



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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15 October 1999

Dear Mr. President,

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I have the honour to convey the attached report on the international security presence in Kosovo covering the period 30 August to 27 September 1999.

I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

Please accept, Mr. President, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Kofi A. Annan

His Excellency  
Mr. Sergey V. Lavrov  
President of the Security Council  
New York

## Monthly Report to the United Nations on KFOR Operations

1. Over the reporting period (30 August – 27 September), KFOR troops continued their deployment into the theatre. As of 27 September, there were 49,412 troops in place. Sixteen NATO member countries have now completed their deployments.

2. Austria, Lithuania, Russia, the Slovak Republic, Sweden, Switzerland, and Ukraine all completed their deployments over the reporting period. Russian deployment into the town of Orahovac continues to be hampered by ongoing demonstrations and roadblocks set up around the town by various groups of ethnic Albanians. Efforts to resolve the problems are continuing.

### Security

3. The reporting period was characterized by a slight decrease in acts of aggression against KFOR personnel, although there was an increase in tension and violence during the last week of September. There are no indications of these incidents being linked to a campaign against KFOR. Ethnic tension persists, and attacks by ethnic Albanians against ethnic minorities continue, especially against Serbs and their property. Developments in the last days of the reporting period indicate that the tension in areas such as Kosovo Polje, Mitrovica and Orahovac could escalate and spread easily. Over the period, there were an estimated 112 civilian casualties in Kosovo. Five people were detained on suspicion of murder. Residual caches of weapons are still being found throughout the area of operations.

4. KFOR continues to work closely with the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS), and recently launched a mine-awareness training programme in conjunction with the UN Mines Action Coordination Centre (UNMACC) and other demining organizations. Emphasis is currently being placed on eradicating the threat from Cluster Bomb Units (CBUs) and on clearing border crossing sites. In this context, KFOR Multi-National Brigades (MNBs) have reconnoitred all known CBU locations and have marked the bomblets for disposal by Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) teams. The aim is to mark all areas and clear as many as possible before the onset of the first snow. KFOR continues to work closely with UNMAS to conduct expedient clearance of those areas that impact on immediate operations. KFOR has cleared 547 schools, and expects to complete school clearance activities by mid-October. As at 18 September, 4,462 Anti-Personnel Mines, 2,331 Anti-Tank Mines and 3,800 bomblets had been cleared. Residual caches of weapons are still being found throughout the area of operations.

## **Cooperation and Compliance by the Parties**

5. Overall, by K+90 (19 September), the UÇK was assessed as being in compliance with the 21 June Undertaking signed by the UÇK leadership and COMKFOR. During the course of its demilitarization, the UÇK handed in approximately 10,000 weapons - mostly old and in poor condition. The UÇK officially ceased to exist on 20 September. At the same time, the Principles for the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC) were agreed. The KPC will be a multi-ethnic civil emergency service agency, with no law enforcement role, under the authority of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General, who has appointed Mr. Çeku as its head. COMKFOR will assist in the tasks the KPC must achieve, will provide day-to-day operational direction to the KPC, and, concurrently, will continue to take a robust line in monitoring compliance and in particular will ensure no unauthorised access to weapons.

6. Whilst the senior leadership of the UÇK appeared content with the agreement and transition to the KPC, it is likely that some UÇK structures persist. There have been incidents of former UÇK personnel not wearing the newly-issued KPC uniform, or still wearing UÇK badges. KFOR will focus on monitoring compliance with the Principles and on supervising the provision of assistance to develop the KPC.

7. Over the reporting period, Serb security forces continued to comply with the terms of the Military Technical Agreement (MTA) and remain cooperative in their dealings with KFOR, despite occasional encounters between KFOR and Serb elements on the boundary between Kosovo and the rest of Serbia. Seasonal military training by the Serb forces continues.

## **Cooperation with International Organizations**

8. KFOR continues to provide humanitarian assistance throughout Kosovo on a daily basis and upon request, focussing on transportation, the distribution of food, medical support, the re-establishment of support services and the protection and escorting of refugees and internally-displaced persons.

9. With the police force of the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) currently numbering only 1,483 policemen, civil administration in the area of public safety remains principally a KFOR responsibility. Responsibility for police functions in Pristina was transferred from KFOR to UNMIK at the end of August, and more than 560 policemen are deployed there. However, KFOR still conducts security patrols in all major urban areas and in the countryside in order to deter crime and instill a sense of personal safety in civilians. Approximately half of KFOR's total available manpower is directly committed to current protection tasks. KFOR provides daily support to the Kosovo Police School (KPS), which conducted its first class on 7 September.

10. KFOR continues to provide security and protection on the border crossing points into Kosovo and conducts random searches of vehicles, including to prevent the illegal traffic of weapons and military equipment. KFOR also provides security for the transportation of customs duties collected at those border crossing points manned by UNMIK border police. Currently, six KFOR battalions are primarily involved in border security operations and this responsibility will remain with KFOR, until UNMIK assumes responsibility for border control.

11. KFOR continues to support UNMIK at all levels of the civil administration in Kosovo, and is represented at the Kosovo Transitional Council (KTC), which met three times in September, and the Joint Civil Commissions.

12. With respect to infrastructure, KFOR troops are still involved in such tasks as sanitation, securing water supplies and power plant operations. Rail transportation is operated and maintained by KFOR.

### **Return of Refugees and Internally-Displaced Persons**

13. More than 85% of some 900,000 refugees in regional and third countries have now returned to Kosovo. This flow decreased appreciably in September when only approximately 22,500 refugees returned home, the majority of them from third countries. Serbs in Kosovo remain isolated and dependent on the aid provided by KFOR and humanitarian organizations in food delivery and medical care. According to latest estimates from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and KFOR brigades, there are approximately 97,000 Serbs still in Kosovo.

### **Outlook**

14. As noted above, the security situation in Kosovo improved in the early part of the reporting period. However, attacks against ethnic minorities, especially Serbs, and their property, remain a major security concern. There is also the danger that tension could escalate and spread from areas such as Orahovac and Kosovo Polje. KFOR will continue to work in close cooperation with UNMIK to address these and other issues in order to maintain peace and stability in Kosovo.