

EOSG
Yugoslavia
Press / general *URGENT*

NOTE TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Media strategy for Kosovo

The Communications Group met today to discuss a media strategy for Kosovo. In addition to the regular participants, representatives of UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, UNFPA, OCHA, DPA and others were present.

In the discussion, Stephen Lewis proposed that you assume more visible leadership of the UN humanitarian effort. His argument is that this is a massive humanitarian crisis, with implications for the entire UN system. Specifically, he suggested that you hold weekly or bi-weekly conference calls with Mrs. Ogata, Ms. Bellamy and Ms. Bertini and then inform the media afterwards. Members of the Communications Group generally supported this proposal.

In deciding whether to do this, you may wish to consider whether it would be advisable for you to assume a high profile on the humanitarian front, at a time when you are trying to engage in a discreet diplomatic process. Another consideration is whether taking such a visible leadership role on this crisis would seem to suggest lesser concern on your part about other humanitarian crises in which the UN is involved.

I would be grateful for your guidance.

Shashi Tharoor

Shashi Tharoor
20 April 1999

PRIORITY

(Residence)

FCR
20/4

cc. Mr. Riza
Mr. Eckhard

~~*Noted*~~
discussed

Ray *21/4*

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S-C OFFICE
#17 20 April