

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES OF RC1 PRIZREN IN RACAK REGION FOR 17 JAN 99

(2) MM 1/5
MM13/B

This report follows that of 16 Jan 99 forwarded under separate cover to KVMHQ.

FRY authorities advised KVM that they would perform an investigation of the alleged massacres in Racak, and were adamant that they required large amounts of security.

Head RC1 with two patrols and one KLA LO arrived in Stimlje 0750h and met DHOM Ops. Situation was explained and discussed. It was agreed that Head RC1 Prizren would take the three armoured vehicles and set them up in the village of Racak.

RC5 vehicles had departed from village to refuel.

Head RC1 spread out the assets within the village and at the entrances/exits. Head RC1 stationed himself on main entrance to village. Two soft skinned vehicles were also sent to Petrovo and one between Petrovo and Racak.

MUP began to build up in Stimlje, on the highway to the North of Racak, and on the high ground to the South-East. There was activity in the bivouac of the VJ tanks and artillery pieces to the North of the position.

DHOM Ops met with Chief of MUP and Presiding Judge (PJ) as of 0930h. There was a steady stream of civilians in, but mostly out of Racak; tensions were high, and KLA presence was overt.

Head RC5 met with local leader of KLA to advise that this was going to take place in any way, and that he should remove his forces. KLA proceeded to reinforce instead of moving out.

DHOM Ops was trying to convince PJ that she should perform her investigation using only unarmed security, and that KVM would escort her throughout the task, including DZ himself.

She refused, and discussion continued until 1100h, when DZ asked for a short time delay to call HOM and remove the Verifiers from the village.

Movement of MUP into the village began without this time being provided, and order was given to move all Verifiers out immediately.

Head RC1 carried this out and all KVM pers were accounted for by 1130h.

MUP advanced with at least two companies into the village supported by BOV and Praha AA. Tanks were in reserve. OSCE pers were some hundred meters from the fire.

At 1130h (after the MUP refused to allow more time), we recv word that KLA were prepared to allow the PJ in the village under the fol conditions:

- MUP would back off hills
- Team would be small, unarmed, and accompanied by Verifiers
- ICTY would be involved
- OSCE could guarantee burial would be allowed within 24 hrs
- Verifiers would then remain in area 24/7

DZ press statement was made at 1150h, and Head RC1 departed with teams at 1230h. Upon departing, more than one platoon more of MUP were moving into positions around the village.

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