

Agency Reports on Threats by 'Liberation Army'

Pristina Kosova Daily Report No 1144 in English 20 May 97

The clandestine group calling itself Ushtria Clirimtare e Kosoves (Liberation Army of Kosova, UCK) has claimed responsibility for killing an Albanian and shooting and wounding two Serb policemen, on 5 and 16 May, respectively. In a press release (~~Communique No 93~~) faxed to the media, the UCK said it killed Hetem Dobruna at the Llozice village of Klina earlier this month, because of his "notorious and open collaboration with the Serbian occupying authorities." The second attack was carried against "the Serbian criminal policemen Miomir Kicovic and Radisav Planic" in the "Lovac" cafe in Skenderaj on 16 May, the UCK said. The message, undersigned by "the HQ of the UCK," said the "Albanian political factors should bring an end to the deceptive propaganda, which has induced false illusions among the people," while warning the international community "not to trade off the Albanian question, as it did early this century". The "UCK's Prishtina unit" issued last week a strongly-worded statement, which has been interpreted by some as more of a warning and threats to the Kosovar Albanians as a whole than to Serbia itself. In it there were threatening messages for the Albanian-language media in Kosova and calls for cessation of payment of the 3 percent income to the Kosova government, which makes up in fact the budget that caters for the system of education and welfare needs for the people of Kosova. The Kosova leadership has expressed doubts over the very existence of the UCK.

Source-Date: 05/20/1997

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo

Topic: TERRORISM

Liberation Army Claims Responsibility for 16 May Attack

Paris AFP in English 20 May 97

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia, May 20 (AFP) -- An underground ethnic Albanian group claimed responsibility Tuesday for an armed attack in which two Serb policemen were wounded in the flashpoint Serbian province of Kosovo, local sources said.

The attack last Friday [16 May] was claimed by a group called the Kosovo Liberation Army (UCK) [OVK in Serbo-Croatian].

The two policemen, in plain clothes, were shot by unidentified gunmen as they left a restaurant in Srbica, 60 kilometres (40 miles) east of the Kosovo capital Pristina.

The Kosovo-based Committee for protection of Human rights said Sunday that "more than 30 innocent Albanians were detained and abused" by the Serbian police.

Ethnic Albanians, who make up some 90 percent of the two-million population of southern Serbian province of Kosovo, want independence from Belgrade's authoritarian rule.

Fourteen Albanians have been killed in apparently political attacks since the beginning of the year, including several known for their loyalty to the Serbian regime.

UCK has claimed responsibility for several armed attacks, but the Kosovo Albanian leaders deny knowledge of its existence.

Source-Date: 05/20/1997 1611 GMT

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo

Topic: TERRORISM

'Liberation Army' Threatens 'Greater Slaughter' Than B-H

Pristina Koha Ditore in Albanian 08 Aug 97 p 3

[Unattributed report: "The Kosova Liberation Army Claims Responsibility for Recent Attacks on the Police"]

In a **communiqué** for the media bearing the **number 35**, the organization calling itself "The Kosova Liberation Army" [UCK] claims responsibility for recent armed incidents in Kosova, in which two Serbian policemen and two Albanian civilians were injured. This communiqué states: "By a decision of the UCK Central Staff made on 3 and 4 August, our guerilla units carried out three armed operations against the occupiers and their collaborators." The organization also claims responsibility for what are called "the assassinations of Ali Qullapeku from Terstenik and Ramiz Leku from Bance near Glogovac [Glogovac]."

The communiqué states: "Because we are dealing with an enemy that understands nothing but the language of force, we are compelled, albeit against our will, to talk down the barrel of a gun, not as 'terrorists,' but as a liberation organization that has set itself the task of fighting mercilessly against the invader and his collaborators until the Albanian lands are totally liberated." The organization also invites the Albanian people and Albanian businessmen to pour funds into the UCK and states: "We invite the occupiers to follow the example of civilized peoples, who have given up their colonies, and to abandon their ambitions of keeping the Albanian lands under occupation." Otherwise, the communiqué further states, "They will fare worse than did the Nazi fascists in World War II and even worse than their Russian brothers in Afghanistan and Chechnya."

The UCK draws the attention of the international community to its "failure to make a tangible commitment to solving the issue of the Albanian lands in the former Yugoslavia." The UCK communiqué concludes by stressing: "You will be forced to intervene after a greater slaughter than in Bosnia-Herzegovina and after the flames of war have engulfed the entire Balkans."

Source-Date: 08/08/1997

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo

Topic: DOMESTIC, POLITICAL, TERRORISM

00038555

UCK Claims Responsibility for Attacks on Police Stations

Pristina Kosova Daily Report No 1258 in English 20 Oct 97

A clandestine group calling itself "Ushtria Clirimtare e Kosoves" (UCK) (Liberation Army of Kosova) has claimed responsibility for a couple of attacks at the Serbian police stations and a settlement of Slavic refugees.

In communique faxed to the media, the UCK said that it had carried out (without specifying the time) attacks at "Gerlica of Ferizaj [Urosevac], Balince of Kline [Klina], Baballoq of Decan [Decani], and Qellopek and Kliqine of Peje [Pec]."

The Serb media reported last week about alleged attacks at Serb police stations in Kliqine and Qellopek village of Peje, as well as about an attack at a settlement of Serb and Montenegrin refugees at Baballoq village of Decan. There were no reports, however, about any attacks or incidents at the two other places, at Gerlice of Ferizaj and Balince of Kline, as included in the UCK communique.

The message, undersigned by "the HQ of the UCK" said that "in the night between 15 and 16 October, in a fire exchange between members of an UCK unit and the Serb police forces, the warrior Adrian Krasniqi died heroically." Conveying condolences to the family of Adrian Krasniqi the message said that it (UCK) "vows to carry on with struggle for liberation of the country, and to avenge Adrian and other comrades."

The message further notes that "being unable to apprehend units of our army, the occupier has launched campaigns of retaliation and terror against the unprotected and unarmed civil population." The communique appeals on the "decision-making centers of international community to undertake concrete measures against the Serbian terror on the civil population."

In similar fax messages bearing neither the date nor the place they were sent from, the alleged Ushtria Clirimtare e Kosoves (UCK) has over this and last year claimed responsibility for attacks against members of the Serbian police in Kosova and Albanians dubbed as "collaborators of the Serbian regime in Kosova."

The Kosova leadership has expressed doubts over the existence of the UCK.

Source-Date: 10/20/1997

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo

Topic: TERRORISM

UCK Claims Responsibility for Attack on Serb Party Mem

Tirana TVSH Television Network in Albanian 24 Nov 97

Through a public communique issued today, the Liberation Army of Kosova [UCK] claimed responsibility for the 18 November wounding of Qamil Gashi, a Serbian Socialist Party official of the Glogovc [Glogovac] municipality.

The communique stressed that every collaborator who, in this or that form, causes harm to the Albanian national issue is to suffer. The communique also calls on the Serbian occupier to get away from the Albanian territories as soon as possible and informs the international community that self-defense of our soil is a sacred obligation of every Albanian.

Source-Date: 11/24/1997 1735 GMT

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo

Topic: DOMESTIC, POLITICAL, TERRORISM

Kosovo Liberation Army Issues Communique on Armed Attacks

Pristina Bujku in Albanian 05 Dec 97 p 10

[Unattributed report: "Kosova Liberation Army Claims Responsibility for Armed Attacks"]

A fax reached our editorial office yesterday containing **Communique No. 40** of the Kosova Liberation Army [UCK] and signed by the "Central Staff of the UCK." The communique states: "By a decision of the Central Staff, armed units of the UCK continued their liberation operations during November.

"On the evening of 11 November, a hand-grenade attack was carried out against the house of Tomcic, the Serbian-imposed chairman of the commune of Podujeve, in the village of Tashec near Kursumlija, in Operational Zone No. 5.

"Our armed units also conducted other liberation operations between 25 and 28 November in Operational Zone No. 1.

"On 25 November, our units opened fire and repulsed a Serbian police patrol in the village of Vojnike. On the same day, the police wounded the 11-year-old child Babri Krasniqi.

"On the morning of 26 November, on receiving reports that the police were to undertake a punitive expedition in the villages of Drenice, our armed units took up positions at Kryqat e Pupit. Our units opened fire at the moment when the Serbian expedition came within range, and a battle lasting several hours ensued. During the afternoon, our units took the upper hand. The police fled in panic, leaving behind two men dead and several wounded, as well as ammunition and other police equipment. The UCK units that took part in this battle suffered no losses. In despair at the losses they had suffered, the police shot in the direction of some houses during their retreat. Halit Gecaj was wounded, and later died, and Shaban Rrecaj was also injured. Material damage was also caused.

"On 26 November, a special UCK unit attacked Golesh aerodrome. A Cessna 310 airplane was hit and brought down, and five enemies were killed. The unit returned to its base without losses.

"On 27 November, the police station at Irzniq was attacked. The Serbian policeman Dragan Davidovic was killed and two others were wounded. These were Zeljko Lutovac and Zarko Milosevic, officers of the federal police.

"On the evening of 28 November, Dalip Dugolli, a collaborator and one of Milosevic's most trusted men, was killed in the village of Petreshice near Shtime [Stimlje].

"We make it clear to the Albanian people that the UCK was born as a necessity of the times and its sole goal is the liberation of our territories. It has not introduced itself to the public indoors or at a roundtable, but by turning the barrel of a gun against the invader and traitors. Those in the failed pacifist movement must now realize that Kosova and the other Albanian territories will not be liberated down the telephone or from an office, but only by a serious commitment in support of the armed struggle. Our public appearance at the burial of our beloved schoolteacher Halit Gecaj on 28 November was not by chance but was an appeal to all those who genuinely wish to commit themselves to the liberation of Kosova. We appeal to the government of Kosova and especially to Prime Minister Bukoshi not to speak in obscure and isolated phrases, but to hand over the funds collected for the liberation of Kosova to the representatives of the UCK. In discussing the status of Kosova and the Albanian people who live divided on their own lands, the

UCK will not recognize any agreement that excludes its own representatives from the talks. The UCK will announce its representatives to the public at the proper time.

"Our rallying-cry to all Albanians is: Help our comrades at all times, and help the fund for the liberation of Kosova!

"We make it clear once again to the occupiers of our land that as long as they communicate with our people in the language of violence and crime, we will respond, but with greater force.

"We repeat to the international centers that are interested in this peninsula that our struggle is a just struggle of liberation. It is the occupier who is waging a war of terrorism. We think that the time of the resolutions that you vote for, but which put no obligation on the Serbian terrorists, is now over. Your direct commitment to a fair solution of the Albanian cause will mean a commitment to a final solution of the Balkan knot.

"Glory to the martyrs of the nation."

Thus concludes the communique, which is dated 3 December.

Source-Date: 12/05/1997

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo

Topic: TERRORISM, DOMESTIC, POLITICAL

U0038559

UCK Communique Claims 'Armed Attacks' in Kosovo, FYROM

Pristina Bujku in Albanian 08 Jan 98 p 5

[Unattributed report: "We Carried Out Armed Attacks in TwoZones"]

Communique No. 41 of the Kosova Liberation Army [UCK], signed by the Central Staff of this Army, reached our editorial offices by fax yesterday. It states:

"On 25 November 1997, units of the UCK carried out two armed attacks against the Serbian police in Operational Zone No. 1, one in the village of Zakute near Podujeve, in which a police car was attacked, and a second in which the Serbian police station in Podujeve was attacked. Material damage was done to the enemy.

"On the orders of the Central Staff, armed operations also started in Operational Zone No. 2.

"On 16 December 1997, the building of the anti-Albanian court in FYROM [The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia] was attacked with explosives, causing material damage.

"On 4 January 1998, the police stations in Kumanovo and Prilep were also attacked with explosives. On this occasion, several police vehicles were destroyed, and other material damage was caused.

"The military units taking part in these operations then withdrew without casualties," the communique concludes.

Source-Date: 01/08/1998

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo, FYROM

Topic: TERRORISM, INTERNATIONAL, POLITICAL

Liberation Army Communique Claims Attacks on Police

Pristina Bujku in Albanian 28 Feb 98 p 1

[Unattributed report: "A Series of Attacks Undertaken Against the Serbian Police"]

A fax reached our Editorial Office yesterday containing **Communique No. 42**, signed by the Central Staff of the Kosova Liberation Army [UCK], which states:

"On the decision of the UCK Central Staff, our armed units undertook a series of attacks against forces of the Serbian police and their collaborators during January and February,

"On the morning of 22 January, Serbian military and police forces attacked the Jashari family in the village of Prekaz in Drenice, and wounded two members of this family. On the alarm being raised, our units went to the aid of the Jashari family, and forced the Serbian terrorist forces to retreat.

"On 23 January 1998, our units carried out an attack on the criminal Desimir Vasic, a close collaborator of Arkan.

"On 24 January, an attack was launched against the Serbian police in Malisheve, and two policemen were wounded.

"During January, armed attacks were also launched in Obiliq, Dellove near Kline, Ferizaj [Urosevac], and Podujeve.

"On 13 February 1998, Mustafe Kurti, a collaborator with the occupier, was liquidated.

"On 19 February, the criminal Nebojsa Cvejic, a member of the Serbian police force, was liquidated at Luzhan near Podujeve.

"The communique containing a threat to the Albanian prime minister, fabricated by anti-Albanian circles and released in the name of the UCK, is not ours and is invalid.

"Media propaganda has created a psychosis of insecurity, whose purpose is to scare the people. We ask the Albanian people not to give in to the terrorist attacks of the Serbian military and police forces, but to join our units.

"We welcome the increased interest of the international community and especially US and Franco-German diplomacy, and declare that a solution to the Albanian question cannot be confined to the present borders of Kosova. The question requires an overall solution, including the Albanians in their territories that have been occupied by 'Macedonia' and Montenegro. We thank the Danish institutions for their initiative and the invitation they have issued to us. We will look at the possibility of authorizing one person to put forward our platform at this meeting." Thus ends Communique No. 42 of the UCK Central Staff.

Source-Date: 02/28/1998

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo

Topic: DOMESTIC, POLITICAL, TERRORISM

UCK Issues Communique on 'Battle' in Drenice

Pristina Bujku in Albanian 04 Mar 98 p 11

[Unattributed report: "Serbian Police Massacre Albanian Civilians"]

A fax has reached our Editorial Board in Switzerland containing a communique from the Kosova Liberation Army [UCK], numbered 43 and signed by the UCK Central Staff. It states:

"After several weeks of siege in Drenice, a bitter armed confrontation began on 27 February between the forces of the Kosova Liberation Army and Serbian military and police forces.

"There were bitter clashes in this battle, sometimes with hand-to-hand fighting. Our forces encountered Serbian forces at Polac, Llaushe [Lausa], Likoshan, Qirez, and dozens of villages of Drenice.

"Dozens of Serbian enemies were killed and injured in the clashes. Our units captured large quantities of military equipment and disabled dozens of the enemy's motor vehicles and one helicopter.

"During its retreat, the Serbian military and police force massacred dozens of Albanian civilians. We express our condolences to the families of the fallen. The UCK swears by the blood to wreak revenge many times over.

"In the course of the engagements, three members of UCK units were wounded, one of them seriously.

"The entire population of martyred Drenice united with the liberation forces during the four-day operations of the UCK's military units.

"The population of martyred Drenice, this region of Azem and Shote Galica, Ahmet Delia, Shaban Polluzha, Rifat Berisha, and Tahir Meha [Albanian activists of the 1920's to 1981] again showed their superb bravery in the fighting.

"Albanian people, we know that you are in a dreadful plight, harassed, persecuted, and surrounded by an occupation force of hundreds of thousands, but we are sure that we win with our will of steel and our high military morale.

"After these difficult but glorious days, we showed who is the master of this land. The UCK will continue its liberation struggle. We can only win this struggle if we are united. The armed forces of the UCK are in a state of alertness, ready to strike at the enemy until we win.

"The UCK appeals to all able-bodied Albanians who can liberate the country to join our units fighting in the field, to make Kosova a no-go area for the enemy.

"Death to enemies and traitors!

"Glory to those who have fallen for freedom!"

Thus ends Communique Number 43 of the UCK Central Staff, dated 2 March 1998.

Source-Date: 03/04/1998

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

U0038562

Country: Kosovo

Topic: DOMESTIC, POLITICAL, TERRORISM, HUMAN RIGHTS

Tanjug Condemns Kosovo Liberation Army Statement

Belgrade Tanjug in English 2151 GMT 04 Mar 98

Pristina, Yugoslavia, March 4 (Tanjug) -- An ethnic Albanian terrorist separatist organisation calling itself the Kosovo Liberation Army has admitted involvement in an ambush of a police patrol in the Drenica area in this Serbian province five days ago.

The organisation forwarded a statement to this effect to the office of the Albanian-language Bujku newspaper in Switzerland, and the daily carried it in its Wednesday issue.

The terrorist group said there had been a sharp clash between its forces and Serbian military police in the Drenice area, in the course of which "dozens of Serbian enemies" had been killed and wounded and large quantities of arms and munitions seized.

It added that dozens of motor vehicles and a helicopter had been knocked out of action, and put the group's casualties at three wounded, one of them seriously.

The organisation added that the local population of the Drenica area had joined in the battle on the side of the terrorists.

The people of the area are praised as heroic people "continuing the struggle of Azem and Shota Galitsa, Shaban Poluzha and Ahmet Delisa," notorious Ballistas of the fascist period.

The statement speaks volumes about the terrorist and criminal character of ethnic Albanian separatist organisations in the Yugoslav republic of Serbia's Kosovo-Metohija province.

It effectively refutes statements from some countries, especially in German and U.S. press, and in some media in Yugoslavia, that police attacks on ethnic Albanians were unprovoked.

It is quite clear from the statement, too, who has provoked the bloodshed and why.

Any other explanation after this statement which was issued by the terrorists themselves could be nothing else but explicit support for the terrorist crimes.

Source-Date: 03/04/1998

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo

Topic: POLITICAL, INTERNATIONAL, TERRORISM, CONFLICT

U0038564

More on UCK's Threat of 'Multiple Vengeance'

Paris AFP (North European Service) in English 1135 GMT 04 Mar 98

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia, March 4 (AFP) -- The clandestine Albanian separatist movement Kosovo Liberation Army (UCK) has vowed "multiple vengeance for the innocent deaths" in the Serbian region's central Drenica area, in a statement published Wednesday.

Last weekend, 25 ethnic Albanians were killed in Drenica in clashes with Serbian police.

"We swear by the blood (of the victims) that the UCK will take revenge by multiple means," the UCK said in a statement published in the Albanian-language daily Bujku.

The UCK confirmed that its "units" had clashed with Serbian police and armed forces four days ago in some 15 villages in Kosovo's Drenica region and captured "a large amount of military equipment, a dozen vehicles and a (police) helicopter."

All the Albanians killed were "innocent civilians," the UCK said, adding that its men suffered several injured.

The UCK said dozens of "Serbian enemies" were killed in the four days of clashes and that Serbian police forces had "massacred dozens of Albanian civilians."

Serbian authorities said that 16 "Albanian terrorists" and four policemen were killed in the Drenica clashes.

On Monday and Tuesday, 25 Albanian victims of the clashes were buried in the Drenica region, Albanian sources said.

The UCK, a group that wants the province to secede, has claimed responsibility for numerous deadly attacks against Serbian civilians and Albanians loyal to the Belgrade regime.

Source-Date: 03/04/1998

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo

Topic: DISSENT, DOMESTIC, HUMAN RIGHTS, POLITICAL

U0038565

Albanian Separatist UCK Vows 'Multiple Vengeance'

Paris AFP (North European Service) in English 1057 GMT 04 Mar 98

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia, March 4 (AFP) -- The clandestine Albanian separatist movement UCK [Liberation Army of Kosova] in Kosovo has vowed "multiple vengeance for the innocent deaths" in the Serbian region's central Drenica area, in a statement published Wednesday. On Saturday, 26 ethnic Albanians were killed in Drenica in clashes with Serbian police.

Source-Date: 03/04/1998

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo

Topic: DISSENT, DOMESTIC, HUMAN RIGHTS, POLITICAL

UCK Staff Issues Communique on Military 'Engagements'

Pristina Bujku in Albanian 11 Mar 98 p 11

[Unattributed report: "We Ask World Capitals To Recognize the State of Kosova"]

A fax containing **Communique No. 45** of the Kosova Liberation Army [UCK], signed by the UCK Central Staff and dated 9 March, arrived at our Editorial Office yesterday.

The communique reads as follows:

"In the last few days since 7 March, our armed forces have clashed on a broad front with formations of the occupying Serbian military and police forces and Chetnik volunteers.

"Military confrontations stretch across a wide front, extending from Gillogoc [Glogovac] in the direction of Skenderaj [Srbica] in the north, toward Kline, toward Mitrovice in the east, and in the villages along the Cicavice ridge from Gillogoc in the direction of Prishtina, including many villages in the Drenice region.

"The UCK's military formations also engaged occupation forces in the Llap region, in the area between Decan, Gjakove [Djakovica], and Kline, and between Malisheve and Rahovec [Orahovac], crossing from the Lumihat region. There were also engagements on a line stretching from Decan to Peje [Pec].

"The UCK fought the invader's forces and succeeded in breaking through the enemy's lines on several fronts against police and military sieges, inflicting heavy losses on the enemy's military, police, and volunteer forces and considerable material damage. A great deal of military equipment was also captured, which is now at the disposal of the UCK.

"The UCK Central Staff informs political forces abroad and international institutions and organizations, especially the Contact Group, which is meeting in London today, the EU, the United Nations, and all democratic states, that the UCK and the Albanian people will continue their liberation struggle on the basis of their historical determination for independence.

"We ask the world capitals to recognize the state of Kosova and to punish the Serbian occupier on the basis of international conventions of war, because Serbia's fascist war to annihilate the Albanian people is now plain.

"We ask that the Albanian media come to the scenes of the events and to report the situation on the front lines realistically. Albanian Television has spread disinformation and has distorted the UCK's communiqués, while some of the other media have ignored them. Any failure to broadcast the army's communiqués in time of war is a serious dereliction of responsibility to the struggle that our nation is waging," the communique states among other things.

Source-Date: 03/11/1998

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo

Topic: DOMESTIC, POLITICAL, HUMAN RIGHTS, CONFLICT

U0038567

UCK Urges International Recognition of 'State of Kosovo'

Zagreb HINA in English 1126 GMT 11 Mar 98

Pristina, 11 Mar (HINA) -- An illegal Albanian organisation calling itself the Kosovo Liberation Army (OVK) [UCK -- Albanian] warned the Contact Group, the European Union, the United Nations, and democratic states that the "OVK and the Albanian people will continue the liberation struggle for Kosovo's independence."

In a statement published by Bujku, Pristina's daily in Albanian, on Wednesday, the OVK among else asks that international factors recognise the state of Kosovo and punish the Serbian regime which is trying to exterminate the Albanian people with its intervention in the southern Yugoslav province of Kosovo.

Source-Date: 03/11/1998

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo

Topic: DOMESTIC, POLITICAL, HUMAN RIGHTS, TERRORISM

UCK 'Determined To Continue the Struggle' for Kosovo

Paris AFP (North European Service) in English 0028 GMT 11 Mar 98

Pristina, Yugoslavia, March 11 (AFP) -- The Kosovo Liberation Army (UCK) said late Tuesday it would not give up its fight for the independence of the Albanian-populated southern Serbian province and urged local political leaders to join it.

The UCK, whose chief Adem Jeshari Serb police claimed to have killed in last week's fighting in the province's central region of Drenica, also called for international recognition of Kosovo as a separate state.

In a statement issued here, the UCK said it had inflicted losses on the police in the clashes, which saw scores of people killed, including women and children, and captured materiel which it was now using.

Belgrade insists that its drive against the UCK in Drenica was aimed only against "terrorists." "We demand that the international community recognise Kosovo as a state and punish the Serb conqueror according to international conventions of war," the UCK said.

Accusing the Serbs of embarking on "a fascist campaign to wipe out the Albanian people," the statement added: "The UCK warns the Contact Group, the European Union and the UN that it is determined to continue the struggle for the liberation of Kosovo."

It accused Albanian political leaders in the province of carrying out a "pernicious policy of demobilisation" and said they should join the UCK's armed struggle.

Meanwhile one of those political leaders rejected as "hypocrisy" a call from Belgrade for dialogue to resolve the current unrest in Kosovo.

Adam Demaci, head of the Kosovo Parliamentary Party, said: "We cannot discuss normally under these conditions, under this reign of terror with a knife at our throat.

"This Serb proposal is pure hypocrisy."

The Serbian government called Tuesday on representatives of the ethnic Albanians, who are a majority in Kosovo but a minority nationally, to join an "open dialogue" for solving all concrete issues in the province.

The call was issued as Belgrade came under heavy international pressure following a decision by the six-nation Contact Group to recommend that the United Nations step up sanctions against it. Nait Zeka of the main Albanian political party, the Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK), earlier told AFP the Albanians "will surely respond to a call if a dialogue is unconditional, with the mediation of the Contact Group, and envisages a certain time limit."

"However, everything depends on what is behind this call," Zeka said.

The Serbian government said that a dialogue "is the only way for developing political processes aimed to solve" the situation in the province.

It added that Serbia "makes a clear difference between terrorists and members of the ethnic Albanian minority" and called on "responsible" Albanians to distance themselves from terrorists and condemn terrorism.

Demaci added: "From the beginning the Albanians have favoured dialogue, but the Serb regime has instead only offered terror, insisting on conditions like the acceptance of the Serbian Constitution."

"Only the weak and the cowardly" would accept such a proposal, Demaci said, adding: "If I were (LDK head) Ibrahim Rugova I would demand that the situation in the province be restored to normal first before agreeing to talk."

Milo Djukanovic, the president of Montenegro, Serbia's junior partner in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, also called on his Serbian counterpart Milan Milutinovic to launch an urgent unconditional dialogue with the Kosovo Albanians.

"The bloodshed in Kosovo must end immediately, the fighting must give way to politics.... the use of police to resolve the situation must be replaced by a top-level dialogue between the president of Serbia and the Albanian leadership in Kosovo, immediately and without conditions," Djukanovic said.

"A start must be made without delay on resolving the problem of Kosovo, which has been neglected and naively under-estimated for too long," Djukanovic said, quoted by the independent BETA news agency.

He condemned "political irresponsibility" which had meant that "a large section of our citizens live in isolation, on the fringe of the state, where a minimum of loyalty is ensured by the apparatus of constraint."

He said that it was a long time since the Albanian problem had been exclusively Serbian, and welcomed plans to send a mission of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) under former Spanish prime minister Felipe Gonzalez.

The Montenegrin leader, who also wants his state to come out from under Serbia's shadow, added however that terrorism should be clearly condemned by the international community. He also said that Albanian dreams of secession were an illusion and had no serious support.

Source-Date: 03/11/1998

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo

Topic: CONFLICT, DOMESTIC, HUMAN RIGHTS, POLITICAL

UCK Opposes Holding Elections Until After 'Liberation'

Pristina Koha Ditore in Albanian 18 Mar 98 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Kosova Liberation Army Calls For Cancellation of 22 March Elections"]

Communique No. 46 issued by the Central Staff of the Kosova Liberation Army [UCK] states among other things that "In spite of the appeals addressed by the UCK to the legal political parties and their leaders to switch to the side of the liberation struggle, these parties have done nothing in response but have announced parliamentary elections on 22 March."

The UCK Central Staff considers Ibrahim Rugova's position on postponing the elections in Drenice to be "divisive," because, the communique continues, "The state of emergency is throughout Kosova."

The UCK, on the basis of "the military situation that has been created," calls for the cancellation of the announced elections and asks the people to boycott them and "to join the ranks of the UCK." "The UCK Central Staff will only accept elections after the country's liberation," UCK Communique No. 46 concludes.

Source-Date: 03/18/1998

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo

Topic: DOMESTIC, POLITICAL, TERRORISM, HUMAN RIGHTS

Kosovo Liberation Army Calls For Election Boycott

Paris AFP (North European Service) in English 0954 GMT 18 Mar 98

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia, March 18 (AFP) -- The Kosovo Liberation Army (UCK), accused of terrorism by Belgrade, on Wednesday called for a boycott of elections which the province's Albanian political leaders plan to hold Sunday.

In a communique published by the daily **Koha Ditore**, the UCK said the elections must be postponed because of the "state of emergency in Kosovo and the state of war in Drenica," the central region where at least 80 people have been killed since the end of February in a Serb police crackdown on suspected UCK extremists.

If the elections go ahead, the UCK said it would call on the population to boycott them and rally to the UCK.

"The UCK will not recognise elections until the country has been liberated," the communique said, which accused Kosovo "president" Ibrahim Rugova of "sowing discord" among the province's ethnic Albanian population. [passage omitted]

Source-Date: 03/18/1998

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo

Topic: CONFLICT, DOMESTIC, POLITICAL

UCK Communique Reports Successes in 'Extensive Fighting'

Pristina Koha Ditore in Albanian 13 May 98 p 6

[Communique No. 47 issued by the Kosova Liberation Army in Pristina on 12 May: "Our Army Has Broken the Enemy's Attacks and Is Extending the Liberated Areas"]

During March, April, and the first part of May, the Albanian people's struggle against the Serbian invader continued and grew stronger under the leadership of the Kosova Liberation Army [UCK]. On the orders of the UCK General Staff, successive operations against the invasion troops were carried out in Operational Zone No. 1, that is, in the operational subzones of Drenice [Drenica], Erenik, Dukagjin [Dugadzini], Pashtrik [Patrik], and Llap [Lap]. In the course of bitter fighting on the front, the invading forces suffered major human and material losses. Throughout this period, operations were also carried out against Albanian collaborationists, who, despite earlier warnings, did not abandon their antinational courses of action.

In the subzone of Erenik, several successful operations were carried out against the invader in Gillogjan [Glodjane], Babaloc [Babloc], and Hulaj. Our forces waged a bitter struggle against the enemy throughout this period. Our Army has broken the enemy's attacks and is continuing successfully to fight to defend and extend the liberated areas.

In the operational subzone of Dukagjin, our military operations against the invader have been intensified. Several important operations were carried out throughout this period and the line of resistance against the enemy was extended as far as Kijeve [Kijevo], thus extending the front and linking our forces in this subzone to our military formations in the operational subzone of Drenice. Successful operations against the enemy were also carried out in the operational subzone of Llap, in Prishtina [Pristina], and in Podujeve [Podujevo].

There was also extensive fighting in the operational subzone of Drenice. The front line is being strengthened and extended every day in favor of our liberation forces. The enemy's positions are being incessantly hit, and some have been annihilated, as at Buroje. Fighting has also taken place in region No. 1 of this subzone.

In a lightning action by our military formations, an operation against the enemy's punitive expeditions on the main road in the operational subzone of Pashtrik was successfully carried out. We warn the invaders of the harmful role they are playing with regard to their own population, by manipulating them for their own terrorist purposes against our people. Serbian paramilitary formations have attacked our armed forces, and this has required us to retaliate with success. Serbian paramilitaries have been captured, disarmed, and released. The enemy has suffered severe physical and material losses in the battles against the enemy. The enemy is trying at all costs to minimize these losses.

During this fighting, the following fighters fell heroically at their posts:

Adem Jashari, Besim Jashari, Beqir Rexhepi, Besim Halilaj, Hamit Jashari, Rexhep Rexhepi, Gazmend Mehmetaj, Agron Mehmetaj, Artim Jashari, Osman Geci, Shaban Jashari, Hamez Jashari, Him Haradinaj, Fitim Jashari, Ramiz Jashari, and Ilir Konoshevc.

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We express our condolences to the families of our fallen warriors, so that they may turn their grief to strength.

Under the new circumstances that have arisen, in accordance with our operational goals outlined in our Political Declaration No. 2, and on the basis of reports by our intelligence service on the movements of the enemy's troops and their strategic positions, we have undertaken several military operations of a broader nature, under a decision by the UCK General Staff, in order to eliminate these important enemy targets in some operational subzones of Operational Zone No. 1.

Several attacks are now under way against the enemy's positions in Regions Three and Four of the operational subzone of Drenice. We appeal to our people to remain in their own territories and to act according to circumstances, in contact with our military formations.

Source-Date: 05/13/1998

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo

Topic: DOMESTIC, HUMAN RIGHTS, POLITICAL, TERRORISM

UCK Urges Contributions for 'War,' Names Spokesman

Pristina Bujku in Albanian 12 Jun 98 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Kosova Liberation Army Policy Statement-- The People Organized in the UCK Are Waging War"]

A media statement issued as **Policy Statement No. 3** of the Kosova Liberation Army [UCK] arrived at our editorial office yesterday. The statement says:

The Albanian people are not carrying on the armed resistance in Kosova as unorganized citizens who are just defending their own homes but as people organized in the UCK, led by the General Staff, who are fighting for freedom, liberation, and unity; for honor and for human and national dignity. The General Staff of the UCK believes the situation is serious, with many great and unpredictable dangers, and that its solution requires determination, boldness, and treatment as a serious issue. It requires that Albanians coordinate their opinions and activities in the service of national liberation and national unity.

The UCK invites all Albanian people wherever they live to unite around the flag of Skenderbeg by courageously and resolutely rising above all the barriers that are obstructions to unity, such as regionalism, religion, parties, and ideology. Today, more than ever, we must come closer to each other and unite. The fatherland above all.

The UCK General Staff is calling upon all fellow Albanians, and those outside the country with financial resources to contribute to the Fund for National Liberation and Unity, "The Homeland Is Calling." The General Staff invites the Bukoshi government to give the money contributed by the people to our war of liberation, since without liberation, there will be no independence, freedom, or unity. Those who have the means to help freedom and liberation and do not do so take upon themselves a great historic responsibility. Our struggle for freedom and national liberation has entered a new phase that is characterized by its quality, massiveness, and expanse. This has made it necessary for the UCK General Staff to communicate more frequently with the domestic and international media by means of various forms of public presentation. The purpose of this is to eliminate misunderstanding and prevent unauthorized and irresponsible statements by incompetent individuals. The UCK General Staff has decided to appoint Professor Jakup Krasniqi as its spokesman. Professor Jakup Krasniqi was born on 1 January 1951 in the village of Negroc in Drenice [Drenica], where he still lives.

[Signed] The General Staff of the Kosova Liberation Army, Pristina, 11 June 1998.

Source-Date: 06/12/1998

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo

Topic: MILITARY, CONFLICT, DOMESTIC, POLITICAL

More on UCK Plans for 'Decisive Confrontation' With Serbs

Paris AFP (North European Service) in English 19 Jun 98

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia, June 19 (AFP) -- The clandestine Kosovo Liberation Army (UCK) is preparing for a "decisive confrontation" with Serbia, the separatist group said in a **communiqué released Friday** [19 June] in Kosovo's capital.

"The UCK is working to set up the conditions for a general mobilization which will finally enable the (ethnic-Albanian) people to carry out a decisive confrontation with the enemy," it said.

"The UCK has forced the enemy to withdraw in a number of places and controls large parts of territory in Kosovo," it continued.

The statement said two of its militia men had died in recent operations, while it had captured five Serbian security force members.

Albanian political groups were told to get involved in the "fight for freedom", and distance themselves from the "politics of lies" and mutual suspicion.

"If this appeal rests unanswered it could lead to anarchy and to fratricidal conflicts," the statement said in a clear challenge to the moderate Kosovar leader Ibrahim Rugova.

Rugova had earlier Friday expressed public concern over the UCK's activities for the first time, saying that the group should be brought "under control" of ethnic Albanian political groups.

The UCK "should be responsible for their actions, and they should be responsible for the situation in Kosovo", he said.

The underground UCK is considered a "terrorist" organisation by Belgrade, which launched a brutal crackdown in late February with the aim of targeting Albanian separatists.

Thousands have been driven from their homes and more than 300 killed in subsequent Serb operations in the majority-Albanian province.

Source-Date: 06/19/1998 2004 GMT

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo

Topic: CONFLICT, INTERNATIONAL, POLITICAL, MILITARY

UCK Describes Successes, Deplores 'Party Divisions'

Pristina Koha Ditore in Albanian 13 Jul 98 p 2

[Unattributed report: "The People Should Not Fall Prey to Party Divisions, But Join the Kosova Liberation Army"]

Prishtina, 12 Jul -- The Information Directorate of the Kosova Liberation Army [UCK] stresses in its **Communique No. 49** that "the struggle in Kosova between the UCK and the invading Serbian military and police forces has assumed wider operational dimensions. UCK units are harvesting considerable successes, bringing under control and retaining many strategically important points and facilities of vital importance for Kosova's future. Measures have also been taken against certain diehard collaborators, who are still working against our national interests. Operations are under way to reinforce and extend the positions under the control of our forces in the subzones of Pashtrik, Llap, Drenice, Karadak, and Dukagjin within Operational Zone No. 1. "Our formations have successfully carried out large-scale operations in the subzone of Pashtrik. Many occupation troops have been killed and wounded and the occupation forces have suffered considerable damage to their equipment and military hardware.

"There has also been fierce fighting between our formations and enemy troops in the subzone of Drenice. Our forces have made significant progress in strengthening and expanding the extent of their control in certain areas of this subzone.

"In the operational subzone of Llap, the UCK's rapid deployment units carried out operations of particular importance in Prishtina, Podujeve, Shale [Sala], and Bardh i Madh [Belasevac].

"In the course of these military operations, the occupying troops suffered serious losses in manpower, as well as material and technical losses. Three soldiers of our forces were killed. Our formations have also undertaken successful operations in the subzone of Karadak. Our formations are reinforcing their positions with the aim of launching offensive operations.

"UCK formations are also carrying our extensive operations in the subzone of Dukagjin, where there are many dead and wounded among the enemy troops. In this fighting, four of our soldiers fell on the field of honor. Our formations are making progress in expanding the liberated territories.

"Albanian people, on the basis of the serious situation in which we as a people find ourselves, the UCK General Staff calls on the Albanian people not to fall prey to the disgraceful divisions among various legal political parties of Kosova. The UCK General Staff appeals for unity and resistance and for stronger unity with the UCK, which is the whole of the armed forces of Kosova.

"We ask our compatriots, wherever they live and work, to pay their contributions for the liberation of Kosova into the 'Homeland Calls' fund.

"We appeal to Bukoshi's government to release the funds collected for the liberation of Kosova and to pay them immediately into the 'Homeland Calls' fund. We welcome the diplomatic commitment of the international community, especially the United States, to the struggle in Kosova, but ask for this commitment to be more urgent and concrete. This would contribute to peace and stability in Kosova and beyond."

Thus ends Communique No. 49 of the UCK General Staff.

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Source-Date: 07/13/1998

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo

Topic: DOMESTIC, POLITICAL, HUMAN RIGHTS, CONFLICT

EU Expresses 'Alarm' at Growing Support for UCK in Kosovo

Paris AFP (North European Service) in English 0922 GMT 13 Jul 98

Brussels, July 13 (AFP) -- The European Union on Monday voiced alarm at growing support for armed separatist rebels in the Serbian province of Kosovo.

Austrian Foreign Minister Wolfgang Schuessel said the "growing radicalisation" in Kosovo had weakened the prospects of a negotiated settlement to the conflict between the Yugoslav authorities and the mainly Albanian population.

"We have to maintain the pressure on Belgrade to fulfil its international obligations," Schuessel said.

"But on the other hand pressure also has to be applied to the inhabitants of Kosovo as a growing radicalisation can be detected."

Schuessel's remarks were a reference to growing support for the armed pro-independence Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA [UCK in Albanian]) at the expense of more moderate political leaders.

"Those Albanian leaders and politicians that strive for peace have to be supported," he said.

The EU has backed demands for the restoration of the autonomy Kosovo enjoyed as part of the old Yugoslavia but has made it clear it will not support calls for independence.

Source-Date: 07/13/1998

Region: East Europe, West Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States, Benelux Countries

Country: Belgium, Kosovo

Topic: CONFLICT, HUMAN RIGHTS, INTERNATIONAL, LEADER

UCK Spokesman Krasniqi Explains Goals

Pristina Koha Ditore in Albanian 11 Jul 98 pp 8-9

[Unattributed interview with Jakup Krasniqi, spokesman of the Kosova Liberation Army; place and date not given: "We Do Not Accept Any Political Party as Our Political Wing, or Demaci's Balkania as Our Political Concept"]

[Koha Ditore] How accurate was your statement to Der Spiegel that the Kosova Liberation Army [UCK] is fighting to change the borders and to liberate all the Albanian territories? Was this a translator's misinterpretation, or a lapse on the part of the magazine?

[Krasniqi] In all our political statements, we have declared that the UCK is fighting for the liberation and unification of all the occupied territories of Albania, but this does not imply unification with Albania, because the UCK alone cannot fight to unite all the Albanian territories.

[Koha Ditore] Then how would you comment on the statement in Der Spiegel, which has caused a commotion among the public and in diplomatic circles?

[Krasniqi] This statement is what I said. I could not step outside the political program of the UCK, or what the UCK has said in its political statements. The statement that we are fighting to liberate and unify all the occupied territories of Albania may have been misinterpreted or not properly understood.

[Koha Ditore] In your view, which of the political parties is closest to the UCK, and could politically represent the UCK? Perhaps you have a more credible list of representatives for the future negotiations about the independence of Kosova.

[Krasniqi] We are not close to any single political party in Kosova. We have not drawn up any list of people who might speak politically for the UCK. We have appealed for the political parties to unite, to form a front, and to associate themselves with the UCK, and only then to start talking about who can represent the UCK politically. Without a suspension of the political parties, without an end to interparty backbiting and party cowardice, we cannot say which political force may be closest to the UCK, that is of the political parties that are active in Kosova. First of all, the Albanian political parties must recognize the UCK as the entirety of the armed forces of Kosova, and recognize the present situation as a state of war. These are the two preconditions without which there can be no talks or even contact. Nevertheless, we are urging those political parties that consider themselves close to the UCK to accept that the UCK represents the entire armed forces in Kosova that are fighting for freedom and liberation.

[Koha Ditore] You have contacted Adem Demaci. Mr. Demaci offered you the "Balkania" project and told you, "If you accept the project, I am ready to represent the UCK." Are you ready to accept Demaci's "Balkania" project?

[Krasniqi] We respect Adem Demaci as a personality, and for his long-standing political commitment to the Albanian cause in Kosova, and in general. We cannot accept the "Balkania" project for several reasons. It is said to be an old project. The UCK has its own concept and political platform and program, and so others too must accept the UCK's political program, in order to subsequently enter talks with the UCK, and to move forward from that point.

[Koha Ditore] It is also said that the LDSH [Albanian Democratic Movement] led by Mr. Qosja will probably be the closest thing to the UCK's political wing, its Sinn Fein. How close is the UCK to this party, and do you accept the idea of it becoming the UCK's political wing?

[Krasniqi] We said that we will not accept any individual political party as our political wing. We have had no contact with the party you mentioned and no talks of this kind. If there is talk of

a Sinn Fein, the UCK first of all possesses its own political resources, besides its operations in the field.

Under our present circumstances, no kind of Sinn Fein can be accepted, and we will not even begin to resemble the IRA. We are fighting for national liberation. The UCK is a liberation army and a regular military formation. It is not an organization or group that goes in for small-scale actions. Our operations are rather larger, and bear a greater resemblance to those of a regular army.

[Koha Ditore] It has recently been proposed that Dr. Rugova and certain political representatives should convene the parliament and create a new government. Dr. Rugova has said that the UCK would then come under the control of this parliament and the new political structure that will be created. How has the UCK staff received this project?

[Krasniqi] To tell the truth, the staff... has not stopped to think about this project at all. The UCK General Staff had its say before the elections in Kosova, and firmly took the view that the elections should not be held in time of war, because a part of Kosova was in flames. People's wounds were still unhealed. Even the total number of dead was unknown, and some were even still lying unburied. The other reason was that experience suggested that the elections would suffer the same fate as the elections and parliament of 1992. We did not believe that the elections were being held to settle the issue of Kosova, but to lend legitimacy to a certain clan of people who still would not summon the parliament.

If one can talk about constituting a parliament, this is something that could only happen with Belgrade's permission. We are in favor of free elections, but they must take place only when the conditions pertain, that is, in freedom. It is only in freedom that the people can elect their own representatives and a parliament can meet. This is the attitude of the UCK. Kosova must first be freed, and then let us create political pluralism, and announce free elections. The political parties can also only perform their role within Kosova.

[Koha Ditore] It is feared that the political turmoil in Prishtina may be reflected within the UCK, which now has 50 percent of the territory of Kosova as a base for its liberation struggle. How do you assess the situation within the UCK, and is it possible that this political discord is reflected within it?

[Krasniqi] There was political discord in Kosova before 1997 and 1998. The political crisis in Kosova did not start only last year. The UCK saw this crisis and was aware of it. However, being aware of the indecision and cowardice of the political parties, and their unwillingness to fight for what they had written in their programs, the UCK organized itself and started its struggle, obviously not without all the obstacles and difficulties, which are well known.

Like all political forces since World War II, the UCK has also been unable to save itself from accusations that it is the spawn of one intelligence service or another. People have said that the UCK is a part of the Serbian secret service, the UDBA [initials of former Yugoslav intelligence service], Seselj's groups, etc. Nevertheless, we did not pay much attention to this, and organized ourselves under very difficult conditions. We surmounted many obstacles and difficulties.

Anybody who is not ready to sincerely fight for Kosova, those who think more about their positions and their armchairs and not about this people's freedom, will of course put obstacles in the path of the UCK. I am sure that those fighters who are able to fight and win against the Serbian soldiery are also able to discern the nasty intrigues that certain political forces in Kosova, probably inspired by political forces outside Kosova, might concoct.

As for divisions within the UCK, you may rest assured that we have adequate information about all these attempts made by political forces within Kosova and foreign intelligence services. First,

there was the attempt to create parallel forces within the Army, like the FARK [expansion not known -- possibly "Forcat e Armatosura e Republikes se Kosoves;" Armed Forces of the Republic of Kosova]. Now the FARK has come fully under the control of the UCK. Thus, the attempt to turn the UCK into the FARK failed. There is now an attempt afoot to divide the UCK in another way. It is not an attempt to strengthen the UCK, because we would be pleased at this. It is an attempt not to urge it to fight, but simply to undermine the concept of war and to create the idea that the Albanians cannot agree among themselves because they have no leadership and have tribal instincts.

[Koha Ditore] You have so far said on several occasions that President Rugova is not a worthy representative of the Albanian people of Kosova, because of the policy he has pursued so far. Do you think that he must now leave the political stage, or could you perhaps accept him as your commander?

[Krasniqi] One thing must be made clear We call him a president even though in many ways he does not deserve the name. First, he did not create the UCK. When I say this, I must also say that the UCK was not formed to fight against the president, but against the prime enemy of our people. We must be clear about this. Can we recognize the president? We were against holding the elections at the time when they were held, and saw this was a very great political mistake, not only of Rugova, but of the political movement in Kosova. These elections were held at the least convenient time for Kosova, and the best possible time for Serbia. We must be clear about something else too: We do not intend to stand in the way of any political force that is fighting to free our people.

[Koha Ditore] There is a contradiction here. You say that the political forces must now unite in a front, while on the other hand you say that you will not stand in the way of the action of any political force.

[Krasniqi] I said that we will not stand in the way of any political force that fights or unites with us. We tell them to fight, and let us fight together, and form a front or a joint national force, so that we can liberate Kosova together. Let us set aside all political, ideological, and party distinctions, because the cause of Kosova is above everything else.

[Koha Ditore] Would you accept President Rugova as the commander of the UCK or not?

[Krasniqi] No. We would not accept him. First of all, because he has not met the conditions to be president.

[Koha Ditore] Do you accept Ibrahim Rugova as president of the republic?

[Krasniqi] No. We consider that Ibrahim Rugova has committed a series of political mistakes to the detriment of the national cause, starting from the agreement on education, which came to nothing. Second, for six years he allowed no place for a parliament that was genuinely elected by the people, and refused to let it be constituted. Many petitions were sent to him to convene parliament, but he saw no point in even discussing the matter. He made another agreement on talks without serious consultation with the political parties. Finally, what is most important is that he has split the entire political movement in Kosova. He is the main divisive factor. In short, he has stood in the way of the creation of institutions in Kosova. He has obstructed all the institutions that would have been useful for Kosova's independence, only for a political marketing tactic. Instead of becoming genuinely national institutions, these have become cliques, thanks to unprincipled appointments. The creation of the UCK was one response to this. But was this the reason for the creation of the UCK? No. It was not created because it was on the warpath or wanted to kill people. Most of the members of the UCK are students or politicians who have come over to its side because they were overlooked, had no prospects, and saw their future

destroyed. Why did these institutions not do what they should have done? It is the institutions that made life in Kosova meaningless and shameful that are to blame. Rugova's philosophy is as different from the UCK's as night and day. Rugova is a pacifist, and he is often said to believe in "Gandhism." He is not a pacifist but a doormat. Rugova will not allow resistance but only subservience, letting yourself be trampled underfoot. We have lost our dignity as individuals, families, and a nation. This is true of one-half of the nation. The philosophy of the UCK is to restore to this people their human, family, and national dignity, and to respond to the enemy's barbaric violence with a liberation struggle.

[Koha Ditore] Do you think that the war the Albanians are now waging is a war to defend Western civilization, as Arber Xhaferri [chairman of the Democratic Party of Albanians in the FYROM] said today?

[Krasniqi] Our struggle has many dimensions. It is a struggle for freedom, liberation, civilization, and dignity. It is a struggle for the future. There can be no civilization without freedom.

[Koha Ditore] If the international community were to offer Ibrahim Rugova independence, what would you say?

[Krasniqi] We are sure that the international community will not say, "Here you are -- independence." Nobody is against independence. But what is the international community up to, in so far refusing to accept independence? We are convinced that the international community, according to the policies it has pursued so far, will not offer us independence or even cultural autonomy.

[Koha Ditore] Does the UCK have a list for possible talks with the Serbs?

[Krasniqi] We are not against talks, but we must first create conditions for these talks, I do not know how necessary it is to list the conditions that we have already described to the BBC, CNN, etc. But I will describe them again for readers of Koha Ditore. I would like to stress that first of all a platform of talks must be drawn up, and must be well prepared. I do not think that we Albanians have yet compiled this platform for talks with Serbia. This does not mean that I think that Serbia is prepared to enter into talks with us. The first condition must be for both sides to prepare for talks, while not abandoning other conditions such as the removal of Serbian troops from Kosova, followed by a start to the release of prisoners and those who have been kidnapped, and the supervision of talks by international partners, such as for instance the United States, who is the partner we understand best. Only then should we draw up a list of negotiators who will have full legitimacy to talk both with Serbia and with other international representatives about the issue of Kosova.

[Koha Ditore] The international community is at the moment looking for a list of people who would have the UCK's support. A few months ago, there was a list called the G-15. Would you have accepted any of these people on your team?

[Krasniqi] Probably. We would not have rejected the entire list, but a few changes would have been made. No doubt some of them would have been accepted because we want to bring national personalities together, not to exclude them.

[Koha Ditore] The international community, in the shape of the Contact Group, issued an ultimatum at its meeting yesterday to stop the fighting in Kosova. It has also drafted a plan for the status of Kosova, involving extended autonomy. What is your comment?

[Krasniqi] We have said this on other occasions and also say it again for readers in Kosova. We support every initiative of the international community that advances the Albanian cause. The UCK expected that Rugova's peaceful policy, with the help of the international community,

would produce its own results. We have been waiting for 17 years. During this time, the Albanian people have carried out peaceful resistance. But neither Belgrade nor the international community has listened to this voice of the Albanians. Our people have now taken up arms to fight. They are not fighting for a lesser or greater degree of autonomy. The UCK is fighting for the liberation of Kosova from the violence, terror, and banditry of the occupier. We might remind the international community of this through the newspaper Koha Ditore. For many years, thousands of Albanians rotted in the dungeons of Yugoslavia and Serbia. If the years of each of them were added up, they would amount to centuries. Almost every Albanian has undergone cruel treatment at the hands of the police, and some have been tortured to death. All this happened under the eyes of the international community. Now the time has come when the Albanian people have organized their own army to preserve their human and national dignity. Now, to ask for the Serbian Army, police, and paramilitary gangs to be treated in the same way as the UCK is a major injustice at the expense of this people. I would like the international community to correct the mistakes at the expense of the Albanian people made by the powers of Europe at the Congress of Berlin, the Congress of London, and the Conference of Versailles. Otherwise, we will feel ashamed of Western democracy's sense of justice. What does it consist of, if it equates the Albanian people's war of liberation with the war that Serbia is waging in Kosova?

As long as the wheeler-dealing among the Albanians themselves continues, it is only natural that the international community should be making experiments. It would not make such proposals if it were aware that we are acting as a nation.

[Koha Ditore] What scares the international community is that the UCK will lay waste Macedonia, if the conflict spreads. What could you add to this comment?

[Krasniqi] This does not hold water. The international community must be fairer in its demands, and must tackle the Albanian problem in Macedonia more seriously. However, the issue of the Albanians in Macedonia and of Macedonia itself does not depend on what the UCK thinks. The question of Macedonia must be decided according to how the Albanian people in Macedonia feel. If they feel free, if they have their rights and breathe freely, there will no doubt not be war there. If the Albanians do not feel equal in their own country, on their own territories, this will not rule out the presence of the UCK in Macedonia. Everything depends on the Albanians as a body.

[Koha Ditore] If the international community were to offer you secret talks with the Serbs, would you as the UCK accept the invitation, of course, with a well-prepared platform?

[Krasniqi] We have already stressed our conditions, and I am not against any kind of talks, of course with the necessary presence of the international community. But no decision can be made secretly. The people of Kosova are now on a war footing and are in action. We are moving in the direction of creating the institutions of war at a national level, which means that we will not create what you call lists, but national institutions on a war footing.

[Koha Ditore] What will the UCK do if someone enters into negotiations with Serbia without consulting you?

[Krasniqi] We will continue the war.

[Koha Ditore] Even if the talks lead to the achievement of independence?

[Krasniqi] We harbor no illusions that independence can be achieved in this way.

[Koha Ditore] The international community has so far taken Bujar Bukoshi to be your financial backer, but you have said that he, as well as Rugova, has done harm. What is Bukoshi's role in this context?

[Krasniqi] I must repeat that it was not Rugova or Bukoshi that formed the UCK. The UCK arose naturally from the bosom of the people, in the fire of war. Bukoshi and his government have had and still have every chance to help the UCK. If Bukoshi were doing his job as prime minister of the republic, rest content that many things in Kosova would be different, and the UCK would also have different resources, As for the material aspect, this government, which was under an obligation to think about the defense of the people, has not considered this matter at all, and has even refused to contribute, when asked. Because of this obstacle, the fund entitled "The Homeland Calls" was created, and financed this army. Bukoshi at first obstructed this fund, because it did not help him financially, Later he tried to form another armed force alongside the UCK.

[Box, page 9]

[Koha Ditore] There have been some reports that the UCK had a meeting with Bujar Bukoshi in Tirana last Saturday and Sunday [4-5 Jul]. What was discussed?

[Krasniqi] We are aware of Bukoshi's discussions with representatives of the UCK. We only possess a statement by the prime minister [Bukoshi] in which he states that he does not favor the creation of any other armed force and recognizes the UCK as the only armed formation in Kosova. There is another fact, that some officers are now coming to Decan not in the name of the FARK but in the name of the UCK, in order to undermine the UCK itself, even though I wish this were not true. But these problems have now been overcome.

Source-Date: 07/11/1998

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo

Topic: INTERNATIONAL, HUMAN RIGHTS, POLITICAL, CONFLICT

Krasniqi Explains UCK's Origins, Structure

Pristina Koha Ditore in Albanian 12 Jul 98 p 4

[Unattributed interview with Jakup Krasniqi, spokesman of the Kosova Liberation Army; in Malisevo on 10 July: "There Are No Muhajidin in the Kosova Liberation Army, And We Will Not Allow Our Struggle To Acquire Any Coloring, Especially a Religious One"]

[**Koha Ditore**] On the basis of its discussions, the international community has reached the conclusion that the Kosova Liberation Army [UCK] is commanded on five levels, or, put more simply, it has no serious overall command, but a horizontal hierarchy.

[Krasniqi] The UCK is a new army in the process of formation. However, the UCK has had its own staff and its military hierarchy from the start, and still has today. Of course, at the present time when there are so many parties, people have perhaps joined the UCK not out of inclination, but obligation. These are special cases. One can come across people who say this. For example, the president [Ibrahim Rugova] still does not accept that the UCK is an organized army, but thinks that there are armed groups. However, I take the view that the times are such that there is room for troublemakers, paid or instigated by whoever, to say all kinds of things. The UCK is an organized army.

[**Koha Ditore**] Do you for example exert any influence on the UCK at Junik?

[Krasniqi] No area of Kosova has been able to arm itself without the supervision and organization of the responsible people in the UCK. No doubt there are cases in which certain irresponsible people say things, but these people have no right to talk on behalf of the UCK. The meeting between Mr. Holbrooke and the members of the UCK was not necessarily a meeting with the hierarchy. This has been misinterpreted. Junik does not represent a particular center of our military organization. It is at a certain level in the hierarchy in which we have apportioned operational zones. These are military secrets, but there is also a hierarchy of the operational zones.

[**Koha Ditore**] Are their misunderstandings among the commanders of the UCK? For instance, was there a disagreement at Drenoc [Drenovac] and a problem at Llaushe [Lausa]?

[Krasniqi] Look, Drenoc and Llaushe were insignificant problems. They have been settled.

[**Koha Ditore**] There is another problem, which is the question of the creation of two ministries. You refused Ahmet Krasniqi, the officer appointed by Bukoshi, as the coordinator of military affairs, and had problems with the Armed Forces of the Republic of Kosova [Forcat e Armatosura e Republikes se Kosoves, FARK]. Where in fact does the problem lie?

[Krasniqi] As we said, we solved the problem with the FARK. Indeed, the prime minister himself said that he recognizes no armed forces in Kosova apart from the UCK. As for Ahmet Krasniqi, we had never heard of him, because the UCK has carved out its own liberated territories where it operates and fights, and the people who have achieved this are those who have the first claim to decide military matters. The UCK will not accept any kind of ministry-on-paper that may be created outside Albanian territory. We have made it clear that any military personnel are welcome at any time, although we already have plenty of them, who have made great reputations in Bosnia and Croatia. Servicemen who want to liberate Kosova do not pay any

attention to what rank they will receive, although of course there cannot be an army without ranks.

[**Koha Ditore**] All right, what about the arrival of the 43 officers, who told Bujar Bukoshi that they would no longer remain with Ahmet Krasniqi's group, but would go to fight alongside the UCK?

[Krasniqi] That is not the only group. I do not want to mention figures. Soldiers are coming to us every day. They are arriving as sons of this nation. It is not a matter of a few score. We are dealing with large numbers. Servicemen abroad who are dreaming only about ranks and not the liberation of Kosova have no sense of principle. The highest rank of all is the liberation of the Albanian people of Kosova.

[**Koha Ditore**] Let us talk about the UCK's clenched fist salute. Some have interpreted the UCK as an ideological army of former political prisoners, and others as a military police force dressed in black.

[Krasniqi] There are two kinds of salute. The official UCK salute is a military salute like that used in the Republic of Albania, with swift movement of the hand to the forehead. However, there is also another salute that we use in the street with civilians and children, which is a clenched fist. We do not consider this has anything to do with ideology. For us, a fist is a symbol of unity and strength. I do not think we have any ideology, and in fact we do not have time for such things even if we were interested in them, because we have our main job to do, which is the task of liberation. We will leave ideology and parties for another time.

As for the police dressed in black, this had more to do with the shortage of cloth. It is not that they are associated with anything in particular. I think that in the future, when we are better off, our policemen will also be better dressed. Look at these things together. People interpret the clenched fist as ideological and the clothes as fascist. These two hardly go together. So, we had some black cloth, and we cut this in a distinctive way. It has nothing to do with fascist or communist ideology.

[**Koha Ditore**] Two days ago, at UN headquarters in Geneva, some Albanians said that they represent the UCK's political wing abroad. They said that they had also met Mr. Gelbard. Do you know what this is about?

[Krasniqi] There was a mistake in the interview I gave to Der Spiegel. They are legitimate representatives of the UCK who have the authority to talk in the name of the UCK with various representatives and diplomats abroad. This means that they were and are legitimate representatives of the UCK, able to talk with diplomats and politicians about UCK issues and questions regarding Kosovars. They are part of our network, our hierarchy, and are entirely under our control, authorized to express our views in the discussions that took place.

[**Koha Ditore**] The UCK is in fact a product of the Popular Movement of Kosova [Levizja Popullore e Kosoves, LPK], which operates in Switzerland and Germany. How much influence does the LPK in fact have over the UCK?

[Krasniqi] It is true that the LPK has invested most in the creation of the UCK. A military wing developed especially after 1992-1993. It was announced in 1994 that the UCK had been formed. Then Zeri i Kosoves, the organ of the LPK, always advertised the fund "The Homeland Calls," which brought the UCK to where it is today. Nevertheless, the LPK has never sought to bring the UCK under its political umbrella, and this is to its great credit as a political force. The demand of the LPK and now of the UCK is that all those Albanians who believe that all avenues for Kosova to win independence by political means have been exhausted should join the UCK to realize their aspirations. We were never bent on war. War is a reality that has been imposed on us, and is in

fact necessary for us to achieve our final goal, which we are determined to pursue to the end. In fact, in this context, the UCK and the LPK as organizations of national liberation have grasped both the concept of pursuing liberation through war and also the concept of talks on certain conditions. We must also add that the National Movement for the Liberation of Kosova [Levizja Kombetare per Clirimin e Kosoves, LKCK] is also incorporated in the ranks of the UCK, besides representatives of other parties that have suspended their activities and joined our ranks, such as Uke Bytyci, Rame Buja, and Gani Krasniqi.

[Koha Ditore] Where do you stand in relation to Albania?

[Krasniqi] Albania is our kin state, which we always think of. She had made her own contribution, and I think is continuing to contribute politically and diplomatically, and through aid, especially to the people who have been forced to leave their own territories. We hope that the government of Albania and all its institutions will increasingly assist our just struggle, because we are fighting in Kosova to retain our national identity and our existence as a nation. It is entirely natural that all Albanians, wherever they are, should use every opportunity to help their brothers. Unfortunately there was a lot of work done in Kosova last year to encourage enmity toward Albania. This was a mistaken policy, and I think it turned out to be unproductive. We hope that no state institution or politician in Albania will form their attitudes on the basis of statements by irresponsible individuals and journalists, but only by relying on the fact that the Albanians of Kosova have always seen Albania as their kin-state, as indeed she is, with opportunities, abilities, and duties to help us.

[Koha Ditore] To what extent can you refute the statements by the international community and Serbia that the UCK is leading the war from Tropoje and the north of Albania?

[Krasniqi] Albanians may now have gone to Tropoje, sent their families there, and returned to defend Kosova. It is entirely natural for Albanians to look to Albania as their main source of help. However, the war in Kosova is being directed and waged in Kosova, not outside.

[Koha Ditore] How true is it that the UCK would have 100,000 soldiers inside Kosova, if it had weapons?

[Krasniqi] The UCK indeed had problems obtaining weapons at the start. It is experiencing these difficulties less and less. The UCK is growing stronger every day, and we can say that we have won in all of our clashes with the occupying police and army. I think that this is an example that shows our level of professionalism, because these battles were against a professionally-trained army and police force, well armed and with the most modern equipment. However, the UCK's resistance was up to the challenge and forced the enemy to retreat. We say that the UCK is in the process of formation, but it is also in training, in the physical sense rather than in its morale, because we have no lack of morale. We are sure that a fine standard will be achieved soon.

[Koha Ditore] What happened in the case of Bardh i Madh [Belacevac]? Was that a mistake or a matter of tactics.

[Krasniqi] Bardh i Madh was a tactical step.

[Koha Ditore] Are you in a position to tell the people of Kosova that you will defend them from all forms of Serbian genocide and are you in a position to inform the international community and the people that the UCK will liberate and protect them from the occupying army?

[Krasniqi] Before we address the people, we would ask the political parties to suspend their destructive, divisive, and defeatist activities within our Albanian nation, to remove all obstacles, and to give up all attempts to put the UCK under their umbrella. Apart from this, the UCK is growing stronger every day in every sense, both from the human and the material point of view. It is advancing determinedly forward, and we promise the people that the UCK will protect them

wherever it is, and wherever the UCK is supported and helped. The UCK belongs to the people. It has the strength, courage, and determination to defend them, and nobody will enter Albanian villages and towns without passing over the dead bodies of the soldiers of the UCK.

[**Koha Ditore**] Can you guarantee that you will also come to Prishtina?

[Krasniqi] We have told you and others that we are making such good progress that within a short time we may also be physically present in Prishtina.

[**Koha Ditore**] Are you frightened of winter, and will you have liberated Kosova by then?

[Krasniqi] We are not scared of winter. As for the liberation, that is a different question. We will liberate Kosova!

[**Koha Ditore**] The international community has criticized the violation of human rights in the kidnapping of Serbian and Montenegrin civilians. What can you say about this?

[Krasniqi] It does indeed seem to us ridiculous to equate the operations of the UCK with those of the Serbian occupier, which are notorious throughout the world. On this point, it seems to me that the international community is not respecting its conventions, starting with the UN Charter, etc., because the UCK has never dealt with civilians, or only if they have been in the service of the army and the police and have done serious harm to the people and the Albanian national cause. There have been cases in which they have been kidnapped, but in this event they have been handed over to international organizations, of course when they have been innocent. First of all, all Serbian forces, whether the police, the military, or armed civilians, are our enemy. From the start, we had our own internal rules for our operations. These clearly lay down that the UCK recognizes the Geneva Convention and the conventions governing the conduct of war, even though it has not been offered the chance of signing them, as it would have done. We do not go in for kidnapping. Even if some people have suffered, these have been more Albanian collaborators than Serbian civilians. We do not deal with civilians, and we return those whom we take as prisoners of war. A few days ago we handed over two Serbs originating from Croatia to the International Red Cross. Those we have kidnapped are either announced in a list or reported to be executed, but we do not behave in a base fashion like Serbia.

[**Koha Ditore**] What message would you have for the Serbian people?

[Krasniqi] We would appeal to the Serbian people in Kosova not to become involved in terrorist operations organized by the Serbian Army and police, and to mind their own business. The UCK has no intention of getting involved with the civilian population, and has not done so hitherto. We appeal to civilians who have taken up arms to surrender them and not to oppose the UCK, or, worse, to set themselves against their neighbors. If they do not do these things, they will come to no harm.

[**Koha Ditore**] Are there Croats and Muhajidin in the ranks of the UCK?

[Krasniqi] No, there are not. We will not allow our struggle to acquire any coloring, especially a religious one.

Source-Date: 07/12/1998

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo

Topic: DOMESTIC, POLITICAL, HUMAN RIGHTS, CONFLICT

U0038590

Kosovo Liberation Army Rejects 'Fraud' of 'Parliament'

Pristina Koha Ditore in Albanian 18 Jul 98 p 6

[Statement issued by the General Staff of the Kosova Liberation Army in Pristina on 17 July:

"The Kosova Liberation Army Does Not Accept the 22 March Elections and Does Not Recognize the 'Parliament' Constituted on 16 July"]

The Kosova Liberation Army [UCK] said a long time ago that it did not accept elections that serve the occupier as mere scene-painting, and were a fraudulent farce for the Albanians of Kosova.

We have said that we do not accept elections that legitimize the new divisions of our country that started with the "free elections" of 22 March 1998, when one part of our territory was awash with blood and in the other toasts were raised to the "historic victory" of a group of cronies. We have also already repeated many times that we support the creation of independent, functional, and operational institutions that will secure the liberation of Kosova. The UCK has once again expressed its views regarding the behavior of a political caste, whose purpose is not to create national institutions to further the Albanian cause, but to hold back and undermine our liberation struggle at the very moment when it has become all-enveloping.

The successes of the UCK in the many battlefields have forced the occupying state to allow the formal meeting of a parliament that is disputed by everyone with a national political conscience. This parliament held its "inaugural" meeting after incessant requests and advice from Moscow and Athens, our occupier's traditional friends.

The UCK draws the attention of the authors of these intrigues that they have gone a long way in their filthy games at the expense of the national and the homeland. The UCK notices that this clan in the Albanian political movement has caused a more open trend toward division, which has spread into the Albanian national movement.

We also send friendly advice to the international community, especially the United States and the Western democratic countries, not to fall under the influence of Russo-Greek wheeler-dealing. The UCK once again invites all strata of the Albanian people whose ideology is Albanianism to use all their national, political, intellectual, professional, and student skills in the service of our liberation struggle, in order to seize the historic opportunity that is imminent, and which we will grasp.

The UCK is in the course of creating new functional and national institutions for the conditions and circumstances of war. We must do this together with all political forces that aim honestly at freedom, with new individuals of a high political and professional caliber, and with intellectuals who have proved their national mettle.

The UCK appeals to the people of the enslaved lands not to fall prey to the diabolical frauds being perpetrated at their expense, but to advance together with cool heads on our road of liberation and unification. Our struggle will continue until the victory.

Source-Date: 07/18/1998

Region: East Europe

U0038592

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo

Topic: DOMESTIC, POLITICAL, HUMAN RIGHTS, CONFLICT

U0038593

UCK Announces 'Decisive Confrontation' With Serbs

Paris AFP (North European Service) in English 1929 GMT 19 Jun 98

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia, June 19 (AFP) -- The clandestine Kosovo Liberation Army (UCK) is preparing for a "decisive confrontation" with Serbia, the separatist group said in a **communiqué released Friday [19 June]** in Kosovo's capital.

"The UCK is working to set up the conditions for a general mobilization which will finally enable the (ethnic-Albanian) people to carry out a decisive confrontation with the enemy," it said.

Source-Date: 06/19/1998

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo

Topic: CONFLICT, HUMAN RIGHTS, DOMESTIC, MILITARY

KLA Plans To Unite Kosovo, Montenegro, FYROM

Paris AFP (North European Service) in English 1220 GMT 19 Jul 98

BONN, July 19 (AFP) - The Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) announced Sunday that its goal was to create an independent state made up of the "Albanian lands of Kosovo, Macedonia and Montenegro".

KLA spokesman Jakup Krasniqi told the German television station Sat. 1 that the underground guerilla group fighting Serb security forces in Kosovo aimed to "reunite" the three regions.

Macedonia is a former republic of Yugoslavia which declared independence in 1992.

Montenegro, along with Serbia, make up what remains of the former Yugoslavia. Kosovo is a province of Serbia.

All three have ethnic Albanian communities. Taken together they border Albania's northern and eastern flanks.

Krasniqi said the KLA was currently formulating its political aims, which would be published soon in a declaration of the organisation's principles.

Autonomy for Kosovo, the favoured option of the international community to resolve the problem, was not an acceptable compromise, he said.

In a statement published Saturday the KLA refused to recognise the authority of a Kosovo Albanian parliament elected in an unofficial vote, or of its moderate leader Ibrahim Rugova. The KLA wants a national council comprising all groups involved in Kosovo's struggle for independence from Belgrade, including those which did not take part in March 22 polls to create the parliament.

Source-Date: 07/19/1998

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo

Topic: CONFLICT, DISSENT, INTERNATIONAL, POLITICAL

UCK Commander Welcomes Inauguration of Kosovo Parliament

Pristina Kosova Information Center (Internet Version) in English 17 Jul

98 No 1493

PRISHTINA [Pristina], July 17 (KIC) -- The commander of the First Brigade of the Ushtria Clirimtare e Kosoves (UCK, the Kosova Liberation Army), said today in a taped statement to the LDK Information Commission head in Decan [Decani] that the first session of the Parliament of the Republic of Kosova [Kosovo] was a welcome move.

"It is a step further in the institutionalization of life in Kosova, a rounding off of the results of the March elections. The convening of the Parliament was therefore eagerly awaited.", the UCK Commander said.

"It is not of much importance to us soldiers/officers which political parties are taking part in the Parliament, for here, as elsewhere, the army is depoliticized", the Commander said.

What is important is that an institutionalized life is promoted, with the legitimate leadership elected by the free popular vote being in charge, the UCK Commander stressed.

In the current situation, our country should have its bodies and institutions, he said, adding that the UCK is "the army of this nation, and we respect the will of the people, expressed in the independence referendum, as well as all the legitimate bodies, elected by free vote, and which are committed to the independence of Kosova".

The Ushtria Clirimtare e Kosoves does not recognize any other solution but independence, the Commander said.

"We wish all the best to the Parliament and the President, and applaud their efforts towards further institutionalization of the statehood of Kosova", the UCK Commander said.

Meanwhile, the head of the LDK Information Commission in DeCan, Mr. Osman Cacaj, said he had himself carried an opinion poll with 80 citizens in the municipality.

Cacaj said 78 of them said they were supportive of the just-completed inauguration of the Parliament, and pressed for an early formation of the Government of Kosova and other state organs of the Republic of Kosova

Source-Date: 07/17/1998

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo

Topic: CONFLICT, DOMESTIC, HUMAN RIGHTS, MILITARY

Editorial: Parliament, UCK Need To Find Joint Policy

Tirana Koha Jone in Albanian 17 Jul 98 p 1

[Editorial by Andi Bejtja: "Parliament Vis a Vis the UCK"]

The parliament that has been installed by the 22 March elections was convened for the first time yesterday and Rugova was sworn in as president of Kosova in an attempt to consolidate his position which has been greatly shaken following the emergence on the scene of the Kosova Liberation Army [UCK] and after the semi-official legalization of UCK by the United States. More than initiating the functioning of Kosova institutions, by means of such a step Rugova and the party he leads have thought to place the UCK under their control and present it as Kosova Republic's regular army. This may be considered Rugova's last chance to have an effective power and also his last opportunity to have his words heeded during his forthcoming talks with the Serbs. The UCK has meanwhile explicitly declared that it is not going to recognize Rugova as its leader and the legitimacy of the 22 March elections. The UCK, having under its control almost half the Kosova territory, has stressed that the first elections in Kosova are going to be called only after its complete liberation.

Irrespective of this, we may say that the UCK's reemergence on the scene has reactivated and transformed Rugova's passive pacifism into an active pacifism. It is very likely that the Kosova government develops its activity in Kosova and instead of paying their taxes for the Federal government the Albanian taxpayers will pay them to the Kosova government. Instead of marking a "historic day," yesterday may be transformed into a "day of discord" if the UCK, Rugova, and other factors of political life in Kosova do not come to terms and do not coordinate their actions with one another. After all, it is not Rugova who has the key to peace or war in Kosova; but seemingly the UCK. It would be ridiculous for the Kosova parliament to conduct its daily activity and the army which controls half the territory to see it from a distance.

In the meantime, there are reliable sources which say that within the UCK there are circles with different political orientations. If these forces do not manage to cooperate, it is very likely that Kosova becomes a mini Afghanistan even if it is liberated, and it will finally be the Albanians' own undoing. The best settlement would be to find harmony and a joint policy, but if that will not be the case, one Albanian must leave the place to another Albanian. And this other Albanian must certainly get the blessing from the outside for this.

Source-Date: 07/17/1998

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Albania

Topic: INTERNATIONAL, POLITICAL, LEADER

UCK Announces Political Representatives, Demaci as Leader

Tirana TVSH Television Network in Albanian 1651 GMT 13 Aug 98

[~~Political Statement No 7~~ issued by the General Staff of the Liberation Army of Kosova; place and date not given, read by announcer]

After analyzing the political and military situation in Kosova [Kosovo], the General Staff of the Liberation Army of Kosova [UCK] has realized that the aims of the occupier to harm the UCK and, in this case, to weaken our political position, have failed in a shameful way. The tactical withdrawal with the aim of protecting the civil population has proved to be successful. The re-taking of military positions completely testifies to the certainty of the aforementioned. Alongside the heavy blows launched against the occupier at the battlefield, the UCK has successfully faced the forms of the special war that accompanied the occupier's offensive.

By successfully withstanding all the forms of war that were used and continue to be used in this offensive, the UCK came out more powerful than ever before. This is the best testimony to our determination to continue the war until we gain the independence.

New circumstances have imposed the creation of institutions, in which the wide political spectrum of Kosova will be represented in a dignified way. With the aim of stopping the manipulations on the establishment of the institutions in question, the UCK General Staff publicly announces that Jakup Krasniqi, Xhavit Haliti, Bardhyl Mahmuti, Haxhi Thaci, Faton Mehmetaj, and Sokol Bashota are the political representatives of the UCK. The public announcement of the UCK's political representatives facilitates the coordination of the political activity on a national level. Speculations on the setting up of institutions represent one of the forms of the special war against the vital interests of the Albanian people. We are addressing our last appeal to the carriers of these speculations to stop the rifting actions. On the contrary, our blow will be merciless.

With the aim of accelerating the process of establishing the Kosova institutions, the UCK General Staff gives full confidence to Adem Demaci to take the leading role in this process. Not being under any party umbrella, the UCK asks from Adem Demaci to withdraw from his party activity, ends the statement by the UCK General Staff.

Source-Date: 08/13/1998

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo

Topic: CONFLICT, DOMESTIC, HUMAN RIGHTS, LEADER

U0038598

UCK Gives Demaci 'Leading Role' To Set up Institutions

Pristina Kosova Information Center (Internet Version) in English 13 Aug

98 No 1520

Pristina, August 13 (KIC) -- The General Staff of the Ushtria Clirimtare e Kosoves (UCK, Kosova Liberation Army) issued today (Thursday) [13 August] afternoon a statement, entitled "Political Declaration No. 7" in which it referred to its latest set-backs in Kosova as "a tactical retreat," and publicized the names of six people, "the political representatives of the UCK", while naming a seventh, Adem Demaci, as the man who should lead the work for the "creation of the institutions of Kosova."

"The tactical retreat aimed at protecting the civilian population has proven to be successful," the statement said, adding that the retaking of "war positions is proof of this."

Having faced also what it calls a "special warfare," the UCK has emerged out of this situation "stronger than ever," the statement said. "This is the best evidence of our determination to press ahead with the struggle till independence is achieved."

Speaking about the new political and military conditions in Kosova, the UCK said "institutions that will represent a wide spectrum of the political scene" should be created.

Against this background, and "to bring an end to manipulation regarding the creation of these institutions," the General Staff publicized the names of its political representatives. They are Jakup Krasniqi, Xhavit Haliti, Bardhyl Mahmuti, Haxhi Thaci, Faton Mehmetaj, and Sokol Bashota, the statement said.

The UCK said "speculation on the formation of the institutions" represents "one of the forms of the special warfare against the vital interests of the Albanian people."

"We herewith call on the proponents of such speculation to bring an end to actions that bring disunity. If they fail to do so, we will strike unmercifully," the statement said.

The statement said that "in order to expedite the process of the creation of the Kosova institutions, the General Staff of the UCK herewith entrusts wholeheartedly Adem Demaci with a leading role in this process."

Being as it is, "outside any party umbrella, the UCK demands that Adem Demaci give up his party activity," the statement of the General Staff concludes.

Adem Demaci is currently leader of the Parliamentary Party of Kosova (PPK).

Source-Date: 08/13/1998

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo

Topic: CONFLICT, DOMESTIC, LEADER, MILITARY, POLITICAL

U0038600

Liberation Army Claims Operational Successes

Tirana TVSH Television Network in Albanian 1730 GMT 29 Aug 98

In its most recent **communique**, the General Staff of the Kosova Liberation Army [UCK] states that the UCK is carrying out operations one after another against the invading Serbian troops in Kosova.

During the night between 26 and 27 August, operational units of the UCK in the operational subzone of Drenice [Drenica] attacked invading troops at Llaushe [Lausa], Cerovik, Acareve [Acarevo], and Polac, caused the enemy losses of men and equipment, and subsequently withdrew without suffering casualties.

UCK units have also carried out successful actions at Gremnik. Four members of the enemy forces were killed. There was bitter fighting also in the operational subzone of Pashtrik.

UCK formations, the communique continues, are continuing to hold the front line from Zecishte to Samadrexhe, Reshtan, Senetisht, Bllace, and Luzhnice in order to make a connection with southeast Drenice. During this fighting, three Albanian soldiers fell on the field of honor.

In Rahovec [Orahovac] and its vicinity and in Malisheve [Malisevo], UCK operational units launched a powerful attack on several points at which Serbian military and police forces were stationed, and killed and wounded many Serbian soldiers. Three were taken prisoner, and they will be treated in conformity with international war conventions, the communique states.

The UCK recovered and extended liberated territory in the operational subzone of Dukagjin, and operations are also under way in the operational subzones of Karadak, Nerodime, Shale, and Llap. Preventive punitive measures are also being taken against certain collaborationist elements, who showed during the operations that they had put themselves in the service of the enemy in one way or another.

The communique also appeals to the political and nonpolitical organizations of Kosova to set aside their narrow interests, because the people of Kosova more than ever need unity, resistance, and participation in the UCK. The communique also appeals to the international community to urgently set in motion political and military mechanisms to support the rights of the Albanians people.

Source-Date: 08/29/1998

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo

Topic: DOMESTIC, HUMAN RIGHTS, POLITICAL, CONFLICT

U0038602

Liberation Army Denies Reports of Mass Grave of Serbs

Tirana TVSH Television Network in Albanian 1730 GMT 30 Aug 98

The General Staff of the Kosova Liberation Army [UCK] denied today reports broadcast by the Serbian media about the supposed existence of a mass grave of Serbs in the village of Klecka [Klecka]. In its **communique**, the UCK states that this report had been long in preparation by the Serbian occupier's military and propaganda machinery, and is nothing but a lie of the genocidal Serbian murderers intended to compromise our just liberation struggle. This is evident from the several changes to the reported number of victims, which fluctuates from eight to 10 and 22, the hasty conclusion that their skulls are Serbian, and the production of two false testimonies from people who have never been UCK members, but have always been collaborators and smugglers who are still collaborating with the Serbian occupier.

The UCK has never killed innocent Serbian civilians, and especially not women and children. The UCK, in collaboration with the International Red Cross, has released innocent Serbian citizens, which is something the occupying power has never done.

The communique of the UCK General Staff suspects that the skeletons displayed in front of the television cameras may be those of Albanians who were killed earlier. In this way, the occupier is trying to cover up his crimes committed against defenseless Albanians, and to accuse the UCK of being terrorists. The communique asks all the relevant international humanitarian and diplomatic organizations and the media not to fall for the lies of the Serbian occupiers, who have now given adequate proof of their genocidal activities against all the non-Serbian peoples in the former Yugoslav federation. The UCK asks these organizations to stop the criminal hand of the barbaric Serbian regime.

Source-Date: 08/30/1998

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo

Topic: DOMESTIC, HUMAN RIGHTS, POLITICAL, CONFLICT

UCK Protests 'Stab in the Back' From 'Pacifists'

Pristina Koha Ditore in Albanian 12 Sep 98 p 3

[Statement issued by the Kosova Liberation Army General Staff; in Pristina on 10 September: "The UCK Started the Struggle With the Motto: Either Kosova Becomes Ours, Or It Will Be Turned Into Ashes"]

The Albanian people of Kosova and their Liberation Army have long been resisting the large-scale enemy offensive. The Liberation Army of Kosova [UCK], having been reorganized and restructured under the new conditions of war, is continuing its resistance. Only in the part where the pacifist and "professional elements" (former policemen) predominate have the enemy forces not met resistance. These elements, "in the name of the people," abandoned this part to the mercy of the enemy soldiers, as was the case in Sterke of Gash, Llapqevë, and Panorc.

The UCK and the Albanian people are being stabbed in the back by collaborationist and pacifist elements. Despite the difficulties, the UCK, which has sprung from the bosom of the people, forged in the heat of the struggle for freedom, will continue its struggle until victory.

The military and propaganda machine of the enemy has stepped up the fabrication of accusations against the UCK about alleged killings and mass graves, first in Klecke [Klecka] and later in Glllogjan [Glodjane]. Of course, the enemy is doing nothing but uncovering earlier crimes and graves, for which the now specialized criminals of Milosevic are responsible. If these crimes were carried out by the UCK, why didn't the Belgrade authorities give visas to the international specialist organizations?

The General Staff of the UCK calls on the Albanian people in general and the people in Kosova, in particular, to be vigilant against the misinformation of the enemy and the wicked pacifists, because the UCK did not take up arms simply to surrender them, but to fight for freedom. If someone wants to commit such infamy, he will have to render account to the court and to history.

The UCK was not in two minds when it embarked on its struggle. When it began this struggle it was guided by the motto: Either Kosova becomes ours, or it will be turned into ashes. We are convinced that death is nobler than life under slavery.

We are not fighting on behalf of the interests of parties or ideologies (as is the case with political parties and leaders in Kosova and Albania). Our struggle is for freedom and unity, for a better future and real democracy.

All those, who are today sacrificing their lives for Kosova are martyrs of freedom and the future. They do not need to listen to the clucking of chickens. Let the chickens cluck for the pitiful pacifists, even while they are alive.

Worthy compatriots and patriots, unite to support the UCK! Those who help the UCK are in fact contributing to the freedom and independence of Kosova.

Source-Date: 09/12/1998

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo

Topic: DOMESTIC, HUMAN RIGHTS, POLITICAL, CONFLICT

UCK Rejects 'Every Temporary Solution' With Serbia

Tirana TVSH Television Network in Albanian 17 Sep 98

The Political Statement No 9 of the Liberation Army of Kosova [UCK] General Staff has been released in Prishtina [Pristina]. The statement reads:

For a long time, the Albanian people have been at a dangerous crossroads and the political parties and organizations have not yet been able to define with consciousness and determination their march in the desired direction. For a long time, the UCK has decided to follow the road of freedom and independence with consciousness and determination and, many times, has invited the political, intellectual, and professional forces to unite around the UCK in order to accomplish the people's will.

The UCK has not only decided to fight for freedom and unity, but it is fighting concretely in this direction to resolve the unresolved Albanian issue.

For the UCK and its general staff, every temporary solution that leaves Kosova under Serbia or with Serbia is unacceptable. We consider and declare any agreement signed at this level as national treachery. The UCK and every UCK soldier has been following the latest developments in Albania with concern and has condemned and condemns every act of violence that is exercised on the people and the state and Albanian cultural institutions. We are convinced that, in a free state, such as Albania, every event and seizure of power, apart from the democratic road through the free vote of the people, should be punishable by the existing laws of the state. Proceeding from this, we condemn every attempt or support, even allegedly made in the name of democracy, that incites vandalism and banditry against the state and private property.

The UCK General Staff asks the people of Albania and its entire political spectrum to be peacefully committed to strengthen the Albanian state and Albania, without whom we will never have freedom, democracy, and national prosperity. Only a stable, strong, free, and democratic Albania will be a guarantee for the individual and collective life and the property of all Albanians, wherever they are. We ask the international community sincerely to assist Albania, to prevent and fight, with justice and determination, the ominous tendencies that are directed against Albania and the Albanian people in general, support the Kosova issue with determination and concretely, and assist the rescue of the Albanians' existence, which has been endangered by the Serbian barbarism -- is noted among other things in the UCK's Political Statement No 9.

Source-Date: 09/17/1998 1635 GMT

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo, Albania

Topic: CONFLICT, INTERNATIONAL, MILITARY, POLITICAL

UCK Rejects Any Interim Accord With Belgrade

Paris AFP (North European Service) in English 16 Sep 98

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia, Sep 16 (AFP) -- Kosovo rebels seeking autonomy in the Serbian province on Wednesday rejected the possibility of an interim accord between Belgrade and ethnic Albanian officials on the future status of the province.

The Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA)[UCK in Albanian] "considers unacceptable any interim solution calling for Kosovo to remain under the authority or part of Serbia," the party said in a **communique**.

Serbian authorities and Ibrahim Rugova, the ethnic Albanian political leader, said earlier this month under US pressure that they would agree on an interim accord to "normalise" the situation in the troubled province.

Rugova favours an agreement on a transition period of three to five years.

The modalities of a final accord are still being worked out between the two sides with the help of US mediator Christopher Hill.

The KLA leadership, however, warned in its statement: "Any such accord signed at any level will be considered treason."

Earlier Wednesday, Serbian authorities rejected any KLA participation in the talks describing the rebels as "terrorists."

Source-Date: 09/16/1998 1924 GMT

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo

Topic: CONFLICT, DOMESTIC, HUMAN RIGHTS, POLITICAL

UCK Claims Successes in 'Bitter Fighting'

Pristina Koha Ditore in Albanian 19 Sep 98 p 2

[Statement by the General Staff of the Kosova Liberation Army issued in Pristina on 18 September: "Our Armed Formations Are Successfully Confronting the Enemy Offensive"]

Bitter fighting between the Kosova Liberation Army [UCK] and the Serbian occupation forces has been under way in the first operational zone for more than two months.

In the last week, the bitterest fighting has been in the operational subzones of Llap [Lap], Shale e Bajgores, and Drenice [Drenica]. And there has been less intense fighting in the subzones of Nerodime, Pashtrik [Patrik], and Dukagjin.

Punitive measures of various kinds are also being undertaken against collaborationist elements that continue to serve the occupying power. In the last few days, our armed formations have successfully opposed the enemy offensive. Hundreds of enemy soldiers including foreign mercenaries have been killed in the last few days in Shale e Bajgores, Llap, and Drenice. Considerable damage has also been done to military equipment.

This has led the enemy police forces to take revenge against the civilian population by destroying their homes, crops, and livestock. UCK special units are reclaiming or returning to their positions with lightning attacks at Likoc. Fighting is also taking place in other areas such as Pashtrik, Dukagjin, and Nerodime, where the enemy is in panic and feels totally insecure.

The purpose of the enemy's war of destruction is not only to pursue the leaders of the people, but to ethnically cleanse Kosova and to impose a settlement of the Kosova problem according to Serbian plans.

The UCK General Staff invites the Albanian people in Kosova to step up their commitment to helping the struggle for the liberation of the homeland. First of all, they invite all military officers to join the struggle for freedom.

There is no time for hesitation. Meanwhile, we appeal as brothers to the Albanian population in Albania to show restraint in these difficult days and to settle political problems by democratic means.

The UCK General Staff asks the international community, the United States, and the EU, to commit themselves more concretely to solving the Albanian question, on the basis of the Albanian people's right to self-determination.

Source-Date: 09/19/1998

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo

Topic: DOMESTIC, HUMAN RIGHTS, POLITICAL, CONFLICT

UCK Communique on Combat, Krasniqi Murder

Pristina Koha Ditore in Albanian 24 Sep 98 p 2

["Text" of **Communique No. 55** of the Kosova Liberation Army: "The UCK Has Military Operations Only in Kosova"]

Prishtine [Pristina], 23 September -- The enemy hordes have launched a broad offensive against the operations zone of Drenica and part of the operations subzone of Mitrovica [Kosovska Mitrovica]. The combat machinery is the usual one that was used against us earlier. In this offensive by the enemy, the attacks have been concentrated on the frontline against Prekaz i Eperm [Gornje Prekaze] and Prekaz i Ulet [Donje Prekaze], Polac, Likoc, Plozhine [Pluzina], and Tice [Tica], and on the side of Glllogoc [Glogovac], from Dobrosheci, Gllareva [Iglarevo], Bainca, Glllobari [Globare], Llapushnik [Lapusnik], Domanek, and the villages near Cucavica, from Vushtrri [Vucitrn] to Obiliq [Obilic]. In this part of the combat zone, our military units of the 113th Brigade, "Azem Galica," and the 111th Brigade have carried out successful counterattacks and have killed more than 50 enemy soldiers and mercenaries and wounded many others. Also, a good part of the enemy's combat equipment has been destroyed. On our side, during the past two days two were killed and two wounded. Despite our efforts to evacuate the civilian population and to provide safe lodging for them, the civilian population, which serves as a line of demarcation longing for the enemy's attack, has been a special problem for us. For this reason, we appeal to international opinion to stop the enemy's terrorist acts.

However, our armed forces are determined and trained to continue the just struggle of our people until victory is achieved. In this direction, too, the enemy has no force or morality to prevent us. The struggle of our people is entering the inevitable phase of confrontation with our age-old enemy. Therefore, we call upon all sound national forces to unite us and to be involved in the just goal of our road, which could be long, tiring, and full of sacrifices, but has never been closer or more possible than it is now.

On this road, our role is only one of sacrifice, while the involvement of all of us lessens the consequences and helps us all.

Only together can we achieve victory.

Now, more than ever, military officers are needed by the fatherland, and they must not expect the worst. They should be in Kosova now because their place is there.

We were saddened to hear the news of the murder of the soldier Ahmet Krasniqi, but we must say that, in our command structures that operate in Kosova, he was not the general commander of the Kosova Liberation Army [UCK] or a member of the General Staff.

The UCK has military operations only in Kosova. It has only one General Staff that operates in Kosova. Otherwise, the value is lost if we use the name General Staff for anything we want.

We express our most sincere condolences to the families of the martyrs, and, at the same time, we assure them that our just war will continue.

Praise to the fallen martyrs. Victory!

General Staff of the UCK, 23 September 1998, Prishtine elag/ed/mdc/stein

Source-Date: 09/24/1998

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

U0038608

Country: Kosovo
Topic: CONFLICT, MILITARY

UCK Political Communique Criticizes Kosovo, Albania Parties

Pristina ARTA (Internet version) in English 27 Sep 98

Prishtina, [Pristina], 27 September (ARTA) -- ~~The political communique Nr. 10~~ of KLA [Kosovo Liberation Army, UCK] states that, "The Liberation Struggle of the KLA and the Albanian nation is continuing with persistence and determination, while the political parties of Kosova [Kosovo] are still behaving as indifferent and side-tracked and with their actions are impeding this Holy War. It is a misfortune and even a tragedy for such "personalities" to lead one nation, since they are transgressing the influence and the authority of KLA with their declarations in front of the International Community.

Those same people have asked for a new nation-wide referendum in order to justify their cowardice and incapacity, not to say their betrayal. The Albanian nation in the 1991 referendum, as well as nowadays in the course of the liberation war, is determined for the independence of Kosova. In addition, it is ready to win it with the most sublime sacrifice. Since this fact is familiar to everybody, the demand for the referendum about a cultural autonomy is unacceptable and nonsense.

First of all, the political parties of Kosova are to be blamed for the prevailing circumstances in Kosova because they provided space and reason for the occupier to undertake the destructive offensive, which endangered the individual and collective lives of the Kosova Albanians. Second to be blamed is the Serb population and intelligentsia, which did not seriously react against the terror and vandalism, which was and is being applied by Serb military and police. The international factor has not undertaken any adequate punitive measures against the ethical policy of Belgrade occupier. It has allowed criminals headed by Milosevic to commit the most barbaric crimes ever done, applied against the civilian population and its property, in their presence.

The KLA General Headquarters, appreciated some of the sections of the Resolution adopted by the UN Security Council, nevertheless it demands the actions of NATO and the international community to be concrete and urgent. The KLA has declared that it respects all the covenants, in war and peace, which are adopted by this community and it has offered a cooperation. Therefore, we demand the problem of Kosova to be treated as a political and military crisis, which has induced a humanitarian one with catastrophic dimensions.

The KLA General Headquarters demand from the Albanian nation to avoid being a victim of the humanity of the most criminal regime Europe has ever had.

We urge political parties in Kosova and Albania to give up quarrels, fragmentation and the struggle for power, at a time when Albanian territories are being soaked in blood by Serb pyromaniacs; at a time when Albanian wealth is being destroyed, and Albanian dignity is being brought to dust.

Otherwise, these irresponsible acts shall be judged by history.

We also urge political activists, intellectuals, and professionals to join the KLA, which fights for the freedom and Independence of Kosova.

The KLA Headquarters has always valued and appreciated the courage of those who are ready to sacrifice themselves for the freedom and independence of Kosova.

The large scale police/military offensive, in the last three months, especially in the month of September, has only brought forward the legitimacy of the KLA, which is growing stronger and more professionally each day.

U0038610

Source-Date: 09/27/1998 2130 GMT
Region: East Europe
Sub-Region: Balkan States
Country: Kosovo, Albania
Topic: POLITICAL, INTERNATIONAL, DOMESTIC

U0038611

UCK Communique Stresses Independence as Only Solution

Pristina Koha Ditore in Albanian 02 Oct 98 p 2

["Text" of ~~Communique Number 57~~ of the General Staff of the Kosova Liberation Army: "The Targets of the Attacks of the Barbarian Serb Criminals and Pyromaniacs Have Been the Albanian Civilian Population, Their Property and Residences"]

The liberation struggle of our people, led by the UCK [Kosova Liberation Army], has entered a new phase, one that is difficult and dramatic, but also glorious. It will end in victory. From 21 to 30 September, the enemy undertook the most extensive offensive so far in the 1st Operations Zone. During this offensive, which included the subzone of Drenice [Drenica], Shale, Pashtrik [Patrik], and Nerodime, the enemy used hundreds of tanks, transport vehicles, armored cars, and other motorized vehicles. The UCK responded to these forces everywhere with superhuman determination and succeeded in causing human losses and losses of military equipment. In the Drenice subzone, in the terrain included in the flames of war, there was harsh combat in Prekaz [Prekaze], Gllanaselle, Rezalle [Rezala], Likoc, Negroc, and other places. Some 97 of the enemy's soldiers and paramilitaries were killed, and 14 tanks and other military vehicles were destroyed. Eleven UCK members were killed, and eight were wounded. The enemy kept inflicting losses on the UCK and kept taking revenge on the civilian population, killing and massacring them as in the case of the Delijaj family in Abri. In the subzone of Shala, the brave children of Artakolli inflicted losses of men and war machines on the enemy. In the subzones of Pashtrik and Nerodime, the harshest combat took place in Budakove [Budakovo], Greicevc, and Jezerc [Jezerce]. Great losses were inflicted on the enemy everywhere. In these battles, the enemy had more than 100 killed and wounded, and dozens of vehicles were set on fire during the clash. In the Pashtrik subzone, also, the rapid assault units of the 21st Brigade attacked the enemy forces in Petrove [Petrovo] and Cernaleve, while the units of the 121st Brigade attacked the enemy forces in Dragobil [Dragobilje] and Malisheve [Malisevo]. In these actions, some 65 enemy bandits were killed, and two tanks and another vehicle were destroyed. Lower-intensity combat was carried out in other parts of the 1st Operations Zone. During all this fighting, the losses of the UCK were relatively minimal. This proves that the enemy has not been able to subjugate the Kosova Liberation Army. On the contrary, our army is becoming hardened and is preparing for the final battle. During the three-month offensive, the enemy has succeeded in inflicting great spiritual pain and incalculable material losses on the Albanian people, but it has not been able to seriously damage the combat-troop strength of the UCK. The international community must be convinced that there is much evidence that the targets of the attacks of the barbarian Serb criminals and pyromaniacs have been the Albanian civilian population, their property and residences. Therefore, we must convince the international community that to people whose thresholds have been smeared with blood, whose property has been ransacked, and who have had entire villages torched, any resolution or agreement resulting in less than independence is unacceptable. Honorable fellow nationals and fellow countrymen, the blood shed everywhere in Kosova, in the villages that have been plundered and torched, and the young people who have been imprisoned and terrorized are all appealing to us to speak and to think clearly, without any administrative, party, or ideological distinction, to come together and to bring together all that we have to achieve the freedom and independence of our sacred homeland.

U0038612

Let us unite around the liberation struggle, which is a guarantee for the future. Only the **UCK** guarantees the freedom and independence of Kosova. By following in the footsteps of the boys and girls who know why they are living and dying, we will win our much-awaited freedom and independence.

The General Staff of the Kosova Liberation Army expresses its heartfelt condolences to all those who have lost loved ones and especially to the families of the martyrs for freedom.

Source-Date: 10/02/1998

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo

Topic: CONFLICT, DOMESTIC, POLITICAL, HUMAN RIGHTS

U0038613

Failure To Meet UCK Demands 'Forced Continuation' of War

Tirana TVSH Television Network in Albanian 20 Oct 98

[Announcer-read **Political Statement No 12** issued by the Liberation Army of Kosovo, UCK; place and date not given]

The General Staff of the Liberation Army of Kosova [UCK] has issued Political Statement No 12, which states among other things that no point in Resolution 1199 of the UN Security Council and no decision of the Contact Group have been respected and realized by the Serbian side. The UCK General Staff has announced the self-restraint and will respect it, but if there is no compliance with Resolution 1199 of the UN Security Council and the Contact Group decisions and the cruelties of the Milosevic's gangs against the Albanian population and the UCK position points continue, the latter preserves the right of defense and liberation, the right to fight for self-defense.

The statement stresses that the killing of three policemen in the village of Arllat is nothing else but a concoction of the Serbian criminals to continue their barbarous attacks against the civil population and to argue their failure to respect UN Security Council Resolution No 1199. Many times until now, Milosevic has given proof that he is a master of not respecting any agreement. Based on Resolution 1199 of the UN Security Council and the decisions of the Contact Group and those of the NATO on the attacks against the Serbian military bases, the UCK General Staff demands from these relevant mechanisms that:

- All military, police, and paramilitary forces, who have committed the most macabre acts against the civil human being and its property after the World War II in Europe, be withdrawn from Kosova.
- The killings, imprisonments, kidnapping, plundering, and arson be stopped.
- All the Albanian political prisoners who continue to be apprehended in the Serbian [word indistinct] as war hostages be released.
- Conditions be created for the professional teams of The Hague Tribunal to investigate into crimes in Kosova.
- Albanian talks be led by the UCK. Every other form of talks is and will be unacceptable for the UCK.
- Conditions be created for the OSCE observers to be independent in their complicated work.

For the UCK, which has been waging an imposed liberation war and has defended the honor and human and national dignity, failure to meet these demands means a forced continuation of the war for freedom, independence, and democracy, the statement notes among other things.

Source-Date: 10/20/1998 1635 GMT

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo

Topic: CONFLICT, HUMAN RIGHTS, INTERNATIONAL, LEADER

U0038614

UCK To Show 'Self-Restraint' During NATO Actions

Tirana TVSH Television Network in Albanian 1635 GMT 08 Oct 98

The General Staff of the Kosova Liberation Army [UCK] has issued Political Declaration No. 12, which states: Proceeding from the fact that the UCK has not taken up arms because it wanted war but to create conditions so the Albanian people can live in a free, independent, and democratic Kosova; considering the international community's commitment to end the civil tragedy in Kosova; and in view of the demand deriving from the UN Security Council's Resolution dated 24 September 1998, the UCK has decided to show self-restraint in order to contribute to the implementation of the UNSC resolution.

The implementation of this decision begins tomorrow, 9 October 1998, and will be valid throughout the period during which NATO will carry out its military actions. In this sense, the UCK demands the creation and establishment of an international system of verification to check the implementation of this decision and the demands deriving from the resolution.

Throughout this entire period, the UCK will display self-restraint, but at the same time it reserves the right to react if the opposing party fails to respect this.

The UCK will render its maximal contribution to facilitate the unobstructed actions of the international organizations in Kosova, notes the statement by the UCK General Staff.

Source-Date: 10/08/1998

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo

Topic: CONFLICT, HUMAN RIGHTS, INTERNATIONAL, MILITARY

Demaci Statement on Liberation Army's 'Self-Restraint'

Pristina Koha Ditore in Albanian 14 Oct 98 p 8

[Statement by Adem Demaci, general political representative of the Kosova Liberation Army, issued in Pristina on 13 October: "UCK's Self-Restraint Lasts As Long As Diplomatic Efforts Continue"]

On 8 October 1998, the General Staff of the Kosova Liberation Army [UCK] announced a decision to refrain from military actions, on the basis of Point One of Resolution No. 1,199 of the UN Security Council of 24 September; the recommendations of the UN Security Council of 2 October; the Resolution of the Contact Group of 3 October; the sense of Article 36 of the Convention of The Hague on the conduct of war in 1907; the Geneva Conventions of 1929 and 1949; the conclusions of the UN General Assembly in 1952; and the appeal of the NATO General Council.

I [Roman one] The UCK General Staff pledges that as long as the responsible international organizations for collective international security such as the United Nations, NATO, the Contact Group, and the mediators of U.S. diplomacy are actively committed to reaching a fair settlement of the status of the Republic of Kosova, the UCK will not undertake any military operation against the Serbian aggressor and his forces.

II [Roman two] This self restraint has the sole purpose of respecting Point One of Resolution No. 1,199 of the UN Security Council and making it possible to fairly settle the political status of the Republic of Kosova by political means.

III [Roman three] On the basis of Article 20 of The Hague Convention of 1907; Articles 118 and 126 of the Geneva Conventions of 1949; and the conclusions of the UN General Assembly in 1952, the UCK General Staff authorizes its general political representative, Mr. Adem Demaci, in cooperation with the International Red Cross, to act as a mediator to agree with the other side to free all prisoners of war, the wounded, and people imprisoned and kidnapped on the basis of suspected involvement in the UCK, and to make it possible to repatriate immediately those who have left Kosova for these reasons.

IV [Roman four] This self restraint will continue as long as the other side does not launch any military action against the UCK or innocent civilians. Members of the UCK will respect this self restraint in a disciplined manner, and will be subject to all the laws and regulations of war as far as what is considered self defense extends.

V [Roman five] Any side that fails to refrain from military action is to be considered an aggressor on the basis of Article 40 of The Hague Convention.

VI [Roman six] The UCK considers its own resistance to be over at the moment when a political solution of the status of the Republic of Kosova in harmony with the will of the people expressed in the referendum of 1991 is reached.

Mr. Adem Demaci, the general political representative of the UCK, is authorized to watch the situation during this period of self restraint, and, on behalf of the UCK General Staff, to announce this decision to the International Red Cross, the other side, the UN Security Council, NATO, the Contact Group member states, the International tribunal at The Hague, and the public in Kosova and internationally.

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo

Topic: INTERNATIONAL, HUMAN RIGHTS, POLITICAL, CONFLICT

U0038616

UCK Exercises 'Self-Restraint' in Face of Attacks

Pristina Kosova Sot in Albanian 12 Oct 98 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Pledge of Self-Restraint"]

The General Staff of the Kosova Liberation Army [UCK] has published **Political Declaration No. 13**, which states:

"As we reported in Political Declaration No. 12, the UCK has declared a ceasefire in order to create conditions to stop the humanitarian tragedy in Kosova. The ceasefire on our part came into effect at 0001 yesterday [date not given]. As reported in Political Declaration No. 12, the UCK has pledged that it will refrain from armed operations, with the aim of meeting the conditions arising out of the resolution of the UN Security Council of 24 September. We inform the international community and international institutions that are committed to averting a humanitarian tragedy and creating prior conditions for a stable political settlement of the Kosova issue that enemy forces, as soon as they received the news of the UCK General Staff's decision, started the bombardment of villages in the communes of Skenderaj [Srbica] and Kline [Klina] and also the the villages of Maxhane and Dragobil in Malisheve [Malisevo] Commune. The village of Gergoc is still being shelled from Suke ! e Cermjanit at the present moment. We have made tactical movements of our forces and have not responded. We have not restrained ourselves out of fear of confronting the forces of the occupier, because we have more than once demonstrated the high level of our courage and determination. However, in order to fulfill the international community's demands, the UCK General Staff asks the international community to exert pressure to ensure that the terrorist regime of Belgrade accepts all the conditions laid down in the resolution as soon as possible. The UCK General Staff assures all the international institutions and humanitarian organizations that wish to come to Kosova to help to overcome the consequences of Serbian barbarism that no member of the UCK will ever threaten the physical and moral security of members of international organizations."

Thus ends Political Declaration No. 13 of the UCK General Staff.

Source-Date: 10/12/1998

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo

Topic: INTERNATIONAL, HUMAN RIGHTS, POLITICAL, CONFLICT

Serbs Respond to UCK Truce by Shelling Albanian Villages

Tirana TVSH Television Network in Albanian 09 Oct 98

As we have reported, the General Staff of the Kosovo Liberation Army [UCK] has announced a truce with the aim of creating conditions for the humanitarian tragedy to be over in Kosova. The truce on our part became effective as of 0001 today, **Political Declaration No. 13** states. The UCK has pledged to show restraint in its armed operations, with the aim of fulfilling conditions deriving from the UN Security Council Resolution dated 24 September 1998. We hereby inform the international community and the institutions that are interested and committed to avoiding a further deterioration of the humanitarian tragedy and to creating the basic preconditions for a permanent political solution of the Kosova issue that, on receiving the news about the decision of the UCK General Staff, enemy [Serbian] forces began artillery attacks in the direction of the villages of the Skenderaj [Srbica] and Kline [Klina] municipalities and the villages of Maxhar and Dragobil in the Malisheve [Malisevo] Municipality. The village of Gergovc has been shelled and continues to be shelled even at this moment from Serbian positions in Sukaj in Crmjan. Our forces have made tactical movements, but have not responded. We have not shown such restraint out of fear of confronting the occupier's forces, because on no occasion have we failed to demonstrate the high level of our courage and determination. We have done this to comply with the demands of the international community. The UCK General Staff asks the international community to increase its pressure so that Belgrade's terrorist regime might accept all the conditions envisaged in the resolution as soon as possible. The UCK General Staff promises the international institutions and humanitarian organizations that want to come to Kosova to render their aid in overcoming the consequences caused by the Serbian barbarism that the physical and moral integrity of the members of humanitarian organizations will in no way and by no means be infringed by any UCK soldier.

Source-Date: 10/09/1998 1635 GMT

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo

Topic: CONFLICT, DOMESTIC, HUMAN RIGHTS, MILITARY

UCK Asks for 'Government of National Salvation'

Pristina Koha Ditore in Albanian 14 Oct 98 p 9

[Communique No. 58 of the General Staff of the Kosova Liberation Army, issued in Pristina on 13 Oct -- 'For the UCK, Any Settlement Other Than Independence Is Unacceptable'"]

Despite the self-restraint of the Kosova Liberation Army [UCK] and the ceasefire it announced a few days ago out of respect for the resolution of the UN Security Council, Serbian military, police, and paramilitary forces have not only failed to respect Security Council Resolution 1,199, but have continued to reinforce all their points of concentration, as well as creating new points for vehicles, missile systems, and troops.

The Serbian military and police forces are not only a permanent danger obstructing the return of villagers to their looted and burned homes, but in the last three days have continued their shelling of Albanian villages, in which civilians have suffered. The few remaining houses have been looted and burned. Milosevic's criminals have also shelled and shot at the border strip, even firing on the border police of Albania.

There has also been shelling at a lower intensity, but nevertheless incessant, in the area of Shale, in the villages of Oshlan, Prilluzhe, and Shipitulle. There has also been shelling and reinforcements have arrived in the subzone of Drenice, including the villages of Polac [Polance], Rezalle, Likoc [Likovac], Polluzhe [Poluza], Llapushnik [Lapusnik], Orllat, etc.

Shelling also continued in the subzone of Pashtrik and Nerodime and in Malisheve [Malisevo], Dragabil, Cerovik, and Bubavoc, and in Petrashtice, Carraleve [Crnolevo], Jezerc [Jezerce], Kashtanjeve, etc. Petrashtice, Duhel, and Carraleve suffered shelling and gunfire on 12 October too.

New military and police forces have also come from Serbia to Kosova in the last few days.

Enemy forces have been stationed on the Kosova-Serbian border and in the Llap area.

These are the latest, confirmed signs that the Milosevic regime has no intention of respecting UN Security Council Resolution No. 1,199.

The Milosevic regime is attempting to exploit the serious efforts that the international community has undertaken in the last few days to further deepen the humanitarian crisis. We therefore demand the immediate and energetic intervention of NATO to stop the continuing humanitarian tragedy in Kosova.

The UCK General Staff reports that it respects the mechanisms of the international community, but we ask for a fair and lasting settlement of the Kosova issue. After everything that Milosevic's criminals have done to the Albanian people of Kosova, any other settlement for Kosova apart from independence is unacceptable to the UCK.

Under these new and difficult circumstances, the UCK General Staff appeals to all the Albanian political parties to form a government of national salvation to lead talks for the independence of Kosova. We will not allow any one-party group to decide the fate of the people of Kosova. The existing group is not only unacceptable, but we strongly demand that it should withdraw from further talks.

Source-Date: 10/14/1998

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

U0038620

Country: Kosovo

Topic: INTERNATIONAL, HUMAN RIGHTS, POLITICAL, CONFLICT

UCK Criticizes Holbrooke Accord, Urges Albanian Unity

Tirana TVSH Television Network in Albanian 1635 GMT 16 Oct 98

The Kosova Liberation Army [UCK] General Staff has issued its **political declaration No. 14**, which states among other things that in recent days the engagement of all the relevant mechanisms of the international community to stop the terror and violence that Milosevic's criminal and vandal gangs have caused in Kosova has been followed with attention and increased interest.

The UCK General Staff praises the main points of Resolution 1199 of the UN Security Council, but not the part that equates the UCK and the Serbian soldiery. This Staff praises the international community's threat to Milosevic's fascist regime, but does not agree with the Holbrooke-Milosevic agreement, which has done nothing but given room to Milosevic to continue the war, genocide, and Serbian massacres and to deepen the humanitarian crisis. This means taking responsibility for the danger of the spread of war in the region.

The statement demands from the UN and NATO to force the withdrawal of Serbian forces from all their deployment points in order to allow the people to return to their looted and gutted homes and allow the free movement of all citizens; on the contrary, the UCK will continue its struggle for freedom, independence, and democracy.

The views presented in this declaration note that no one has the right to sign any agreement that runs counter to the people's will as expressed in the referendum of 1991. The Staff demands from the entire political spectrum in Kosova not to form into political groupings, as it is the time for institutional unity. These subjects are also asked to hold continuous consultations with the UCK General Staff's envoy Mr. Adem Demaci so as to establish the state institutions in Kosova.

The UCK General Staff asks the political parties and other influential bodies in Albania to cease every action that leads to a national split, hampers the stability of the state and cultural institutions of Albania, and prevents them from accomplishing the tasks of the time and stabilizing the economy and democracy in Albania in order to assist in finding a permanent solution to the Kosova issue.

In this statement, the UCK General Staff reiterates its call to become united around the entire national force in the overall political, intellectual, professional, moral, and material pan-Albanian territory in order to become orientated and united for our liberation goals.

The UCK General Staff asks the international community to form various groups of experts to explore all the crimes committed in Kosova. All those who have committed or incited crimes should be held to account in The Hague Tribunal.

Seeing the seriousness of the relevant international factors, particularly the UN, the EU, NATO, the United States, the United Kingdom, and other Western countries, the UCK General Staff offers cooperation to the entire North-Atlantic Alliance in order to accelerate finding a solution to the Kosova issue, the statement reads, among other things.

U0038622

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo

Topic: CONFLICT, HUMAN RIGHTS, INTERNATIONAL, LEADER

UCK Sends 'Memorandum' to International Community

Pristina Bujku in Albanian 17 Oct 98 p 2

["Memorandum of the General Staff of the Kosova Liberation Army Sent to the Relevant Institutions of the International Community;"place and date not given: "Kosova Historically Possessed Its Own Political Status, and the UCK Is Struggling for Its Independence"]

I [Roman one] [subhead]

The Albanians in general, and those of Kosova in particular, are among the oldest peoples of the Balkans and of Europe. They are the descendants of the Illyrians, and are indigenous to their territory, heirs to an ancient civilization and culture alongside the Greeks and the Romans.

The Albanians are a people with a special identity, distinct from the Serbs.

Kosova had its own state identity in ancient times as Dardania, as the Vilayet [Ottoman administrative division] of Kosova under Ottoman rule, and as a constitutive element of the Yugoslavia of AVNOJ [Antifascist National Liberation Council of Yugoslavia].

Kosova today has an area of 10,800 square kilometers and a population of more than 2 million, more than 90 percent of whom are Albanians.

II [Roman two] [subhead]

Kosova fell under Serbian occupation in 1912-1913.

Immediately after the Serbian Army invaded the Albanian lands, national resistance began and continued until the start of World War II. Throughout this period, the state authorities of Serbia and Versailles Yugoslavia tried to suppress the Albanian people with systematic violence, with the aim of ethnically cleansing Kosova.

Kosova had its own special status during World War II.

At the Conference of Bujan on 31 December 1943 and 1 and 2 January 1944, the representatives of the Albanian people decided that Kosova, according to the principle of self-determination, should be united to Albania.

In July 1945, Serbia organized a rigged assembly, which was forced to decide that Kosova would be annexed by Serbia.

III [Roman three] [subhead]

Until 1974, Kosova possessed a territorial autonomy that was not respected. The Albanians' civil and national rights and freedoms were systematically violated.

After 1974, Kosova became a constitutive unit of the then Yugoslav federation, and won certain political rights to self-administration. However, in 1989 Serbia unilaterally deprived Kosova of the autonomy that it possessed.

Throughout the period after World War II, the Serbian and Yugoslav communist regime discriminated against the Albanian people. During this period, the Albanians organized a peaceful resistance with demonstrations, protests, strikes, etc.

In 1991, the people of Kosova decided in a referendum that Kosova will be an independent state.

IV [Roman four] [subhead]

After the Serbian massacres of the Albanian population at Likoshan [Likosane], Qirez [Cirez] and Prekaz e Ulet [Donje Prekaze] in February this year, a bitter and unequal war began in Kosova between the Serbian military, police, and paramilitary forces on one hand and the Albanian people on the other. Throughout this unequal war, the international community and its

relevant institutions and the world public at large have been kept informed about the Serbian barbarism against the civilian population, the murders and massacres, the looting of property, the destruction and burning of houses, the destruction of cultural and religious institutions, and the devastation of about 450 villages.

The humanitarian catastrophe that is a result of this war has displaced more than one-fifth of the population of Kosova. Of the people left homeless, some are still living in the open air, and others have migrated to neighboring countries or other countries of Europe.

V [Roman five] [subhead]

The Kosova Liberation Army [UCK] took up arms to defend the people from the systematic state violence of Milosevic's fascist regime, to achieve the will of the people expressed in the referendum of 1991, and to bring democracy to Kosova.

The UCK has consistently stated that it respects the diplomatic, military, and humanitarian institutions of the international community and the conventions of war and peace. Likewise, it respects Resolution No. 1,199 of the UN Security Council, the decisions of the Contact Group on Kosova, the NATO Council, and the EU.

The UCK is and will remain committed to the independence and democratization of Kosova, and expects a fair and lasting settlement of the Kosova issue from the international community.

Like all other people in the world, the Albanians of Kosova have the right to live free and independent in their own homeland, and to decide their own destiny.

The UCK's contribution in this field is a great and indispensable one, with the aim of establishing a permanent peace in the region.

Source-Date: 10/17/1998

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo

Topic: INTERNATIONAL, HUMAN RIGHTS, POLITICAL, CONFLICT

Failure To Meet UCK Demands 'Forced Continuation' of War

Tirana TVSH Television Network in Albanian 20 Oct 98

[Announcer-read **Political Statement No. 12** issued by the Liberation Army of Kosovo, UCK; place and date not given]

The General Staff of the Liberation Army of Kosova [UCK] has issued Political Statement No 12, which states among other things that no point in Resolution 1199 of the UN Security Council and no decision of the Contact Group have been respected and realized by the Serbian side. The UCK General Staff has announced the self-restraint and will respect it, but if there is no compliance with Resolution 1199 of the UN Security Council and the Contact Group decisions and the cruelties of the Milosevic's gangs against the Albanian population and the UCK position points continue, the latter preserves the right of defense and liberation, the right to fight for self-defense.

The statement stresses that the killing of three policemen in the village of Arllat is nothing else but a concoction of the Serbian criminals to continue their barbarous attacks against the civil population and to argue their failure to respect UN Security Council Resolution No 1199. Many times until now, Milosevic has given proof that he is a master of not respecting any agreement. Based on Resolution 1199 of the UN Security Council and the decisions of the Contact Group and those of the NATO on the attacks against the Serbian military bases, the UCK General Staff demands from these relevant mechanisms that:

- All military, police, and paramilitary forces, who have committed the most macabre acts against the civil human being and its property after the World War II in Europe, be withdrawn from Kosova.
- The killings, imprisonments, kidnapping, plundering, and arson be stopped.
- All the Albanian political prisoners who continue to be apprehended in the Serbian [word indistinct] as war hostages be released.
- Conditions be created for the professional teams of The Hague Tribunal to investigate into crimes in Kosova.
- Albanian talks be led by the UCK. Every other form of talks is and will be unacceptable for the UCK.
- Conditions be created for the OSCE observers to be independent in their complicated work.

For the UCK, which has been waging an imposed liberation war and has defended the honor and human and national dignity, failure to meet these demands means a forced continuation of the war for freedom, independence, and democracy, the statement notes among other things.

Source-Date: 10/20/1998 1635 GMT

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo

Topic: CONFLICT, HUMAN RIGHTS, INTERNATIONAL, LEADER

UCK To Resume 'Struggle' if Belgrade Continues Attacks

Belgrade BETA in Serbo-Croatian 20 Oct 98

Pristina, 20 Oct (BETA) -- The headquarters of the illegal Kosovo Liberation Army [UCK] today accused Belgrade of not honoring a single point of the UN Security Council resolution or a single Contact Group decision.

The UCK states in the declaration that if attacks on the Albanian population continue, the UCK will demand the right to defense and liberation, and stresses that the killing of three police officers in Orlate village "was staged by the regime to justify continued attacks on the civilian population."

The UCK main headquarters demands that the UN Security Council and the Contact Group apply strong pressure on Belgrade and force it to withdraw all its forces, reads the declaration, adding that the failure to meet these demands "will mean the continuation of the struggle for freedom, independence, and democracy."

Source-Date: 10/20/1998 1822 GMT

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

Topic: CONFLICT, DOMESTIC, HUMAN RIGHTS, MILITARY

'Traacherous Hand' Murders UCK Commander in Drenica

Pristina Bota e Re in Albanian 31 Oct 98 p 14

[Communique No. 59 issued by the General Staff of the Kosova Liberation Army; place and date not given: "Commander Abedin Sokol Rexha Murdered by a Traacherous Hand"]

On its sacred path of liberation, the Kosova Liberation Army [UCK] still today faces notorious criminal elements and signs of the work of the black-hearted "institutional" mercenaries, even at a time when the UCK has reached the highest levels of organization and professionalism, when the entire Albanian people support and help it, and when the political and nonpolitical organizations of Kosova are rallying round the political program of the UCK as the sole cohesive national force, and when the UCK is winning increasing national recognition as representing the whole of the armed forces of Kosova.

Unfortunately, the target of these antinational acts throughout history have been the most valuable and devoted sons of the Albanian national movement, like Bajram Curri, Luigj Gurakuqi, Hasan Prishtina, the Gervalla brothers, Kadri Zeka, Enver Hadri, etc. The ominous phenomenon of the liquidation of men of the pen and the gun in our national movement reared its head again at about 1500 [1300 GMT] on 8 October in the village of Kllodernice in Drenice [Drenica], when Abedin Sokol Rexha from the village of Vojnik near Skenderaj [Srbica] was shot in the back from an ambush, in the course of duty. Abedin was murdered by the sworn collaborator Gani Geci, who even earlier during the most recent Serbian offensive had been seen wearing a mask and leading the Serbian police to the massacres they committed against the civilian population of Drenice. Abedin Sokol Rexha, a hero of our time, was one of the first fighters of the UCK. He was born in the village of Vojnik near Skenderaj. He completed elementary school in his home village, and high school in Skenderaj. He later continued his studies at the Mining and Metallurgy College in Mitrovice [Kosovska Mitrovica]. Because of his political and patriotic activities, Abedin was obliged to interrupt his studies at the beginning of the nineties and to temporarily go abroad. He never lost contact with Kosova. He often came here with his friends Adem and Hamze Jashari, Luan Haradinaj, Fehmi Lladrovci, etc. The bloody hand of treachery killed him as he was performing his duties as commander of Brigade No. 122 of the Operational Subzone of Drenice, where the shells of the enemy continued to scar the soil of martyred Drenice.

With the murder of Abedin Sokol Rexha, the Rexha family has lost its son, brother, and father, and the UCK has lost one of its most revolutionary commanders, the most unflinching in all the fighting in Drenice or anywhere else. The murderous hand that killed the eagle-eyed UCK commander is still in the service of the enemy, promising to assassinate other members of the UCK. We are determined and convinced that all the Albanian-speakers who fight against and obstruct the liberation struggle of the people of Kosova under the leadership of the UCK will be punished by the courts and at the bar of history.

The UCK General Staff expresses its deep and sincere condolences to the Rexha family and Abedin's comrades-in-arms.

Commander Abedin was a model of how to fight for the liberation of Kosova. His exemplary life and deeds will go down for ever in the history of our modern national movement.

Glory to the life and work of Commander Abedin Sokol Rexha!

Long live the UCK!

U0038628

Source-Date: 10/31/1998

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo

Topic: CONFLICT, DOMESTIC, HUMAN RIGHTS, MILITARY

UCK Reports Arrival of Serb Reinforcements, Fighting

Tirana TVSH Television Network in Albanian 1635 GMT 18 Oct 98

Communique No. 60 of the General Staff of the Kosova Liberation Army [UCK] states that the situation in Kosova is serious. Despite the threats of the international community and NATO against the fascist regime of Belgrade to withdraw its military forces from Kosova, Milosevic and his murderous regime are not only not fulfilling their obligations under the UN Security Council Resolution, but have brought in new military and police reinforcements and deployed them in various parts of Kosova.

In the operational subzone of Dukagjin alone, forces were deployed at Krelan, Maznik, and Dashinoc between 14 and 17 October. These forces have bombarded the surrounding villages, especially those of Dushkaje. During these days, avoiding the controls of international observers, there has been shelling of Albanian villages and of the lines of the UCK from the positions of military and police forces throughout Kosova, such as in the operational subzone of Llap, where the town of Podujeve [Podujevo] was at the center of confrontations, in the operational subzones of Drenice [Drenica], Nerodime, Shale, and Pashtrik, and as far as the border strip, where the enemy has concentrated large military and police forces. The bitterest fighting took place along the highways between Komoran [Komorane] and Kijeve [Kijevo]; Komoran and Malisheve [Malisevo]; Malisheve and Rahovec [Orahovac]; Shtime [Stimlje] and Suhareke [Suva Reka]; Suhareke and Rahovec [Orahovac]; and Podujeve [Podujevo] and Prishtina [Pristina], where units of UCK scouts fell into ambushes and were obliged to respond to gunfire with gunfire of their own. The UCK General Staff informs the international community about the dangerous tendencies of the enemy to expand the conflict into urban areas of Kosova, especially inside the towns of Podujeve, Rahovec, Malisheve, Suhareke, and especially the Kosova capital of Prishtina. This is evident from the enemy's attacks in Prishtina on 16 October, the communique states.

Source-Date: 10/18/1998

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo

Topic: DOMESTIC, HUMAN RIGHTS, POLITICAL, CONFLICT

UCK Announces Continuing 'Self-Restraint'

Pristina Koha Ditore in Albanian 24 Oct 98 p 8

[Political Declaration No. 16 issued by the General Staff of the Kosova Liberation Army in Pristina on 23 October: "We Are Worried at Mr. Dienstbier's Irresponsible Statement"]

The General Staff of the Kosova Liberation Army [UCK] is closely following political and diplomatic activity about Kosova. It appreciates the commitment of international bodies and high-level personalities, but is worried at the irresponsible statement by J. Dienstbier, the UN envoy for human rights, which is in fact an attack not only on our just liberation struggle but also on the basic principles of the body he represents. We believe that these are his personal attitudes based on a nasty imagination, and not the views of the body he represents.

The UCK General Staff believes that Russian and Chinese diplomacy are unable to rid themselves from obsolete, inhuman, and Stalinist ideas and delusions of grandeur. However, they are imposing this mentality on mechanisms such as the UN Security Council, the OSCE, NATO, etc.

The UCK General Staff, seeing the international community's increased interest in an end to the bloody fighting and in respect for UN Resolution No. 1,199 and the decisions of the Contact Group, have announced self-restraint, and will refrain from military operations as long as NATO's action against Serbia continues. Our self-restraint is continuing, but is not unlimited. The UCK General Staff repeats that it will be open to every mechanism of the international community that benefits peace and the future of our people. It will not hinder and will indeed help all interest and work on the part of these organizations.

The UCK will not undertake any offensive operation against the Serbian military and police forces that are withdrawing. However, any move against our villages and bases will oblige us to take measures to defend ourselves.

We reconfirm that our self-restraint is continuing, even though not we are not obliged by any agreement but only by the interest of our people, who are fighting so hard for freedom, independence, and democracy, and by the work of the international community for the sake of peace and stability in the region.

Source-Date: 10/24/1998

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo

Topic: INTERNATIONAL, HUMAN RIGHTS, POLITICAL, CONFLICT

KLA Condemns UN Human Rights Official's Comments

(Internet) ARTA WWW in English 23 Oct 98

Pristina, 23 Oct -- "The KLA [Kosovo Liberation Army] General Headquarters is following with full attention the political and diplomatic activity concerning Kosova; it appreciates the engagement of the relevant international factors as well as of outstanding personalities, but it is worried with the irresponsible presentation of the UN special rapporteur for human rights, Jiri Dienstbier. His statement was an attack not only on our just liberation struggle, but also on the basic principles of the organization he is representing. We believe that those are just his personal standpoints induced by the repulsive mythomania, and not the standpoints of the organization he represents.

KLA thinks that the Russian and Chinese diplomacy still are not getting rid of the dilapidated antihuman concepts of Stalinism and Maoism. This approach is being imposed also on the relevant mechanisms like the UN Security Council, OSCE, NATO etc. Regarding the augmented interest of the international community in halting the bloody fighting, and in order to respect the UN SC Resolution 1199, as well as the decisions of the Contact Group on Kosova, the KLA General Headquarters has proclaimed a self-restraint for halting the military actions as long as NATO actions against Serbia continue. The self-restraint continues, but it is not unlimited. The KLA General Headquarters repeats that it will be open to any relevant mechanism of the international community, which is to the benefit of peace and future of our people. Every interest and activity of these organs will be unimpeded and will be given our assistance.

KLA will not undertake any attack against the Serbian military and police forces during their withdrawal. However, every movement towards the villages or our strongholds will compel us to undertake measures of self-defence.

We reconfirm the continuation of self-restraint, although we are not obliged by any agreement, but by the interest of our nation fighting so eagerly for freedom, independence and democracy, as well as by the activity of the international community for peace and stability in the region", states the communique of KLA General Headquarters.

Source-Date: 10/23/1998 1700 GMT

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo

Topic: POLITICAL, INTERNATIONAL, HUMAN RIGHTS

U0038632

Liberation Army Sends Condolences to Grieving Families

Tirana TVSH Television Network in Albanian 31 Oct 98

Communique No. 61 of the Kosova Liberation Army [UCK] states that the Albanian people of Kosova and their UCK recently faced the largest Serbian military offensive, which will be remembered for its bloodthirsty criminal acts of unbridled Serbian vandalism, and also for the highest level of heroic resistance shown by the UCK. During these battles, the UCK showed its highest abilities in action, and gained comprehensive experience that is a guarantee of its future on the difficult road, full of self-sacrifice, toward the liberation of Kosova.

Our warriors and dauntless brave men, with the sacrifices they made in these battles, are the finest examples of how to fight for the freedom and independence of Kosova. The blood of the martyrs of the UCK who fell in the four corners of Kosova obliges us Albanians, wherever we are, to unite even more in the struggle for the liberation of Kosova.

The UCK General Staff feels indescribable grief at the loss of the martyrs of freedom and all citizens of Kosova, and at the suffering and acts of mass destruction caused by the barbaric enemy. But there is no alternative to freedom and independence. The UCK General Staff expresses its most sincere condolences to the families and comrades-in-arms of who have lost their loved ones, and who unstintingly gave even their lives for freedom and the homeland.

Source-Date: 10/31/1998 1735 GMT

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo

Topic: DOMESTIC, HUMAN RIGHTS, POLITICAL, CONFLICT

Kosovo Liberation Army Opposes Negotiations With Serbs

(Internet) ARTA WWW in English 2200 GMT 03 Nov 98

[Kosovo Liberation Army communique published in Pristina on 3November]

The KLA [Kosovo Liberation Army; UCK in Albanian] General Headquarters, evaluates that the situation in Kosova [Kosovo] remains tense, dangerous, and with tendencies of the fighting actions of the Serbian police and army to continue against the Albanian people.

The fascist Serbian regime has still not fulfilled the requests of the international community, called by the UN Security Council, the Contact Group, the EU, NATO etc. On the contrary, the Serbian troops are repositioning or taking the previous positions, despite the improvised withdrawal, several days ago.

On the other hand, KLA has not taken those positions and has no reason to take them. KLA is on its land. It demands and works in the direction of helping the dislocated population go back home -- if it has a place left to go to. Nevertheless, it has to go back, it has no other country, just as it will not have any freedom or prosperity, outside Kosova.

The KLA General Headquarters evaluated that the international community is constantly making a concession to the criminal regime of Belgrade, damaging the Albanian people.

Despite the NATO threats of attacks on Serbian military points, the UN Security Council Resolution 1199 is fading away. The extension of the deadline is unjustified. The increase of the number of the Serb police and military forces, from 18,000 to 25,000, is one of the numerous concessions that are being made to the inhumane regime of Milosevic.

The attempts of ignoring the KLA, by the political circles in Kosova, Serbia and by the international community, has consequences making the solution of the problem impossible, since KLA is the most important institution in Kosova, without which there cannot be any discussions or decisions about this problem.

So far, none of the conditions posted by KLA or called by the international community have been fulfilled in order to start serious negotiations with the Serbian side.

Hence, for the time being, the negotiations cannot begin. The attempts of individuals or of unauthorized groups to start negotiations will be unacceptable for KLA. The KLA General Headquarters recalls that Kosova has its own institutions, political leadership, judiciary, the army, police etc., legitimized before the national and international factor.

Any attempts to form paramilitary groups, urged by the institutional mercenaries, will be perceived by the KLA as identical to the Serbian occupier. We inform the pro-autonomy and institutionalist phalanx, that appointing compromised ex-secret security people, who continue to divide the national movement as ministers will not be allowed as it will not be allowed to play with the fate of the people and the blood that was shed for freedom.

The KLA General Headquarters, makes an appeal to the international relevant factors, not to misuse our self-restraint and generosity for cooperation -- as well as the misfortune of our people -- in order to make exceptions to the Belgrade regime and to collaborate with failed political and anti-national individuals and groups in Kosova.

KLA will not accept any agreement that is reached without its presence -- and that is less than independence," it is stated in the communique issued by the KLA General Headquarters.

U0038634

Region: East Europe
Sub-Region: Balkan States
Country: Kosovo, Serbia
Topic: POLITICAL, DOMESTIC

UCK Reiterates Demand for Independence

Pristina Kosova Sot in Albanian 05 Nov 98 p 4

[Unattributed article: "Statement of the General Staff of the Kosova Liberation Army -- the UCK Will Not Support Any Solution Less Than Independence"]

In its most recent press statement, the General Staff of the Kosova Liberation Army [UCK] stressed that the international community is making it possible for there to be new concessions to the criminal Serb regime to the detriment of the Albanian people, emphasizing, in particular, the unjustified extension of the time period for compliance with the demands of the Security Council resolution and the increase in the number of Serb forces that can be kept in Kosova from 18,000 to 25,000. The statement said that the tendencies to keep the UCK out of political issues that are present in Kosova and also in Serbia and in the international community, will have negative repercussions on the search for a solution of the problem of Kosova, which becomes impossible because the UCK is the most important institution in Kosova, without which there can be no negotiations and no decision on the problem of Kosova.

The UCK General Staff pointed out that the demands that the UCK made to the international community have not yet been satisfied, and so the negotiations cannot begin. Also, the tendencies of unauthorized individuals and groups to accept any kind of talks are unacceptable and condemnable in the eyes of the UCK. The General Staff called upon the relevant international factors not to cooperate with failed and anti-national groups and individuals in Kosova. The UCK will not support and will not accept any solution that means less than independence for Kosova, the statement emphasized.

Source-Date: 11/05/1998

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo, Serbia

Topic: DOMESTIC, POLITICAL, MILITARY

Liberation Army Confirms Continuing 'Self-Restraint'

Tirana TVSH Television Network in Albanian 1735 GMT 14 Nov 98

Communique No. 62 of the Kosova Liberation Army [UCK] states that the self-restraint announced by the UCK General Staff is continuing, except in cases in which Serbian criminal gangs have launched attacks and provocations. Self-restraint was announced, not because we are under any obligation from an agreement, but out of respect for international conventions and to leave scope for politicians and diplomats to achieve a stable and peaceful political settlement in Kosova. The struggle, seriousness, and determination of the UCK and the Albanian people have put Kosova at the head of the international agenda in 1998, and led to it being treated seriously. This is shown by the meetings between the political representatives of the UCK at home and abroad with diplomats and foreign officials, especially those of the United States.

In this context, the communique stresses the 115-page report in English that includes facts describing all the different kinds of barbaric Serbian violence in Kosova, even after UN Security Council Resolution No. 1,199 and other resolutions. This report has been delivered to the EU Parliament, the Belgian Senate, the General Prosecutor of the Tribunal in The Hague and other European institutions. These institutions have also been informed of the political platform and strategy of the UCK, so that they will accept the UCK as the national liberation army of the Albanian people in Kosova.

The UCK General Staff is completing its restructuring and is organizing its inner and outer structures, also making changes in its leadership. Mr. Faton Mehmetaj has been discharged from the Political Directorate, and Mr. Rame Buja has been appointed. The UCK General Staff expressed its concern at and dissociates itself from the kidnapping of people of whatever nationality. The UCK is fighting against murderous criminal invaders of the Belgrade regime. The UCK General Staff asks the international community, the Red Cross, the OSCE observers to oblige the fascist regime of Belgrade not to abuse our self-restraint or to allow their own insignia and cars to be used to enter Albanian villages to kill and massacre people as happened in Negroc [Negrovac] near Glogoc and Decan near Malisheve. Everybody, the communique says, is obliged to help the UCK's fund within the country, thus helping the struggle for freedom, democracy, and independence in Kosova.

Source-Date: 11/14/1998

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo

Topic: DOMESTIC, HUMAN RIGHTS, POLITICAL, CONFLICT

UCK Protests Television 'Truncation' of Communiques

Pristina Koha Ditore in Albanian 15 Nov 98 p 2

[~~Communique No. 62~~ of the General Staff of the Kosova Liberation Army; place and date not given: "The Kosova Liberation Army -- Epicenter of All the Recent Political and Diplomatic Activity For and About Kosova"]

The Kosova Liberation Army [UCK] is continuing in its self-restraint, announced by the UCK General Staff in Statement No. 12, except in cases in which Serbian criminal gangs have launched attacks and provocations. Self-restraint was announced, not because we are under any obligation from an agreement, but out of respect for international conventions and to leave scope for politicians and diplomats to achieve a stable and peaceful political settlement in Kosova. The struggle, seriousness, and determination of the UCK and the Albanian people, and the blood they have shed for freedom, independence, democracy, peace, and prosperity, have put Kosova at the head of the international agenda in 1998, and led to it being treated seriously. The UCK and its General Staff have been the epicenter of all the recent political and diplomatic activities for and about Kosova. This is shown by the meetings between the political representatives of the UCK at home and abroad with diplomats and foreign officials, especially those of the United States. The meeting of Mr. Christopher Hill, the US ambassador to Skopje entrusted with the Kosova issue, with political representatives of the UCK General Staff at Dragobil inaugurated this series of meetings. Senior US officials and European have held many meetings with Mr. Adem Demaci, the UCK's fully-authorized representative, at the UCK office in Prishtina [Pristina], and Mr. Hashim Thaci, head of the Political Directorate, has met Ambassador Wolfgang Petritsch of Austria, the current EU chairman, and talked about the future political status of Kosova. Mr. Bardhyl Mahmuti, the political representative of the UCK General Staff, has also been involved in intensive political and diplomatic activity in the last few days. Bardhyl Mahmuti and his political colleagues have had meetings with representatives of the EU and its Presidency, the European Parliament, the Belgian parliament and Senate, the foreign minister of the Netherlands, the general prosecutor of the Tribunal at The Hague, the German Foreign Minister, etc. A 115-page report in English that includes facts describing all the different kinds of barbaric Serbian violence in Kosova, even after UN Security Council Resolution No. 1,199 and other resolutions, has been delivered to all these persons and institutions. These institutions have also been informed of the political platform and strategy of the UCK. It is worth mentioning that the European institutions recognize and accept the UCK as the national liberation army of the Albanian people in Kosova. The UCK General Staff is completing its restructuring and is organizing its inner and outer structures, also making changes in its leadership. Mr. Faton Mehmetaj has been discharged from the Political Directorate, and Mr. Rame Buja has been appointed. The UCK General Staff expressed its concern at and dissociates itself from the kidnapping of people of whatever nationality. The kidnapping of two Serbian civilians in Polac [Polance], about which we learned from the public media, was an isolated incident carried out by irresponsible people, which as such damages our just liberation struggle.

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We do not want the civilian population and their property to be attacked in any way. The UCK is fighting against the murderous criminal invaders of the Belgrade regime.

The UCK General Staff asks the international community, the Red Cross, and the OSCE observers to oblige the fascist regime of Belgrade not to abuse our self-restraint or to allow their own insignia and cars to be used to enter Albanian villages to kill and massacre people as happened in Negroc [Negrovac] near Glogoc [Glogovac] and Mlecan near Malisheve [Malisevo].

The General Staff informs all well-to-do people that they are obliged to help the UCK's fund within the country, thus helping the struggle for freedom, democracy, and independence in Kosova.

The UCK General Staff criticizes the satellite program of Prishtina Television [as published] and other media at home and abroad not to truncate our appeals for unity and for our campaign, "The Homeland in Danger -- The Homeland Calls," as announced in Political Declaration No. 18.

Such behavior not only violates democratic principles and the code of journalism, but is also a punishable act, now or at any time.

We ask our compatriots wherever they are to help and to join without hesitation our just liberation struggle.

Source-Date: 11/15/1998

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo

Topic: DOMESTIC, HUMAN RIGHTS, POLITICAL, CONFLICT

Serb Attacks 'Put in Question' UCK's 'Self-Restraint'

Pristina Kosova Sot in Albanian 15 Nov 98 p 4

["Political Declaration No. 18" issued by the General Staff of the Kosova Liberation Army in Pristina on 10 November: "Belgrade Continues To Provoke the Albanian People"]

Recent developments in Kosova have been characterized by repeated attacks by Serbian military and police forces against the Albanian people, which have resulted in people killed and wounded and cases of arrests, kidnapping, and disappearances. These actions have brought the situation to the point of rekindling armed conflict, which would have repercussions for the region. The trends of political developments in Kosova do not demonstrate the level of responsibility demanded by the times, which are so fraught with dangers and the unexpected. When one adds to this the lack of commitment on the part of the international community, which in some cases favors nationally indifferent individuals and groups that offer nothing but subjugation, the General Staff of the Kosova Liberation Army [UCK] becomes obliged to state in public the following views:

1. Ever since the General Staff announced its policy of self-restraint, the Serbian military and police troops have never ceased provoking the Albanian population as they return to their own homes. They have laid mines of various kinds in homes, streets, and gardens, which have caused deaths and injuries. The Serbian criminals have exploited the situation and the self-restraint of the UCK and have often laid ambushes to kill Albanians, as in Optrushe near Rahovec [Orahovac], where five UCK soldiers were killed. These incidents are a sign that the Belgrade regime does not respect the resolutions, decisions, and agreements of the international community, and put in question our self-restraint. The situation is becoming increasingly intolerable for our people, and this obliges the UCK to defend them.
2. The UCK General Staff has been following the movements of the last few days on the Kosovar political scene with increased attention, and expresses its concern at the discordant attitudes adopted by certain political parties, which have avoided contacts and the agreements on a platform of political and military unity, which the UCK General Staff proposed long ago through its representative Mr. Adem Demaci, a personality of proven character in our political and national life.
3. The UCK General Staff has always welcomed the initiatives of the international community, especially the United States, to solve the issue of Kosova, by offering overall cooperation. It will always offer this cooperation as long as it leads to a fair and stable settlement. However, the UCK General Staff also expresses its concern over the way in which certain international circles have equated our liberation struggle with the barbarism of Milosevic's criminals, whose brutalities are well known to the world public. In accordance with the situation, we appeal to our follow-countrymen, regardless of their part, ideological, and confessional allegiances, to support and assist our just liberation struggle and to respond to the campaign, "The Fatherland in Danger -- the Homeland Calls," which will take place between 14 November and 20 December.

Source-Date: 11/15/1998

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

U0038640

Country: Kosovo

Topic: INTERNATIONAL, HUMAN RIGHTS, POLITICAL, CONFLICT

KLA Confirm Abduction of Serbian Policeman

Belgrade Radio B92 in Serbo-Croatian 2030 GMT 22 Nov 98

The so-called Kosovo Liberation Army [KLA; Serbo-Croat: OVK; Albanian: UCK] has sent a statement to Albanian- language dailies in Pristina this evening. The statement confirmed that armed Albanians abducted Serbian policeman Goran Zbiljic, from Podujevo, on 17 November. Our special correspondent in Pristina, Antonela Riha, reports:

[Riha] The statement, signed by the KLA information service, says that police units of the armed separatists arrested a group of bandits who were cooperating with the enemy in the Lapa operational subzone last week. They also arrested police inspector Goran Zbiljic, who was the main organizer of the looting of abandoned villages in the Lapa area. Zbiljic and the others were handed over to the armed separatists' investigative bodies.

The KLA's political spokesman, Adem Demaci, has confirmed for B92 radio that the statement was authentic, even though the name of policeman Goran Zbiljic, who was reported by Serbian sources as having been kidnapped by the rebels on 17 November, had been misspelt.

So far we have not received confirmation of this news from the [international] diplomatic observers [in Kosovo]. However, Demaci told B92 that it was possible that they [the observers] had met with local KLA representatives and held talks about those abducted.

The KLA statement warns that similar measures would in future be taken against anyone who -- I quote -- cooperates with the security services, obstructs the education process, damages forests, and carries out acts damaging to the [Albanian] people and the homeland -- end quote.

Source-Date: 11/22/1998

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo, Serbia

Topic: CONFLICT, POLITICAL, DOMESTIC

UCK Arrests 'Bandits,' Serb Security Inspector

Tirana TVSH Television Network in Albanian 1735 GMT 22 Nov 98

The Kosova Liberation Army's [UCK] Information Directorate reports that during the last week the UCK police authorities of the operational subzone of Llap have detained and arrested a gang of bandits that collaborated with the enemy. The statement by the directorate calls this category of people spies and thieves, who in collaboration with the specialized organs of the Serbian security service have robbed and plundered the Albanian people and empty Albanian villages. It is also reported that the Serbian security inspector Goran Ilic, who was the main organizer of all the looting carried out in Llap, has been detained. All the arrestees have been handed over to the investigating authorities and are being dealt with by the relevant institutions. The report states that the same thing will happen to all other gangs who, in collaboration with the UDB [Serbo-Croatian abbreviation for former Yugoslav security services, 1944-1967], obstruct school classes, damage forests, or commit other acts against the people and the homeland.

Source-Date: 11/22/1998

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo

Topic: DOMESTIC, HUMAN RIGHTS, CONFLICT, MILITARY

UCK: 'Bandits,' 'Collaborationists' Arrested

Pristina Bujku in Albanian 23 Nov 98 p 1

[Unattributed article: "The Kosova Liberation Army Arrested a Group of Bandits and Collaborationists"]

The Information Directorate of the Kosova Liberation Army [UCK] reports that during the past week, in the operations subzone of Llap [Lap], the UCK police organs detained and arrested a group of bandits who collaborated with the enemy. In the report of this directorate, this category of individuals is characterized as spies and thieves, who, in collaboration with specialized workers of the Serb security organs, have robbed and pillaged the Albanian people and the evacuated Albanian villages.

It was announced that Serb security inspector Goran Ilic, who was the main organizer of all the pillaging carried out in Llap, was also detained.

All the persons arrested were handed over to the investigative organs and they are being dealt with by the competent organs.

The report says that the same action will be taken in the future in respect to other groups who, in collaboration with the UCK, obstruct the educational process, damage forests, and commit other deeds that endanger the people and the fatherland. (enbdall) 23 nov md/coleman

Source-Date: 11/23/1998

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo

Topic: CRIME

UCK Frees Prisoners, Calls for Details on Kidnap Victims

Pristina Koha Ditore in Albanian 27 Nov 98 p 2

[Statement issued by the UCK General Staff in Pristina on 27 November: "We Are Doing This To Show Again That Just As We Did Not War Imposed on Us, So We Do Not Want Prisons"]

In honor of the 28 November holiday, the UCK [Kosova Liberation Army] has decided to amnesty its prisoners, including two Tanjug journalists and two LDK [Democratic League of Kosova] activists from Malisheve [Malisevo].

The journalists' prison sentence has been terminated, while the detention of the LDK activists is terminated, while investigations continue.

These aforementioned people were released on 27 November in the presence of international observers.

We do this to show once again that, just as we did not want war imposed on us, so we do not want prisons or prisoners. We are in favor of peace, just as we are determined to win the freedom and independence of our people and homeland.

The UCK, by this and similar acts, shows that it recognizes and respects international conventions of war and peace and the relevant mechanisms of the international community. However, we ask these factors to oblige the Belgrade regime to respect the international conventions of war and peace, and to implement the decisions of Resolutions 1,160 and 1,199 of the UN Security Council and the Contact Group's decisions on Kosova.

We ask for the release of Albanian political prisoners, and for information about the fate of the hundreds of kidnapped people who have vanished without trace. Such a measure would be the first step toward understanding. We are the first to start.

Source-Date: 11/27/1998

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo

Topic: INTERNATIONAL, HUMAN RIGHTS, POLITICAL, MILITARY

Kosovo Rebels Issue Statement on Jailed Serbian Journalists

Pristina ARTA (Internet Version) in English 01 Nov 98

Prishtina [Pristina], 1 Nov (ARTA) -- The Military Court of the Justice Directorate of the KLA [Kosovo Liberation Army; Serbo-Croat, OVK; Albanian, UCK] General Headquarters, states in its communique:

"Following the indictment raised by the Military Prosecution, the Military Court adopts this
"Verdict:

"The Military Court of the Justice Directorate of KLA General Headquarters, based on the request of the Military Prosecution and in conformity with its working norms, in the trial conducted on 30 September 1998, against the indicted [Serbian Tanjug journalist] Nebojsa Radosevic born on 17 September 1966 in Prishtina, with residence in Farla Tramijea No. 11/11 and [second Tanjug journalist] Vladimir Dobricic, born on 2 May 1948 in Belgrade, with residence in Dr. Augustin Netan No. 72, both of them 'Yugoslav' [agency punctuation] citizens, after scrutinizing the files of the indicted who are charged with violation and disrespect of the regular internal civilian and military dispositions of KLA, Section VIII, respectively the regulation of KLA military police, Article 5.27, found the accused Radosevic and Dobricic guilty. The indicted are sentenced to 60 days in prison each. The indicted will be transferred to Prison No. 7. They have the right to appeal within seven days, from the day the verdict was made public. The indicted will be treated in conformity with the international covenants. This verdict goes into force at once."

Source-Date: 11/01/1998 2120 GMT

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Serbia, Kosovo

Topic: CONFLICT, POLITICAL, DOMESTIC

UCK Calls for Support for Independence

Pristina Koha Ditore in Albanian 05 Dec 98 p 6

[Corrected version of Political Declaration No. 19 of the UCK General Staff, issued in Pristina on 4 December: "The UCK Will Be Unwavering in Its Just Struggle Until Our Independent and Democratic State Is Created" -- changing the number of the Political Declaration from 18 to 19]

The forces of the Serbian aggressor are attacking certain sections of the civilian Albanian population, and the Kosova Liberation Army [UCK] is responding to these attacks in defense of our population. In spite of these attacks, efforts are being made to maintain the ceasefire we ourselves announced.

The UCK has been attentively watching the most recent political and military developments in our territories, in the region, and beyond.

The UCK General Staff hails the fraternal commitment and support of our kin-state in our efforts for independence, and avails itself of this occasion to congratulate the fraternal people of Albania, all its political forces, and its state leadership on providing the country with a constitution,

The UCK General Staff also hails the well-intentioned commitment of the international community, especially the United States and the countries of the North Atlantic Alliance, to achieve a political settlement of our cause.

Ever though unfairly excluded from the agreement that was reached on the arrival of international observers in Kosova, and therefore not bound as a party to this agreement, the UCK welcomes these observers and will take every measure within its power to cooperate with them and to secure their safety.

The UCK and its General Staff are in continual contact with important international factors involved in preparing the ground for a political solution to our cause, and is cooperating with them. The General Staff will inform the public at home and abroad about its criticisms and attitudes.

The UCK General Staff is making maximum efforts at home to bring together and unite the real political and national spectrum in Kosova, to create real functional national institutions that will not be exclusive and will be above party and ideological allegiances.

The UCK will be unswerving in its just struggle until the creation of our independent and democratic state, and will not accept any political settlement that would infringe the people's ideals of independence or would embody even temporarily an imposed coexistence in an anti-Albanian, futureless, and antidemocratic contrivance, such as a Yugoslavia consisting of a Greater Serbia.

The UCK appeals to the international community and especially the United States to support our independence, which would also imply the triumph of democratic principles in this part of the strife-torn Balkans and would lead to a future of long-term peace.

The UCK appeals to our compatriots throughout the world to generally help and support our just struggle, and also appeals to our compatriots who live and work abroad to help our campaign, "The Homeland in Danger -- The Homeland Calls."

Eternal glory to those who are reborn in their heroic deaths.

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Source-Date: 12/05/1998

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo

Topic: INTERNATIONAL, HUMAN RIGHTS, POLITICAL, MILITARY

UCK Protests Serbian Attacks As Jeopardizing Ceasefire

Pristina Bujku in Albanian 07 Dec 98 p 2

[Communique No. 64 of the UCK General Staff issued in Pristina on 5 December: "The Occupation Forces Fail To Respect the Ceasefire"]

Since the Holbrooke-Milosevic agreement was announced and the UCK [Kosova Liberation Army] declared its own self-restraint, the Serbian occupation forces have undertaken a series of attacks on Albanian communities, on UCK positions, and on the highways.

As a result of this criminal policy, many civilians and UCK soldiers have been killed. During this period, not only have political prisoners not been released, which is an obligation under the agreement in question, but there have been more cases of imprisonment, and many Kosovar Albanians have been maltreated. The most serious cases have been the murders at Opterushe, Mlecan, and Negroc, and the frequent attacks in Malisheve [Malisevo], Dushkaje, Llap, Shale, etc, where many villages have been left uninhabited because of the presence of occupation forces, in spite of their obligation to withdraw.

The UCK General Staff has informed the international observers' mission (KDOM) in writing about the places from where the occupation forces must withdraw and where they must not patrol because of their obstruction of the movement of travellers and freight. The most serious and dramatic incidents that have jeopardized the ceasefire have been in December. In Prishtina [Pristina] at 1645 [1545 GMT] on 2 December, an UCK officer was killed with two of his colleagues. In an incident in Prizren, eight Kosovar citizens were killed. Both cases were assassinations from ambushes. These and many other similar cases are indisputable evidence that it is the criminal Belgrade regime and not the UCK that is failing to respect a single resolution of the UN Security Council or the Contact Group or the Holbrooke-Milosevic agreement.

There is therefore no truth in the statements of certain circles in the international community that peace in the Balkans is being equally endangered equally by the murderous bandit gangs of the world's most criminal regime and by the UCK, Kosova's forces for liberation and self-defense. It does no honor to the relevant mechanisms of the international community or the EU to equate the UCK, which was born in response to Serbian violence and terror, with the criminal army of Serbia, whose crimes are well known to the general world public. Such a position not only does not support the values of world civilization and the universal values of freedom and democracy, but encourages criminals and those who ride roughshod over the values of human civilization. The situation that is being created, and the boundless tolerance that the international community has shown to Serbia, the most murderous regime in the world, obliges the Albanians in all their national area to unite with the UCK, because their national survival and their vital territory are being seriously endangered by their failures to carry out their obligations to the people and the homeland and to contribute funds to the cause of national liberation.

Fellow-countrymen, the homeland is in danger. The homeland calls to you. The blood of their martyrs and their dying wishes for the freedom and independence of Kosova call to you.

The UCK General Staff expresses its most sincere condolences to the families of all those who have fallen on the altar of freedom, and to the family of the deceased following the murder of the officer Hyzri Talla and his escorts as they were in the course of their duty. No murder (and resurrection) of the torchbearers of freedom will halt the UCK's march on the road to freedom and independence. On the contrary, our ranks are swelling with new soldiers and officers, professionally better trained and nationally more aware.

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Source-Date: 12/07/1998

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo

Topic: INTERNATIONAL, HUMAN RIGHTS, POLITICAL, MILITARY

UCK General Staff Rejects Hill Draft Kosovo Proposal

Pristina Kosova Sot in Albanian 10 Dec 98 p 5

["Text" of Political Declaration No. 20 of the General Staff of the Kosova Liberation Army: "Mr. Hill's New Draft Is Not Worth Considering"]

The General Staff of the Kosova Liberation Army [UCK] welcomed the meeting of the foreign ministers of the NATO countries. This high-level ministerial meeting is evidence of the seriousness with which these circles are treating the problem of Kosova. We are convinced that they do not have sufficient knowledge of the UCK and its commitment to freedom, peace, and democracy.

The UCK Is an Organized Army

We think that the joint statement of the NATO foreign ministers has the same defects that are being repeated by other relevant factors of the international community:

1. In this statement, the fascist regime in Belgrade is, once again, equated with the armed units of the Albanians in Kosova, as the Kosova Liberation Army is called.

This fact certainly indicates an unreadiness to designate, by first name and last name, the main party responsible for the fighting in the territory of the former Yugoslavia and to defend the resolutions of the UN Security Council and the decisions of the pertinent mechanisms of the European Community.

So what else does this sharpshooting regime in the space of the Yugoslavia created by the Treaty of Versailles have to do to be treated as the disgrace of our days?

1. The UCK is an organized army at all levels of command. Therefore, we are not dealing with armed groups.
2. The future political status of Kosova should not be decided in advance, not even at this level.
3. There is no evidence to prove the exercise of violence by the UCK. It has waged and will continue to wage a war of liberation.

The UCK has proven many times that it is cooperating with the institutions of the international community. It has freed all the Serbian detainees, while the other side has not only not been cooperative, but has also prohibited the entry of specialized institutions and groups of the international community seeking to investigate signs of crime in Kosova.

Partisan Partiality in the Diaspora Must End

Thus, any equating of the UCK with the Serbian military/police forces has no basis and is dangerous rhetoric that pleases the fascist regime of Milosevic and this is very transparent. We are telling the Western European states that the mechanisms of the European Community have been used for a long time not to unite the political movement of the Albanians but for its capitulation and division.

We want an end to the practice of rewarding divisive elements. It would be to the merit of French and European democracy to reward sacrifices for freedom and democracy.

In Kosova, there is a united political-military factor; outside, there is a political clan with a Slavo-Communist mentality that has found support in certain Western European circles, probably on the recommendation of the regime in Belgrade.

The General Staff of the Kosova Liberation Army took the penultimate draft of Mr. Christopher Hill seriously and made serious comments on it. As for the most recent draft, we are convinced that it does not deserve our attention. It is not hard to see that the new "gem" of Mr. Hill does not

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contain pragmatic American language; it is very close to Milosevic's language of demagogic jurisprudence, that we Albanians know well.

On the basis of the general political, military, and economic situation, the UCK General Staff has come to the conclusion that it is time for the Albanians in the diaspora to cease their activity of partisan partiality and to form an ethnic Albanian community for the purpose of unifying political, intellectual, and financial power in the service of the freedom and independence of Kosova.

Prishtine [Pristina], 9 December 1998

The General Staff of the Kosova Liberation Army.

Source-Date: 12/10/1998

Region: East Europe, The Americas

Sub-Region: Balkan States, North America

Country: Kosovo, United States

Topic: DOMESTIC, POLITICAL, MILITARY, INTERNATIONAL

KLA DENY ANY INVOLVEMENT IN KOSOVO PEC KILLINGS

(INTERNET) ARTA WWW IN ENGLISH in 17 Dec 98

PRISTINA, 17 DEC -- FOLLOWING THE INCIDENT THAT OCCURRED ON 14 DECEMBER IN PEJ [PEC], WHEN SIX PERSONS OF THE SERB NATIONALITY LOST THEIR LIVES AND SEVERAL OTHERS WERE WOUNDED, THE KLA [KOSOVO LIBERATION ARMY -- UCK IN ALBANIAN] GENERAL POLITICAL REPRESENTATIVE'S OFFICE ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE.

"WE WANT TO STRESS THAT SUCH AN ACT IS NOT IN THE FRAMEWORK AND CONCEPT OF THE KLA AND ALBANIAN PEOPLE'S LIBERATION WAR FOR THE FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE OF KOSOVA [KOSOVO]," SAID THE COMMUNIQUE. "THE KLA HAS NEVER UNDERTAKEN SUCH ACTIONS AND IT HAD NO REASON TO MAKE SUCH A PRECEDENCE, WHICH IS AGAINST THE LAW AND REGULATIONS OF WAR ON ONE SIDE, AS WELL AS IN COMPLETE OPPOSITION TO THE KLA POLICY AND VIEWS ON THE OTHER," SAID THE COMMUNIQUE.

"THE KLA IS AN ARMY WITH REGULAR MILITARY FORMATIONS, THE ACTIONS AND OPERATION OF WHICH ARE ALSO MILITARY. IT FIGHTS AGAINST THE SERBIAN CRIMINAL REGIME, AND ITS STRUGGLE IS AIMED AT DEFENDING THE ALBANIAN PEOPLE OF KOSOVA FROM TERRORIST CAMPAIGNS OF THE SERBIAN REGIME'S FORCES," SAYS THE COMMUNIQUE.

"THE KLA WILL USE ITS NETWORK AND SERVICES TO INVESTIGATE THIS INCIDENT AND ESTABLISH THE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH IT TOOK PLACE. IN THIS CONTEXT, WE ALSO EXPRESS OUR FEAR THAT THE SERBIAN REGIME MIGHT BE CONNECTED WITH THIS INCIDENT TO SOW THE SEEDS OF HATE AND CONFLICT BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS, AS WELL AS TO SUBVERT THE KLA AND ITS RIGHTEOUS LIBERATION STRUGGLE."

"WE WANT TO REMIND THAT THE KLA IS STILL KEEPING ITS UNILATERAL CEASE-FIRE, WHICH WAS AGREED AS A SIGN OF GOOD WILL AND TO GIVE CHANCE TO EFFORTS IN LOOKING FOR A POLITICAL SOLUTION ON 8 OCTOBER 1998," SAYS THE COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY THE KLA GENERAL POLITICAL REPRESENTATIVE'S OFFICE.

Source-Date: 12/17/1998 1630 GMT

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

Topic: POLITICAL, MILITARY, CONFLICT, DOMESTIC

UCK Says 'Self-Restraint' Has 'Lost All Meaning'

Pristina Kosova Sot in Albanian 25 Dec 98 p 4

[Communique No. 66 of the UCK General Staff, issued in Pristina on 24 December: "The UCK Did Not Provoke Or Start the Serbian Attack in the Podujeve Area Today"]

Today's attack by the occupation army in the Llap area was the most serious provocation against the Albanian people, the Kosova Liberation Army [UCK], and the international community, especially the United States, which achieved the ceasefire agreement.

The UCK General Staff long ago pointed out that the fascist regime of Belgrade is not paying any attention to the resolutions of the UN Security Council, to any decision of the Contact Group on Kosova, or to any agreement at whatever level.

Although Serbia has incessantly been assembling police and military forces in Kosova, encouraging and provoking armed operations in all parts of Kosova, the international community and especially the EU, in spite of our well-argued and earnest criticisms, has not taken any serious step to force the Serbian police regime to respect its decisions and the agreements that have been signed.

Since the announcement of the ceasefire according to the Holbrooke-Milosevic agreement, the enemy army and police have launched a series of attacks against Albanian localities and members of the UCK, which have caused the Albanian people and the UCK considerable human and material losses.

Such attacks have taken place throughout Kosova. The largest have been in the districts of Prizren, Rahovec [Orahovac], Decan, [Decani], Peje [Pec], Drenice [Drenica], and Mitrovice [Kosovska Mitrovica], culminating in today's attack in Llap. Throughout this time, the enemy has been undertaking a secret police offensive: They have used their Albanian collaborators to kill members of the Serbian nationality to excite Serbian chauvinist sentiments and to justify their bandit-style attacks in Kosova. It was not the UCK but the enemy forces that provoked and started today's Serbian military and police attack on the villages of Llap. One hundred tanks and other armored vehicles were engaged in this operation. Of course, the UCK will not stand idly by, but will defend itself and will attack with all the means at its disposal.

The UCK General Staff considers that international mechanisms and especially the EU have not properly considered who is violating the ceasefire in Kosova, and have even leveled accusations equally at our own forces, which have been in defensive positions throughout this time, and the Serbian forces, which were always on the offensive.

Everybody must be aware that the UCK has no other homeland. It has not left its own ethnic territory. It is the Serbian Army and police that have attacked people and have launched an offensive on foreign soil, and must return from whence they came.

Today's Serbian attack is another indisputable sign that Serbia continues not to respect any agreement, even the ceasefire.

Today's attack means that the self-restraint declared by the UCK General Staff in Political Declaration No. 12 loses all meaning.

The UCK General Staff asks the international community to condemn and punish the murderous regime of Belgrade, and to remove the embargo on weapons for the UCK, because only a strong and armed liberation army can force Serbia to respect the ceasefire and can pave the way for a fair and stable political settlement of the Kosova issue.

The UCK General Staff appeals to the Albanian people throughout the national territories to set aside all their quarrels and spite and to unite with the UCK to ensure our national survival and to save the people of Kosova from Serbian barbarism.

Source-Date: 12/25/1998

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

U0038654

Country: Kosovo

Topic: INTERNATIONAL, HUMAN RIGHTS, POLITICAL, CONFLICT

UCK Pledges To 'Welcome,' 'Assist' OSCE Observers, Media

Tirana TVSH Television Network in Albanian 1735 GMT 26 Dec 98

We now read **Communique No. 67** of the General Staff of the Kosova Liberation Army [UCK]: After the attack by the Serbian Military and police forces in the Llap [Lap] area, Albanian citizens and international personnel feel more insecure than ever. In its attack of 24 December, the Belgrade regime not only suffered considerable casualties and material damage, but also suffered a serious moral and diplomatic defeat in the international arena. The great majority of diplomatic circles and the foreign media, apart from the Russians, have condemned the attack of the Serbian forces on the villages of Llap. The thorough Serbian defeat in the Llap region has led the Serbian occupation forces to take revenge on the Albanian civilian population, women, and children, and to threaten OSCE observers and foreign media correspondents.

The UCK General Staff is aware that under such embittered circumstances the occupation forces are raising obstacles in the path of the OSCE observers. The UCK General Staff informs international governmental and nongovernmental institutions, journalists, and correspondents that they will never in any instance be hindered but will be welcomed and assisted by the Albanian people and the UCK, and that no harm will come to them from us. We also ask them to report objectively about the situation in Kosova. The UCK General Staff should be informed of every incident or disagreement on the ground.

We ask the international community to report and judge impartially the situation in Kosova, because the criminals and their victims cannot under any circumstances be declared equal culprits. We are convinced that you have not sent your representatives to assist Belgrade in its crimes, the communique of the UCK General Staff concludes.

Source-Date: 12/26/1998

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo

Topic: DOMESTIC, HUMAN RIGHTS, POLITICAL, CONFLICT

UCK Issues New Year 'Political Declaration'

Tirana TVSH Television Network in Albanian 1735 GMT 31 Dec 98

[Political Declaration No. 22 of the Kosova Liberation Army --announcer read]

Today is the last day of 1998, the year of the Kosova Liberation Army [UCK] and its titanic resistance, of many clashes with the enemy, of military victories and defeats, and of political and moral victories nationally and internationally. Only the UCK and the struggle of the Albanian people for freedom and independence have brought Kosova to the top of the international agenda of politics and diplomacy and to the headlines of the world's electronic media, especially Europe and the United States.

The year 1998, after many often uncoordinated rises and falls in the Albanian barometer, saw the UCK structured, trained, physically and morally prepared, and determined to continue the struggle until victory. This is a serious but not a decisive guarantee. What is decisive is the unification of all strata of the Albanian population with the UCK. With this Army, we have returned to the nation its dignity and honor that was trampled underfoot by Greater Serbian barbarism and the cowardly philosophy of the pacifist bloc proclaimed for years as a philosophy of national salvation. The UCK General Staff, after its first public statements, has consistently stated that it refuses to be sheltered under any party, ideological, clan, or personal umbrella. It is the Army of Kosova and its people. It is the Army of all those who recognize it as its own. We repeat: It is Albanianism that is its acceptable and honorable ideology. It is only to this that we bow the knee and sacrifice ourselves. Everything, including our lives, for freedom, the homeland, and Albanianism. This is the motto under which the UCK soldiers are sworn in. These soldiers have shown in all the battles in Dukagjin, Drenice [Drenica], Nerodime, Shale [Salja], and Llap [Lap]. It is not the same to actually fight and die for freedom and independence as it is to talk about this struggle and sometimes sabotage it. We would like all the political and nonpolitical organizations at home and abroad including the government to unhesitatingly help and respect the UCK, the main institution of the struggle for freedom and independence. Let 1998-1999 be the years of the unification of the Albanians and of the freedom and independence of Kosova.

The UCK General Staff appeals to the government and the opposition in Albania, as obliged by the democratic constitution, to work for the unification and prosperity of the people of Albania. We also repeat the demands of the citizens of Albania for unity at a roundtable of the pannational political parties and organizations. We ask for this to be achieved as soon as possible. Unification is our salvation. The UCK General Staff has welcomed every step forward by the relevant international organizations such as the UN Security Council, the EU, the Contact Group, and especially US diplomacy, and NATO.

As a sign of respect and cooperation with these mechanisms, we have respected our self-restraint announced in Political Declaration No. 12 of the UCK General Staff. We in the UCK will fight, and we believe and hope that 1999 be the year of the freedom, independence, and democracy for Kosova. It will be a year of balm for all the wounds caused to us by the enemy in 1998. Let us enjoy the future, the UCK General Staff's statement concludes.

Source-Date: 12/31/1998

Region: East Europe

U0038657

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo

Topic: CONFLICT, DOMESTIC, HUMAN RIGHTS, MILITARY

Kosovo Rebel 'General Headquarters' Issues Statement

(Internet) WWW Arta in English 22 Jan 99

Pristina, 22 Jan (ARTA)--The KLA [Kosovo Liberation Army; UCK in Albanian; OVK in Serbo-Croatian] General Headquarters issued a communique on Friday [22 January], mainly commenting this year's developments in Kosova [Kosovo]:

"During January, our glorious army showed its friends and foes that it is cooperative and reasonable, warring and determined in its strategic aim.

Fierce and successful clashes took place in all war-swept regions and were always provoked by the occupier. Fighting in the regions of Dukagjin, Nerodime and Shale are especially worth mentioning. In the region of Dukagjin, the enemy tried to penetrate to the KLA positions several times, but without success. Not only did they suffer great loss in manpower, but also lost much material and fighting technique in the fighting [sentence as received].

Strong clashes took place in the Nerodime region as well, where the enemy, incapable of facing the losses that the KLA caused it, sought vengeance among the civilian population, for which reason it was condemned and is being condemned by the civilized world. Fighting in the Shale region is taking place in the Mitrovice [Kosovska Mitrovica] suburbs, where the enemy suffers great loss every day. Clashes in the Mitrovice suburbs are a serious indication that war is spreading to towns. That is the reason why a more serious and responsible approach towards the war for liberation and independence is requested from everyone.

Our soldiers show courage, bravery, expertise, military readiness and high-level of political and moral readiness, which represent a guarantee for the freedom and independence of Kosova. The KLA General Headquarters salute international mechanisms; the EU, OSCE and especially the USA - which, not only condemn violence, but are also seriously preoccupied with our struggle for freedom and independence. That is the only true way to maintain the honour, respect and prestige of the international community's mechanisms.

The KLA General Headquarters hold in high esteem the engagement of all mechanisms of the Albanian state, as well as the uniting of the position with the opposition in Albania with our liberation struggle. We request for the political subjects of Kosova, who should rest all party activities, to do the same, without hesitation. Every revitalization of party activities, in this turning point for Kosova, blood-washed by Milosevic's gangs, is a political mopy.

All political, intellectual and military activists, should join the KLA, for the freedom and independence of Kosova, for establishing democracy and creating state institutions -- where there will be place for everyone -- in Kosova. [Bujar] Bukoshi's government has one obligation: to put financial assets, gathered for war and independence, in function of war through the KLA fund, and not use them for divergence and corruption.

It is time to wake up. Let us follow the example of the political subjects of the state mechanisms in democratic Albania. The responsibility institution is more than necessary for Kosova and Kosovars," said the communique issued by the KLA General Headquarters on Friday.

Source-Date: 01/22/1999 2230 GMT

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo, Serbia

U0038659

Topic: URGENT, CONFLICT, POLITICAL, HUMAN RIGHTS, POLITICAL, DOMESTIC

UCK To Discuss Assembly, Demands Funds From Bukoshi

Pristina Koha Ditore in Albanian 27 Jan 99 p 6

["**Communique No. 71**"] of the UCK General Staff, issued in Pristina on 26 January]

The determined and uncompromising struggle waged by the Kosova Liberation Army [UCK] is every day advancing the position of the Albanian people higher up the international agenda at the beginning of 1999.

The heroism, courage, and determination of the Albanian people and its liberation army will decide and seal the fate of Kosova and its inevitably happy future. This will also depend on the help and support of our friends.

Throughout this January, the UCK has caused the enemy successive defeats on many battlefields. Meanwhile, Milosevic's criminals take their revenge on the civilian population, as in the case of Rakovine, where five Albanians were treacherously and deceitfully killed, including two children aged 10 and 12. This was a response to the civilized step taken by the UCK only one day before in releasing five armed Serbs. These two contrasting actions must be an example and a lesson to the international community, enabling it to form a judgment and draw rational conclusions about the fair struggle of the UCK and the unjust war of the Belgrade fascists.

The UCK General Staff is aware of the historic responsibility with which the times have entrusted it, to unite the people and the entire Albanian political spectrum in the struggle for freedom, independence and democracy. The General Staff, on the base of the demands of the commanders of the operational zones and the needs of the times has made a decision to hold consultations with political organizations about the creation of a citizens' assembly and a government of Kosova, before 10 February 1999. After this, the date for holding the assembly will be decided.

After many appeals and much consultation, the UCK General Staff has also made a decision obliging the Bukoshi Government, within 10 days of this announcement, to start paying resources into the fund of the UCK at home, i.e. to the UCK General Staff. If this does not happen within the appointed time, this will lead to a different kind of decision that such behavior will deserve, in accordance with the times and the national interest.

The UCK General Staff, recalling the contribution of Adem Jashari as an individual and of the Jasharis of Prekaz [Prekaze] as a family, has posthumously awarded Adem Jashari the highest wartime rank of legendary commander of the UCK. Adem Jashari is the national pride of our most recent history. May our people and our Army rejoice in having him!

Source-Date: 01/27/1999

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo

Topic: DOMESTIC, HUMAN RIGHTS, POLITICAL, CONFLICT, MILITARY

UCK Holding to Demand for Independence

Kosovapress (Internet version) in Albanian 08 Feb 99

["Political Declaration No. 30 of the Kosova Liberation Army"]

Prishtina [Pristina], 8 February (Kosovapress) -- In light of the insinuations made in the press and foreign newspapers, the General Staff of the Kosova Liberation Army [UCK], would like to inform public opinion that the Albanian delegation at the Rambouillet meeting has not changed and will not change its demand for the independence of Kosova. Although the impression has been created that there is a lack of communication on the part of the Albanian delegation with the foreign press, we want to inform the public that this decision has been made with full responsibility by our representatives. Our representatives have decided to respect the demands made by the members of the Contact Group that the representatives of the two sides must not give interviews or express opinions, and, in general, they must not communicate with the press. However, the impression has been created that the compliance with this demand by the UCK representatives has been interpreted as nothing less than an unconditional acceptance of the principles presented by the members of the Contact Group. As a result, this can be interpreted as unconditional acceptance of the draft under discussion that has been proposed by the Contact Group. Nothing can be further from the truth. For the purpose of presenting the political will of the people of Kosova, the authority to head the Albanian delegation was given -- with the full agreement of the entire Albanian representation -- to the representation from the UCK. Any agreement that does not include and treat in a complete and clear manner even one of the following points and which does not provide for clearly-stated articles that will guarantee the implementation of the points will be not signed by our representatives.

Among these issues, the demand for the signing of a cease-fire agreement guaranteed by a third party is of primary importance. The other issues are: The unconditional release, as a good will gesture, of all persons who have been kidnapped, arrested, and imprisoned for their political convictions. The unconditional return to Kosova, also as a good will gesture, of all political escapees and of those who have been sentenced, in absentia, by the Yugoslav courts. Above all, we are demanding our legal right to the recognition of the independence of Kosova, by means of a clear and unequivocal determination, with precise data, and by a clearly defined mechanism that will guarantee that Kosova will become an independent state, apart from the will of either one of the sides. Also, we have demanded the creation of the necessary and complete conditions for the investigation of war crimes by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia [ICTY]. The members of the tribunal in The Hague must have free reign and every opportunity to carry out investigations, contact individuals, and obtain the necessary documents. The UCK will support all necessary measures that will lead to the exposure of the crimes against humanity and genocide carried out in Kosova by the Belgrade regime. The UCK represents the Albanians in the Rambouillet meeting and respects the will of the international community to create a democratic space in Kosova. However, we believe that it is impossible to accept any plan that will not result in the creation of real democratic institutions based on the political will of the people of Kosova as expressed in free and periodic elections. This must and can be achieved without being based on ethnic differences and prejudices. We believe that the democratic institutions in Kosova must be responsible only to the people of Kosova. We have also proposed and demanded the creation of a mechanism that would make an independent Kosova an integral part of the European security system. Once again, we are asking

U0038662

the diplomatic community and the media not to speculate about the aims and the position of the Albanian delegation at the Rambouillet talks but to give their full support to these negotiations. [Source descriptor: Kosovapress, the news agency of the Kosova Liberation Army, began operating on an experimental basis on 4 January 1999. Internet URL: <http://www.Kosovapress.com>]

Source-Date: 02/08/1999

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

Topic: DOMESTIC, MILITARY, POLITICAL, URGENT

UCK Staff Calls for Unity for 'Favorable Settlement'

Kosovapress (Internet Version) in Albanian 27 Feb 99

["Political Declaration No. 32 of the General Staff of the Kosova Liberation Army"]

Prishtina, 27 Feb (**Kosovapress**) The political and security situation in Kosova has been growing increasingly tense, even after the international conference on Kosova at Rambouillet, always under the provocations of the Serbian military machine. Serbian military and police activities have intensified because of the solid results and the dignified and united appearance of our delegation at Rambouillet. The unification of the political and military organizations and their decision to form a provisional government that will prepare elections for the democratic self-administration of Kosova in the interim period are worrying the fascist regime of Belgrade. The General Staff of the Kosova Liberation Army [UCK] is considering and scrutinizing the documents of the International Conference on Kosova at Rambouillet. It is being informed of the course of the talks and their results. But it is mainly preoccupied with the military aspect and with defense from a possible attack by enemy forces.

The UCK General Staff is concerned and indignant at certain accusations and the views aired in certain European circles, equating the UCK with Milosevic's criminal forces. At the same time, it salutes all the international factors, especially the United States, for their support for the just liberation struggle of the people of Kosova. The General Staff asks all the mechanisms of the international community to give impartial assessments and reports about everything that is happening in Kosova, identifying the principal and sole culprit for the violence, terror, and genocide in Kosova. The originator and perpetrator of all these evils is in Belgrade. The attacks of the Serbian Army and police take place every day. This is illustrated by the latest attacks in the communes of Vushtrri [Vucitrn], Mitrovice [Kosovska Mitrovica], and Kacanik, and in the cases of Randobrave, Vaganice e Poshtme, etc. The military operations of the UCK have remained of an exclusively defensive nature.

The UCK General Staff, at this time that is so fraught with danger and when the people and their liberation army face the danger of a new and extensive military offensive, require unity in the struggle for freedom, independence, prosperity, and democracy. Any division or attempt at division at this time, when premises are being created for a favorable settlement for Kosova and its people, is damaging for us and favors the enemy. Our salvation lies in unity!

The General Staff thanks the Contact Group and especially France and the United States for the security provided for the UCK delegation on its journeys to and from Rambouillet in France.

Source-Date: 02/27/1999

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo

Topic: INTERNATIONAL, HUMAN RIGHTS, MILITARY, POLITICAL, URGENT

UCK Communique on Fighting, Future of Kosovo

WWW Kosovapress in Albanian 11 Mar 99

["Communique No. 76 of the General Staff of the Kosova Liberation Army"]

Prishtina [Pristina] 11 March (**Kosovapress**) The political and security situation in Kosova [Kosovo], after the Rambouillet conference, continues to be tense with daily fighting throughout Kosova. The most severe combat, accompanied by a barbarism that is now well-known, has developed and continues in the regions of Neredima, Shala, Llap [Lap], Pashtrik, Drenica, and other places. There have been displacements of the population in the villages in Artakolli, in some villages in Drenica, and in those in Malesia e Kacanik. During this combat, the Kosova Liberation Army [UCK] used defensive tactics for the most part. Thus, it inflicted losses on the enemy, both human losses and losses of combat equipment. The greatest losses were inflicted in the zones of Shala and Nerodima. Three members of the UCK were killed, and several were wounded. The enemy took revenge, pillaging and torching abandoned houses. The purpose of these attacks was to clear out the ethnic lands of the Albanians and to devastate entire villages, just like during last year's offensives, massacring the civilian population, women, children, and old men.

These barbarous acts have stirred the conscience of the international community. But, unfortunately, there are still members of this community who, in different international forums, are becoming advocates of the crime and genocide perpetrated by the fascist regime of Belgrade. The United Nations, the Security Council, NATO, and the other US and European mechanisms have the duty to defend the people of Kosova from the Serbian forces or help them to defend themselves. The situation created during and after the Rambouillet conference requires that the Albanian people, the political subjects within and outside the country, the UCK, the Albanian state, and Albanians, wherever they are, unite around the struggle for freedom, independence, and democracy, and around the people of Kosova and their Liberation Army. In this war, when Kosova is in flames because of the enemy's barbarism, when new graves are dug each day, any appeal for partisan, or, perhaps, sectarian division is poison in the open wound of Kosova. Kosova needs a provisional government and a broad political and intellectual spectrum. It needs a government that unites and focuses, with wisdom, on the short term and long term goals of the Albanian people and the UCK. Any other policy is harmful for our today and for our tomorrows, which should be happy, with prospects opened to the future.

For the Albanian people and the UCK, the international conference at Rambouillet is not the desired solution in the framework of national aspirations. It is full of defects and shortcomings, but it does not close all the doors and outlets for the future. The acceptance or the failure to accept the provisional agreement on Kosova should not disorient the Albanians. On the contrary, they must be more strongly and better united and organized than they have been up to now. The fate and the future of Kosova depend mainly on the Albanians themselves and their cooperation with the international community and its relevant mechanisms.

The UCK, and the war, blood, and sacrifice of the Albanian people for freedom and independence, not the fictitious institutions, sent the Albanian delegation to Rambouillet. There is no one who did not have a place at Rambouillet.

[Description of Source] UCK news agency. URL: <http://www.kosovapress.com>]

U0038665

Source-Date: 03/11/1999

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo

Topic: DOMESTIC, MILITARY, POLITICAL, CONFLICT, URGENT

U0038666

UCK Communique Urges 'Merciless' Attack on Serbs

WWW Kosovapress in Albanian 20 Mar 99

["~~Communique No. 77~~ of the General Staff of the Kosova Liberation Army"]

Prishtine [Pristina], 20 March (Kosovapress) -- In recent days, the Serbian aggressor has undertaken a massive military offensive, with about 20,000 forces, as a response to our efforts and those of the international community toward a peaceful resolution of the problem of Kosova [Kosovo]. The most intensive strikes have been concentrated in the Shala, Llap, and Drenica Operations Zones and also in other zones, for the purpose of taking control of these zones. This clearly reveals the secret plans of the aggressor for the ethnic cleansing and division of Kosova. An attempt is being made to realize these aims before the arrival of NATO forces, so as to put a fait accompli before us and before the international community. The Liberation Army [UCK] is countering these attacks and offering strong resistance to them. The enemy has suffered great losses.

Therefore, the people of Kosova should not be afraid of these attacks by the enemy, because they will not be the first or the last. We must unite around the UCK and assist its forces in all ways and by all means available to us. Let us all line up in its ranks and attack the enemy mercilessly, because, in this way, we will gain freedom. The UCK fighters must increase their activity and their combat-readiness and strike the enemy unceasingly, as they have done widely up to now. The present actions are decisive for the UCK and for the freedom and independence of Kosova. Today, the moment has come to show the people of Kosova who the UCK is, to show them our combat skills and our courage, to defend our people through sacrifices, and to attack the enemy mercilessly.

Right is on our side and victory is ours. [Description of Source: UCK news agency, operating on an experimental basis since 4 January 1999; Internet URL: <http://www.kosovapress.com>]

Source-Date: 03/20/1999

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo, Serbia

Topic: CONFLICT, DOMESTIC, MILITARY, POLITICAL, URGENT

UCK Communique Rejects Label of 'Extremists'

(Internet) Kosovapress WWW in Albanian 16 May 99

["**Communique No. 78** of the General Staff of the Kosova Liberation Army" -- Kosovapress headline]

Prishtina [Pristina], 16 May (Kosovapress) -- We, the fighters of the Kosova Liberation Army [UCK] -- **Communique No. 78** of the UCK General Staff says -- are indignant at the insults that continue to be repeated by many of our detractors, calling us extremists because we are fighting with weapons in hand for the independence of Kosova -- a demand that those who accuse us of being extremists have stated and have included in their programs.

It is known that the armed struggle is the more extreme vital activity for gaining freedom and independence, but neither cowards nor hypocrites can engage in this activity. The best, most tolerant, and most loyal sons and daughters of the people are waging the struggle for freedom and independence, at a time when the Serbian occupier is aiming at the elimination of everything Albanian in Kosova, Freedom is not given, it is won.

The UCK was created as a result of a vital need of the Albanian people of Kosova, when all those who sought freedom by pacifist methods had failed. With the help of the eight years of pacifism, many political manipulations were carried out to deceive the people of Kosova and to stop any efforts for freedom. Then, the fear of assuming power poisoned the spirit of the political manipulators, and they replaced solidarity with the youths of the UCK with a cynical, insulting, and indifferent attitude. The meetings in Belgrade -- at a time when the Serbian army was torching all of Kosova and expelling 1.4 million Albanians from Kosova -- were a result of this attitude.

The UCK was created as an historic necessity, since its first fighters were the most fervent idealists for the independence of Kosova, who spent part of their lives in the prisons of Yugoslavia, accused of being anti-Communists and extremists. We have not taken up arms for class reasons or for ideological goals, as some Albanian speakers would like to accuse us. The people of Kosova did not form its own Liberation Army for the purpose of a social revolution or to oppose government with a national tinge, but they are carrying on a struggle to be liberated from the century-old occupier. If you confuse these two things, this means that you are making a mistake on purpose.

We, the fighters of the UCK, led by the Provisional Government of Kosova, as a product of the Rambouillet agreement, know very well that a government does come forth from the muzzle of a gun. We are fighting to create a free state, and a free vote makes a free government. For this purpose, we are improving the structures of the UCK to achieve our strategic objective, in accord with our sacred mission -- the liberation of Kosova -- as an army with the goals and standards of Western democracies. The UCK General Staff will soon announce these improvements to the public, **Communique No. 78**, signed by the chief of the UCK General Staff, Agim Ceku, states. [Description of Source: UCK news agency; Internet URL: <http://www.kosovapress.com>]

Source-Date: 05/16/1999
 Region: East Europe
 Sub-Region: Balkan States
 Country: Kosovo

U0038668

Topic: CONFLICT, DOMESTIC, HUMAN RIGHTS, MILITARY, PROLIFERATION,
URGENT

UCK Claims Responsibility for Killing Albanian SPS Member

Pristina Kosova Daily Report in English 13 Jan 97

An ethnic Albanian, Maliq Sheholli (52), was shot dead by unknown gunmen in Podujeve [Podujevo] last Thursday [9 January] evening, Serbian press reports said the next day. The Serbian media singled out the fact that he was a member of the Socialist Party of Serbia (SPS), the only man of Albanian ethnicity on the SPS list of counsellors to the Serbian regime-installed municipal hall in the town of Podujeve. Maliq Sheholli, a salesman by profession, took part in the counter-rally Milosevic's SPS staged in Belgrade on 24 December, the Serb press reports said. There has been no word from Albanian sources about the killing of Sheholli. An alleged Albanian organization, calling itself Ushtria Clirimtare e Kosoves (UCK, the Liberation Army of Kosova) has claimed responsibility of the killing of Maliq Sheholli through a fax message dated 12 January, which has been sent to the media. The UCK said Sheholli was "a collaborator of the Serbian occupier," a "senior member of the UDB (the Serbian state security)," adding that he held a speech at the funeral of Milos Nikolic, the Serb security officer, who the UCK claims to have killed on 25 October 1996. The UCK statement faxed to the media speaks of another man, Faik Bellopoja, reportedly resident of Besia village between Prishtina [Pristina] and Podujeve, to have been killed by the UCK on 26 December 1996. This was the first time the public here learned about this killing, which the UCK said was carried out because of the alleged "dangerous anti-national activities" Bellopoja was involved in.

The political leadership of Kosova and the Albanian public at large doubt the very existence of the UCK. The unexplained shooting incidents last year, in which several Serbs were targeted, has been unfailingly used by the Serbian regime to step up its repression and terror against the Albanians in Kosova, under the pretext of campaigns to track down the "Albanian terrorists." The Serbian regime seems to have shifted its target recently, by waging a propaganda warfare against the Albanian non-violent policies advocated by President Rugova of Kosova, instead of embarking on a campaign of repression of Albanians. Undermining the stature of the peaceful resistance of the Kosovars has thus come to the forefront.

Source-Date: 01/13/1997

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo

Topic:

UCK Statement on Albania, Status of Kosovo

Pristina Bujku in Albanian 17 Sep 98 p 6

["Text" of ~~Political Statement No. 8~~ of the Kosova Liberation Army: "Any Temporary Solution That Leaves Kosova Under Serbia or With Serbia Is Unacceptable"]

Prishtina [Pristina], 16 September 1998-- The Albanian people [in Kosovo] have been at a dangerous crossroads for a long time, and the political subjects are still not able to conscientiously and resolutely determine their progress in the desired direction.

Over the course of time, the Kosova Liberation Army [UCK] conscientiously and resolutely determined the road to freedom and independence, and many times it has invited the political, intellectual, and professional forces to unite around the UCK to achieve popular determination. Any temporary solution that leaves Kosova under Serbia or with Serbia is unacceptable to the UCK and its General Staff. We consider and proclaim any agreement signed on this level to be national treason.

The General Staff and every soldier of the UCK have followed the recent events in Albania with anxiety and have condemned any act of violence carried out against individuals and state and cultural institutions of the country. We are convinced that, in a free state like Albania, any occurrence, any seizure of power outside the democratic path of the free vote of the people should be subject to punishment by the laws in force in the state.

If the political subjects of Kosova and Albania would speak in the same language and operate as a nation, the events in Albania would not happen, Kosova would not ignite, and there would be no meetings that resulted in unfavorable solutions.

We are convinced that the most recent events in Albania, with all their complexity, were prepared outside Albania to strike a blow, simultaneously, against Kosova and its heroic struggle. The struggle of the Albanian in Kosova, his tragedies and misfortunes, houses that have been pillaged and destroyed, villages that have been deserted are signs of alarm that call upon the national consciousness to abandon all forms of fratricidal war and the fight for power. On the basis of this, we condemn any attempts at and any support for vandalism and banditry against state and private property, even in the name of democracy. We are all supporters of and advocates of the freedom and independence of Kosova and its people and of the most noble cause of the nation. Those who do not fight for freedom and the independent institutions of Kosova and in the name of humanity become supporters of antinational and antidemocratic forces that desire and seek the continuation of the agony of Albania and the Albanian question in general.

The UCK General Staff calls upon the people of Albania and its entire political spectrum to become peacefully involved in strengthening the Albanian state and Albania, without which we will never have freedom, democracy, and national prosperity.

Only a strong, stable, free, and democratic Albania will be a guarantee for the individual and collective life and prosperity of all Albanians, wherever they are.

We are asking the international community to sincerely help Albania, to prevent and combat with justice and determination any ominous tendencies directed against Albania and the Albanian people in general. We are asking them to support the cause of Kosova resolutely and concretely and to help to save the Albanians who are endangered by Serb barbarism.

U0038671

Source-Date: 09/17/1998

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Albania, Kosovo

Topic: CONFLICT, INTERNATIONAL, POLITICAL

UCK Rejects 'Every Temporary Solution' With Serbia

Tirana TVSH Television Network in Albanian 17 Sep 98

The Political Statement No 9 of the Liberation Army of Kosova [UCK] General Staff has been released in Prishtina [Pristina]. The statement reads:

For a long time, the Albanian people have been at a dangerous crossroads and the political parties and organizations have not yet been able to define with consciousness and determination their march in the desired direction. For a long time, the UCK has decided to follow the road of freedom and independence with consciousness and determination and, many times, has invited the political, intellectual, and professional forces to unite around the UCK in order to accomplish the people's will.

The UCK has not only decided to fight for freedom and unity, but it is fighting concretely in this direction to resolve the unresolved Albanian issue.

For the UCK and its general staff, every temporary solution that leaves Kosova under Serbia or with Serbia is unacceptable. We consider and declare any agreement signed at this level as national treachery. The UCK and every UCK soldier has been following the latest developments in Albania with concern and has condemned and condemns every act of violence that is exercised on the people and the state and Albanian cultural institutions. We are convinced that, in a free state, such as Albania, every event and seizure of power, apart from the democratic road through the free vote of the people, should be punishable by the existing laws of the state. Proceeding from this, we condemn every attempt or support, even allegedly made in the name of democracy, that incites vandalism and banditry against the state and private property.

The UCK General Staff asks the people of Albania and its entire political spectrum to be peacefully committed to strengthen the Albanian state and Albania, without whom we will never have freedom, democracy, and national prosperity. Only a stable, strong, free, and democratic Albania will be a guarantee for the individual and collective life and the property of all Albanians, wherever they are. We ask the international community sincerely to assist Albania, to prevent and fight, with justice and determination, the ominous tendencies that are directed against Albania and the Albanian people in general, support the Kosova issue with determination and concretely, and assist the rescue of the Albanians' existence, which has been endangered by the Serbian barbarism -- is noted among other things in the UCK's Political Statement No 9.

Source-Date: 09/17/1998 1635 GMT

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo, Albania

Topic: CONFLICT, INTERNATIONAL, MILITARY, POLITICAL

UCK Communiqué Condemns 'Envoys of the Enemy'

Pristina Koha Ditore in Albanian 22 Sep 98 p 2

[Communique No. 54 issued by the Kosova Liberation Army in Pristina on 21 September: "Our Liberation Struggle Is the Sole Actual Institution in Kosova Today"]

between 15 and 18 September, the Kosova Liberation Army [UCK] confronted an offensive by the enemy in the subzones of Shale e Bajgores and Llap [Lap], involving thousands of Serbian soldiers and policemen and also Russian and Romanian mercenaries, more than 250 tanks, other motorized vehicles, and heavy artillery.

Our UCK confronted the enemy forces with courage and heroism, forcing them to retreat. After the fighting that took place at Mazhiq, Kutlloc at the entrance to Bare, and at Pasome in Shale e Bajgores, the enemy left behind more than 50 dead soldiers and policemen. From the UCK ranks, two soldiers were killed and 10 were wounded.

The defeat on the battlefield only further maddened the enemy, who took revenge on the civilian population and on women and children, destroying and burning their homes.

In the subzone of Llap, the bitterest fighting took place at the Pass of Kacanoll, where more than 100 enemy soldiers were killed. The enemy was forced to retreat and left behind on the battlefield 10 tanks, other vehicles, and a large quantity of ammunition. To make sure its retreat, the enemy fired on the civilian population of the village of Dobratin, killing, massacring, arresting, and liquidating many citizens. Five martyrs for freedom fell heroically in this battle in defense of the nation's honor.

In the fighting that took place in Shale e Bajgores and Llap, our Army showed not only courage and determination, but also sterling professional qualities. It showed that the way to defend freedom and national honor is to hold tight to one's weapons, and not to hand them over to the enemy, as some miserable Albanians have occasionally done.

Successful daily battles have also been waged in the subzone of Drenice in the last few days. Our special units concentrated on Likoc and Prekaz have been causing the enemy losses of men and equipment every day. In this part of Kosova too, various envoys have put themselves in the enemy's service and are carrying out covert operations against our liberation struggle and our heroic army.

After the retreat of the Serbian forces, their place seems to have been taken by collaborators and some of our political activities, who are instilling defeatism, spreading propaganda against the UCK, and asking the people to hand over weapons to the enemy. The UCK General Staff makes it known that these weapons have been taken up in order to fight for Kosova until victory is won. All envoys of the enemy and those who perform covert operations, whoever they may be, will be treated under the laws of wartime. The commanders and brave fighters of Llap, Shale e Bajgores, Drenice [Drenica], Dukagjin, and the whole of Kosova do not need envoys who spread confusion and defeatism among the people. They know their duties very well. They are in the vanguard of their sacred duty to defend and liberate the people and the homeland.

The war that is being waged in Llap, Shale e Bajgores, Drenice, Dukagjin, Pashtrik, and throughout Kosova obliges those who are collecting funds in the campaign "Everything for the Independence of Kosova" to use this money obtained from the people's sweat and blood for

nothing other than the independence of Kosova, by financing the UCK and through it the freedom and independence of Kosova.

Our liberation struggle is the sole actual institution in Kosova today, and we must therefore focus all our national resources on it. The example of our brave fighters must embolden us to advance with more courage and determination on the path blazed by the martyrs of freedom.

The UCK General Staff expresses its deep and sincere condolences to all families that have lost their loved ones, and especially families whose sons have sacrificed themselves on the altar of the homeland.

Source-Date: 09/22/1998

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo

Topic: DOMESTIC, HUMAN RIGHTS, CONFLICT, MILITARY

UCK Issues Statement on 'Execution' of Collaborators

Paris AFP (North European Service) in English 04 Nov 98

Pristina, Yugoslavia, Nov 4 (AFP) -- Two ethnic Albanians accused of collaborating with the authorities in Belgrade have been "executed" by the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) [UCK in Albania], the ethnic Albanian rebel group said in a statement Wednesday.

The statement, published in the Albanian-language daily Koha Ditore, did not state when the "execution" happened.

The KLA also accused two Albanian political officials from the central Kosovo town of Malisevo, who were arrested by its "police" last week, of cooperating with the two executed "collaborationists," Selmon Binici and Ramiz Hoxha.

The underground group confirmed Tuesday that it had arrested the two officials, who were Malisevo representatives of the main Albanian party in the province, the Democratic League of Kosova (LDK) of moderate leader Ibrahim Rugova.

Jakup Kastrati, the local LDK chief, and his deputy Cen Desku, were arrested by the KLA "military police" because "they called on people to surrender arms" to the Serbian authorities and "cooperated with collaborationists," the KLA statement said.

The rebels often criticize Rugova and his allies for "passivity" in the ethnic Albanian struggle for the independence of Kosovo.

Source-Date: 11/04/1998 1157 GMT

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo

Topic: CONFLICT, DOMESTIC, HUMAN RIGHTS, MILITARY

UCK Arrests Malisevo LDK leaders for 'Propaganda'

Pristina Koha Ditore in Albanian 04 Nov 98 p 7

[Statement issued by the Military Police Directorate of the Kosova Liberation Army in Pristina on 1 November: "Investigations Conducted in Remand Prison by the"]

On 30 October, the Military Police of the Operational Subzone of Pashtrik arrested Jakup Kastrati of the village of Turjake near Malisheve [Malisevo], the chairman of the Malisheve Branch of the Democratic League of Kosova [LDK], and Cen Desku from the village of Siceve, resident in Malisheve, the LDK branch's deputy chairman. The Directorate of the UCK Intelligence Service possesses data about their activities against the UCK's liberation struggle. These persons have spread propaganda for the surrender of weapons in collusion with the collaborationists Selman Binici from the village of Baje and Ramiz Hoxha from Bellanice, who have both been executed by the UCK, and are in ongoing cooperation with LDK Presidium Member Agim Krasniqi, known to the UCK Intelligence Service as an agent of covert operations against the UCK and the initiator of a kind of policy of autonomy for Kosova. The Investigation Department of the UCK Military Police Directorate are conducting investigations of the arrested men Jakup Kastrati and Cen Desku in Remand Prison No. 3.

Source-Date: 11/04/1998

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo

Topic: DOMESTIC, HUMAN RIGHTS, POLITICAL, CONFLICT

UCK Confirms Respect for International Conventions

Pristina Koha Ditore in Albanian 06 Oct 98 p 2

["Political Statement No. 11 of the Kosova Liberation Army," issued in Pristina on 5 October:
"We Have Always Respected All International Conventions of War and Peace"]

The struggle for freedom and self-determination waged by the Kosova Liberation Army [UCK] remains the sole serious hope of putting an end to the violence, terror, and multiple disasters that Milosevic's criminal regime has brought upon the people of Kosova. The UCK General Staff observes that the subservience, disunity, and cowardice of the Albanian leaders, who has not succeeded in uniting the nation's energies for liberation and prosperity at even these most tragic moments, are also to blame for the continuing sufferings of the people and the destruction of their property. The international factor too, having declared many times that it will not allow a second Bosnia in the Balkans, has started to move and to seriously threaten the Serbian occupation regime. This follows the cruel murders and the disappearances of thousands of people, mainly civilians, the shelling of the majority of Albanian settlements with all kinds of artillery and missile systems, and the burning and destruction of more than 400 villages.

The UCK General Staff welcomes the more serious approach that the international community and its diplomatic, humanitarian mechanisms and the media are taking to the Kosova problem, especially in the United States, Britain, Germany, France, and the Scandinavian states.

The General Staff has stated before and repeats that we have respected and continue to respect all international conventions of war and peace, while the other side has not at any moment or in any respect respected the international community's mandatory conventions and resolutions. We fear that Serbia will resort to tortuous lies to foil the swift and concrete action of the international community, without which there can be no fast solution to the tragedy of Kosova. The General Staff takes the view that no international mechanism can conduct its investigations of crimes in Kosova without the withdrawal of Serbian military and police forces from Kosova.

The General Staff is convinced that the operations of the UCK so far cannot be compared with the crimes, the looting, and acts of pyromania that the military and police gangs of the criminal Serbian regime have engaged in. These crimes were well known to the international community even before Kosova. The General Staff repeats the demand for the dispatch of teams of international experts to investigate crimes of all kinds in Kosova, and in this it will have the help of every member of the UCK. All the mass graves "discovered" by the Serbian propaganda and war machines are fabrications of the barbaric Serbian criminals or have been committed by them themselves. In no case are they the work of the UCK.

The UCK explicitly dissociated itself long ago from all forms of terror against civilians and their essential property, but confirms again that it will continue the struggle against the Serbian gangs with increased intensity, as long as they are in Kosova. We guarantee to the international community that the UCK has never contained criminals like Milosevic, Seselj, and Draskovic at any level, and never will.

The ranks of the UCK contain lovers of freedom and peace who have taken the path of war only because all other paths toward freedom and independence have been closed to them. The General Staff takes the view that the time for a peaceful political solution of the Kosova issue has passed. It is now the turn of a military and political solution, in the only language that Milosevic understands.

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We inform the international community that the Albanians side can and must be represented in possible Albanian-Serbian talks by proven patriotic political personalities, who have helped and promoted the national cause rather than degrading it.

The war that the **UCK** is waging is guided solely by the desire of our people to live in honor and dignity in their free homeland. Any other meanminded party or ideological sentiment, of the kind that parties and leaders in Kosova and Albania foster about the **UCK**, is unacceptable. Our basic principle and motto is: Everything for freedom! Even our lives for freedom and the Albanian identity!

Source-Date: 10/06/1998

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo

Topic: INTERNATIONAL, HUMAN RIGHTS, POLITICAL, MILITARY

UCK Welcomes Talks, Names Representatives

Alb-net.com/rtpsats (Internet Version) in 03 Feb 99

["Political Declaration No. 24 of the General Staff of the Kosova Liberation Army"]

Radiotelevizioni i Prishtines -- Programi Satelitor [RTPSAT] -- In the past few days, much has been said and written about the recent meeting of the Contact Group in London and about possible Albanian-Serbian talks in Rambouillet, France, under the supervision of a neutral third party. The decisions of the London meeting are to be hailed and are a sign of progress, but they are also an indicator of the haste in resolving the biggest problem of Europe, the problem of Kosova [Kosovo], which, for more than a century, has been discussed at various roundtables and meetings of world powers and forums. However, because of the different approaches of the decisionmaking powers, no permanent solution has been found.

The Kosova Liberation Army [UCK] General Staff has received the basic document of the Contact Group, which is a variant of the documents of Mr. Hill and his team, and, after analyzing the decisions and demands of this document, one by one, it has come to the conclusion that, although the document represents some progress compared to earlier documents, it still does not contain the basic elements for initiating talks among the disputing parties.

The Contact Group still:

1. Has not clearly defined who is responsible for the war and the massacres in Kosova.
2. Has not made the necessary preparations for beginning the talks for the resolution of the problem.
3. Has not forced Serbia to accept Security Council Resolutions 1160, 1199, and 1203, and the decisions of the Contact Group on Kosova and the Holbrooke-Milosevic agreement.
4. Has not created any mechanism that would force Serbia to abandon its expansionist aims.
5. Has not formed the desired foundation and does not guarantee the desired conclusion for the talks.

Despite all this, the UCK General Staff decided, once again, to show that it remains consistent to its statements that it is for talks, that it is for a peaceful resolution, and that it is determined to defend the UCK political program, and to defend its struggle for freedom, independence, and democracy. The representatives of the UCK will go to Rambouillet in France to bring the voice of freedom to the big cities of Europe, to tell of the sacred goals of the just war of liberation. It is natural that that the ones who brought the issue of Kosova to the forefront should lead the negotiating group on Kosova and determine its fate.

In these talks, the UCK will be represented by the political representatives of the General Staff: Hashim Thaci, Jakup Krasniqi, Azem Syla, Xhavit Haliti, and Rame Buja.

The following political groups will also have their political representatives in these talks: The United Democratic Movement, the Democratic League of Kosova, the students, and the independents.

In this way, the broadest political spectrum will be represented. We are asking the groups mentioned to engage in necessary and essential consultations before they go to France, the declaration of the UCK General Staff concludes.

U0038680

Source-Date: 02/03/1999

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo

Topic: DOMESTIC, POLITICAL, CONFLICT, URGENT, INTERNATIONAL, MILITARY

UCK Condemns Pristina Bomb Blast As 'Provocation'*Tirana TVSH Television Network in Albanian 07 Feb 99***[Political Declaration No. 28 of the UCK General Staff --announcer read]**

Another criminal act was committed yesterday evening in the center of Prishtina, the capital city of Kosova, causing the death of other innocent Albanian victims. The bomb that exploded in the bread shop was another terrorist act committed by the Serbian occupier, conceived and carried out in criminal cold blood by the Belgrade terrorists. The UCK [Kosova Liberation Army] General Staff condemns this ugly act and considers it to be another war crime. The UCK has made it clear in words and deeds that today it is necessary to talk, and when talking goes on, guns must fall silent. Yesterday evening's attack was a provocation directed at the UCK and the Albanian people. It was a further violation of the ceasefire promised by the Belgrade authorities and a clear sign of the falseness of their promises. The bomb that exploded in Pristina was a provocation and challenge of the Serbian nationalists to the efforts of the international community to find a political solution to the Kosova problem. The UCK General Staff declares that the UCK will not fall victim to the provocations of the invading Yugoslav Army, just as it will not tolerate violence and threats against the people of Kosova, who have long known where their future lies and which path leads to its realization. The UCK General Staff appeals to the people of Kosova to face up with dignity to these criminal acts of the Yugoslav occupier. The UCK, with its representatives leading the Albanian delegation at Rambouillet, will be unswerving in the defense of the just demands of our people to be free in an independent and democratic Kosova.

Source-Date: 02/07/1999 1735 GMT

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo

Topic: INTERNATIONAL, HUMAN RIGHTS, POLITICAL, CONFLICT, MILITARY

UCK Protests Continuing Attacks by 'Belgrade Regime'

Kosovapress (Internet version) in Albanian 08 Feb 99

["~~Political Declaration No. 29~~ of the Kosova Liberation Army"]

Prishtina [Pristina], 8 February (Kosovapress) -- Whenever the international community has initiated talks aimed at the resolution of the problem of Kosova, the Belgrade regime has responded with an aggravation of the crisis and an increase in the intensity of the provocations. Last night, the Yugoslav Army began to attack positions defended by Kosova Liberation Army [UCK] units in villages in the region of Suhareka [Suva Reka] and Malisheva [Malisevo]. In addition, the Yugoslav Army began attacks in the Llap [Lap] Operations Zone and in Mitrovica. With this recent wave of attacks, the UCK General Staff has concluded that this is another example of the absence of good will in the talks that are being held in Rambouillet. These ugly tactics were characteristic of Belgrade's behavior in the past. This is a clear indication of their intentions not to respect any kind of conclusion that might be reached through the negotiations. When the conditions for holding the negotiations that were stipulated by the international community are not being respected by the Belgrade regime, then what should our people do and how should the UCK react?

We are asking the international community to be convinced, once and for all, of the criminal nature of the Belgrade regime. The UCK has always fulfilled the demands of the international community, while Belgrade is allowing the wave of attacks to continue and not be condemned and while the world sits with its arms folded and does not do anything. Faced with a very tense situation on the combat front, the UCK General Staff deemed it necessary to send a note of protest to the Contact Group. We are asking them to intervene soon, with determination and strength, to bring an end to the continuing waves of violence in Kosova which are being directed by the Belgrade regime. The UCK General Staff is appealing to the Contact Group not to allow the Rambouillet meeting to become a cover under which the Belgrade regime will continue its policy of ethnocide in Kosova. The UCK General Staff and its representatives consider the latest actions by Belgrade to be an expression of a lack of will for the talks.-- Prishtina, 8 February 1999, the General Staff

[Source descriptor: Kosovapress, the news agency of the Kosovo Liberation Army, began operating on an experimental basis on 4 January 1999. Internet URL: <http://www.kosovapress.com>]

Source-Date: 02/08/1999

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

Topic: HUMAN RIGHTS, INTERNATIONAL, DOMESTIC, MILITARY, POLITICAL, URGENT

UCK Supports Rambouillet Talks, Appoints Prime Minister

Tirana TVSh Television Network in Albanian 28 Feb 99

At a meeting on 27 and 28 February, an expanded General Staff of the Kosova Liberation Army [UCK] received reports from the participants in the International Conference at Rambouillet about the talks and their final results, and about other organizational and military matters.

The spirit of unity in the struggle for freedom, independence and democracy dominated and prevailed at this historically important meeting. The meeting appointed a delegation of the UCK, which has received a preliminary official invitation from the US State Department, to pay a visit to political and military circles in the United States. It is expected that this delegation will soon travel to the United States. The trip will represent a further acceptance of the UCK and an even greater internationalization of the Kosova problem.

At this meeting, the UCK General Staff also appointed the prime minister of the provisional government of Kosova, about whom the public at large will soon be informed.

The meeting not only supported the Kosova delegation at the Rambouillet Conference but also the view that its final document should be scrutinized by experts, intellectuals, and other strata of the people. The UCK General Staff appeals to the people and the army, at this great historical turning point, to be ruled by tolerance and the philosophy of the unity of the people in the struggle for freedom.

On the first anniversary of the massacres at Qirez [Cirez] and Likoshan [Likosane], the Staff sends to the families of the fallen the promise that the blood shed on their own doorsteps will turn into their hope, a beacon for the future, which will strengthen and make more conscious the strong popular unity of one year ago. The aim and final goal of our struggle is and will remain freedom, independence, and democracy, the communique of the UCK General Staff's communique concludes.

Source-Date: 02/28/1999 1735 GMT

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo

Topic: INTERNATIONAL, HUMAN RIGHTS, CONFLICT, MILITARY, POLITICAL, URGENT

Spokesman Confirms Abducted Serbs in UCK Hands

Belgrade BETA in Serbo-Croatian 28 Feb 99

Pristina, 28 Feb (BETA) -- A spokesman for the separatist Kosovo Liberation Army (OVK [UCK in Albanian]) has confirmed to the Kosovo Verification Mission [KVM] that two Serbs who disappeared on Saturday [27 February] in the village of Velika Hoca near Orahovac have been abducted by UCK members, KVM spokeswoman Beatrice Lacoste told BETA.

"Krasnici has told us that they are being treated well and are in good health," Lacoste said.

[passage omitted]

[Description of Source: BETA: Private news agency with independent editorial policies]

Source-Date: 02/28/1999 2135 GMT

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo

Topic: DOMESTIC, HUMAN RIGHTS, CONFLICT, POLITICAL, MILITARY

Verifiers Say Location of 2 Kidnapped Serbs Is Known

Belgrade BETA in Serbo-Croatian 1844 GMT 28 Feb 99

Pristina, 28 Feb (BETA) -- OSCE Kosovo Verification Mission spokesman Beatrice Lacoste stated today that "there are strong indications" that the location of the brothers Dobrivoje and Novica Savelic, who went missing in Orahovac yesterday, is known.

"There are strong indications that it is known exactly where the Savelic brothers are," Lacoste said.

Nevertheless, she declined to divulge just where she believes the two brothers from Velika Hoca near Orahovac, who went missing while cutting wood, are.

According to her, the fighting in the vicinity of Kacanik continues and the verifiers in the vicinity reported seeing burning trees from afar.

The Kosovo Verification Mission, Lacoste added, also registered an increased presence of the Yugoslav Army in Orahovac.

[Description of Source: BETA: Private news agency with independent editorial policies]

Source-Date: 02/28/1999

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo

Topic: CRIME, HUMAN RIGHTS, CONFLICT

U0038686

UCK Hands Over Kidnapped Serb, Dead Brother to OSCE

Belgrade Tanjug Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 01 Mar 99

Prizren, 1 Mar (Tanjug) -- The Albanian terrorists, who on Saturday [27 February] kidnapped the brothers Savelic, two civilian Serbs from Velika Hoca near Orahovac, have killed one of them. The members of the terrorist so-called Kosovo Liberation Army [UCK] today handed over to the OSCE mission the kidnapped Savelic and the body of his brother, said mission chief Brigade General Michel Majzonef at a news conference in the regional center of the OSCE mission for the Prizren region, without specifying the name of the Savelic killed.

He added that the kidnapped Savelic and the body of his killed brother would be handed over to the Serbian Interior Ministry members during the day. [passage omitted]

[Description of Source: Tanjug: State-owned news agency; reflects views of Milosevic regime]

Source-Date: 03/01/1999 1408 GMT

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo

Topic: CONFLICT, HUMAN RIGHTS, INTERNATIONAL, MILITARY, POLITICAL,
URGENT

KLA Confirms Execution, Other Serb Abductee Released

Belgrade Radio B92 in Serbo-Croatian 01 Mar 99

A spokeswoman for the OSCE's Kosovo Verification Mission [KVM] in Pristina, Beatrice Lacoste, told B92 radio today that the so-called Kosovo Liberation Army [KLA; UCK in Albanian] representatives had informed the KVM that one of the two Savelic brothers [Dobrivoje and Novica], who were abducted on Saturday [27th February], had been executed. The police in Prizren [southwestern Kosovo] have confirmed the death of Dobrivoje Savelic. According to the same source, the other brother was released this afternoon. Novica Savelic has suffered serious injuries and has been hospitalized in Prizren.

Source-Date: 03/01/1999 1500 GMT

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

Topic: POLITICAL, CONFLICT, TERRORISM, DOMESTIC, HUMAN RIGHTS

UCK Denies Involvement in Attacks Against Serbs, Gypsies

Paris AFP (North European Service) in English 17 Aug 99

PRISTINA, Aug 17 (AFP) -- The Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA [UCK in Albanian]) on Tuesday [17 August] condemned attacks and intimidation against ethnic Serbs in the southern Yugoslav province, saying those responsible did not come from within its ranks.

"The migration of Serbs from Kosovo, the uncivil actions of a number of persons from different ethnic backgrounds against the lives and the property of some citizens of Kosovo, as well as attacks on various buildings have been represented as actions committed by individuals affiliated with the KLA," a communique released in Pristina said.

"It has been insinuated that these actions were committed by the KLA itself. Once again, we wish to affirm our conviction that the individuals who committed these crimes are not KLA soldiers," it continued.

"Regretfully, there are individuals who, taking advantage of the current situation, attack the lives and the property of others," the statement added.

"While the KLA rejects these accusations and forcefully condemns these actions, it also invites all Kosovo citizens from Serb and other minorities who are not guilty of crimes against others, to stay in Kosovo and work together for a safe future for all of its citizens."

Presenting the KLA as "the army of all of Kosovo's citizens," it was signed by Agim Ceku, the group's chief of staff.

The KLA's political chief, Hashim Thaci, has also called for Serbs "who have not committed crimes" to remain in the province.

But according to ethnic Serbs, members of the Kosovo peacekeeping force, and media reports, attacks on Serbs and looting of their homes have been carried out by ethnic Albanians claiming to belong to the KLA.

On August 3, the US-based Human Rights Watch said ethnic Serbs and Gypsies in Kosovo were being forced to flee the province through acts of deliberate violence, often by KLA members.

[Description of source: north European service of the independent French press agency Agence France-Presse]

Source-Date: 08/17/1999 2023 GMT

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo

Topic: DOMESTIC POLITICAL, HUMAN RIGHTS, MILITARY, URGENT

Text of Ceku Communique Urging Serbs To Remain

(Internet) Kosovapress WWW in English 18 Aug 99

The Kosova Liberation Army The General Staff For immediate release Communique [subhead]
The migration of Serbs from Kosova, the uncivil actions of a number of persons from different ethnic backgrounds against the life and the property of some citizens of Kosova, as well as attacks on various buildings have been represented as actions committed by individuals and persons affiliated with the KLA [Kosovo Liberation Army -- UCK in Albanian] and it has been insinuated that these actions have been committed by the KLA itself. Once again we wish to affirm our conviction that those individuals that have committed these crimes are not soldiers of th KLA. Regretfully, therre are individuals who, taking advantage from the current situation, attack the life and the property of other individuals.

In many cases, such actions have been committed to distract the attention of the international community from what is really happening in Kosova. Such actions are intended to throw a shadow over the extraordinary efforts of the people of Kosova to build a normal life and a democratic and a multiethnic society. Also, due to such uncivil actions, the serious and continuous efforts of all the KLA effective to become a part of these processes have not been properly appreciated. Whille the KLA rejects these accusations and forcefully condemns these actions, at the same time, it invites all the Kosova citizens that belong to the Serb and other minorities not involved in crimes ommitted against other people, to stay in Kosova, so we altogether could work for the building of a safe future for all its citizens.

The KLA is the army of all the citizens of Kosova. The KLA belongs to all the people of Kosova. The KLA considers that its mission, in close cooperation with other authorities, is to guarantee security and protection for all the citizens of Kosova. During the war, we did respect to a letter all the international conventions on war, and in no case have we failed to respect the rights of the innocent civilians, regardless of their ethnic background. It is a duty and an obligation for all the KLA effective to respect the human rights and the international conventions that regulate them even in peace time.

The KLA invites all the citizens of Kosova, regardless of their ethnic background to stay in Kosova so that they can contribute to the building of free and democratic society based on respect for human rights, tolerance, and diversity. The General Staff of the KLA assures all the citizens of Kosova that the KLA is an institution that belongs to all the people of Kosova, that its soldiers and officers are committed to the establishment of peace and ethnic harmony in Kosova. The KLA will do whatever is necessary so that the cooperation with the international authorities in their mission is fruitful and contributes to the peace and security in Kosova.

[signed] Gen. Agim Geku, Chief of General Staff

[date] Prishtink, August 18, 1999

[Description of Source: UCK news agency; Internet URL: <http://www.kosovapress.com>]

U0038690

Region: East Europe

Sub-Region: Balkan States

Country: Kosovo

Topic: DOMESTIC POLITICAL, MILITARY, URGENT, LEADER