



Yugoslavia  
DPA

SG (direct)  
FYE

R 3/4

Note to Mr Riza

KOSOVO -- WORKING GROUP

# 99-0578

1. As requested, we had a first meeting today in my conference room. Mr Knutsson and Mr Mousavizadeh (EOSG), Mr Griffith (OCHA), Mr Pelletier and Ms Shitakha (DPKO), and Mr Matsuka (DPA) were in attendance.

2. I summarised yesterday's meeting. We had a first discussion pending the Secretary-General's decision on the recommendations emerging from yesterday's meeting. The following options were generally agreed on:

a) The Secretary-General could propose that if military action (by all sides) were to cease (whether as a Papal "pause" -- term to be avoided -- or otherwise), a UN humanitarian assessment mission should be allowed to enter Kosovo in order to assess needs. Such a mission could be used as the thin end of the wedge of the establishment of an independent international presence. (- premature)

b) The Secretary-General (personally or through Mr Vieira de Mello's presentation at the Security Council on Monday) could highlight the allegations of serious human rights violations in Kosovo and urge the F.R.Y. to provide full cooperation with the mission that Mrs Robinson has asked to go to the region -- presumably headed by the Special Rapporteur, Mr Dienstbier -- in order to verify the allegations independently.

c) An in-depth, regionally approached reflection on long-term solutions in the aftermath of the crisis should be taken up, possibly including, *inter alia*, Messrs Carrington, Owen, Stoltenberg and Vance. Participants believed that it was quite reasonable for the Secretary-General to seek advice of this kind, and didn't see any problem -- to the contrary -- in it becoming known that he was doing so. These are people who have dedicated years to thinking about the "big picture" in the Balkans, seeking durable solutions. Very few people are doing that these days. Bosnia's veterans - with mixed results.

Alvaro de Soto  
2 April 1999

cc: Mr Prendergast  
Mr Miyet  
Mr Vieira de Mello

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S-O OFFICE  
# 2 5 April