 hours notice. [2]

6.17 In June 1999, the FRY Parliament passed an amendment to the law on the Yugoslav Army

that granted the Minister of Defence "broad powers" over information and telecommunications for "the need of defence" and reconstruction. During the "State of War" the Serbian Information Ministry and a special military Office of Information and Morale sought to control editorial content and commentary by providing the media with regular guidance that included "approved adjectives" and terms of use in the printed media. Special censors were deployed to printing houses and high taxes were imposed on the newsprint available to independent newspapers. [2]

6.18 Television and radio stations, including the independent city radio in Nis and STV Negotin, remained closed during the year, as a result of the regime's manipulation of confusing regulations governing frequency allocations. The deliberate vagueness of the relevant laws is often utilised to penalise or close down independent electronic media outlets. Independent radio and television stations are often harassed bureaucratically. Violence and intimidation are also employed and the premises of many stations have been ransacked and their staff beaten. In April 1999, unidentified assailants murdered Slavko Curuvija, publisher of the independent Belgrade tabloid. [2] [49] [50]

6.19 Although there were some independent television and radio stations operating throughout the country, their broadcasts typically could not be received beyond the major cities. The only network covering the entire country is the Serbian State Television and Radio Network RTS, the official voice of President Milosevic, the only station received by an estimated one-third of the population of Serbia. When the NATO campaign started in March, the government took additional steps to close down any remaining independent stations that refused to fall in line with pro-government programming.

6.20 B92, the main source of independent news in Belgrade since its founding in 1989, was shut down in late March 1999. Police detained the editor in chief for questioning and confiscated some of the station's broadcasting equipment. It was back on the air in April, but under a pro-Milosevic management. The opposition owned company was re-opened under the name B2-92. In March 2000, the government claimed that station B2-92 owed £800,000 for the use of TV and radio frequencies, a debt its owner said was 'non-existent'. In the same month, was reported that four other local stations had been closed down. Further crackdowns to the media are expected in the run-up to local and federal elections towards the end of the year. [2] [51]

Montenegro

6.21 The Constitution provides for freedom of speech and of the press, and the republic government generally respects this right in practice. During the last year, the government continued to take steps to encourage a freer press by allocating more frequencies to independent radio stations and reducing the fees charged to them. During the war, Montenegrin authorities and media outlets resisted pressure from the Milosevic regime and military authorities to stop broadcasting Western news programming. However, in apparent response to the pressure, authorities cut back the nearly continuous rebroadcast of Western newscasts. Montenegrin authorities resisted VJ demands to take over control of government television towers and rebroadcasts of Western newscasts resumed after the war. [2]

6.22 The media enjoy a level of freedom comparable to other states in transition. Although much of the press tends to support Djukanovic, this largely reflects the anti-Milosevic feeling prevalent in media circles in Podgorica. Independent newspapers such as Monitor have repeatedly published articles critical of Djukanovic without repercussions and the opposition press publishes freely. The independent TV sector is less well developed, but there appear to be no legal or political obstacles to development. State TV and radio stations are working with the BBC and other respected international organisations to develop their capacity. [23]

6.23 The Montenegrin government directly impeded free speech in one instance when it ordered the radio station Radio Free Montenegro to stop transmitting on October 20, because it had not reached an agreement on broadcasting location and frequency with the Economic Ministry. The editor of the station claimed that this move was political decision by President Djukanovic to stifle pro-independence views. The station was permitted to broadcast again in November. [2]

6.24 The VJ also pressured publishers not to print materials that it judged to have a negative influence on the war effort. Uniformed and armed VJ members met with publishers to complain about stories and broadcasts they found objectionable. The VJ accused two independent journalists of "impeding the fight against the enemy", forcing them to flee the country until after the war. The VJ also detained international journalists on a regular basis. [2]

6.25 The Serbian Government has installed a transmitter on a VJ military facility for a new program called Yugoslav TV within Montenegro's border. The signal from the transmitter jams

certain Montenegrin TV broadcasts. The use of radio frequencies on Montenegro territory is issued by the Montenegrin Government and no request for a permit has been put forward for the broadcasting of Yugoslav TV. [52]

VII HUMAN RIGHTS: SPECIFIC GROUPS

Race/Nationality

Serbia

7.1 While Federal and republic-level laws provide for equal rights for all citizens, regardless of ethnic group, religion, language, or social status, and prohibit discrimination against women, in reality the legal system provides little protections to such groups. As a result of the Balkan wars in the last 10 years, FRY has a total refugee population of between 700,000 and one million, the largest in Europe.

Hungarians and Croats in Vojvodina

7.2 Of the 26 different ethnic groups in Vojvodina, Hungarians constitute the largest minority, accounting for approximately 17% of a total population of 2.4 million, while the Croats represent approximately 3.7%. Vojvodina had enjoyed autonomous status within the old SFRY, but this was removed under the 1992 constitution of FRY. Nevertheless, Vojvodina retained its provincial assembly and the great variety of ethnic minorities are all represented by their own political parties and organisations. The largest of these is the Democratic Community of Vojvodina Hungarians (DCVH). With a Serb majority in the province, the republican authorities are more tolerant of manifestations of cultural autonomy in Vojvodina than they were in Kosovo. [1]

7.3 The situation in the Vojvodina became tense following the influx of large numbers of ethnic Serb refugees to the FRY, 150,000 of whom were from the Krajina region of Croatia. Estimates suggest that Vojvodina accommodate up to half of FRY's total refugee population. In the mid 1990s there were signs that opposition was increasing among the inhabitants of Vojvodina and in 1996 a total of 17 political organisations signed a Manifesto for Vojvodina Autonomy, calling for the province's autonomous status to be restored. [1] [53]

7.4 Both the Hungarian and the Croat communities in Vojvodina are subject to discrimination, in terms of access to employment in certain official and public capacities, and low level harassment. These groups have begun to receive some police protection from the undisciplined element of Serb refugees and have some access to their own schools and TV programmes. However, the Serb authorities in Belgrade still restrict the use of Hungarian as an official language. During 1999, Vojvodina Hungarians complained that the Government was eroding the principle of minority language education during the year, by banning foreign books and moving Hungarian schools far from the Hungarian population. Vojvodina Croats reported no progress during the year on their demand for a separate curriculum in schools or programs in the media in the Croatian language. [2] [43]

7.5 On July 1st 1999 Police in Novi Sad arrested 4 members of the opposition League of Social Democrats of Vojvodina (LSDV) for distributing leaflets about a demonstration in Uzice. More recently, on April 8th 2000, police detained opposition activists in the Vojvodina town of Zrenjanin as they handed out leaflets protesting at 'strong arm tactics' by local Milosevic supporters. A LSDV councillor had been abducted shortly before a key assembly session and returned only after the council had already voted to strip the mandate of two other opposition leaders. Over 1000 people took to the streets in protest. [54] [55] At the last congress of the LSDV, its leader made the demand that Vojvodina should be given the status of a republic. The ruling SPS party dismissed the claim as meaningless on the basis that the LSDV only have 6 of the 120 seats in the assembly.

Muslims in the Sandzak

7.6 The Sandzak is an area that straddles the Serbia/Montenegro border. Of its 11 municipalities, 6 are in Serbia and 5 in Montenegro. It has a population of about 400,000 of which Bosniak Muslims make up 54% and Serbs and Montenegrins the remainder [56] The Muslim population has been subjected to repression by the Serb minority over recent years, though this was more intense in the early 1990s. The repression has been backed by a state-sponsored propaganda campaign which, in an effort to destroy it as the legitimate voice of the Sandzak Muslims, portrays the main Muslim political party, the Party for Democratic Action (SDA), as an anti-Serb and separatist organisation. As with Vojvodina and formerly Kosovo, the Serb authorities limit the teaching of non-Serb culture and history, and have blatantly removed Muslims from official duties and public institutions. Attempts by the FRY authorities to ethnically cleanse the Sandzak of its 200,000 Muslims at the height of the Bosnian conflict in 1992, resulted in large numbers fleeing the

area.

7.7 Although overshadowed by the Serb actions in Kosovo, there were reports of discrimination and police harassment against Muslims in the Sandzak. [43] Sandzak Muslims were sometimes arrested on false or exaggerated charges, ranging from unlawful possession of firearms to wilfully undermining the country's territorial integrity. [2] In the latter part of 1999, elements within the Sandzak political scene put forward a Memorandum calling for the area to be given autonomous status, though this made little impact on the Podgorica and Belgrade administrations. There was some concern that the move might give Milosevic a pretext for renewing his repression in the area [56] or destabilising Montenegro and fears that Sandzak could be caught up in a war between the two republics.

Ethnic Albanians in Serbia

7.8 It is estimated that between 1,900 and 7,000 ethnic Albanian prisoners, are still being held in poor conditions in Serbian prisons. Often their release can only be secured by the payment of large ransoms by the prisoners' families. In December, police arrested Teki Bokoshi, an ethnic Albanian defence lawyer who is defending many Kosovar Albanians detained in Serbian jails. [2] The Humanitarian Law Foundation of FRY has said that 16 ethnic Albanians from Orahovac were sentenced to 3 years in prison by a judge in Nis on 27 March 2000. No witnesses or evidence were produced in support of the case. [57]

7.9 There are concerns for the security of the approximately 70,000 ethnic Albanians living in the Presevo valley area of South East Serbia, close to the border with Kosovo. Reports suggest that Serb forces are active in the area and that large numbers of ethnic Albanians are crossing into Kosovo in fear for their safety. On 7 March, UNHCR indicated that 6,000 had crossed the border since June 1999. Recent refugees have said that they fled to escape fighting between Serb forces and the ethnic Albanian militia group, the UCMPB. It is not clear which side is responsible for the clashes in the area, nor is the extent known of any Serb persecution of ethnic Albanians. The Albanian press have portrayed the violence as being ethnic cleansing by the Serbs, but Serb media have taken the opposite view. A clear picture is yet to emerge. (see chapter IX – Situation in South East Serbia) [58] [59] [60] [61]

Roma

7.10 The no official discrimination against the Roma population. Roma have the right to vote and there are two small Roma parties in Serbia. However, prejudice against Roma is widespread. Local authorities often ignore or condone societal intimidation of the Roma community. Skinheads and police occasionally violently attacked Roma during the year. [2] [43] On December 31, 3 bombs exploded in a gypsy settlement in Bujanovac in South East Serbia. It is likely that this attack was part of the same phenomenon of Roma being targeted by ethnic Albanians in Kosovo. [62]

Mixed Ethnicity

7.11 Members of ethnically mixed marriages and their children have suffered abuse throughout the dissolution of the former Yugoslavia and its aftermath. While a child's ethnicity is determined by that of the father, partners of different ethnic background have been pressurised into supporting their own ethnic groups. Generally, people of mixed ethnicity may have difficulty being accepted by any ethnic community and may be very isolated.

Montenegro

7.12 Montenegro has a notably good record on pluralism when compared to its neighbours. It remains the only place in the region where refugees from Kosovo of every ethnicity (Serbs, Roma, Albanians and others) were accepted. At one point after the war, refugees made up 20% of the population of Montenegro, though this has dropped now to 10%. [63] Although Serbs/Montenegrins predominate, there are substantial Albanian and Bosniak Muslim populations and the different groups live in relative harmony.

7.13 The government has committed itself to policies of ethnic inclusion. Ethnic Albanians, who make up about 7% of the population, are guaranteed representation in the Montenegrin government and the Minister for Ethnic Minorities is Albanian. Ethnic Albanians or Muslims hold several other ministerial positions. [2] [23] In January, the government began a pilot programme in ethnic Albanian communities, which devolved extensive authority, including taxation to locally elected officials. However, societal discrimination against minorities persists and there were some reports of abuses committed by federal VJ troops stationed in the republic, including harassment and intimidation of Muslims in the Sandzak region of the republic. [2]

Freedom of Religion

Serbia

7.14 The law in both FRY and Serbia provides for freedom of religion. However, in practice both the Government and the legal system provide very little protection for the religious rights of minority groups. There were several reported incidents of violence against the Muslims in Sandzak and the Hungarian and Croat minorities in Vojvodina, though these were as much on the basis of ethnicity as religion.

7.15 There is no state religion, but the Government gives preferential treatment, including access to state-run television for major religious events, to the Serbian Orthodox Church to which the majority of Serbs belong. Tensions between the Church elders and the Milosevic regime intensified during the year as religious leaders such as Bishop Artemije repeatedly opposed government policies. In early June, the Holy Synod called for the resignation of Milosevic and the Patriarch Pavle called the government's policies "criminal".

7.16 A new piece of republic legislation to regulate the actions of religious communities is reported to be under consideration, but has not yet been published. The Minister of Religious Affairs, Milovan Radovanic, was quoted as saying, "through its agencies, the State needs to prevent the activity of destructive and totalitarian religious sects, diverse psycho-organisations, commercial cults and other organisations with asocial influence on the society and family". Observers believe that this law could provide the pretext of legitimacy for the regime to impose even harsher restrictions on the practice of other religions besides the Serbian Orthodox Church. [2]

Montenegro

7.17 The law provides for freedom of religion and the government generally respects this right in practice. Prompted in part by the increasing drive for political independence, an autocephalic Orthodox Church was established in Montenegro in the late 1980s. The Church, which is not recognised by any existing Orthodox community, has claimed holdings of the Serbian Orthodox

Church in Montenegro, which has rejected these property claims. The authorities have balanced the two churches without becoming provoking conflict but there have been reports of violence between the two factions. Seventh Day Adventists and Jehovah's Witnesses are also registered religions in the republic. Their followers have reported some difficulties with persons believed to be loyal to the Serbian Orthodox Church. Government recognition of the Orthodox Church of Montenegro has been criticised by the Serb authorities. [2]

Women

Serbia / Montenegro

7.18 There are no legal restrictions on the participation of women in government and politics, and women are active in political organisations. However women are under-represented in party and government positions, holding less than 10% of ministerial-level positions in the Serbian and federal governments. [2]

7.19 The traditionally high level of domestic violence still persists. The few official agencies dedicated to coping with family violence have inadequate resources and are limited in their activity by social pressure to keep families together at all costs. Few victims of spousal abuse ever file complaints with the authorities. The Centre for Autonomous Women's Rights in Belgrade offers a rape and spousal abuse hotline and sponsors a number of self-help groups. The Centre also offered help to refugee women (mostly Serb), many of whom experienced extreme abuse or rape during the conflict in the former Yugoslavia. [2]

7.20 Women do not enjoy status equal to men and relatively few women obtain upper level management positions in commerce. Traditional patriarchal ideas of gender roles, which hold that women should be subservient to the male members of their family, have long subjected women to discrimination. In some rural areas, particularly among minority communities, women are little more than serfs without the ability to exercise their rights to control property and children. However, women legally are entitled to equal pay for equal work and are granted maternity leave for 1 year, with an additional 6 months available. Women are active in political and human rights organisations. Women's rights groups continue to operate with little or no official acknowledgement.

7.21 Although Serbia is a known source, transit and destination country for women and girls trafficked to other parts of Europe for forced prostitution, there is very little information available. There are laws that could be used to prosecute traffickers, although apparently there is little government interest in addressing the problem. [2]

Children

Serbia

7.22 The state attempts to meet the health and educational needs of children. The educational system provides 8 years of mandatory schooling. Economic distress has spilled over into both the education and health care system, adversely affecting children. [2] Scarce funds have been deployed on police and security rather than education and health and the education system is in a state of collapse. Since January, over 50% of teachers have been on strike for an increase in their salaries, which are only $50 per month. Striking teachers risk losing their jobs and are being replaced by undergraduates. The NATO air strikes damaged many schools and the year ended without the curriculum being completed. Illiteracy is growing, with 9.5% who have never been to school and 25% dropping out of elementary school. Only 5.5% of the population are university graduates. More than 60 Belgrade university professors lost their jobs in 1998 following the enactment of a law allowing the dismissal of academics on political grounds. It is thought that it will take 20-30 years to restore the country's school and university system. [64]

7.23 The country served as a source, transit and destination point for trafficking of girls for forced prostitution. [2]

Montenegro

7.24 The government attempts to meet the health and educational needs of children, but insufficient resources at times impede this goal. The education system provides 8 years of mandatory schooling. When refugees began arriving from Kosovo in 1998, the republic government initially refused to extend this educational benefit to Kosovar Albanians. However, after having consulted with and received promises of assistance from international organisations, it was agreed

that displaced children could attend schools. Although ethnic Albanian children have access to instruction in their native tongue, the government was criticised for not developing a curriculum in which they could learn about their own culture and history.

7.25 The country served as a transit point for trafficking of girls for forced prostitution. [2]

Homosexuality

Serbia

7.26 Homosexuality is not mentioned in any law or in the constitution of Serbia except when the age of consent is concerned (18 for homosexuals and 14 for heterosexuals). Despite this, there are several forms of discrimination. Police stations hold files on gays and lesbians, with their photographs and fingerprints. These are collected through raids of gay meeting points or through blackmail of gays and lesbians the police are already aware of, as well as through methods such as phone tapping or interception of mail. If a person is discovered at work to be homosexual, the usual outcome is dismissal and possibly being reported to the police. [65]

7.27 There were suggestions that homosexuals, particularly those belonging to their own human rights organisations, had joined the ranks of the Belgrade regime's "certified enemies", after Dejan Nebrigic who headed a gay and lesbian rights association was found strangled in his apartment. [66]

Military Service

Serbia

7.28 Military service is compulsory for men between the ages of 18 and 27 and lasts for 12-15 months. Military service for women was introduced in 1993. However, a citizen who does not wish to participate in military service (on the basis of religious or other valid conscientious objection) may participate in civilian national service or in the Yugoslav army without the use of weapons, though this does not apply during a state of war. Those granted conscientious objector status can do either, unarmed military or civilian service and are required to serve for 24 months - twice the length of armed service.

7.29 Draft evasion is covered by both the Military Code and the Federal Criminal Code. The Criminal Code provides for the following terms of imprisonment on conviction:

- Failure to answer a recruitment call: in peacetime max. 1 year; during war or threat of war: 1-10 years
- Hiding inside the country with the intent to evade recruitment: in peacetime 3 months to 5 years; during war or threat of war 5-20 years
- Going abroad with the intent to evade recruitment: in peacetime 1 - 10 years; during war or threat of war 5-20 years
- Desertion and not returning within 30 days in peacetime: 6 months to 5 years; during war or threat of war 5-20 years.
- Desertion and leaving the country: in peacetime minimum 1 year; during war or threat of war 5 -20 years.

7.30 A state of war was declared from 24 March 1999 - 23 June 1999. Punishment for offences during the war period is as under state of war and the Criminal Code applies. [67] In addition, a law passed in October 1998 stated that draft dodgers would forfeit their right of inheritance. [2]

7.31 There was no general mobilisation during the Kosovo war but a large percentage of young men were either drafted or summoned by individual calls. Thousands of young men avoided military service during the war, many of them fleeing abroad to Hungary and other countries. Unofficial sources suggest that between 20,000 and 24,000 cases are pending. Technically, they face the above penalties but as yet, there is no reliable information as to how the law is being implemented in practice. [68]

Amnesty

7.32 The Federal Parliament passed a law in June 1996 granting an amnesty to those who evaded the draft or deserted the armed forces prior to 14 December 1995. It did not apply to professional soldiers and officers. Press reports indicated that some 12,000 men for whom prosecution for draft evasion already had started benefited from the law.

Ethic Albanians in Kosovo

7.34 The requirement for military service was not universally enforced in relation to ethnic

Albanians from Kosovo, perhaps because the FRY authorities did not want to train a possible force for rebellion. Leaders of the ethnic Albanian and Sandzak Muslim communities maintained that forced military service was a means of inducing young men to flee the country. Of approximately 100,000 draft evaders living abroad at the start of the year, 40% were estimated to be ethnic Albanian.

Protests in Kraljevo

7.35 In the Southern town of Kraljevo, reservists have demonstrated against being called up for military service again, saying that those who have already served should be exempt from further military duty. 20,000 men from the area were mobilised during the Kosovo war. 200 reservists protested against the draft notices they had received. The call-ups came amid fears of a possible new conflict in Montenegro. [69] [70] [71]

Montenegro

7.36 During the conflict in Kosovo, the FRY Government attempted to draft Montenegrin citizens into the VJ for service in Kosovo. These notices largely were ignored or protested against by the Montenegrin populace. As a consequence, there were reports that VJ troops broke into houses of young Montenegrin men and forcibly conscripted them. However, such efforts were largely ineffective since some 14,000 Montenegrins ignored the conscription orders and under the law were permitted to remain at liberty pending judicial action. The military courts also issued arrest warrants for draft resisters in Podgorica, including Minister of Justice Dragon Soc and Deputy Prime Minister Novak Kilibarda in April. There was no action taken to arrest these government officials. [2]

7.37 To counteract the draft, the government implemented an "obligatory working duty", which possible recruits could cite as a reason why they could not enter into military service. Others simply ignored the draft notices and risked being called up before a military tribunal. The republic government also defied VJ draft orders and the republic police refused to hold resisters in jail. In November, the Montenegrin assembly passed a law granting amnesty to persons who evaded the draft from June 1998 to June 1999. Some 14,000 are expected to receive amnesty as a result of the legislation. [2]

VIII OTHER ISSUES

Citizenship

8.1 Many inhabitants of the Serbia - Montenegro who were born in other parts of the former Yugoslavia, as well as large numbers of refugees, have not been able to establish their citizenship in the FRY, leaving them in a stateless limbo. In January 1997, a new citizenship law was enacted which when fully implemented is expected to affect adversely the rights of many people living in FRY, including those born in other parts of the former Yugoslavia, refugees and citizens who migrated to other countries to seek work or asylum.

8.2 The UN Special Rapporteur for the former Yugoslavia noted in 1997 that the new law would give the Ministry of Interior almost complete control over the granting of citizenship. The government served notice that it plans to limit severely the granting of citizenship to refugees from the conflicts in Bosnia and Croatia. The government also plans to revise the eligibility status of large numbers of people; refugees who have been granted citizenship since 1992 may stand to lose their FRY citizenship if they have acquired the citizenship of a former Yugoslav republic. Muslim residents of Sandzak who fled to Bosnia in 1992 and 1993 may not be permitted to return to Serbia, particularly if they obtained Bosnian passports in the interim. [2]

Freedom of Movement

8.3 The Constitution provides for freedom of movement and the Government makes passports available to most citizens. However, many inhabitants of Serbia who were born in other parts of the former Yugoslavia, as well as large numbers of refugees, have not been able to establish their citizenship in the FRY, leaving them in a stateless limbo. The Government has also been very slow to issue passports to refugees. Ethnic Albanians have encountered problems obtaining and renewing of passports and are sometimes called for interrogation by state security officers before passports are issued. [2]

Repatriation

8.4 In August 1996, the FRY and Croatia signed an agreement normalising relations between the two countries. Both pledged to allow the free and safe return of their refugees and to ensure that returnees would retain control of their possessions or receive fair compensation for lost property. There have not, however, been a significant amount of returns to date. [72]

8.5 The FRY authorities imposed travel restrictions in November 1994 that made it more difficult for returnees (including voluntary) to re-enter the FRY. In particular, the FRY made it clear that asylum seekers abroad would not be re-admitted unless or until a bilateral readmission agreement was in force. The Federal Republic of Germany, Switzerland and Sweden have signed bilateral readmission agreements with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, allowing for the return of FRY citizens who had been refused asylum to FRY territory. Despite the agreement, several persons returned by Germany in December 1996 were rejected at Pristina airport. The UN Special Rapporteur reported that several hundred failed asylum seekers had been detained, either upon or following arrival in the FRY, and have been subjected to physical abuse by the Serbian police. [11] There have been no enforced removals to FRY from the UK since the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Ogata Sadako, requested the UK to cease doing so in March 1998. There has, as yet, been no substantive progress towards the implementation of a re-admission agreement between the UK and FRY.

KOSOVO SUPPLEMENT

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Introduction

1.1 Although a part of FRY, Kosovo is administered on an interim basis by the UN. For ease of reference, issues related to Kosovo have therefore been dealt with in this separate supplement.

Post conflict Kosovo - General Situation

2.1 On 9 June 1999, FRY signed an agreement requiring the withdrawal of all forces from Kosovo and the establishment of an international security presence under a UN mandate. An interim civil presence, the UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) was established shortly after. Within weeks, over 800,000 of the million or so ethnic Albanians who left Kosovo had returned. Urgent work began to help hundreds of thousands of people to rebuild their homes and find access to food, water and electricity before the onset of the harsh winter. Fearing revenge attacks, more than half of the 200,000 population of Serbs and Roma left the province in the following months. [73] [74]

2.2 Kosovo is being administered by UN in cooperation with UNHCR, OSCE and the EU. On 15 December 1999, the UN signed a power-sharing agreement with Kosovo Albanian leaders, creating the Joint Interim Administration Structures.

2.3 The main civil structures have not yet been fully established and the police force and judiciary are below strength and not yet functioning effectively. The level of criminal activity remains high and there is a climate of violence and impunity as well as widespread discrimination, harassment and intimidation, mostly directed against non-Albanians. The civil infrastructure is being rebuilt but much remains to be done. Water, electricity and heating supplies are patchy and unreliable and transport is problematic. Most of the 120,000 damaged or destroyed homes have yet to be rebuilt (2,767 houses have been rebuilt by UNMIK) and many thousands of returned refugees are totally reliant on support from aid agencies.

2.4 In February and March there were violent clashes between Serbs and ethnic Albanians in the

northern town of Mitrovica. Population movements have polarised the city, which is largely occupied by Serbs in the North and ethnic Albanians in the South. Tensions are being exploited by extremists on both sides. UNMIK and KFOR have introduced increased security measures. There have also been reports of growing numbers of violent incidents between Serbs and ethnic Albanians in parts of Serbia close to the Kosovo border. [75] [76] [77] [78]

Political situation

3.1 Under UN Security Council Resolution 1244 [77], UNMIK is responsible for implementing the international civil presence with KFOR assuming an overriding role in matters of security. UNMIK is led by the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General (SRSG), Bernard Kouchner. The organisational structure of the administration is arranged in four distinct "pillars", run by the following organisations respectively: Civilian Administration - UN; Institution Building - the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE); Humanitarian Affairs - UNHCR; and Reconstruction – EU. (see table below)

3.2 In the initial stages of the mission, the involvement of the local population in the official administration was limited to their participation in various advisory bodies, the highest being the Kosovo Transitional Council (KTC). However, parallel self-proclaimed civil and military structures also exercised authority, despite their lack of legitimacy. The parallel government of Ibrahim Rugova, elected President of Kosovo in unofficial Kosovo Albanian electorations in 1992 and 1998 was still in existence, though it remained largely dormant. But it was the self- proclaimed "Provisional Government of Kosovo (aka the Interim Government of Kosovo") under Hashim Thaci, the former political leader of the KLA that exerted the most control.

3.3 When the FRY forces withdrew in June 1999, the Provisional Government of Kosovo quickly established administrative structures in most municipalities, drawing heavily on the power and prestige of the KLA.

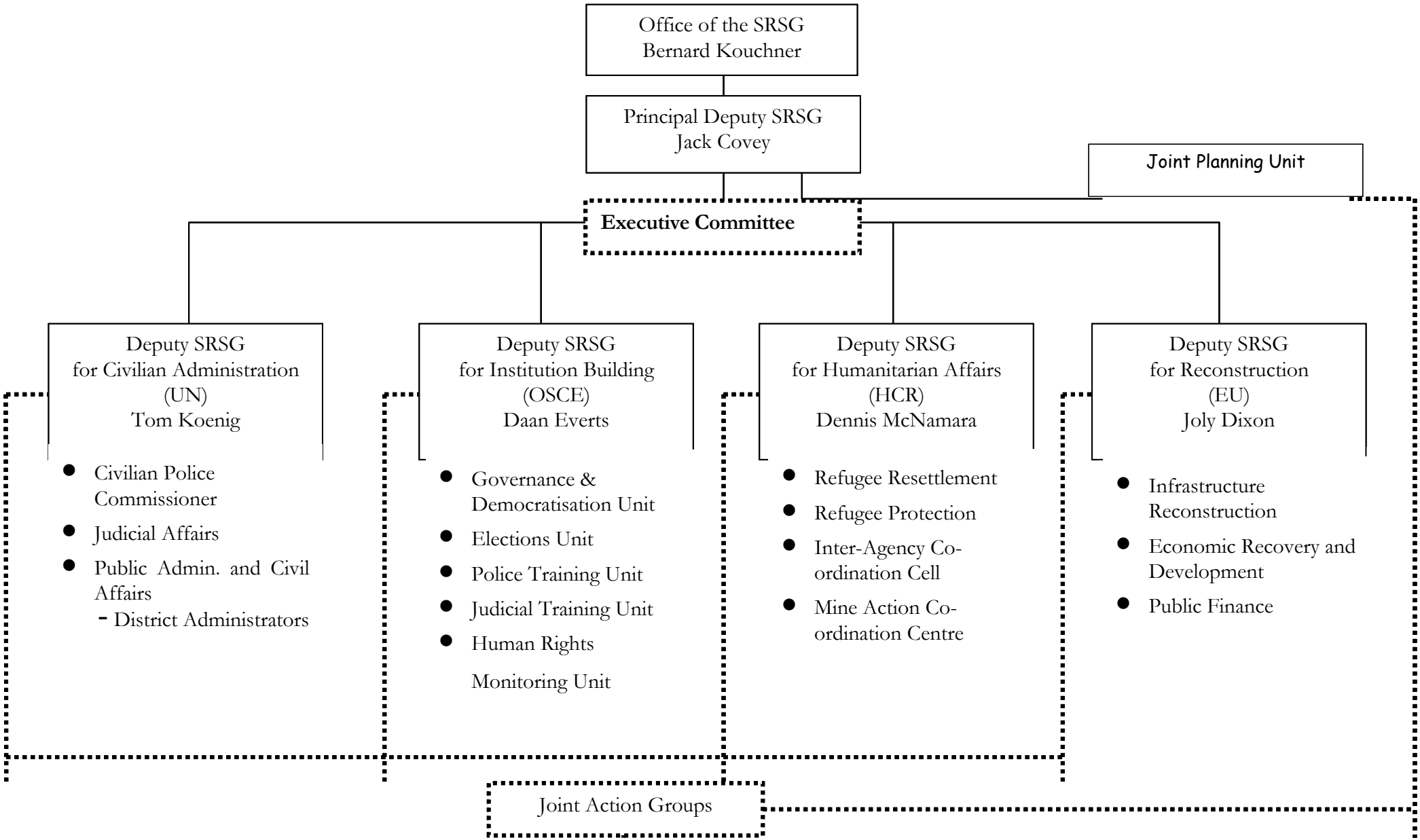
3.4 The KLA was officially disbanded on 20 September, giving rise to the Party for a Progressive and Democratic Kosovo (PPDK), a political party headed by Thaci. Many former KLA fighters were absorbed into the newly formed Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC/TMK) a civil emergency service headed by former KLA commander Agim Ceku.

3.5 On 15 December 1999, the PPDK, LDK and LBD agreed to disband all self-proclaimed

parallel structures and co-operate with a Joint Interim Administrative Structure (JIAS) under the auspices of UNMIK. After initially boycotting the JIAS, the Serb National Council, the principal organisation representing Kosovan Serbs, agreed in April to take part as observers. The Serb community is divided in two distinct camps. The more moderate element wish to work with the JIAS to ensure that Serb interests are represented in the evolving UN led administration. The more "hard line" element, mostly based in Mitrovica, suspect UNMIK of favouring the ethnic Albanian community and of condoning what they see as the gradual drift towards an independent Kosovo.

3.6 The JIAS is comprised of 19 departments, each co-directed by an UNMIK international official and a local person. Municipal administrative boards headed by UNMIK municipal administrators govern locally. An Interim Administrative Council (IAC) defines policy and recommends regulations and amendments to laws. The IAC is composed of a member of each of the three Kosovo parties represented at Rambouillet above, one Serb (in a temporary observer capacity), four international members and two observers - one local, one international. The SRSG, Dr Kouchner, serves as executive and legislative chair, with the right to veto all council decisions. The KTC has been expanded and will continue to serve as the highest advisory body of Kosovo representatives to UNMIK

3.7 Under the terms of the 15 December agreement, all parallel structures officially should have ceased to exist from 1 February 2000. The LDK and PPDK have announced the ending of their respective parallel structures. The success of the JIAS will depend upon the commitment of the local leaders to reconciliation and progress. Registration has begun in preparation for Municipal elections, which are expected to take, place later this year, though no date has been agreed. **[75] [79]**


Office of the SRSG
Bernard Kouchner
Principal Deputy SRSG
Jack Covey
Joint Planning Unit
Executive Committee
Deputy SRSG
for Civilian Administration
(UN)
Tom Koenig
Civilian Police Commissioner
Judicial Affairs
Public Admin. and Civil Affairs
- District Administrators
Deputy SRSG
for Institution Building
(OSCE)
Daan Everts
Governance & Democratisation Unit
Elections Unit
Police Training Unit
Judicial Training Unit
Human Rights Monitoring Unit
Deputy SRSG
for Humanitarian Affairs
(HCR)
Dennis McNamara
Refugee Resettlement
Refugee Protection
Inter-Agency Co-ordination Cell
Mine Action Co-ordination Centre
Deputy SRSG
for Reconstruction
(EU)
Joly Dixon
Infrastructure Reconstruction
Economic Recovery and Development
Public Finance
Joint Action Groups

Security / policing situation

4.1 Policing in Kosovo is being undertaken by a combination of KFOR troops, UNMIK civilian police and a small number of local Kosovo Police Service (KPS) officers. There are approximately 37,000 KFOR troops in the province. [80] Most KFOR troops are not trained or experienced in law enforcement, a role more suited to the UNMIK police. UNMIK police are facing serious difficulties because of lack of personnel: of the 4,718 officers promised by member states, only 2,546 were in place as of 17 March 2000. Lack of equipment and logistical support, together with the need to undertake non-policing tasks has also hampered their effectiveness. So far, UNMIK police have assumed full responsibility in the regions of Prizren and Pristina, though even in these areas they rely upon KFOR support. To date there have been only 173 graduates of the academy training the KPS, though a similar number are being trained. [76]

4.2 There were 470 murders, 192 kidnappings, 1,400 incidents of arson and 1,143 incidents of looting reported between 19 June 1999 and 5 February 2000. Although the figures for serious crime have dropped slightly in recent months, KFOR and the UNMIK police have been unable to prevent numerous attacks on minorities and certain categories of the ethnic Albanian population. About one third of the murder victims were Serbs. [75] [76]

4.3 The distinction between ethnic killings and ordinary crime is often blurred, with elderly Serbs being targeted as much for their property as their ethnic origins. "Ordinary" crime has flourished in the general climate of lawlessness and there have been reports that Kosovo has become a major centre for trafficking of drugs and women for prostitution. [81] Ex KLA elements are suspected of involvement in much of the criminal activity. [82] In many areas the local population is reluctant to report crimes because of lack of faith in the authorities' ability to deliver positive results and fear of reprisals against them.

Mitrovica

4.4 The worst violence seen in Kosovo in recent months has taken place in the ethnically divided city of Mitrovica, which has become a symbol of ethnic hatred in the province. The city is divided by the river Ibar, with about 9,000 Serbs controlling the north bank and more than 90,000 ethnic Albanians living on the south side. The presence of 2,000 Albanians in the north, living under great pressure to leave from extremist Serbs (as 8,000 already have), adds to the tension. Violence swept the city after a rocket attack on a UNHCR bus killed 2 elderly Serbs in the south of the city on

2 February 2000. Revenge attacks left 2 ethnic Albanians dead and soon afterwards grenades at two Serb cafes injured 25. Others died in a series of clashes and shootings across the city.

4.5 A curfew was introduced in the city and K-for personnel have heavily guarded the bridge across the Ibar. Ethnic Albanians held a series of mass protests against the partition of the city. The most dramatic of these was a march from Pristina to Mitrovica by a crowd estimated at about 70,000 people, which had to be kept at bay by K-for using tear gas. Further demonstrations by ethnic Albanians and by Serbs have required the intervention of K-for troops with several injuries sustained. The few ethnic Albanians who have returned to the northern part of the city have required an armed escort.

4.6 Analysts have varied in their interpretation of the ongoing friction; attributing it to ingrained resentment between the two communities, agitation from Belgrade or a struggle for control over the nearby Trepca mines - currently inactive but once the main source of Yugoslavia's mineral wealth. **[78] [80] [83]**

Situation in South East Serbia

4.7 There has been tension in the Presevo Valley area of South East Serbia near the Kosovo border. In recent weeks there has been a series of violent clashes between Serbian police and a new ethnic Albanian militia group called the Liberation Army for Presevo, Medvedja and Bujanovac (UCMPB), after the main towns in the area. Clashes have also taken place in the 3 mile exclusion zone outside the Kosovo border around the town of Dobrosin. There appears to have been a build up of Serb forces in the area, though Serb authorities maintain that these are just regular army exercises.

4.8 The UCMPB, have vowed to defend the valley, which they refer to as Eastern Kosova. About 10% of the 70,000 ethnic Albanians living in the area have already fled into Kosovo. KFOR has sent troops to the Kosovo border and has warned both sides not to attempt to destabilise the area. In particular, there are concerns that the UCPMB may be seeking to provoke the Serb forces and draw Nato into a conflict beyond Kosovo's borders. (see chapter VII, paragraph 7.8, Other Ethnic Groups) **[60] [69]**

Legal system / Judiciary

4.9 UNMIK has struggled to establish an effectively functioning independent judicial system and achieving this will be a long term task. The climate of revenge made it very difficult to find impartial judicial personnel. In particular, it has been difficult for UNMIK to maintain an ethnic balance in the judiciary. Fifty five judges and prosecutors were appointed in the early months of the administration but by October all seven Serb judges had resigned or fled, for fear of their own personal safety, complaints of discrimination of lack of sufficient remuneration.

4.10 In December 1999, the appointment of 387 judges, prosecutors and lay judges was announced. However, of the 90 minority appointments, only a few attended the swearing in ceremony, which was held in Albanian only. In total only 180 were sworn in and it is not clear how many will take up their posts. UNMIK is introducing international judges for certain trials.

4.11 Lack of minority representation in the judiciary and doubts about its impartiality have undermined the trust of these groups in the judicial system. There are credible reports that the judiciary has been subject to outside pressure and intimidation, preventing them from executing their duties effectively. Two ethnic Albanian former judges were murdered in December 1999 because they had worked under the Serbian regime. It also appears that minorities are more likely to be kept on remand while members of the majority ethnicity are sometimes released even where is strong evidence against them. **[2] [57A] [84]**

4.12 The shortage of judicial personnel available, together with a lack of support staff, basic office equipment and accommodation, has been a key factor in the low number of successful prosecutions since UNMIK has been in control. From July 1999 to January 2000 of 3747 persons detained by KFOR, only 271 remained in detention, with only 35 trials having taken place. The fact that there have been are so few convictions has also undermined confidence in the judicial system. Another reason why so few of those apprehended remained in detention was the lack of prison facilities, though this is gradually being remedied. To date, no civil cases have been processed.

4.13 A further obstacle to the effective delivery of justice has been the refusal of judges to accept written witness statements from KFOR / UNMIK officers who gathered the evidence. Given the regular rotation of such staff out of the province, it is often impossible to obtain vital evidence because the officer concerned is no longer available. A new regulation is expected to address this.

4.14 Confusion and disputes over the applicable law have also caused severe difficulties. Initially, the laws in place in Kosovo before March 1989 (- i.e. FRY laws) applied so far as they did not

conflict with internationally recognised standards, but many judges refused to implement these. From December 1999 this was changed so that the laws which applied before 1989 (when Kosovo still had autonomous status within FRY) would apply, with the exception of any which conflicted with UNMIK regulations and internationally recognised human rights standards. In addition, any laws in place after 1989 may continue to apply to situations not otherwise covered. In general, a defendant has the benefit of the most favourable provision of laws in force from March 1989 - December 1999.

4.15 The complicated legal position is exacerbated by the fact that there is no system in place for publishing laws. Where copies of regulations are available, there are often errors in translation. By contrast, laws and regulations made by the "Provisional Government" are published and readily accessible. In particular, the absence of any legal mechanism to establish property rights in case of dispute is a serious obstacle to return for refugees. UNMIK is seeking to remedy this with the establishment of the Housing and Property Commission, but this is not yet operational. **[2] [75] [76] [85]**

Economy and infrastructure

5.1 The economy inherited by UNMIK had been reduced to near collapse by 10 years of deliberate neglect from Belgrade and there was no administrative structure to build upon. The economy before the conflict had a substantial agrarian sector, which continues to support a large percentage of the population. Key industries were mining, metallurgy and related manufacturing enterprises. Remittances from relative's abroad were and continue to be an important source of income. **[2]**

5.2 The UNMIK administration has an annual budget of approximately of £184m, of which, 47% is contributed by donors, with the rest being raised through tax and licence revenues. In addition there are nearly 340 international non-governmental organisations (NGO's) active in Kosovo undertaking and channelling funding for various projects in the province. The EU expects to contribute £221m to work in Kosovo this year. The Deutschmark is the working currency of the province.

5.3 The economy of Kosovo is now dominated by the presence of the NGO's and other international organisations and their highly paid staff. For Kosovars, unemployment runs at about 70% (USSD) and salaries are very low (the average public service employ earns about £90 per month). Most Kosovars with language skills seek jobs as interpreters for international organisations,

which has led to a shortage of language teachers at schools. As well as those who have found work with the UN or EU, many have moved out of their homes to rent them to foreigners at inflated rates. This has increased pressure on accommodation, particularly in Pristina where the population has doubled since the war with the influx from devastated villages. Lawlessness in the province has provided fertile ground for a thriving black market. UNHCR estimated that in November 1999, 900,000 people were dependent upon food "handouts". [86]

5.4 Of UNMIK's budget, 40% is spent on social benefits and health and 28% on education. This has enabled the provision of basic services. Pensions are now provided for people of over 70 years old, though these amount to only £10 per month. Most schools and hospitals have been reopened, though the facilities are mostly of poor standard and access for ethnic minority groups is problematic (see paragraph 6.1 below). Many hospitals lack basic supplies and the infant and maternal mortality rates are the highest in Europe. [87]

5.5 Despite reconstruction works, key elements of the civil and physical infrastructure of the province remain unsatisfactory. The basic utilities are unreliable, with regular power cuts, lack of heating, patchy distribution of water supplies and a limited postal service and telephone network. Transport links are overburdened, leading to long delays on main routes. Work to organise the registration of cars, civilians and property is underway but incomplete. Mines and unexploded ordnance (28,000 unexploded cluster bombs alone) are a deadly hazard to farmers and young children in particular. [88]

5.6 Shortage of accommodation continues to be acute with many people living in temporary accommodation or living in cramped conditions with relatives. Of the 120,000 homes damaged in the war, approximately 50,000 were completely destroyed and 50,000 severely damaged. To date, less than 3,000 have been fully rebuilt. [89] With the UNHCR "winterisation" programme, international aid has focused on trying to make a least one room habitable in those houses where this was feasible. With the international assistance pledged, it is estimated reconstruction of all housing stock will take at least 3 years. UNMIK have set an ambitious target of 20,000 units in 2000 at a cost of E150m. They estimate that including emergency shelter assistance and building by Kosovans themselves, proposed reconstruction could rehabilitate about one third of damaged housing by end of year. [90] [91] [92]

HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES

Ethnic minorities

6.1 UNMIK / KFOR is committed to preserving Kosovo as a multiethnic society; and to protecting the rights of ethnic minorities and the safe return of refugees. However, despite the best efforts of UNMIK and KFOR, certain minority groups continue to suffer harassment, intimidation, arson, looting, eviction and physical attack, sometimes resulting in death. It is assumed that the perpetrators are radical ethnic Albanians seeking revenge and/or pursuing the aim of a wholly Albanian state. Before the conflict, ethnic Albanians made up over 90% of the population of Kosovo. The percentage is even higher now, as large numbers of the ethnic minority population, particularly from the Serb and Roma communities, have fled from Kosovo. Those who have remained have tended to concentrate in mono-ethnic areas. The number of incidents of violence against minorities has decreased in recent months but this may in part be due to the fact that many have left. [76] [93]

6.2 In addition to attacks on ethnic minorities and their property, these groups have suffered in many less visible ways. There is a reluctance among the majority population to give evidence against those responsible for these crimes. Because of threats received many of the majority population are afraid to associate with minorities in any way, refusing to serve them in shops etc for rear of reprisals. Minorities in the province face isolation and serious restrictions on their freedom of movement. Very few have jobs and most are heavily dependent on humanitarian assistance for survival. Many also face obstacles to accessing health, education and other public services, most of which are run by ethnic Albanians. In the current climate it can be dangerous to speak Serbian or even to speak Albanian with a Slavic or Roma accent in public. [76]

Serbs

6.3 Ethnic Serbs have been the principle targets for ethnically motivated attacks. Estimates vary as to how many have left the province, but it is likely that less than half the 200,000 who lived there before the conflict now remain. The influx of returning Albanians has increased the pressure on Serbs etc to leave. Most of the remaining Serbs have collected in the northern part of the town of Mitrovica, the municipalities of Leposavic, Zupin Potok and Zvecan to the north of the province, and Strpce in the South, where they form the majority of the population.

6.4 There have been several high profile attacks on Serbs over the past 10 months. The worst atrocity occurred when 14 Serb farmers were shot dead at Staro Gracko in July 1999. In September 1999, 2 grenades exploded in a Serb market area in Bresje, killing 3 elderly Serbs and injuring 46. In October, one man was killed and a woman injured in a drive by shooting in Pristina. On November 29 on Albanian National day in Pristina, a crowd dragged 3 Serbs from a car, killing a 62 year old man, and badly injuring his wife and elderly mother in law. In December, another Serb was killed by a grenade attack in Orahovac (Rahovec); 3 were killed in Gnjilane (Gjilan); and 10 were injured in a bomb attack on a shop. [84] As noted above, over a third of the murders that have taken place since the conflict ended were of Serbs and they are the group most at risk. [93]

6.5 Many remaining Serbs, some of them elderly and alone, are subject to constant verbal and physical harassment, often by children who are immune to prosecution. In some areas they are terrorised to leave their homes and rely upon 24 hour protection from KFOR and deliveries of food and other essentials from aid agencies. Travel in some areas is only feasible with an armed escort. Where medical conditions require hospital attendance, there have been concerns about patient safety and the quality of treatment, where it is available at all. A high proportion of Serbs were formerly employed by state run institutions and are now without jobs. [76] [84]

Croatian Serbs and Bosnian Serbs

6.6 Serb refugees from Croatia and Bosnia who were located in Kosovo following the Balkan wars in the early 1990s suffer from the same difficulties as the Kosovan Serbs, but with the added disadvantage of being already displaced and foreigners. As Serbs who are also foreigners, this group is particularly vulnerable. UNHCR has been assisting with their voluntary repatriation to Serbia and Montenegro, though many have already left the province. [76]

Roma

6.7 Kosovo Roma have been targeted as a group because they are seen as having collaborated with Serb mistreatment of ethnic Albanians during the conflict. Allegations that some Roma took part in criminal acts with Yugoslav forces or opportunistic looting seems to have blackened name of innocent others. Many have fled from Kosovo to Serbia, Montenegro or Macedonia and those who remain have tended to move to Roma enclaves. Some estimates suggest that a community that once numbered 100,000 to 150,000 in the province has been reduced to about 10,000. [2]

6.8 Some Roma families are well integrated with their neighbours and do not wish to be separately identified, but this may depend on a denial of their ethnic origins. In general, living and security conditions continue to be precarious for many Roma and access to vital services such as health and education is often difficult. There have been reports that Roma in Serb dominated areas are increasingly less accepted as the communities have become polarised and the need has arisen to make room for further Serb arrivals. Although there have been no recent reports of group departures, displacement continues and levels of tension and hostility remain high. Two Roma men were killed in Glogovac on December 29 and another two were murdered on January 15th.

6.9 Roma are not a homogenous or cohesive group – they are made up of various groups with different allegiances, linguistic and religious traditions. Many have a settled rather than nomadic lifestyle but most have occupied a marginalised position in Kosovar society. A detailed account of the various Roma groups is provided in the UNHCR report on ethnic minorities - source No. 76. **[76] [84]**

Gorani

6.10 The Gorani community consists of persons of Slav ethnicity from the Gora region who, unlike Serbs, follow Islam. The overall Gorani population is estimated at 10,000 - 12,000. They are a distinct group from the Muslim Slavs described below. Despite their shared religion, relationship with Albanians has not always easy because of their ethnic and linguistic links with Serbs.

6.11 The Gora region comprises 18 geographically linked villages within Dragash municipality inhabited by Gorani. The region was largely unaffected by the conflict in terms of damage to housing. Most Gorani were previously employed in the public service sector and many are now unemployed. Although they have been keen to come to terms with their ethnic Albanian neighbours, Gorani experience some pressures in relation to their language. Most villages have dropped the Serb school curriculum in favour of instruction in Bosniak, the language of Bosnian Muslims. There have also been reports of difficulties in access to medical facilities. Small numbers of Gorani live in other parts of Kosovo where they experience few problems, apart from those living in the southern part of the town of Mitrovica, who try to maintain a low profile.

6.12 In January the Gorani community in the village of Vraniste issued a statement saying that unless the UN police protected them from KLA harassment, they would find a way of defending themselves or leave the province. [76] [94]

Muslim Slavs

6.13 This group consists of Serbo-Croat speaking Slavs who are associated with the "Muslim nationality" created within the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Their remaining population is estimated at about 35,000. Although many describe themselves as Bosniak, this does not necessarily mean that they, nor their ancestors come from there, but rather that Bosnians are seen as successors to the old Muslim nationality group. In reality, these communities originate from a variety of regions, including modern-day Bosnia, Sandzak and even Macedonia. Although some are dispersed within towns, most live in predominantly Muslim villages. Within the Muslim community, there is a distinct group of Torbesh / Torbesi found mainly in Prizren and Orahovac/Rahovec areas.

6.14 Muslim Slavs experience harassment and intimidation from ethnic Albanians in some areas, particularly the south part of Mitrovica town, largely in connection with their language. In other areas such as Prizren where there is a large community of about 25,000, they live peacefully with the Albanian population, but their language makes them appear different and limits their access job market. They have some access to education in their own language but more school hours are conducted in Albanian. A Torbesh family of four was murdered in their own home on January 12 and the attack was condemned by all sectors of society, with 10,000 Muslims attending a protest in Prizren central square. This was the most serious incident reported but violence, harassment and discrimination has led to significant displacement. Some reports have suggested that over 40 Muslim Slavs have been killed, 20 are missing and about 40,000 (over half of the original population in Kosovo) have left the province in recent months. [76] [95]

Turkish

6.15 The long established Turkish community continues to use Turkish as its mother tongue, though most members also speak Albanian and Serbo-Croat. The 1974 Constitution of Kosovo (repealed in 1989) recognised Turkish as third official language of the province. They are politically organised, represented mainly by the Turkish Democratic Union and enjoy access to

primary and secondary education in mother tongue. Many left for Turkey etc during the conflict and some are now returning. There have been some reports of low level harassment in north Mitrovica from Serbs but in general there are no significant security problems for this group. [76]

Croats

6.16 The Croat community in Janjevo, Lipljan / Lipjan municipality remains stable with about 450 persons. There are generally good relations with the Roma and ethnic Albanian population, but they experience a sense of insecurity and are concerned about the education available for their children. In Vitina / Viti almost the entire Croat population of 450 left for Croatia in a single movement organised by the Croatian government in October 1999. For the few that remain, relations with the local ethnic Albanian population appear to be reasonably friendly. [96]

Mixed marriages

6.17 People of mixed ethnicity or in mixed marriages can face security problems as well as discrimination. Those in mixed marriages with people from ethnic minorities face the same difficulties as those groups, particularly where one partner is a Serb. Sometimes ethnic Albanians who are married to Serbs are considered "worse than Serbs". Unlike other minority groups, mixed families are unable to resort to the relative security of mono-ethnic enclaves and are often excluded from all communities. This is particularly problematic as vital services are often provided on the basis of ethnicity. [75] [76] [97]

Kosovo Albanians from "minority" areas

6.18 Kosovar Albanians are in the overwhelming ethnic majority in the province and are generally not subject to persecution from non-state agents on the basis of their ethnicity. However, there are some parts of Kosovo, particularly in the north of the province, where Serbs are in the majority and ethnic Albanians may be subject to harassment and persecution. (5,6,7) These areas include the northern part of the town of Mitrovica – i.e. north of the river Ibar; the northern municipalities of Leposavic, Zvecan and Zubin Potok; and the southern municipality of Strpce. [75] [97]

Religion

6.19 Religion in Kosovo is often inextricably linked to ethnicity. Most ethnic Albanians are Sunni

Muslims, but there is a Catholic minority who live mostly in the Southern and Western parts of the province. Serbs are almost exclusively Serbian Orthodox Christians.

6.20 Most ethnic Albanians are not strongly identified with their religion and their animosity towards Serbs is essentially on the basis of ethnicity, with the difference in religion a coincidental factor. However, Serbian Orthodox churches held symbolic significance and over 80 have been destroyed in retaliation for the mosques destroyed by the Serbs. UNMIK have taken steps to ensure that all religious communities could worship safely and deployed extra security at Orthodox religious sites. Nevertheless, there have been concerns for the safety of Orthodox priests and many have been forced to relocate.

6.21 It is estimated that some 70,000 Kosovar Albanians are Roman Catholic. Generally, they tend to be wealthier, better educated and better connected abroad than many of their Muslim neighbours. In January, a Jesuit spokesman in Belgrade said that church property, clergy and their families were coming under increasing threat of attack. Vatican Radio blamed Muslim extremists for this activity. There is little clear cut evidence of Catholic Albanians being persecuted specifically on religious grounds, but there are certain areas within Kosovo where they may have come under suspicion of collaboration with the Serb regime (see below). Such suspicion was fuelled by the fact that Catholic Albanian villages suffered relatively little damage during the conflict. A high number of Catholic Albanians feature in reported cases of harassment against ethnic Albanians. [2] [75] [84] [98]

Political freedom

Those accused of involvement with the previous Serb administration

6.22 There have been reports of ethnic Albanians being the targets of harassment and violence in retribution for alleged association or collaboration with the Serbian regime. In some cases such accusations may be based on little more than the fact that a person had done business with Serbs in the past or that his house was not targeted by Serb forces. It is possible for people who have had no significant involvement with the Serbian regime to become victims on this basis. This phenomenon has been exacerbated by the local press by publishing inflammatory articles on the subject. [75]

Those who have been outspokenly critical of the former KLA and the former Provisional Government of Kosovo, and supporters of political parties not aligned with these groups.

6.23 There have been reports of harassment, intimidation and violent attacks by extremist elements allegedly associated with the former KLA and the PPDK directed at supporters of the rival LDK party and others expressing moderate views. The LDK, led by Ibrahim Rugova has always advocated a peaceful, moderate approach and has been critical of the violence perpetrated by ethnic Albanians following the conflict. Haki Imeri, the LDK leader in Srbica was murdered in November, other members have been attacked and several LDK offices have been vandalised. Journalists who have published critical statements about the violence directed towards Serbs and other minorities and the activities of the Provisional Government have also been attacked, threatened or harassed.

6.24 Individuals have also been targeted for disobeying laws and directives from the self proclaimed authorities. In particular, there appears to be a campaign in place to deter people from buying Serb property or doing any kind of business with Serbs. Publicity material warned that anyone doing so would be held accountable. There have been several cases of ex-Serb houses and businesses bought by ethnic Albanians being bombed and of violent personal attacks. Also, failure to pay unofficial "taxes" can bring violent reprisals. [2] [75]

"Draft evaders" and "deserters" from the former KLA / UCK

6.25 There are some indications that persons who refused to join the KLA or who deserted during the conflict may face protection concerns in Kosovo. There are very few documented cases of this kind, though they may go unreported. There was one case of abduction, though the men were subsequently released, and one where a student was denied university admission because his father had not fought for the KLA. Generally, it is difficult to separate this category from those who are suspected of collaborating with the Serbs, or those who are unsympathetic to the KLA cause. [75] [97] [99]

Media

6.26 With the establishment of UNMIK, the OSCE set up a Department for Media Affairs, which is responsible for promoting openness, fact-based reporting and providing access to the media for a broad spectrum of political views and information for all ethnic groups. By the end of the year there were five daily newspapers and two weeklies with a broad circulation. The print media has often acted irresponsibly, publishing articles which could incite violence against political personalities and listing names and addresses of individuals who allegedly collaborated with the Serb regime. Kosova Press a news agency in Pristina, accused two leading journalists who had urged ethnic Albanians to exercise tolerance towards Serbs of being Serbian spies and warned that they could expect retribution. The only Serb newspaper is now published in northern Kosovo and distributed in Serbian enclaves. There are radio stations, which broadcast in Albanian, Serbian, Turkish and Bosnian and a limited television service. [2] [75]

Women

6.27 The comments about the position of women in Serbia / Montenegro section apply also to those in Kosovo. If anything, the ethnic Albanian community is even more patriarchal. Under the UNMIK administration, the same protections in terms of equal opportunity and maternity leave laws also apply. The lack of job opportunities for women in the province has reinforced the traditional culture in which women remain at home. Previously, the cost of education in the Kosovo (provided on a private basis as part of the ethnic Albanian parallel administration) made families reluctant to send girls to school, as the prospect of future employment was slim. UNHCR has established the Kosovo Women's Initiative to fund and organise efforts to promote women's issues. Previously, the Women's Forum was the largest women's organisation in the province. It is an arm of the LDK and only provides support to the ethnic Albanian community. Kosovo has become a major source and transit point for the trafficking of women for prostitution. [2]

Children

6.28 Since the end of the conflict, schools have reopened under UNMIK administration.

Working in collaboration with local authorities, UNMIK aims to ensure that children from all ethnic groups receive free and universal education. However, as noted above, access to education has been problematic for some minority groups. Extensive damages too many schools, lack of educational materials, power and heating problems have, hindered the education of many children.

6.29 Economic problems also affected the health care system and the health situation has remained poor for children. High infant and child mortality and increasing epidemics of preventable diseases have resulted from poverty leading to malnutrition, poor hygiene and inadequate public sanitation. The province has been a source of trafficking of girls for prostitution. [2]

Freedom of movement

7.1 As noted above, many people from ethnic minorities have limited freedom of movement because of security fears, some requiring escorts or special deliveries to access basic supplies. A FRY government office in Pristina continues to issue FRY passports, though there have been some reports of intimidation towards people who avail themselves of this service. UNMIK have begun issuing travel documents on a limited basis and this service is likely to be expanded soon. [2]

ANNEX A

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS: 1992 - MARCH 2000

1992 Remainder of EU States recognise Croatian and Slovene independence. Bosnia and Herzegovina declares its independence from Yugoslav Federation. Armed clashes between Bosnian Muslims and Serbs follow declaration. Bosnian Serbs declare establishment of their own republic, effective from date of international recognition of Bosnia. Referendum on independence held in Bosnia. Majority of Muslims and Croats in favour, although majority of Serbs boycott referendum. The Federal assembly of the newly-established Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY), consisting of Serbia and Montenegro approves a new constitution. 20,000 people attend anti-war demonstration in Belgrade. Further anti-government demonstrations occur, led by opposition alliance, DEPOS.

Elections to a 130 seat Kosovo Assembly in May are declared illegal by Serb authorities. The Government of the self-declared Republic of Kosovo, under the leadership of President Dr Ibrahim Rugova, is prevented from sitting by Serbian security forces. State of emergency in Kosovo is revoked in August. Federal and Republican Presidential and Parliamentary elections take place in December. Both Federal President Dobrica Cosic and Serbian President Milosevic are re-elected. Moderate Federal Prime Minister Milan Panic is ousted in vote of no confidence.

1993 DEPOS begin boycott of Serbian Assembly. SPS form new government lead by Nikola Sainovic. Momir Bulatovic is re-elected as Montenegrin Republican President in second ballot in January. Bulatovic's DPMS and Milosevic's SPS form new Federal Government, under Federal Prime Minister Radoje Kontic. Cosic is removed from office following vote of no confidence. Anti-government demonstrations follow, leading to arrest of Montenegrin coalition government leader, Milo Djukanovic, and his wife, in June. Both are released in July. Evidence indicates that they were tortured while in detention. Pro-Milosevic Zoran Lilic is appointed as Federal President. Elections to the 250 seat Serbian National Assembly in December leaves SPS without an outright majority.

1994 First session of new Serbian Parliament fails to elect President. SPS form coalition government with New Democracy (ND). Serbian parliament elects government headed by Prime Minister Mirko Marjanovic. Milosevic supports international peace plan and publicly announces decision to cut political and economic ties with Bosnian Serbs. Borba newspaper is placed under FRY government control. Nationalist parties hold demonstration in protest over Milosevic's support for Dayton agreement.

1995 FRY government passes a decree granting advantageous loan terms to Serbs and Montenegrins settling in Kosovo. In Serbia the Democratic Party, Democratic Party of Serbia and Serbian Radical Party sign an electoral co-operation agreement. Man shot dead and five wounded in Kosovo by Serb policemen. Vojislav Seslej is jailed for 20 days for causing a disturbance in Kosovo. His sentence is later increased to 60 days.

1996

April In April the death of an ethnic Albanian student in Serbia sparks massed protests in Kosovo, with reprisal attacks against Serbs leading to several deaths. Dragoslav Avramovic is removed from post of Governor of the National Bank of Yugoslavia and chief negotiator with IMF, following his criticism of Federal and Serbian economic policies. LDK leader Rugova announces ethnic Albanian boycott of federal parliamentary elections in November. Zajedno opposition group (comprising SRM, DP, DSP and Civic Alliance of Serbia) emerges.

October The UN Security Council officially lifts all sanctions against FRY. Following a complaint by the SPS after the second round of Serbian municipal elections in November, SPS-dominated municipal courts annul most opposition victories. Mass demonstrations follow.

December Radio B92 and Radio Indeks, are closed by Serbian Ministry of Transport and Communications on the grounds that they are broadcasting without valid licence. Both resume broadcasting, although B92 is still officially classified as illegal. The Ministry of Internal Affairs bans further anti-government demonstrations after

previously peaceful protests become violent. OSCE report upholds opposition election victories.

1997

February Municipal election results reinstated by Serbian National Assembly. Patriarch Pavle leads Belgrade Sveti Sava march. Leader of National Movement for Liberation of Kosovo, Avin Klinaku, arrested.

March Serbian Minister of Information presents draft media law allowing State more extensive coverage than private media.

April Second draft of Serbia's media law diminishes restrictions on private media outlets. Serbian deputy Interior Minister, General Badza Stojicic, is assassinated in Belgrade.

July Milosevic formally assumes FRY Presidency. Serbian Parliamentary and Presidential elections announced for 21 September.

August In Montenegro, President Bulatovic's faction of the DPS elects its own Main Board, Executive Board and 3 party Vice Presidents.

September Attacks on 12 Kosovo police stations: KLA claims responsibility.

October Kosovo student demonstrations broken up by police using tear gas, water cannon and truncheons. Albanian attack on Kosovo police station leaves one Albanian dead. Gypsy boy is beaten to death in Belgrade. Djukanovic wins second round of Montenegrin Presidential election by 5,500 votes. Trial begins of 19 Albanians charged with KLA membership and terrorism. Albanian student demonstration passes off peacefully in Pristina.

November FRY Telecommunications Ministry bans new Sandzak station, Radio Sjenica, on the grounds that it lacks proper licence. An Albanian SPS deputy in the FRY Assembly is shot and wounded. The KLA claims responsibility. 2 Killed, others wounded, during 2 nights of armed clashes including Kosovar Albanian attack on Serb police

station.

December Adem Demaci sends PKK appeal to KLA to call three-month cease-fire to give a chance to negotiated settlement. Rugova announces parallel elections for 22 March 1998.

1998

January The Council of Europe condemns Serbian repression of the ethnic Albanian population in Kosovo, after security forces had used violence against protesting students in the province in late December.

February The UN further relaxes international sanctions against the FRY, in recognition of its support for the continuing peace process in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

March International arms embargo is imposed on FRY, in response to a major offensive by Serbian forces against the separatist insurgents of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) - up to 80 Kosovars die, some civilians. The Serbian Prime Minister, Marjanovic, announces the establishment of a coalition Government comprising 13 SPS members, four from the Yugoslav United Left and 15 representatives of the SRP, including Seselj, who becomes a deputy Premier.

April The leadership of the 'Republic of Kosovo' Rugova and the DAK, refuse to negotiate with the Serbian President, Milutinovic, reiterating that it will only deal with the federal authorities, and with foreign mediation.

May Milosevic meets Rugova in Belgrade; the US-brokered meeting is followed by the opening of negotiations between delegations from the two sides in Pristina. President Milosevic appoints Bulatovic the federal premier, having dismissed Kontic the previous day (the federal Government had lost a confidence vote); Djukanovic, the President of Montenegro, immediately declares the administration to be illegal. In elections to an enlarged, 78-seat Republican Assembly in Montenegro, For a Better Life, an alliance led by Djukanovic's DPMS, gained an outright majority (42 seats); Bulatovic's Socialist People's Party

of Montenegro won 29 seats.

June The Contact Group threatens the use of force to bring about an end to the fighting in Kosovo and the withdrawal of Serbian troops, which are allegedly attacking civilians. Fighting and attempts at mediation by the international community continue throughout July and August. The new Republican Assembly withdraws all 20 Montenegrin members of the upper Chamber of Republics in the Federal Assembly and replaces them with delegates loyal to Djukavovic, to ensure that President Milosevic could not command the two-thirds majority necessary for constitutional amendments.

July A new Montenegrin Government is appointed, headed by Filip Vujanovic and comprising representatives of the DPMS, the People's Party of Montenegro and the Social-Democratic Party of Montenegro. Milosevic announces that fighting in Kosovo will end, but reports of continued violence, including massacres of civilians and the fall of KLA strongholds, persisted throughout August.

September Yugoslav Airlines (Jugoslovenski Aero-transport - JAT) banned by the EU from flying to its member countries. UN Security Council Resolution 1199 demands an immediate cease-fire in Kosovo, the withdrawal of Serbian troops, unrestricted access for humanitarian aid and meaningful negotiations. The following day NATO forces are placed on stand-by for possible air strikes.

Serbian Government announces the end of military activity in Kosovo and promises amnesty to any remaining KLA members and agrees to establish multi-ethnic Interim Executive Council in the province. There are reports of a new Serbian offensive, in which ethnic Albanian civilians including women and children have been massacred.

October International community issues ultimatum that military force will be employed against FRY unless UN demands met by 27 October. Following intense negotiations between Milosevic and US envoy, Richard Holbrooke, Milosevic agrees to the presence of a 2,000-strong OSCE 'verification force' (the KVM).

The KVM are to monitor implementation of the Security Council's demands, and to NATO surveillance flights in FRY airspace; in return, Serbia would retain sovereignty over Kosovo pending negotiations on autonomy for the province. Serbian National Assembly approves controversial legislation further restricting media freedom. NATO suspends threat of air strikes after President Milosevic agrees to accelerate withdrawal of Serbian troops from Kosovo.

November Talks beginning on 25th result in the "Pristina Declaration".

December Six Serbian schoolboys killed in a cafe on 14th. 30 ethnic Albanians killed, 12 more wounded, attempting to cross illegally into Yugoslavia from Albania with large quantities of arms, also on 14th. Fighting around Pudujevo, north Kosovo, on 22nd - 27th leaves 9 ethnic Albanians dead.

1999

January Eight Yugoslav army conscripts kidnapped by KLA on 9th, released on 13th in return for ethnic Albanians held by Serbs. 45 ethnic Albanians killed during a security operation in Racak on 15th; approximately 2000 people displaced from Racak itself and a further 3300-3500 from surrounding villages. 24 ethnic Albanians killed in Rugovo by Serbian police on 29th.

February Peace talks begin in Rambouillet on 6th. Bomb in Pristina kills 3 people on February 6th. Bomb explodes in Urosevac on 13th, forty arrests made. Fighting around the village of Vucitrn, 16 miles n/w of Pristina, causes 9000 people to flee to neighbouring villages. Sylejman Selimi appointed commander-in-chief of the KLA.

March Peace talks reconvened in Paris on 15th, ethnic Albanians sign peace accord on 18th. Talks suspended on 19th, due to Serb intransigence. KVM depart Kosovo on 20th. Violence reaches Pristina on 22nd. Holbrooke announced on 23rd that last ditch talks with Milosevic have failed to produce an agreement and NATO bombing commences.

April NATO continue their series of air attacks on targets in the FRY throughout the

month. 460,000 ethnic Albanian Kosavar refugees flood into Albania and Macedonia this month. On April 26 EU foreign ministers approve an embargo on oil and refined products to Yugoslavia.

May Throughout May, NATO forces continue air attacks against targets in FRY. On May 7 bombers mistakenly hit the Chinese embassy in Belgrade, killing four Chinese nationals and injuring 20 others. On May 16, Yugoslav troops seize 150 male Kosovo refugees as they try to flee to Albania and Bosnia via Montenegro. Anti-war demonstrations erupt in two towns in southern Serbia May 17. The UN International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia on May 27 announces the indictment of President Milosevic and four other senior Serb leaders on charges of war crimes against humanity.

June On June 3 Milosevic accepts peace plan from EU and UN envoys. Yugoslavia and NATO sign Military Technical Agreement on June 9. NATO secretary announces formal halt to the bombing campaign on June 10. Between June 11-13, K-For troops enter Kosovo. June 20, Yugoslav forces complete withdrawal from Kosovo, many ethnic Serbs leave and ethnic Albanians return to Kosovo. The first major anti-Milosevic rally since the end of the NATO air campaign held in Cacak on June 29. Attended by 10,000 people and led by the Alliance for Change, an umbrella opposition group.

July Bernard Kouchner, appointed head of the UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). Preliminary results of a UNHCR survey of the destruction inside Kosovo released on July 8 found high levels of damage to housing, widespread food shortages, the contamination of water supplies and a serious lack of health facilities. 14 Serb farmers shot dead at a village south of Pristina on July 23. At an EU donor conference on July 28 reports that economic support will be provided for Montenegro, whilst Serbia to receive humanitarian aid only. Anti-government protests continue throughout the month.

August Mounting violence towards Serbian's by ethnic Albanians in Kosovo, forcing thousands of Serbs to flee the capital Pristina. On August 5, Montenegro put

forward proposal to abolish the federation and replace it with an Association of the States of Serbia and Montenegro, a loose "commonwealth". On August 12, President Milosevic brings in new ministers in a government reshuffle to shore up his power base. A rally held on August 19 in Belgrade is attended by over 100,000 anti-Milosevic protesters. The rally is marred by opposition disunity.

September Violence flares in Mitrovica on September 10, when Serbs and Albanians clash in shootings and grenade attacks, which leave dozens injured, including 15 French soldiers. A grenade attack on September 28 on a market south of Pristina leaves two Serbs dead and 40 wounded. The Alliance for Change launches a concerted campaign against Milosevic, which opens with a series of simultaneous rallies in 32 cities and towns, including Belgrade.

October Violence between Serbs and ethnic Albanians continues during October in Kosovo. Mass rallies are held throughout the month in Belgrade and other towns and cities across Serbia. Representatives of Milosevic's Serbian Socialist Party and Montenegro's ruling anti-Milosevic Democratic Party of Socialists meet on October 25 to discuss the future relationship between Serbia and Montenegro.

November The post-war "ethnic cleansing" of Kosovo's Serb population continues throughout November as armed ethnic Albanians roams the province kidnapping and murdering the dwindling minority population of Serbs. Montenegro moves further towards independence from Serbia on November 2 when it adopts the German Mark as its official currency. On November 9 the Serb police attack and beat a number of student demonstrators marching in Belgrade.

December The Yugoslav army seize control of Montenegro's main airport on December 8 for "security reasons". The standoff ends peacefully and flights resume on December 9. China announces on December 9 that it will give aid to FRY to help rebuild its infrastructure destroyed by NATO bombing.

2000

January On January 5, the Deputy Prime Minister of Montenegro calls for a referendum on

independence from Serbia. Sixteen anti-Milosevic parties draw up a unified strategy calling for early elections and street protests. Zeljko Raznatovic (aka. Arkan) war crimes suspect and long term ally of President Milosevic is murdered on January 15.

February On February 7, FRY defence Minister Pavle Bulatovic becomes the latest high ranking victim of the spate of mafia-style killings. Milosevic is re-elected as President of the Socialist Party of Serbia. On February 14, the EU suspends their ban on commercial flights to FRY. A series of violent clashes takes place in the ethnically divided town of Mitrovica, in which 5 ethnic Albanians are killed, and many people including peacekeeping troops sustained injuries. On February 21 a crowd of 60,000 ethnic Albanian marchers attempts to cross the bridge over the Ibar to the Serb held north side of the town. Kfor troops deploy tear gas to restore control. It is suggested that the unrest is being fuelled by Milosevic backed influences. NATO announces plans to increase the troop presence from 30,000 to 37,000. On February 29, a UN worker is shot and wounded by ethnic Albanians while driving near Presevo.

March On March 3, Serbia tightens its blockade on Montenegro. 1000 ethnic Serbs in Kosovo protest in Gnjilane against the murder of a Serb doctor. FRY authorities step up action against independent media in Serbia, destroying equipment and issuing large fines. On March 14, 2,000 army reservists protest against their call-up. On March 15, US Kfor troops conduct raids in eastern Kosovo to close down bases used by the UCMPB, an ethnic Albanian rebel group active in Serbia.

April Ethnic Serbs in Kosovo agree to join Joint Interim Administration Structure (JIAS) as observers. On April 14, the Alliance for Change opposition parties stage a rally in Belgrade, attended by 100,000. A law passed by the upper house in the Serbian parliament paves the way for Milosevic to change the constitution to allow himself to run for a further term as President.

ANNEX B MAIN POLITICAL PARTIES

SERBIA

Alliance of Peasants of Serbia Party: Founded in 1990 originally as Peasants Party of Serbia. President Milomir Banic.

Civic Alliance of Serbia: Contested elections in 1996 in an opposition alliance, known as Zajedno. Leader Vesna Pesic.

Democratic Party (DP): Formed in January 1990, it is one of the two leading opposition parties making up the three members of the Zajedno opposition coalition. Supports free media, market economy, democracy, and was previously supported by Bosnian-Serb leadership. President is Zoran Djindjić.

Democratic Party of Serbia (DPS): Formed in July 1992 by a breakaway, and more nationalistic, faction from the Democratic Party. Supports the full transformation to a democratic society. Led by Vojislav Kostunica.

Democratic Union of Albanians: Founded 1990, President Ali Ahmeti.

Liberal Party: Favours a free market economy, founded in 1989. Leader Predrag M. Vuletic.

New Democracy (ND): Formally part of the opposition group, Depos. Now junior member of ruling Coalition. Business orientated with little

	electoral support. President Dusan Mihailovic.
Nikola Pasic Serbian Radical Party:	Founded in 1995 following a split in the Serbian Radical Party. President Jovan Glamocanin.
Party of Democratic Action:	Party of ethnic Albanians, founded in 1990. Leader Riza Halili.
Party of Serbian Unity:	Ultra Nationalist, party leader was Zeljko Raznjatovic "Arkan". Commander of the 'Tigers' paramilitaries. Holds no seats in parliament.
People's Assembly Party:	Founded in 1992 as Democratic Movement of Serbia (Despos), a coalition of four parties and a party faction; reconstituted as a political party and renamed in 1995. President Slobodan Rakitic.
Preševo-Bujanovac Democrat Coalitions:	
Serbian Liberal Party:	Leader Nikola Milosevic.
Serbian Radical Party (SRS):	Founded in 1990 by Vojislav Šeselj. Hard left national party, which had a paramilitary wing known as the 'White Eagles'.
Serbian Renewal Movement (SPO):	Founded in January 1990 and was one of the two main members of the coalition Zajedno. Favours a multiparty democracy, a market economy, reintroduction of the monarchy

	and freedom for the media, and has a nationalist dimension. President is Vuk Draskovic.
Socialist Party of Serbia (SPS):	Formed in July 1990 from the League of Communists of Serbia and the Social Alliance of Serbia. Nationalist in outlook. Led by President Slobodan Milosevic, Secretary General Gorica Gajevic.
The Yugoslav United Left (JUL):	An alliance of 23 Left-wing organisations. Formed in July 1997. Now part of the governments' left coalition led by Milosevic's wife, Mirjana Markovic.
United Radical Party of Serbia:	Leader Slobodan Jovic.
Yugoslav Green Party:	Founded 1990, open to all citizens regardless of national, religious or racial affiliation. Leader Dragan Jovanovic.

<u>MONTENEGRO</u>

Democratic Alliance of Montenegro:	
Democratic Party of Montenegrin Socialists (DPMS):	Name changed from League of Communists of Montenegro in 1991; supports continued federation; division within the party emerged in mid-1997. Chair. Milo Djukanovic.
Liberal Alliance of Montenegro:	Pro-independence party. Leader Slavko Perovic.

Party of Democratic Action – Montenegro: Slav Muslim party affiliated to the PDA of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Leader Harun Hadzic.

Social-Democratic Party of Montenegro:

Socialist People's Party of Montenegro: Leader Momir Bulatovic. Pro – Milosevic party.

People's Party of Montenegro: Chair Novak Kilibarda.

KOSOVO

Albanian Democratic Movement: Founded in 1998 by former members of the Democratic Alliance of Kosovo, ethnic Albanian party; Chair Redzep Cosja.

Christian Democratic Party (CDP): An Albanian party with close links to the LDK. The party is led by Mark Krasniqi, formerly with the Parliamentary Party of Kosovo. The CDP advocates more extreme methods, but has less maximalist aims than the LDK. This party also boycotts Serbian elections.

Democratic Reform Party of Muslims: Party of left-wing ethnic Muslims. President Azar Zulji.

Lbd (levizja e Bashkuar Demokratike) – United Democratic Movement **Includes the following parties:** **LDSh (Levizja Demokratike Shqiptare) Albanian Democratic Movement** **PPK (see below)** **Albanian Unification Party PUKSh/ UNIKOMBI** **Albanian Liberal Party PLSh** **Albanian National Party PLSh** **Greens** **Albanian Republican Party PLSh**	Coalition, headed by Rexhep Qosja - on good terms with KLA and contains many ex-LDK. Member of JIAS.
LDK (Democratic League of Kosovo aka Democratic Alliance of Kosovo DAK):	Founded December 1989. In September 1991 the party held an unofficial referendum on independence, which had an overwhelming vote in favour. Unofficial elections were held in May 1992 in which the chairman, Dr Ibrahim Rugova was elected President of the Republic (of Kosovo). The party has boycotted every Serbian and Federal election since the Kosovo "elections". Member of JIAS.
LKCK (Levizja Kombetare per Clirimin e Kosoves) - National Movement for the Liberation of Kosovo	KLA - based party, considered the most radical political force in Kosovo.
LPK (Levizja Popullore e Kosoves) People's Movement of Kosovo:	Underground movement which spawned KLA, now mainly of historical interest.
PBD (Partia e Bashkimit Demokratik-	KLA - based party but key figures such as

Democratic Union Party):	Thaci not members
PPDK (Party for a Progressive and Democratic Kosovo):	Party established following the demilitarisation of the KLA, headed by Thaci. Member of JIAS
Parliamentary Party of Kosovo (PPK):	Political wing of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA).
Party of Democratic Action of Kosovo and Metohija (PDA-KM):	Party of ethnic Muslims affiliated to the PDA of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Chair Numan Balic.
Serb Resistance Movement:	Ethnic Serb group, led by Momcilo Trajkovic.
Turkish Democratic Union:	Party representing interests of ethnic Turks.

SANDŽAK

Lista for Sandzak:	A coalition of five ethnic Muslim political parties based in Sandzak, including the PDA-S.
Party of Democratic Action of Sandzak (PDA-S):	A Muslim party, aligned with the Bosnian PDA, and advocates autonomy for the Sandzak region. Chairman, Sulejman Ugljanin.

VOJVODINA

Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians:	Advocates autonomous status for Vojvodina. Founded in 1993 following split in DZVM. Chair Jozsef Kasza.
Coalition Vojvodina:	Leaders Dragan Vaselinov and Nenad Cenak.
Democratic Hungarians: (Demokratska zajednica Vojvodjanskih Madjara – DZVM) Community of Vojvodina	Founded in 1990 and supports interests of ethnic Hungarian minority in Vojvodina. Chair Sandor Pal.
Democratic League of Vojvodina:	
Reform Democratic Party of Vojvodina:	Founded in 1992; President Ratko Filipović.

ANNEX C PROMINENT PEOPLE

Agani, Fehmi	Moderate leader, former Vice President of LDK
Anjelkovic, Milan	Milosevic aide during his rise to power
Artemije, Radosavljevic	Bishop, Head of Serb Orthodox Church in Kosovo, moderate
Balic, Numan	Bosniac member of Transitional Council (KTC).
Bashota, Sokol	Member of KLA political directorate.
Blaku, Rifat	Vice President of PPK.
Bokan, Dragoslav	Ultra-nationalist politician. Serb paramilitary leader.
Brovina, Flora	Kosvar human rights activist, political prisoner in Serbia April 1999
Buja, Rame	Member of KLA political directorate, former member of LDK.
Bukoshi, Bujar	Founder member of LDK with Rugova but since have become rivals. Also bitter rivals with KLA. Prime Minister of parallel Government 1991.
Bulatovic, Momir	Youngest Montenegro Party Chief, later elected President of Montenegro.
Ceku, Agim	Former KLA commander, now heads Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC). Has been cited for war crimes when in Croatian army. Supervised demilitarisation of KLA.
Clark, Wesley	Supreme Allied Commander in Europe (NATO).
Cook, Robin	British Foreign Secretary and joint chairman of the Rambouillet/Paris peace talks.
Cosic, Dobrica	Influential Serbian nationalist writer seen as spiritual father of Serbs. President of FRY from 1992-93.
Demaci, Adem	Leader of the Parliamentary Party of Kosovo until 1998. Relatively moderate, has been critical of Thaci. Influence declining.
Djindjic, Zoran	President of Democratic Party (DP).
Draskovic, Vuk	Charismatic Serbian opposition leader, from nationalist to liberal.
Dukanovic, Milo	President of Montenegro.
Hajrizi, Mehmet	Former LDK leader now in LDSh. Member of Transitional Council.
Haliti, Xhavit	KLA finance specialist
Haxhiu, Baton	Editor of newspaper *Koha Ditore*

Holbrooke, Richard	US Special Envoy.
Hyseni, Hydajet	Leading figure in LBD
Izetbegovic, Alija	Founding leader of the Muslim Party of Democratic Action (SDA). Elected President of the Presidency of Bosnia-Herzegovina after multi-party elections in 1990. Presided over Bosnia's declaration of independence and war.
Kavaja, Burhan Ethnic	Albanian Head of Trepca mine, imprisoned after miners' strike of 1989.
Kostunica, Vojislav	Leader of Democratic Party of Serbia (DPS).
Kosumi, Bajram	Leader of PPK.
Kouchner, Bernard	Special Representative of the Secretary General - Head of UNMIK.
Krasniqi, Mark	Leader of Christian Democratic Party.
Lilic, Zoran	Former President of FRY (from 1993). Took instructions from Milosevic. Now Deputy PM.
Mahmuti, Bardyl	President and founder of PBD(Partia Bashkimit Demokratik - Democratic Union Party.
Markovic, Mirjana	Slobodan Milosevic's wife. Powerful and influential figure. Belgrade university professor. Leader of the JUL.
Mihailovic, Dusan	President of New Democracy (ND), part of ruling coalition in Serbia.
Milosevic, Slobodan	President of FRY.
Mladic, Ratko	General Commander of Bosnian Serb Army from 1992. Previously Commander of Knin Corps. Indicted for war crimes.
Morina, Zef	prominent Christian Democratic Party member.
Qosja, Rexhep	Leader of LDSh and overall leader of LBD coalition. Member of Transitional Council (KTC).
Rakitic, Slobodan	President of Democratic Movement of Serbia (Depos).
Rugova, Ibrahim	LDK founder and President, who advocated peaceful resistance. Principal moderate ethnic Albanian figure in Kosovo.
Rev. Sava Janjic	Aka Father Sava and "Cybermonk". Voice of tolerance. Member of KTC.
Selimi, Rexhep	Prominent KLA member.
Selimi, Sylejman	Former Commander in chief of the KLA, appointed February 1999

Seselj, Vojislav	Ultra-nationalist MP who commanded paramilitary unit during the war. Milosevic named him his favourite politician and helped him create his party. Later jailed him. Now Deputy PM of Serbia.
Shala, Blerim	Editor of magazine "Zeri". Member of KTC.
Shala, Shaban	Founder member of PBD.
Sherifi, Bilall	Close associate of Thaci.
Shukriu, Edi	Member of LDK presidency.
Solevic, Miroslav	Kosovo Serb activist.
Surroi, Veton	Publisher of "Koha Ditore" newspaper. Politically independent. Founder of the PPK, but has been critical of all parties.
Tahiri, Edita	Close associate of Rugova, key LDK figure.
Thaci, Hashim	Key political leader associated with KLA. Now PPK. Was PM of Provisional Government.
Trajkovic, Mocilo	President of Kosovo Serbian Resistance Movement (SPO) Critic of Milosevic, would like to see partition of Kosovo. Member of KTC.
Védrine, Hubert	French foreign minister and joint chairman of the Rambouillet/Paris peace talks.
Vllasi, Azem	Ethnic Albanian Kosovo Party leader. jailed in 1989 after Milosevic pledged to arrest him at mass rally. Released in April 1990.

ANNEX D ABBREVIATIONS

EU	European Union
FRY	Federal Republic of Yugoslavia
IAC	Interim Administrative Council
ICTY	International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia
IMF	International Monetary Fund
JIAS	Joint Interim Administration Structure
JNA	Former Yugoslavia Peoples' Army
JUL	Yugoslav United Left Party
KFOR	Kosovo Force
KLA	Kosovo Liberation Army (aka UCK)
KPC	Kosovo Protection Corps
KPS	Kosovo Police Force (police force with local officers)
KTC	Kosovo Transition Council
KVM	Kosovo Verification Mission
MUP	Serb Special Police
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisations
OSCE	Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe
PPDK	Party for a Progressive and Democratic Kosovo
SDS	Serbian Democratic Party
SFRY	Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia
SPS	Socialist Party of Serbia
SRSG	Special Representative of the (UN) Secretary General
TMK	Albanian abbreviation for KPC
UCK	Ushtria Clirimtare e Kosoves (Albanian for KLA)
UCMPB	Ushtria Clirimtare e Medvedja, Presheve Bujanovac
UN	United Nations
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNIP	United Nations International Police
UNMIK	United Nations Mission in Kosovo
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
VJ	FRY Army

ANNEX E

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