

B-2.

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Aan: Mfilifer@cs.com <Mfilifer@cs.com>
Datum: zondag 06, juni 1999 21:16
Onderwerp: Please read and forward

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Date: Mon, 31 May 1999 18:53:50 -0400 (EDT)

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**"US CONGRESSIONAL MISSION TO YUGOSLAVIA DISPUTES WHITE
HOUSE/STATE DEPT/PENTAGON/NATO INFORMATION**

Essential Public Policy Points Relating to the ISSA
Mission to Yugoslavia, April 18-21, 1999

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mission from Washington DC to Yugoslavia on April 18-21, 1999. The purpose
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A. The Rationale Behind the Fact-Finding Visit

1. The visit was principally undertaken to ensure that the US Congress had sufficient independent information on the conduct of the war ("the Kosovo Crisis") to be able to fully debate proposals put to it by the US Administration. The Founding Fathers of the United States wished to ensure that there were checks and balances in the US system. The Congress was empowered to approve and fund - or disapprove and withhold funding - the actions of the Administration, and was charged with the function of declaring war. It was, therefore, the responsibility of Congress to satisfy itself

through the utmost diligence that courses of action to which it committed its actions were appropriate. It was never intended that the Congress should blindly endorse the Administrative Branch, but rather should support it or check it after due debate and research.

2. The commitment of US lives into a combat situation, where many lives will certainly be lost, and where the long-term strategic interests of the United States are involved, cannot therefore be undertaken without the most complete research and understanding.

With regard to the present situation in Yugoslavia, Congress had until this mission been virtually totally reliant on the Administration's view of events, and on the media, which has been greatly influenced by the only real source of information and opinion available: the Administration.

3. It was necessary to determine far more objectively the real situation before one-sided evidence and jingoism was allowed to determine whether Congress threw American lives, and the future strategic position of the United States, into a war. This was the underlying motive for the ISSA/Saxton mission to Yugoslavia.

4. It was also necessary to ensure that the United States did not unwittingly commit crimes of its own in pursuit of a just solution to the tragedy.

B. What was discovered

1. The Flow of Refugees: The international media, because it is largely on the external borders of Yugoslavia, has seen only the flow of refugees out of the country, to Albania and Macedonia. However, some one-third of the Albanian Yugoslav and other ethnic group refugees appear, in fact, to be fleeing further into Serbia, to avoid the Kosovo Liberation Army. Yugoslavia has already been burdened since 1992 with almost one-million refugees from Bosnian Serb areas and Croatian Serb areas, as well as Croatians and Muslims fleeing into Serbia-proper from what is now Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia.

2. There is no doubt but that the NATO bombings in Kosovo and in the rest of Serbia have contributed heavily - perhaps overwhelmingly - toward the outflow of refugees, not only the Kosovar Albanians but many other ethnic groups who have been forced on the road with the destruction of their homes or their livelihoods.

3. There are some 26 different ethnic groups in Yugoslavia, and some 20 different ethnic groups living in the Kosovo region. Within Yugoslavia, some one-third of the population is not of Serbian origin, and this makes it the most multi-cultural, multi-religious state in the Balkan region.

4. We saw extensive destruction of civilian targets, many of which could not be justified by NATO as military targets nor vital to the maintenance of a Yugoslav strategic power base. Given the widespread damage to these purely civilian targets which we saw, including the direct destruction of homes, it is not difficult to believe the claims of the Yugoslav Government that some 400,000 to a half-million people have been thrown out of work because of the destruction of their workplaces. This means that some 2-million Yugoslavs of all ethnic origins are without income, out of a population of some 10+-million people.

5. Justification for bombing civilian targets has now been given that these facilities were owned by relatives of President Milosevic, but the vast majority of these factories were either State-owned, privately-owned by non-Milosevic family members or, for the greater part, owned jointly by the State and by the workforces of the various factories. As a result, this has directly contributed to an attack on the average Yugoslav family.

6. There was no evidence to support the contention that the Yugoslav warfighting capability has been overwhelmingly broken by the sustained NATO bombing campaign. Rather, the bombing has driven the Yugoslav people to put aside their political differences and to unite in the face of an external threat, much as would be the case if the United States was attacked. We met with people who have, in the past, been totally opposed, politically, to President Milosevic. Today, they are working completely with Mr Milosevic to defend their country. So the intention of the bombing to break the Yugoslav people away from Mr Milosevic has totally failed, and shows no sign of succeeding.

7. The cost in terms of human casualties from the NATO bombing have largely been civilian: between 500 and 1,000 dead, with several thousand injured. Military personnel casualties have been minimal.

8. There has clearly been significant damage suffered by Yugoslav military assets, including domestic oil refining capability. However, it would be a mistake to believe that the real warfighting capability of Yugoslavia has been degraded to anything like the level where the insertion of ground forces could be successful: that is, that it

could militarily defeat Yugoslavia without massive loss of life and without destroying the one thing which the campaign intends to save, namely a viable restoration of Kosovars to their homes and livelihoods in the Kosovo region.

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The net result of an insertion of ground forces would be that a protracted war would continue within the very rugged terrain of the country, and that the lowland areas would be laid-waste to in the process. It surely is not our intention to achieve a victory without restoring the homes and employment of the Kosovar people (whether of Albanian origin or not).

9. Apart from a costly, protracted war with the massive loss of life among NATO states, including, of course, the United States, there is reason for grave concern over a wider war. Firstly, it is clear that there would be retaliatory actions against major Western targets, such as our own oil refineries and nuclear power stations, etc., from Yugoslav special forces or from non-government Serb activists. So we could expect a major outbreak of anti-NATO terrorism, perhaps on a scale not before seen, if we choose to escalate the war into a full ground operation. This must at the very least be taken into consideration.

10. We attempted to investigate reports that there has already been considerable loss of life among NATO forces, and we feel that we received some confirmation that this has been the case. Clearly, the cost to NATO in human and equipment terms has already been far greater than anything which has been announced. Just how extensive the NATO aircraft and personnel losses have been remains to be confirmed. What is clear is that already there has been a cost to us, apart from the mere monetary cost of equipment and consumables. This cost can only rise significantly as the conflict proceeds.

11. It has been stated by NATO that the Yugoslav Air Force has been driven from the skies, with half the Yugoslav fighter aircraft force lost, and that all defenses now consist only of anti-aircraft artillery and anti-aircraft missiles. It is more likely that the Yugoslav Air Force is preserving its forces to be used in any broader conflict.

This is not Iraq, and we should not make the mistake of believing that the fight, or fighting capability, has been driven from the Yugoslavs.

12. There has, in fact, been considerable progress toward reaching a political solution acceptable to all moderate parties. And, of course, we except from the definition "moderate parties" the so-called Kosovo Liberation Army, which derived from the communist origins of the former Albanian stalinist leaders and which today is funded largely by narcotic trafficking into Western Europe and through extortion. It has been a mistake for the West to support the KLA now, when moderate Kosovar Albanian leaders have been committed to a political solution to the tragedy. Equally, attempts to discredit moderate Kosovar Albanian leader Dr Ibrahim Rugova are counter-productive to achieving a peaceful and lasting solution to the problem. The fact that Dr Rugova's enormous courage in remaining in Yugoslavia to seek such a solution is now being dismissed by allegations that he is a "virtual prisoner" only serve to reinforce the hand of the KLA, which has previously been labeled a terrorist force by the United States,

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13. We received strong indications from the very senior officials with whom we met - and clearly the messages which we received were sanctioned by Mr Millosevic himself - that virtually all the substantive demands for Kosovo's future autonomy within Yugoslavia could be met, and met quickly, provided negotiations could resume. As a result, we need to undertake a careful step-by-step approach toward peace and we need to see some substantive evidence of commitment and goodwill on the part of the Yugoslavs. I believe that this will be forthcoming.

14. Without question, we need to ensure that Congress is totally clear on the situation before further escalation takes place, and before further funding is put in place to continue a protracted war. Congress needs to undertake this process of due diligence itself, given the fact that the enormous confusion which has taken place due to media manipulation on all sides has only contributed to a blood-lust which - if it is the only basis for decisionmaking - could lead to a much longer and wider war.

15. Finally, it seems clear that if we accept that we must commit to a broader war in Yugoslavia, then we must also accept that US and NATO military preoccupation with this conflict will open the door to a range of other conflicts which could be of massive and lasting consequence. In this regard, we must expect that an expanded war would lead to an exacerbation of Turkish-Greek tensions leading to a separate war, in which the Cyprus issue would become a key. We could expect North Korea to take the opportunity to initiate a military attack on South Korea, with Japan drawn into the fray.

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12-6-99 / 3-7-99

11-6-99 Serviers in Kosovo nu bedreigde groep

door
Frank van Vliet
BOEDAPEST, vrijdag

De angst is nog steeds aanwezig in Kosovo. Het is na tien jaar Servische overheersing echter een nieuwe groep die bang is: de Serviers.

Als geen ander kennen zij de sentimenten en emoties die in Kosovo leven. De belofte van de NAVO hen te beschermen geloven de meeste Serviers niet.

Dat het Kosovo Bevrijdingsleger (UCK), dat in het verleden aanslagen pleegde op Serviers, zich zal ontpoppen tot een professionele politiemacht zonder wraakgevoelens, zoals in de vredesplannen is voorzien, gelooft geen Servier.

Koffers

Van de 200.000 Serviers die in Kosovo wonen (sommige families eeuwenlang), zijn er volgens de NAVO al enige duizenden gevlucht. Nu duidelijk is geworden dat de Servische

militaire aanwezigheid in Kosovo minimaal zal zijn, kunnen steeds meer Serviers hun koffers.

"Ik heb me niet misdragen. Ik bewaar zelfs het geld van mijn gevluchte Albanese buurman, maar ik vertrek ook. Wie gelooft mij straks nog? De NAVO en het UCK zijn toch twee handen op een buik", vertelt de Servier Zoran Kosic telefonisch vanuit Pristina.

Duizenden al op de vlucht geslagen

Volgens hem denken de meeste Serviers er zo over. Ze ker in de dorpen, waar hunne vredestroepen zullen worden vernietigd. In de hoofdstad Pristina, durft geen te blijven.

12-6-99

De Navo sluit niet uit dat de bombardementen worden hervat als de uiring stopt. De Nederlanders blijken dialiantie daarin te steunen. Slechts 20 procent vindt dat in dat geval uitsluitend verder moet worden onderhandeld, terwijl 16 procent hervatting van de bombardementen wil en liefst 44 procent juist kiest voor bombardementen én de inzet van grondtroepen.

Steun voor die laatste optie is veel groot onder kiezers van de kleine reepartijen (61 procent), de SP en de PvdA (48 procent). De SP-stemmers zijn eveneens de meeste voorstanders van onderhandelen (37 procent).

Mocht het tot verder dan vindt een duidelijke meerderheid van alle partijen dat slachtoffers aan de Nederlandse zijde geen reden kan zijn om name aan de Navo-acties te staken.

De overtuiging dat er nieuwe aanvallen moeten komen bij een te uitvoering van het akkoord is uitsluitend verrassend, gezien de waarde van de rol van de diplomatie. De stelling dat de diplomatieke inspanning van het land voor het bereiken van het akkoord even belangrijk is geweest als de bombardementen wordt onderschreven door 55 procent - 12 procent is het er zeer sterk mee eens, 43 procent min of meer. Procent is het sterk of gematigd oneens met de stelling.

Er zijn grote verschillen tussen de partijen. Vooral de SP-kiezer waardeert de Russische rol (79 procent), terwijl de kiezers van de kleine christelijke partijen juist weinig in zien (37 procent). Veel ondervraagden is het overigens niet mogelijk om zich een oordeel te vormen over twee 'oplossingen' voor de Kosovo-crisis. 21 procent heeft bij deze vraag geen mening.

12-6-99

De overtuiging dat er eventueel nieuwe acties moeten komen is daarnaast verrassend, omdat er een groot besef lijkt te bestaan van het leed dat de aanvallen veroorzaken. Liefst 61 procent van de Nederlanders vindt dat de bombardementen de Servische bevolking te zwaar hebben getroffen. Er is kennelijk weinig geloof in de Navo-bewering dat door precisiebommen en zorgvuldige selectie vrijwel uitsluitend militaire doelen zijn geraakt. Alleen de kiezers van de kleine christelijke partijen (41 procent) vinden minder vaak dat de Servische bevolking te hard is getroffen.

Nog opvallender is het feit dat 43 procent van de ondervraagden de stelling onderschrijft dat de bombardementen de bevolking van Kosovo meer kwaad dan goed heeft gedaan - eenzelfde percentage wijst de stelling af. Met name de SP-kiezers huldigen die opvatting (59 procent), terwijl onder VVD-kiezers dat percentage juist wat lager ligt (33 procent). Onder de VVD-aanhangers zijn dan ook relatief de meeste afwijzers van de stelling, zowel in aantal (61 procent) als in overtuiging (23 procent is het er zelfs sterk mee oneens).

Deze opvatting betekent overigens niet dat de Navo-acties als oorzaak worden gezien van de exodus van Albanezen uit Kosovo. 79 procent van de bevolking oordeelt dat niet de Navo-bombardementen maar het Joegoslavische leger de inwoners van Kosovo op de vlucht heeft gejaagd. Alleen onder kiezers van GroenLinks (69 procent) en de SP (70 procent) komt die opvatting een fractie minder sterk naar voren.

De zorg om de effecten van de bombardementen weerhoudt een meerderheid van de Nederlandse bevolking er dus niet van eventuele hervatting van de Navo-acties te steunen. De Nederlander is bereid tot militaire actie, maar aanschouwt met pijn in het hart de gevolgen.

12-6-94

During more than two and a half months of the aggression, the sirens were not sounded only in the nights of May 9-10 and June 3-4 and between the evening of June 5 and morning of June 7.

On April 16, the air raid alert was in effect in the city for only 19 minutes.

The all-clear was sounded for the last time in the city at 6.29 a.m. on June 9.

55 Bridges Demolished

Raiding the railway bridge on the Ibar river near Pasjan in Leposavic area on March 31st, NATO air force started demolishing bridges. After that the Varadin, Sloboda (Freedom) and Zezelj bridges in Novi Sad were blown up. Bridges near Backa Palanka, Beska, Bogojevo (Sombor), in Zubin Potok, railway bridge in Nis, bridges on the Juzna Morava river and Rasina river near Krusevac, bridge in the town of Bistrica on Belgrade-Bar railway track, and bridges in the vicinity of Kokin Brod, Priboj, and Prijepolje followed.

The bridge linking Smederevo and Kovin, a landmark of the Danube river was also destroyed. Then, the bridges on the Velika Morava river near Jesik (Krusevac), the Djunis bridge on the road to Trstenik, the bridge on the confluence of the Kosanica and Toplica rivers near Kursumlija, the 25. Maj bridge (Ilok), railway bridges in the Ibar and Grdelica gorges, bridge in Brvenik (Kraljevo), and both bridges in Ostruznica near Baelgrade. In an attempt to block as many roads as possible the enemy went on to demolish bridges in Kursumlija, Zitoradja, Prokuplje, Murino, Lucani, Biljanovac, Bivojje, bridges near the towns of Pojate and Vrsac, on the Uvac river near Kokin Brod, on the Sipnica river on the Podgorica-Niksic road, the bridge near Tusic on Raska-Kosovska Mitrovica road, the bridge on the international railway track to Temisvar and Bucuresti, bridges in Mijatovac near Cuprija, in Bogutovac, Vladicin Han, and Lucani (Kraljevo), on the Lugomir river (Jagodina), the Sarajevo bridge (Leskovac), bridge near Djakovica, bridges on the Begej river near Banatski Dvor, on the Jasenica river near Velika Plana, on the Cekavica river near Lebane, on the Nisava river near Popovac and the Sivac bridge near Pirot.

13-6-99

SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH'S ST. SAVVA'S YOUTH PRESS SERVICE

SERBIAN PRIEST ATTACKED BY ETHNIC ALBANIAN TERRORISTS

13 June PRIZREN, KOSOVO - 96 Prizren, the town on the southwest of Kosovo, where Serbian Orthodox Church's Bishopric of Kosovo (official name is the Diocese of Raska and Prizren) is occupied by KLA. One Serbian priest was attacked and maltreated by a group of armed ethnic Albanian. The SOC's Bishop of Kosovo H. E. Artemije addressed this morning with the demand to the KFOR to do by self-proclaimed duties and to guaranty safety to the Serbian Orthodox priests and inhabitants.

SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH'S ST. SAVVA'S YOUTH PRESS SERVICE

THOUSANDS OF SERBIAN REFUGEES COMING EACH HOUR FROM KOSOVO

13 June, PODGORICA, MONTENEGRO - Up till this morning cca 8,000 refugees arrived to Montenegro, mainly Serbs reports Montena-fax (an Montenegro press agency) referring to the data from police control points at the border of province of Serbia Kosovo and Montenegro. Both roadways from Kosovo to Montenegro are full of vehicles with refugees, so it is estimated at least 2 thousand of them will arrive yet by the end of the day. Whole families are running away in vehicles of all kinds, mostly from the north of Kosovo. The refugees claim they do not feel safe in Kosovo after Yugoslav Army and police forces have withdrawn.

13 June KRUSEVAC, SOUTH SERBIA - Hundreds of tractors, cars and trucks full of refugees from Kosovo are moving northwards for the third day now. They are mainly from Prizren, Urosevac and Djakovica. According to Fr. Ljubodrag Petrovic, the President of the St. Savva's Youth Community of the Archdiocese of Belgrade and Karlovci, who has visited Krusevac, the town in southern Serbia and first bigger site on the way from Kosovo, during the weekend, the situation with Serbian refugees from Kosovo becoming worst from hour to hour.

13 June SUVA REKA, KOSOVO - According to the first information, from Suva Reka region more than 2,000 Serbian refugees came to Pristina up to now, they are accommodated in the Students' Center and the sport hall. Albanian terrorists went into the village Musutiste, 9-km east from Suva Reka and burnt it completely.

13 June ROZAJE, MONTENEGRO - Tonight, in the period from 19:00 till 24:00, 1,470 Serbs from Kosovo passed the point in Rozaje, by which the number of Serbian refugees from Kosovo has been increased to more than 5,000, says Rozaje Information center.

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SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH'S ST. SAVVA'S YOUTH PRESS SERVICE

SERBS IN PRISTINA KILLED BY KFOR AND KLA

13 June PRISTINA, KOSOVO - Around 4:30 PM, special British troop members of KFOR peace keepers killed Serb civilian Veselin Jovovic in The Cara Dusana Street, not far from

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NATO bombing results

Pristina downtown. According to eyewitnesses' claims, Jovic was killed while crossing the street along which, KFOR column were moving, although he did not provoke them by any means. He raised his hands while passing the street and they shoot him afterwards. The British soldiers claim he shoot at them, but eyewitnesses just confirmed he was armed with the handgun which was hanging on his belt and not in the hands.

This morning, a group of Albanian terrorists in the Pristina neighborhood of Vranjevac fired on the Yugoslav Army soldiers and the Serb police. According to current information, one policeman and two soldiers were killed. At 10:40, terrorists opened fire in the same neighborhood against a private "Ascona" car and killed a civilian. According to the newest information, a group of Albanian terrorists is currently located in a school in Vranjevac. These murders have reported by the Yugoslav authorities to the KFOR commander General Michael Jackson, who promised that the peacekeeping troops will do everything to arrest the attackers.

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia, June 13 (AFP) - Thousands of Serbs fleeing ethnic Albanian guerrillas in southern Kosovo were clogging the road leading from Macedonia to Pristina on Sunday, an AFP journalist saw. One man, who gave his name only as Stojan, said he had left his village of Musutiste because of Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) "terrorists".

"They came near the village. They shot at us. They killed five people," all of them men in their 30s, he said. "They didn't say anything. They just shot." The Serbs were travelling on tractors, trucks and in cars in a line of traffic that included NATO supply trucks making their way to the Kosovo capital. Many said that whole villages had taken to the road, packing family and belongings into vehicles and heading for any town that looked safe. When asked where he was going, one man, Goran Ilic, said: "Only God knows."

He said he and his entire family had left the village of Suva Reka early Sunday morning and had travelled seven hours in the slow moving traffic. He added that the rest of the village -- of 1,500 inhabitants -- had also left. "The KLA is everywhere. They were in uniform and they came in three cars. They fired shots at us," he said. He did not know if anybody had been hurt.

13-6-99

WHY ARE THESE CHILDREN KILLED?

13-6-99

Nearly 15,000 Serbs leave Kosovo over the weekend

GENEVA, June 14 (AFP) - Nearly 15,000 Serbs fled Kosovo over the weekend as Yugoslav soldiers began a full-scale retreat and NATO peacekeeping forces poured in, humanitarian agencies said Monday.

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Around 10,000 Serbs left for Serbia proper between Friday and Sunday, Jette Soersensen a spokesman with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said.

The ICRC said no violence was reported against the departing Serbs, who feared they could be the target of an ethnic Albanian backlash once Yugoslav troops depart and Kosovar refugees start returning home from forced exile.

The Serbs made up a small ethnic minority of around 10 percent of Kosovo's pre-war population of an estimated two million.

Some 4,400 Serbs meanwhile headed to the Yugoslav republic of Montenegro between Thursday and Saturday, according to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

There were no figures available for arrivals on Sunday.

The UNHCR hopes that the deployment of the NATO peacekeeping force (KFOR) will convince Serbs to stay on in Kosovo, although it acknowledges that Serbs have been trickling out of the province ever since the conflict began in March 1998.

The Yugoslav Red Cross has set up reception centers along the border to greet the civilians, many of whom are rejoining family members who left the province earlier.

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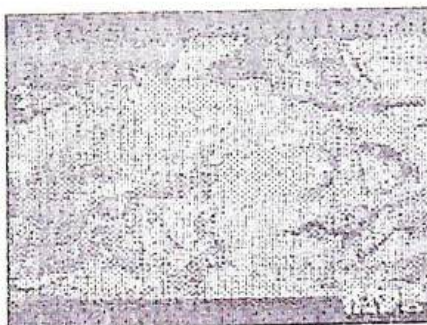
WHY ARE THESE CHILDREN KILLED?

June 13, 1999

In the total number of killed civilians during the NATO aggression on Yugoslavia, there is 30% of children. 40% of children are among the wounded. Such cold-blooded murdering of children was not yet notified in the history of wars. It seems as if the aggressor adopted the nazi recipe to destroy the enemy by the destruction of its youngsters



In the village of Merdare was killed an 11-month baby **Bojana Tosovic**, along with her father. Her mother, pregnant 7-months, was badly hurt.



Milica Rakic, 3 years old, was killed in her house in Batajnica, while she was sitting on the chamber pot.



Milica Rakic

7-years old **Ivan Ivancic**, born in exile after his parents emigrated from Croatia, was killed in the bombardment of the refugee center "Majino naselje" near Djakovica. His 6-years old sister **Milena** was wounded too. The day after the bombing, 4-years old **Marko Ivanovic** also succumbed to the consequences of bombing.

In the village Doganovic, near Urosevac, five Albanian children died from the cluster bombs. Their family name was the same - Kodza, and their names were: **Edon (aged 3)**, **Fisnik (aged 9)**, **Osman (aged 13)**, **Burim (aged 14)** and **Vajet (aged 15)**.

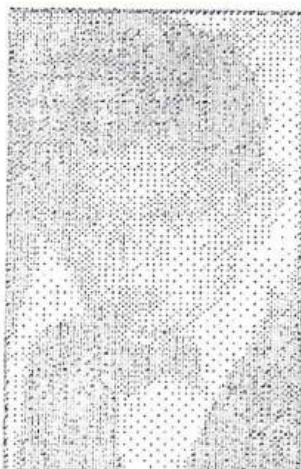
In the gypsy quarter in Pristina were killed **four children from the Zuljfur family: Maksum and Kasandra aged 2,5, Becir (aged 14) and Djulja (aged 24)**.

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In the village of Velika Dobranja, at Kosovo and Metohija, was killed a 6-years old girl **Arta Lagic**, while her two brothers, **Egzon** and **Neron**, both aged 8, and her sister **Arijeta**, aged 17, were badly wounded.

During the bombardment of Vladicin Han, were killed **Gordana Nikolic** and her boyfriend **Milan Ignjatovic**, scholars from the third and the fourth grade of high school.

6-years old **Branimir Stanijanovic**, from the village of Prdilovica near Aleksinac was burnt, along with his father and his mother and 50 more passengers during the bombing of the international train in the Grdelica crag.



Branimir Stanijanovic

In Murin were killed two girls, **Julijana Brudar** aged 12 and **Olivera Maksimovic** aged 10, who were hiding there in family from Pristina.

Brother and sister **Vladimir** and **Milijana Milic**, fifth and first grade pupils of the elementary school "Jovan Jovanovic Zmaj" were killed in NATO bombardment of Vranje.

Miomir Milanovic, scholar from the second grade of the High technical school, was killed in the bombardment of Surdulica.

In the cave of the house of the retrained **Vojislav Milic** in Surdulica, where they were hiding from the aggressor's bombs, four families were killed. Among them were **Vojislav's** grand-children **Miodrag Milovanovic** and **Vladica** and **Miljan Milic**, children who haven't had yet attended the age to go to school.

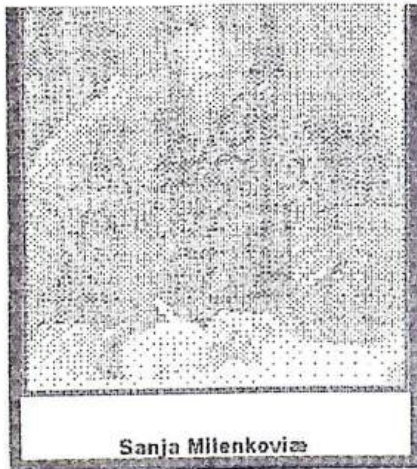
The missile that hit the house of the family **Dimic** in the village of Staro Gradsko in the community of Lipljan, 4-years old **Dragana Dimic** was killed, and her 7-years old brother and their mother were badly wounded.

In the village of Pavlovac, near Vranje, was killed **Milica Stojanovic**, sixth grade pupil of the "Branislav Nusic" elementary school.

Irena Mitic, from the village of Ribnica, scholar from the first grade of the High medicine school in Vranje, was killed in this town's bombardment.

While they were sleeping in their house in Rajja, the bombs killed a brother and a sister, **Stefan (aged 8)** and **Dajana (aged 5) Pavlovic**. Their parents were badly hurt, and their mother succumbed to the wounding after few days.

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Sanja Milenković

mathematics' contest, was killed in Varvarin, where she was at her family.

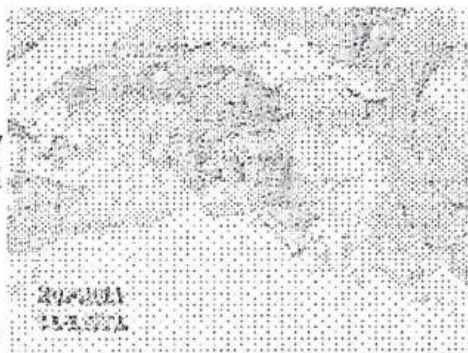
In just one day, 12 children were killed in Surdulica.

In the village of Korisa, after the attack on the column of Albanian refugees with thermovisual bombs, that develop the temperature up to 2000 degrees, among 81 casualty there were 10 babies and 26 children aged up to 15 years.

Unfortunately, this is just a little part of the terrible list.

Will these killed children be easily put under the mention of "collateral damage" and forgotten?

Will the killers, when they hug their own children, ever even think about those who they killed in Yugoslavia?



Masakr dece u Korisi

Can the pilots that threw bombs sleep easily?

Is there any tribunal in this world that will attribute at least the post-mortal justice judgement?

Will anyone answer the question: "Why are these children killed?"

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CounterPunch

13-6-yy

edited by alexander cockburn and jeffrey st. clair

A BARBAROUS WORD FOR BARBAROUS ACT

By Diana Johnstone

A number of people are saying that what NATO has been doing shouldn't be called "war". The word "war" suggests nations fighting each other. In this case, a group of the richest and best-armed nations on earth, led by the greatest military power in history, have ganged up to beat the hell out of one small, surrounded country which never harmed any of them and couldn't possibly defend itself. Day after day, the great powers destroy the little country's factories, bridges, power stations, leaving men, women and children, old and young, infirm or healthy, without light or running water. Then the bombers start in on residential areas and hospitals. Bit by bit, destroying a whole country. If the victim offers to give in, the big powers bomb some more, reiterating that "all they understand is force".

Insult is added to injury. Cartoonists and pundits invent a fictional version of the target country to hold up to public scorn, ridicule and hatred. Political leaders, spotlighted spokesmen and highly paid opinion-makers escalate the verbal abuse, comparing the population of the victim country to Nazis and suggesting that they must be conquered, punished, occupied and taught how to behave by the superior civilized governments that are bombing them. The bombs even destroy the victim country's means of communication with the outside world, so that neither their pain nor their wounds, neither their tears nor their courage are visible or audible to their torturers. Yes that's

Terugkeer Albanezen leidt tot vertrek van Serviërs

14-6-94

Van onze redactie buitenland

STIMLJE - De etnische Albanezen die gisteren naar hun huizen in Kosovo terugkeerden, droegen hetzelfde met zich mee als de Serviërs die nu op de vlucht sloegen: in plastic verpakte bezittingen, en opgekropte woede. "Waarom blijf je niet?" roept Gani Bafiu hatelijk naar de Servische familie die in een auto gepropt zit, met een aanhangwagen met een oude vrouw en een kind erop. De nieuwe en de oude vluchtelingen in Kosovo wisselen elkaar af, als direct resultaat van etnische haat en onverdraagzaamheid.

"Wij voelden ons net zo, toen ze ons sloegen en uit onze huizen joegen", zegt Sitki Bafiu, inwoner van een gehucht bij Stimlje, 25 kilometer ten zuidwesten van Pristina.

Duizenden Serviërs slaan op de vlucht

Belgrado/Rozaje ¹⁴⁻⁶⁻⁹⁹ Duizenden Serviërs hebben gisteren Kosovo verlaten uit angst voor de terugkeer van het Kosovo Bevrijdingsleger (UÇK). Volgens een Joegoslavische oppositiepartij gaat het om meer dan 30.000 mensen. De Servische Kosovaren vertrokken in het voetspoor van het Joegoslavische leger en Servische eenheden. Zij hebben duidelijk minder vertrouwen in de NAVO-militairen die de ordebewaking in de provincie op zich zullen nemen. De VN schatten dat alleen al in de Joegoslavische deelrepubliek Montenegro sinds vorige week tienduizend Servische Kosovaren zijn aangekomen. Velen zijn halsoverkop vertrokken en hebben nog geen bestemming.

Vloek

Servische burgers zitten in
geparkeerde auto's aan de dras-

sige kant van de weg te wachten
tot het konvooi gepasseerd is en
zij hun weg kunnen vervolgen.
In een auto zitten een Serviër en
zijn vrouw, ieder met een auto-
matisch geweer op schoot. Op
de vraag waarom hij vertrekt
volgt een knetterende vloek als
antwoord.

14-6-49
Verderop in de rij auto's zit
een gezette, zwetende Serviër te

huilen, omringd door familie en
bagage.

Sommige Serviërs zijn niet
van plan te vertrekken, althans
voorlopig. „We zullen zien hoe
ze ons behandelen”, zegt Boza-
na Maksimovic, die aan de kant
van de weg in Lipljan de wes-
terse colonne voorbij ziet trek-
ken. „Bescherm ons! Bombar-
deer ons niet!” roept een oude

Servische vrouw.

15-6-99

"Die Welt": Who protects Serbs in Kosovo?

June 15, 1999

Bonn, 15th June (Tanjug) - German historian from Sarbrücken Christoph Monzel in a special article for Berlin daily "Die Welt" sent a demand to KFOR to undertake more efficient measures for protecting Serbs in Kosovo.



"There is a realistic danger of an anarchistic vacuum in Kosovo and Metohija before establishing of an efficient administration in the Province... That occasion could be used by KLA for, even partial, realization of 'ethnically clean' Kosovo", writes professor Monzel.

The renowned historian from Sarbrücken also points to the political aim of such a brutal action of "ethnic cleansing" and warns that "Europe and America, if it is in their interest to keep Kosovo within the FR Yugoslavia, are obliged to keep and protect Serbs in Kosovo".

Stating that moving out of Serbs must be prevented, Monzel assesses that "otherwise, a new humanitarian catastrophe threatens".

"Moving out must be prevented as it would turn the concept of the West on the Kosovo future into a worthless piece of paper", writes Professor Christoph Monzel in "Die Welt" of Berlin

15-6-99

New imposture about the alleged massive graves

June 15, 1999

Pristina, June 14th (Tanjug) - Albanian separatists and terrorists, facing the fact that the Serbian state organs are completely fulfilling the obligations from the peace agreement, try to digress, with new fabrication and using western media, the public opinion's attention from the key point - their refusal to disarm.



Two days only after the entry of the UN peacekeeping forces on Kosovo and Metohija, the fabricated story about the massive graves was reactivated again.

This time, the choice is Kacanik, because of the fact that the American contingent is stationed there. Also, and that not accidentally, the cameras of American and British TV stations are brought on the spot where is allegedly this grave.

As in the previous similar cases it was quickly proven that all of it was a made-up story, thus will be easy to prove this time too. Such conclusion imposes itself if one sees the reports of the concerned media, since past spring and winter, as well as the statements of American officials.

At the beginning of March, all these media reported about the exodus of Albanians from Kacanin, and none of them mentioned any killing. Afterwards appeared that there was no exodus, that the Albanian moves were staged, with the organized transport to the borderline and back, after posing for cameras.

After the beginning of the aggression on our country, Kosmet Albanians, in fear of bombardments, went towards Macedonia, and nobody obstructed them. They declared for themselves that they didn't have any problems, and that they were not attacked by anybody.

When all these facts are presented, remains the question - how comes then the massive grave in this area? The answer, if we consider all these previous attempts of fraud, is not hard to find - such stories are necessary to digress the attention of the key fact - the disarmament of the terrorists.

The Americans are used again as a basis, and again they turn a blind eye to the terrorists. A logical question now is how these massive graves are "found" in the areas where the Americans are stationed, as the alleged civilian mission lead last winter by William Walker, or as the actual military forces.

American forces that should, it's logically expected, give statement about it.

Considering the previous cases, it will never happen, because then they will be forced to admit the media staging and lie.

18-6-99

Journalistiek of politiek?

'Invloed van CNN op het Kosovo-conflict moet verminderen'

„We zullen niet uit de ether verdwijnen voor het eind der tijden, en zelfs dat zullen we live verslaan”, aldus Ted Turner bij de oprichting van CNN. Waarschijnlijk zal tegen die tijd de gehele wereldbevolking haar toestel op dit nieuwsstation hebben afgesteld. Alleen al sinds het begin van de oorlog in Europa zijn er 427 duizend nieuwe huishoudens bijgekomen die dagelijks op CNN afstemmen. De invloed van CNN op het Kosovo-conflict is dan ook groot. Te groot.

de reden waarom CNN's invloed op het Kosovo-conflict moet verminderen.

Een voorbeeld van verkeerde informatievoorziening door CNN is de berichtgeving over de slachting op de marktplaats in Sarajevo in februari 1994. Een verslaggever van CNN liet weten dat dit slachtoffer de schuld was van de Serviërs. Toen later een oudere VN-officier had toegegeven dat er een geheim rapport bestond dat de Bosnische moslims de schuld gaf van de slachting op de marktplaats, informeerde CNN haar publiek hier niet over. Ze bleven het publiek voorhouden dat dit een door Serviërs gepleegde gruweldaad was. Deze verkeerde informatie hebben de Verenigde Naties en de NAVO steeds gebruikt als excuus om zesduizend ton aan bommen op de Bosnische Serven toe te laten. Het Amerikaanse volk stelde hierover geen vragen, waarschijnlijk vond men dat de Serviërs dit bombardement wel verdiend hadden na de slachting op de marktplaats.

CNN bericht datgene wat de autoriteiten (o.a. NAVO) nodig vinden om de kijkers te laten weten. Er wordt maar een klein aspect van het hele verhaal uitgelicht. De reden waarom de autoriteiten dit doen is natuurlijk niet nieuw; in sommige speciale omstandigheden, zoals bij negatief nieuws of bij grote politieke misstappen, is de waarheid niet meer zo belangrijk, vooral in tijden van oorlog. Hierdoor wordt berichtgeving een zaak van winnen of verliezen of nog sterker leven en dood. Manipulatie van informatie is een belangrijk speeltje van de autoriteiten. Hoe groter het belang van het conflict, hoe groter de politieke nood om eenzijdige informatie te verschaffen.

Autoriteiten doseren hun informatie om de vijand zwart te maken en de eigen soldaten te beschermen. Daarbij moeten soldaten blijven denken dat ze de oorlog kunnen winnen. Bovenal moeten de mensen, die de oorlog vertegenwoordigen, blijven geloven in hun doel. Het is ongunstig om slechte berichten te brengen. Op zijn minst moet slecht nieuws gezuiverd worden, nog liever niet worden gebracht. Dit doseren van informatie is vanuit het gezichtspunt van de autoriteiten bekeken misschien begrijpelijk, maar vanuit journalistiek oogpunt onaanvaardbaar: over de hele wereld krijgen mensen verkeerde en gemanipuleerde informatie door toedoen van CNN. Je kan je zelfs afvragen of de wereld zich werkelijk zoveel met het conflict zou hebben bemoeid als CNN niet elke avond beelden over Kosovo had uitgezonden. Hiermee overschrijdt CNN de grens tussen berichtgeving en het bedrijven van politiek; CNN opereert steeds vaker op diplomatiek terrein.

Onbewijsbare feiten

Karakteristiek voor het Kosovo-conflict is, net als met alle andere serieuze conflicten, dat we weinig weten over de werkelijke feiten. De bevolking verneemt alleen geruchten en moet maar geloven wat er verteld wordt.

Een voorbeeld hiervan zijn de beelden, gemaakt door de NAVO en als eerste vertoond op CNN, over de zogenaamd gevonden massagraven. Er is geen enkel bewijs dat de mensen die op deze plaats begraven zijn, gedood werden door de Serven. Het kunnen net zo goed Serven zijn die omgekomen zijn bij de strijd. Ook brengt CNN alleen maar beelden van vluchtelingen die op de vlucht zijn voor de Serven. Toch zijn er ook duizenden vluchtelingen verdreven van huis en haard door de intimidatie van officiële instanties of uit angst voor de NAVO-bombardementen. De meeste feiten die naar voren worden gebracht, zijn helemaal niet te bewijzen.

De eerste vernietigende gevolgen van de aanval die CNN bracht, waren overgenomen van het Servische televisiestation in Belgrado. Op de nationale televisie zegt Clinton dat hetzelfde Servische televisiestation een strategisch doel is voor de bombardementen omdat de studio leugens en propaganda verspreidt tegen de NAVO.

Nu de Servische televisie geen beelden meer kan uitzenden en de cameramannen en verslaggevers bij het bombardement zijn omgekomen, is het niet meer mogelijk om het spoor van vernieling te volgen dat de NAVO bommen in Servië nalaten: gebombardeerde passagierstreinen, vluchtelingenkonvooien en kantoorgebouwen. CNN, altijd eens met de NAVO, noemde vervolgens de studio ook een centrum van propaganda. Terwijl zij zelf, in het begin van het conflict, gebruik hebben gemaakt van hetzelfde zogenaamde propagandacentrum. Nu op het bevel van Milosovic bijna alle verslaggevers het conflictgebied uitgezet zijn en het Servische televisiestation door de NAVO is uitgeschakeld, is iedereen afhankelijk geworden van de informatie die de NAVO en CNN vrijgeven. Bij gebrek aan andere bronnen moeten de landelijke omroepen het ook met deze informatie doen.

Overlappende belangen

CNN, druijpend van superioriteitsgevoel, zendt dagelijks de 'Jamie SheaShow' uit. Deze persconferenties zijn strak

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geregisseerd en ze bevatten weinig feitelijke informatie. De NAVO-woordvoerder herhaalt elke keer maar weer dat alles volgens plan verloopt en de NAVO nog steeds aan de winnende hand is. Details over aangebrachte schade door de bombardementen worden nooit gegeven. NAVO en CNN lijken wel erg zeker van hun zaak, te concluderen aan hun optimistische aanpak. Maar is de NAVO echt aan de winnende hand? Na ruim twee maanden bombarderen, is er nog steeds geen oplossing in zicht. Zorgelijk is het samenval van de belangen van de CNN en het Amerikaanse State Departement. CNN's Christiane Amanpour en James Rubin van Buitenlandse Zaken zijn nog maar een tijdje geleden getrouwd. Het wordt tijd dat het Amerikaanse volk zich een afvragt of CNN gerund wordt door het ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken of omgekeerd?

Ms. Amanpour, die nooit is opgehouden met het geven van een eenzijdige CNN blik op de oorlog in Bosnië, herhaalt dit nu met haar eenzijdige anti-Servische perspectief gedurende de hele burgeroorlog in Kosovo. Op hetzelfde moment is Mr. Rubin de anti-Servische positie binnen het ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken aan het versterken. Wat zich voorwendt in: als de Serviërs niet tekenen op de stippellijn, zal de NAVO de Serviërs bombarderen. Als het Kosovo bevrijding leger (KLA) niet tekent op de stippellijn, zal de NAVO nog steeds de Serviërs bombarderen. Hoe kan er een schijn van journalistieke onpartijdigheid zijn als er zo'n relatie is tussen een nieuwsagentschap en de regering?

Be There!

De formule van CNN is; 'Be There!' Ze willen altijd de eerste zijn als het gaat om het berichten van belangrijk wereldnieuws. Dit op zich is natuurlijk geen verkeerde doelstelling, maar het kan grote gevolgen hebben.

Zo is er veel te weinig tijd om de achtergronden van de situatie te achterhalen. Ze brengen alleen een verslag uit maar er is bijna geen tijd voor interviews en analyses. Dieptejournalistiek is er niet bij en van principes zoals hoor en wederhoor heeft CNN zeker nog nooit gehoord. De beelden zijn vaak te oppervlakkig en te eenzijdig.

Een ander gevolg van deze snelle, flitsende formule is dat het nieuwsagentschap heel vlug knopen moet doorhakken. Er kan niet lang worden nagedacht over welk nieuws wel of niet uitgezonden gaat worden. Welke ethische gevolgen kan dit wel niet hebben? De

kijker is bij de keuzes niet betrokken. CNN bepaalt wat voor zijn kijker belangrijk is en natuurlijk wat de hoogste kijkcijfers oplevert. CNN brengt wereldnieuws met behulp van weinig verschillende bronnen en in een ontzettend korte tijd.

CNN heeft een gevaarlijke monopoliepositie in het Kosovo-conflict bereikt. Door deze positie van CNN krijgt een groot deel van de wereld hetzelfde eenzijdige nieuws voorgeschoteld waardoor de publieke opinie op grote schaal kan worden beïnvloed. De wereld blijft hierdoor achter de NAVO-acties staan. Dit terwijl de mensen niet weten wat de NAVO precies aanricht en waarom dit Kosovo-conflict zo belangrijk is dat er op desastreuze manier moet worden ingegrepen. Men kan niet meer verder kijken dan CNN's neus lang is en zal ook niet doorhebben dat deze neus eigenlijk toebehoort aan Pinokkio.

De enige oplossing voor dit probleem is dat de monopoliepositie van CNN wordt opgeheven zodat de invloed van CNN zal verminderen. Regionale televisieomroepen moeten meer invloed krijgen in de berichtgeving van wereldnieuws en grote conflicten. Door de regionale nieuwsomroepen meer kans te geven kunnen er meerdere kanten van het conflict worden belicht, betere achtergrond informatie geleverd worden en er een objectievere stem ontstaan. Andrew Howard van de tv-maatschappij CBS verkondigde al eens: „met de manier waarop CNN permanent nieuws uitzendt, brengt de zender niet alleen schade toe aan de concurrentie, maar ook aan zichzelf. Het nieuws is er armoediger door geworden.“

Lydia & Inge



JUNE 15, 1999.

HOLLY ARCHYEREIC SYNOD of the SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
(translation provided by ST. SAVVA'S YOUTH PRESS SERVICE)

STATEMENT OF THE SYNOD:

"The Holly Archyereich Synod is deeply concerned over the occurrences on the Kosovo and Metohija and with the latest exodus of our people from there.

Reacting on that, the Holly Archyereich Synod have to address to the International forces which are taking Kosovo and Metohija, so they, while protecting the rights of the Ethnic Albanians and their return to homes, equally protect the Serbian people and other nationalities that lives in Kosovo and Metohija.

At the same time we are asking urgent protection of the monastery Pecka Patrijarsija, the monastery Visoki Decani, Gracanica and other Serbian people great sanctities.

We address to our brothers from Kosovo and Metohija with the appeal to stay at their ancient homeland, and not to leave their sanctities, convinced in the truthfulness of the words of Christ "Who stay until the end that one will be saved".

Looking at this tragic position that all our people and the Federal State are facing with, we are certain that the final judgment and justice are in God's name, and not in the instrumentalized Hague Tribunal. We demand that the present President of the country and his government resign in the name of the people and for the salvation of the people, so new officials, acceptable for the public, home and abroad, can take responsibility for their nation and it's future, playing as a National Salvation government. To each reasonable person it should be perfectly clear that numerous of inside problems and contradictions, as well as the isolation of our country on the international level, could not be solved and exceeded with this government and under this conditions."



15-6-94

Serviërs: Navo kan ons niet beschermen

PRIZREN - Met alle bezittingen op het dak van hun auto's verliet een stroom Servische vluchtelingen gisteren Prizren, in het zuiden van Kosovo. Voorzelen van speelgoed, huissierren en geweren, sloten de burgers zich aan bij de vertrekkende militairen, op weg naar Servië. De meesten zelden bang te zijn voor onderdrukking door hun Albanese buren.

Meer dan honderd personenauto's, bussen en vrachtwagens redden door de binnenstad, geëscorteerd door paramilitaire groepen en onder bescherming van Duitse Navo-soldaten. Daar stond een menigte Albanesezen. Ze scholden de vertrekkende Serviërs uit en gooiden met stenen. „Het ziet er naar uit dat hele dorpen zich wil-

len aansluiten bij het vertrekken de Joegoslavische Leger”, zei de Duitse generaal Fritz von Kornf. Een Servische leider in Kosovo, Momcilo Trajkovic, sprak van 30 000 Serviërs die op de vlucht waren. Voor de oorlog woonden in Kosovo nog zo'n 200 000 Serviërs.

„We zeggen tegen de mensen niet te gaan, maar ze zijn bang voor het Kosovo Bevrijdingsleger, het UCK”, meent Ugljesa Popovic, een Servische godsdienstleeraar. Hij wijt die angst aan Milosevic, niet aan de tegenstellingen tussen Serviërs en Albanesezen.

„De Navo is geen garantie voor onze veiligheid”, legt een Servische man uit. Zijn gezin verzamelt zich juist rond de auto, om de exodus van Serviërs te volgen. „De oorlog is verschrikkelijk”, zegt de moeder, terwijl haar dochter de hond 'Lucky' in de auto probeert te krijgen. Op een plein verderop stappen nog eens vele Serviërs op een bus naar Belgrado.

Prizren is belangrijk voor de Serviërs. In de omgeving van de stad staan enkele kloosters die door de Servische orthodoxie zeer gekoesterd worden. De vrees bestaat dat de Albanesezen uitwraak de kloosters zullen vernietigen. De Serviërs herinneren zich de stad ook als de zetel van tsaar Dusan, een vorst uit de 14de eeuw.

Servische kerkleiders vroegen gisteren om bescherming voor de orthodoxe geestelijken die in Prizren achterblijven. Volgens Servische bronnen zou een geestelijke zijn aangevallen.

De Duitsers installeerden gisteren 2 500 man in en rond Prizren. Onder hen is ook een Nederlands contingent. Het vuurmondpeloton van de Gele Rijderters en de mortieropsporings-radarbatterij hebben positie ingenomen bij Orahovac, ongeveer dertig kilometer van Prizren.

Bataljonscommandant luitenant-kolonel A. van Loon, zelf afkomstig van de dertiende Gemechaniseerde Brigade in Oirschot, noemt het optreden van de Gele Rijderters 'een groot succes'. „On-danks dat we met een kleine groep (120 manschappen) zijn ge-

komen en nog licht bewapend zijn, kunnen we op deze manier een hoop ellende voorkomen.”

In Orahovac wonen nog zo'n 3 000 Serviërs en 6 000 Albanesezen. De Servische paramilitairen hebben toegezegd vandaag de stad te verlaten, het Joegoslavische leger moet nog bussen en vrachtwagens verzamelen om la-ter te kunnen vertrekken.

Van Loon erkent het gevaar dat je met weinig eenheden tegenover een forse aanwezigheid Servische troepen de situatie niet volledig in de hand hebt, iets wat duidelijk parten speelde. Dat leidde tot een incident waarbij twee dronken Serviërs door de Duitsers werden doodgeschoten.



Woedende Albanezen in Prizren gooien stenen door de ruit van een tractor van een vluchtende Serviër. Duitse Navo-militairen proberen de Serviërs te beschermen.

FOTO EPA

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Ladies and gentleman, this was not war. This was terrorism!

15-6-99

2. A Standing Ovation after Djurdjevic's Speech at the WHIT Luncheon

PHOENIX, June 15 - As we announced last week, the TiM editor was the luncheon speaker at today's meeting sponsored by the "We Hold These Truths" organization (see S99-107, Postscript 1, Item 3, June 11). The topic, of course, was NATO's war on Serbia. As a part of the promotion for the event, the TiM editor was also a guest last Sunday for an hour on John Dale show, which airs live between 5PM-6PM on the popular Phoenix KFYI talk radio station.

Before the keynote speech, all those present at the "Beefeaters" restaurant rose to participate in a prayer led by a WHIT director, and to pledge their allegiance to the flag.

TiM editor's speech was frequently interrupted by applause of the crowd. So in the interest of readability, we will not record the crowd reactions within the text of the speech, as we usually do. Suffice it to say that the last 5-10 minutes of the speech, nearly every sentence was followed by applause. Sometimes the speaker was even interrupted by spontaneous cheers and/or applause in mid-sentence. At the end of the speech, all present rose spontaneously and gave the speaker a long, standing ovation.

What's especially interesting is that such boisterous reactions were emoted by a crowd of mostly "older people" (as this writer's 21-year old assistant put it). Meaning the 50+ year old Americans, fairly evenly divided between men and women.

And now, keeping in mind that the actual delivery may have varied slightly from the prepared remarks, here's the text of the speech:

Ladies and gentlemen, Clinton was not waging war on Milosevic; he was waging war on Serb civilians. A cowardly war. The only kind of a war, I suppose, draftdodgers know how to wage.

Are we going to stand by idly and let our Draftdodger-in-Chief carry on such slaughter - in our name, under our flag?

And then, there are human tragedies I came across during my trip to Serbia which never get reported in the media - Serb or American. Like that of the four-year old Mina. A Serb doctor treating this little girl told me that this four-year was losing her hair. From the constant trauma caused by air raid sirens and bombs. Asked by the doctor what she feared more - the sirens or the bombs - the little Mina said she dreaded the sirens more.

And now, YOU will have a chance to find out why. What you're about to hear is no Hollywood soundstage product. It is a live recording of an air raid siren made on a Belgrade balcony in late April...

(PLAYED THE TAPE)

What usually followed this was the sound of anti-aircraft artillery fire... then of the bombs... then, of the fire trucks... And then, the silence of the dead=85

Now, imagine having to live through that for 79 days, mostly at night, but sometimes in also daytime hours - such as when I was meeting with the Patriarch of the Serbian Orthodox Church, for example.

Imagine that, and then you may understand why a four-year old is losing her hair. And why 10 million civilians have been traumatized, not just those already killed or maimed.

Ladies and gentleman, this was not war. This was terrorism!

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COMMUNIST MEDIA - THEN AND NOW. One member of the audience wanted to know how one might explain the national media's virtual silence about such a major news story as the June 5 Washington anti-war protest.

The TiM editor replied by basically summarizing our recent editorial, "Communist Media - Then and Now" (<http://www.truthinmedia.org/Kosovo/day75.html>).

This TiM piece compared the Belgrade communist media's lack of coverage of the student anti-government uprising in 1968 with that of the DC and New York media on June 5, 1999.

The TiM editor added that using the term "communist" in relation to the current situation in the U.S. may be technically incorrect, if you were a political scientist (an oxymoron, by the way); that a term such as "liberal state capitalism," may be more accurate. But since everybody knows that communism has been thoroughly discredited, he will keep using that term until such time that the "liberal state capitalism" reaches the same level of derogation as the communism.

3. The X-Files: Whose Mass Graves? (by Martin Lipocky)

SLOVAKIA, June 15 - We received the following comment from a TiM reader in Slovakia (also see a photo from the daily protests against NATO by a group of Slovaks).

"I've totally been fed up of all the recent brainwashing reports I can see on TV, especially on CNN. The sick reporters who support fascist NATO and Albanian killers and drug handlers without any factual obstacles and with their X-ray eyes are telling you the 'truth:'

CNN: "Nato soldiers have found a mass grave in Kacanik that is believed to be a grave of ethnic Albanians killed by Serb troops."

CNN simultaneously shows pictures of the alleged mass graves in Kacanik and the reporter thinks that we are so stupid and will believe his story when I see individual (not mass) graves with numbered stakes stuck in the ground.

"Slovak" US-shared commercial TV Markiza, that takes NATO's side, reported yesterday that the mass graves had been masked by grass.

It's like a game of Dumb and Dumber. Who is dumber - the reporters who said this nonsense, or the 'forgetful' Serbs who left the stakes?

The reporters themselves who systematically try to seek atrocity indications got to believe their own brainwashing anti-Serb propaganda and, they and clever George Robertson with their X-ray eyes know, yet before examination, there are Albanians buried and how they were killed. They seem to do a better job than the TV couple of detectives Dempsey & Makepeace.

And what if they were victims of NATO bombing, no matter Albanians or Serbs? I have the reason not to believe such non-senses. All 'mass-grave evidence' has been doubted, contradicted and disproved so far.

The first 'mass grave' was disproved by RTS TV as a potato field and the left comparing photo was detected to be taken in winter last year. The next

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alleged 'mass-grave evidence' in Izbica was allegedly shot by a poor Albanian farmer with his own V-camera (I wonder how much it cost). But the individual graves were shot again, and according to the pictures, the killed persons were Albanians (what if they were Serbs?) and Serbs were hardly digging out graves (each for one).

And the reporters probably with the IQ of a plush teddy-bear call the cemetery mass graves. Don't you think to be easier to dig out a large mass grave by a bulldozer and bury all bodies together without hard shoveling? This would be mass grave.

And don't you find it much better to burn out all the bodies in high-power oven without any traces if the Serbs really want to hide the victims of "their atrocities"? Moreover, the place of alleged 'mass graves' on the video-pictures in Izbica was not identical with the spy-satellite photo of Izbica.

On the day of signing The Technical Agreement between NATO and Yugoslav military, Jamie Shea, the champion of lies, showed at the press conference a spy-satellite photo of alleged Serb hiding of mass-grave crime by bulldozer as black-colored.

My IQ tells me that soil is of the same gray color also after bulldozing. The evidence of brainwashing the viewers is clear when Shea or Robertson at

press conferences tell journalists that the pictures are indications of mass graves and Serb atrocities and on the other hand they say that it is not clear yet what there is exactly.

Another ethnic cleansing?

And what if in Kosovo there are mass graves full of Serbs murdered by illegal fascist KLA terrorists who publicly proclaim that they shall fight until Kosovo is clean from Serbs? That's the evidence that KLA terrorist criminals don't hide their fascist intentions to ethnically cleanse Kosovo.

And if Yugoslav authorities try to convince us that they don't ethnically cleanse Kosovo, no one wants to believe them. I may be blind, but I never saw any pictures on TV how Serbs were expelling Albanians. All the 'evidence of Serb ethnic cleansing' was filmed on the other side of Yugoslav border at the refugee camps.

We have now been able to see on TV, for the first time right inside Kosovo, how the Serbs were being expelled under the threats of aggressive Albanians (probably innocent) under the rain of stones and insults.

The reporters with the IQ of a teddy-bear have not gotten it yet and interestingly have not called it ethnic cleansing. Anyone who has studied history of Serbia must know that 450,000 native Serbs were forced to flee out of Kosovo this century, and 220,000 foreign Albanians migrated with intention to take over the region.

Now we can be witnesses of a new Serb exodus and we will never learn how many foreign Albanians are moving to a wealthier Kosovo.

Terror overlook of piss-keepers

The "peacekeepers" who should prevent such provocative actions are not worthy to be called that. They are piss-keepers. Instead of disarming KLA cutthroats to prevent humanitarian crisis and ethnic cleansing, NATO fascists speculate about the difference between disarming and demilitarization as implemented in UNSC resolution with intention to let Albanian terrorists keep their weapons.

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Moreover, NATO dares to offer KLA terrorists to be integrated into the piss-keeping mission. The brainwashing TV news giants show how courageous piss-keepers are disarming Yugoslav soldiers and policemen to the last cartridge. The NATO killers are letting the Albanian cutthroats kidnap Serbian women and children, kill the legal Serb policemen who are on their own territory. Aggressive Albanians, presumably citizens of Yugoslavia, tear down Yugoslav flags and signs, which is a criminal violation of law on the state symbols.

Reporters first showed Albanians how they were weeping and now they have shown how Albanians are smiling. Whereas the same reporters somehow forgot to show the Serbs how they have been weeping before, during, and after the criminal NATO bombing campaign. That's the emotional evidence of intentional brainwashing of the viewers. When I insert the last set of facts into the puzzle I get the intention of piss-keepers to split Kosovo and bring total anarchy.

Diplomacy on their own

Just let's have a look at the UN Security Council resolution on Kosovo Annex 2, Point 1: "An immediate and verifiable end of violence and

Or have a look at the Article II, Point 1 of The Technical Military Agreement: "The FRY forces shall immediately ... refrain from committing any hostile or provocative acts of any type against any person in Kosovo and will order armed forces to cease all such activities. They shall not encourage, organize or support hostile or provocative demonstrations."

And what about the rude Albanians? Who will order them to refrain from provocative acts they are doing at the moment causing fear (not peace) among the native Serbs? It's like telling the Serbs: "Shut up and leave!" Really cool! Where are the proclaimed human rights? Is this peacekeeping or piss-keeping?

In the UNSC resolution the demilitarization of KLA is mentioned three times! Look at the main part of the resolution on this issue in paragraph 15. It is evident that NATO officials keep on ignoring UNSC.

The war has divided the Albanians apart. The fascist NATO killers, together with KLA drug mafia and cutthroats, have united Albanians against the Serbs- to cleanse Kosovo and totally to take it away from the native Serb inhabitants.

The entire war-making NATO should be expelled from Europe! KLA terrorists should be arrested, and both NATO and KLA should be put on trial for the criminal secession of Kosovo."

Martin Lipocky, Slovakia

TiM Ed.: What evidently so outraged Mr. Lipocky has been actually a pattern in western media's reporting of the alleged atrocities in Kosovo all along. If the KLA terrorists commit mass murder (yes, killing their fellow-Albanians, too, who wanted to cooperate with the Serbs), the media report the news as crimes committed by "unidentified assailants." But when "unidentified assailants" perpetrate crimes, such atrocities are always blamed on the Serbs.

Such as in Prizren, earlier this week, for example. As the Albanians were taking their revenge on the Serbs by burning their homes and forcing them out, western media were reporting that the departing Serbs were taking one last act of revenge against Albanians before leaving.

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Unfortunately, we have seen it all before. Check out our story from Gorazde (Bosnia), for example, where this writer photographed back in 1994 the burnt out Serb homes the western public was told were Muslim houses (see "Fishing for Corpses in the River Drina").

4. Conflicting News Reports About the Sunday Shootout

PRIZREN, June 15 - Conflicting news reports about the Sunday shootout in the Prizren street, in which the German NATO soldiers killed two Serb civilians (see S99-108, Postscript 2, Item 1. June 13), is a perfect case in point.

The TV footage showed in the U.S. by ABC and CNN showed the beige car, which ABC said was a Lada, driving in REVERSE, while being raked over by bullets fired by the German "peacekeepers."

Even before this film had been broadcast, NATO had already said that the German troops fired in self-defense. Yet, there was no evidence whatsoever that anyone was firing from that beige Lada in the footage which the American TV audiences saw. But some media did report that unidentified snipers had fired at the German troops in Prizren.

Now, several TiM readers from Europe (Germany, Norway) have come tortn and reported to us that their TV channels showed a completely different footage from that which Americans saw. The beige Lada was reportedly driving FORWARD toward the German troops, with a person firing a pistol at the them. The Germans returned fire. It was only after that, the Europeans saw the beige car starting to back out of an evidently tight spot. And presumably the same footage after that, which the Americans were shown.

So what's going on here?

(a) Are the American TV networks trying to protect the Serbs by editing out the crucial footage which shows them as aggressors in this shootout?

(b) Or are the Europeans being duped by their media having the alleged Serb pistol shooter "punched in," using the same TV technology which had "punched in" a calico cat in place of a potato chip bag in the "Wag the Dog" movie?

Feel free to decide for yourself whom to believe, of course. But as you're doing it, ask yourself the following questions:

1. Why would the American media, which has led the world in the demonization of the Serbs during the last decade, suddenly slacken off, and protect the Serbs by such editing?

2. Why was there no pistol found in the car, according to the subsequent media reports which TiM has seen? (various sources alleged that an AK-47 assault rifle and a hand grenade had been retrieved).

3. Some TiM readers reported seeing the passenger window closed, making it impossible that the alleged initial shots at the Germans could have been fired from that side of the beige Lada. Others claimed it was "open" - after the car had already come under fire, leaving a possibility that it been "opened" by the German gun shots.

4. If there was a pistol shooter "punched in" to this TV "news report," who would benefit the most from such news manipulation - the Europeans or the Americans?

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The answer to the question 4. above, is the Europeans, of course. Most Americans don't care about either the Serbs, Albanians or the Germans. But the German public, already jittery about its troops' participation in this illegal war on Serbia (see S99-65, Day 42, Update 2, Item 6, May 4), might have become outraged had they seen the American TV footage about a Serb civilian car being raked over in a cold-blooded murder committed in a Prizren street by the German Kosovo "peacekeepers" - on the first day of their peacekeeping duties.

So what does a creative "Dustin Hoffman"-like producer of the German TV do?

He says: "That's nothing! When we filmed the 'Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse,' three of the four horsemen died! (And we still managed to finish the film).

So why not do the same with only a couple of dead Serb "extras?" Rerun the original film in reverse, making the reversing car look as if it's driving forward; "punch in" the shooter with the pistol, and then let the truth be seen after that?

We're not saying that's what happened. We just want you to consider such possibilities before answering our (a) or (b) quiz above. And we don't envy you on your task...

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Ladies and gentlemen, I said on March 24, the day the first NATO bombs struck Yugoslavia, a sovereign country which has done us no harm, that March 24, 1999 will be remembered in history as the new Day of Infamy. Except that this time, American missiles and pilots did to Yugoslavia what the Japanese did to us at Pearl Harbor.

And worse...

Because NATO has been waging war on civilians.

In late April, I traveled to Serbia, where I spent five days under NATO's bombardment. What I saw was wanton and senseless devastation. NATO was waging war on old age homes, hospitals, schools, embassies, factories, churches, bridges, railroads, TV and radio stations...

In the wake of such bombings, over 2,000 civilians have been killed; 30% of them children.

Like the 11-month old Bojana Tosovic, killed by NATO's bombs on Apr. 11 at her home near Podujevo, along with her father.

Like the 4-year old Dejana Pavlovic, and her 7-year old brother, Stefan, killed by NATO's bombs at their home in the Belgrade suburb of Ralja on May= was literally blown off by a NATO bomb on Sunday, May 30.

Take a look at the Truth in Media photos and handouts available at the back of the room. Just see that blonde young lady seated at the table over there.

And what was Fr. Ceric doing at the time of his death? God's work. Right after his Sunday church service, he rushed to help his injured parishioners after the first NATO strike on the Varvarin bridge. Only to be killed by the second one. As we celebrated the Memorial Day weekend...

16-6-99

Some 80,000 Serbs fled Kosovo, fearing Albanian terror.

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BELGRADE, June 16 (Itar-Tass) - Some 80,000 Kosovo Serbs have left their homes since the beginning of the withdrawal of the Yugoslav army and police from the region, because KFOR does not guarantee their safety. The figures were made public at a press conference in Belgrade by Mirko Jaksic, head of the regional branch of the Democratic Party of Serbia in Kosovo.

According to Jaksic, about all the Serbs left Metohija, which boasts numerous monuments of Serb culture and Orthodox Christianity, hundreds of monasteries and churches, left since the Medieval times. The situation is a little better in the northern part of the region, because part of the refugees from the southern and south-eastern communities settled there, hoping for better times. Jaksic urged the Yugoslav authorities and the world community to take measures immediately for stopping the forced resettlement of the Serb population, which is acquiring the character of a chain reaction. According to the information of the International Red Cross Committee, about 33,000 people left Kosov over the past week. 24,000 of them moved to Serbia, and the rest to Montenegro.

According to reports of witnesses, roads in the southern part of Serbia continue to be flooded with tractors and trailers with household belongings. People cannot take with them the main assets -- houses and cattle, and have to leave them behind. They are guarded by the elders of the family, who refused to leave their homes and evacuate. Not only Serbs, but also Gipsies, Moslems and Albanians loyal to the authorities are also going north, fearing repressions of Albanian extremists from the "Kosovo liberation army."

As a rule, refugees are not willing to talk with journalists, and if an attempt is made to film them, they may put their assault rifle in a combat position. Some men carry weapons. They had to repulse attacks of KLA gunmen both during the NATO aggression and on the way across Albanian villages. People are embittered and are cursing everybody, starting from the Yugoslav government and its allies, including Russia, which failed to prevent their exodus from Kosovo. About 2,000 refugees from the Suva Reka community, situated on the border with Albania, came to Belgrade, which created additional difficulties of the socio-economic and criminal character. The Yugoslav capital lived through similar situations twice, when it was flooded with thousands of refugees from Croatia and Sarajevo, including those who had arms.

The root causes of the exodus of Serbs, which for some reason is not described as a humanitarian catastrophe, could be discussed for hours. The simplest explanation -- the incompatibility of the two nations -- is refuted by the refugees themselves. They continued to live side by side with their Albanian neighbours until recently, until KLA gunmen came from the highland areas and from abroad.

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Pravoslavlje Pres: Tragic suffering of Orthodox people and clergymen and extensive damaging of holly places

June 17, 1999

Belgrade, 16th June 1999 - Suffering of Serbian Orthodox people, clergymen and monks, as well as damaging of temples and monasteries in Kosovo and Metohija got tragic dimensions. Raska and Prizren Eparchy Artemie with local clergymen and monks as well as with 250 Serbs, who stayed in Prizren, lived for several days surrounded by ethnic-Albanians in the churchyard exposed to numerous threats of Albanian terrorists.



Today at noon, thanks to great efforts of Zahumlje and Herzegovina Eparchy Atanasije, who has been in Kosovo and Metohija for several days, the captives managed to escape to the free territory. Now, only two clergymen are still in Prizren.

Ethnic Albanians yesterday kidnaped Monk Hariton from the monastery of Sveti Arhandjel near Prizren and nobody knows anything about him.

Other monks managed to escape to the monastery of Gracanica near Pristina.

The monastery of Sveta Trojica near Suva Reka, its church and lodgings were put into fire and completely burnt. Its nuns managed to leave it in time and find shelter in the monastery of Gracanica.

The monastery of Devic, in which nuns live, has been for several days exposed to ethnic Albanians attacks and has no military protection. Efforts of clergymen from Pristina have not been fruitful yet.

In Djakovica there are neither clergymen nor Serbs.

The situation is very difficult for Serbs in Pec and other places in Kosovo and Metohija. Sisterhood of Pec Patriarchate and two clergymen from Pec stayed on there with people. Metropolitan of Crna Gora and Primorje Amfilohije today at noon arrived to Pec Patriarchate. Tomorrow on 17th June His Highness Serbian Patriarch Pavle and his vicar, Episcopo of Hivostanje Atanasije Rakita, are going to pay a visit to Pec Patriarchate.

Around 35 000 Orthodox Serbs were expelled from Kosovo and Metohija and left their ancestral homes and lands after the Peace Agreement conclusion.

We hope that this tragedy will be stopped by God's will.

16-6-99

KLA seizes Kosovo positions, Serb flight grows

By Martin McLaughlin
16 June 1999

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The occupation of Kosovo by NATO ground troops is setting the stage for a new campaign of ethnic warfare in the Yugoslav province, this time spearheaded by the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) against the Serb minority population.

As NATO contingents fanned out into the five occupation zones, armed KLA fighters took possession of police stations, border crossings and other strategic points, flying Albanian flags and parading with weapons, openly violating the terms of the agreement between NATO and Yugoslavia and setting in motion a mass exodus of Serb civilians.

The biggest single population movement took place in Prizren, Kosovo's third largest city and the headquarters of the southwestern occupation zone patrolled by 7,000 German and Dutch troops. Nearly a thousand armed KLA fighters marched into the city Monday morning, set up checkpoints and began policing the city, which has a large non-Albanian population, including Turks and Gypsies as well as Serbs. As the German troops and KLA guerrillas marched in, virtually the entire Serb population of the city fled, as many as 10,000 people packed into cars, trucks and other vehicles.

A spokesman for the German commander in Prizren admitted that the KLA checkpoints and armed patrols were in violation of the NATO-Yugoslavia agreement, but German troops made no attempt to disarm the KLA soldiers or limit their activities, instead exchanging salutes and high-fives when their patrols met.

Gun battles between the KLA and retreating Yugoslav Army troops could be heard within a few miles of the city. Only when a KLA detachment went to the city's hospital and sought to arrest three injured Yugoslav soldiers did the NATO force intervene. German soldiers took the KLA group's weapons and escorted them from the hospital.

The occupation of Prizren represents a major extension of KLA power, since the group never had a strong presence there during the two-year civil war. There was relatively little ethnic conflict between Serbs, Albanians and Turks living in Prizren, and the city was largely spared the anti-Albanian pogroms which took place elsewhere during the first two weeks of NATO bombing.

A series of incidents Monday demonstrated the increasing aggressiveness of the Albanian nationalist forces. The KLA seized control of Morina, the main border crossing between Albania and Kosovo, and began clearing groups of Kosovar Albanian refugees to return to their homes, examining the passports and identity papers of all those attempting to cross. German troops made no attempt to interfere with the KLA operation, thereby giving the nationalist group effective control of the border and allowing it to decide who among the refugees will be permitted to return and who will not—something that bodes ill for those Kosovar Albanians critical of the KLA's politics.

KLA gunmen seized one of Serbia's largest coal mines, at Dobre Selo near the Kosovo-Macedonia

border, and KLA checkpoints were set up in dozens of towns and villages throughout the southeastern and southwestern parts of Kosovo, the first areas to be completely evacuated by Yugoslav Army troops.

KLA gunmen opened fire on British paratroopers in Pristina, the capital city, when the British were investigating an apparent KLA execution. British soldiers surrounded a house where a Serb had been shot dead, and came under fire from inside the building. Five KLA members were eventually arrested and disarmed.

A policy based on racism

Perhaps the most chilling incident took place after unarmed KLA members took over the police station in the town of Kacanik in the American-run southeastern zone. The *New York Times* interviewed one KLA guerrilla who explained why they were unarmed. "We don't need guns anymore," he said. "This is an ethnically clean town."

This sums up the perspective of the KLA, which is no less racist than the Serb nationalist paramilitary groups which spearheaded the anti-Albanian violence of the past two months. Nor is there the slightest reason to believe that the KLA in power will be any less ruthless in suppressing minority groups and political opponents than the other nationalists who have come to power in the various fragments of the former Yugoslavia.

The result of the decade-long American intervention in the former Yugoslavia has been to transform a multi-ethnic country into a series of ethnically "pure" statelets, mainly at the expense of the Serbs, the largest ethnic group in the Yugoslav Federation. Serbs once lived throughout the country, but are now confined to Serbia, Montenegro and the Serbian portion of Bosnia.

When the repatriation of Kosovar Albanians and the expulsion of Kosovar Serbs has been completed—a process which may be only weeks away in the case of the Serbs—the United States will have sponsored, in succession, the creation of a Croatia with its Serb minority expelled, a Bosnia divided into three ethnic-based cantons, Moslem, Croat and Serb, each of which has expelled its minorities, and a Kosovo depopulated of its Serb minority.

Despite the demonization of the Serbs as arch racists, the only exception to this process of forced separation of nationalities is Serbia itself, which still hosts a large Hungarian-speaking minority in Vojvodina, as well as Slavic Moslem, Bulgarian and Gypsy minorities in Serbia proper. Meanwhile the Serb people are losing in Kosovo historical battlefields, monuments, cathedrals and other sites of deep cultural significance.

Notwithstanding Clinton's incessant homilies on the necessity for ethnic harmony, the policy pursued by the United States during the past decade has been based on the cynical manipulation of ethnic and communal differences, in which the racist stereotyping of the Serbs has played a pivotal part. The net result of American "humanitarian" intervention has been, at the cost of hundreds of thousands of lives and untold material devastation, the promotion of ethnic hatred as the axis of human and political relations.

To cover up this central fact, the American media is reporting the flight of Serb civilians in a far different fashion than it portrayed the mass exodus of Albanian Kosovars, which began after NATO launched its air war ten weeks ago. Albanians who fled Kosovo because of atrocities by Serb nationalists and fear of NATO bombing were portrayed as the victims of genocide. Serbs who flee now are supposedly leaving "voluntarily," or because they fear "retribution" from justifiably outraged Albanians.

16-6-99

AGGRESSOR DIRECTLY TARGETS 480 EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

BELGRADE - About 25 percent of elementary, secondary schools, two-year schools of higher education, university departments and student hostels, or 480 educational and related facilities have been damaged or destroyed in Serbia in NATO aggression, Serbia Education Minister Jovo Todorovic said Friday.

Minister Todorovic told a news conference that the repairs alone would require 70 million dinars, whereas the total damages on educational and related facilities stood at several scores of millions of deutsche marks.

Todorovic said his Ministry's chief task was now to preserve the educational system in Serbia's southern province of Kosovo and Metolija and insure that it functioned.

16-6-99

**ETHNIC ALBANIANS TRY TO STORM HOSPITAL IN
PRISTINA, KOSOVO-METOHJA**

PRISTINA, Serbia - A large group of ethnic Albanians tried on Friday morning to storm the surgical ward of the central hospital in Pristina in the Yugoslav republic of Serbia's Kosovo-Metohija province.

Those of the ethnic Albanians who penetrated into the hall of the hospital were ordered out by a British trooper of the U.N. Kosovo-Metohija peace force (KFor).

British Colonel Ryan then told the ethnic Albanians gathered outside the hospital to disperse and allow normal work of the hospital whose 700 patients were in need of peace and quiet, not argument and demonstrations.

He asked the ethnic Albanians not to score political points by making disturbances outside the hospital.

is geld voor de wederopbouw nodig maar dat krijgt Servië niet, zolang Milosevic aan het bewind is. Als hij weg is gaat het geld er waarschijnlijk wel komen. Het is financieel voordelig om tegen Milosevic te zijn. Nergens heb ik tot nu toe iets gehoord van schaamte, van verontschuldiging, van verontwaardiging of iets van die orde, over wat in naam van de Serviërs aan crimineels is gedaan, over de oorlogsmisdaden waaraan vele Serviërs misschien niet persoonlijk schuldig zijn, maar waar ze - door ze te kleineren, te ontkennen of toe te schrijven aan de slachtoffers - moreel medeschuldig aan dreigen te worden. Ik ben dus (nog) niet onder de indruk van deze anti-Milosevic-demonstraties.

Veeningen

H. Janssens

Wegenbelasting in benzine

In Frankrijk weet men al jaren hoe de automobilist op gepaste en zeer eenvoudige manier te belasten, namelijk door de wegenbelasting op te nemen in de benzineprijs. Waarom moet de regering via het rekeningrijden weer eens moeilijk doen als het makkelijk kan. Bovengenoemde aanpak levert ook een besparing op voor de belastingdienst van papier en porten en salarissen.

Ten Boer (Gr)

T. Deddens

16-6-94

Verzet in Servië

In Servië lijkt het verzet tegen Milosevic van de grond te komen. Maar ben ik nu zo naïef, dat ik daarvan niet onder de indruk kom? Het is misschien wat laat om nu pas in verzet te komen. Kon dat niet gedurende de laatste jaren? Er

Ecocide in Joegoslavië

Met de toepassing van ecocide, dat wil zeggen de omvangrijke en georganiseerde beschadiging van het milieu tijdens een oorlog, werd de wereld voor het eerst geconfronteerd tijdens de Vietnam-oorlog. Tussen 1962 en 1970 bestookten de VS-strijdkrachten het grondgebied van Vietnam met 20.000 ton chemische bestrijdingsmiddelen zoals: 2,4-D, 2,4,5-T, kakodylzuur en pichlorame, meer bekend als oranje-, paars-, blauw- en witgassen. Het gevolg was de vernietiging van 10 procent van het Vietnamese grondgebied, waarvan 1,9 miljoen hectare bosgrond (90,5 procent) en 200.000 landbouwgrond (9,5 procent). De getroffen gebieden zijn nu verlaten moerassen, bevolkt door insecten en ratten, en het zal lang duren voor ze weer bebouwd kunnen worden.

Voor de tweede keer in de twintigste eeuw (als de Golfoorlog niet wordt meegeteld, red. M.) en weer door de VS-strijdkrachten als de belangrijkste en onbe-

tuurlijke en kankerverwekkende stoffen en radioactieve isotopen. De belangrijkste giftige stoffen die vrijkwamen waren ammoniak, waterstofchloride-



twiste 'meester' van de NAVO, is ecocide begaan, ditmaal tijdens de oorlog tegen Joegoslavië. Chemische en petrochemische fabrieken zijn aangevallen, olieopslagplaatsen, energiecentrales en transformatorstations, en munitie met verarmd uranium is massaal ingezet.

De Joegoslavische lucht, water en grond zijn voor lange tijd besmet met giftige, tegenna-

zuren, koolstofmonoxide, zwaveldioxide, arsenicum, cadmium, lood en stikstofoxiden. Van de kankerverwekkende en natuurvijandige stoffen zijn de belangrijkste benzol, polychloride bifenylyls en trifenylyls en perylene oliën. Alleen al met de verwoesting van de kunstmest- en kunststoffabrieken in Pancevo kwamen 3.000 ton ammoniak, 200 ton vinylchloridemo-

Patriarch keert terug naar Kosovo

Patriarch Pavle, het hoofd van de Servisch-orthodoxe kerk, wil zich in de Kosovoarse stad Peć vestigen. Elders slaan monniken en priesters op de vlucht.

Door onze redacteur
COEN VAN ZWOL



ROTTERDAM, 17 JUNI. Patriarch Pavle (84) van de Servische orthodoxe kerk acht de tijd rijp voor een dramatisch gebaar. De kerkvorst zal zich komende week vestigen in de kloosterkerk van Peć, zo maakte hij gisteren bekend. Een ultieme poging om de Servische exodus uit Kosovo tot staan te brengen. Bisschop Artemije Radosavljević (64) ontvluchtte gisteren juist

zijn stad Prizren, met meening van ikonen, relikken en gouden beelden. Artemije acht het risico van Albanese represailles te groot, zo liet hij weten, ondanks garanties van de lokale UÇK-commandant Drini. Dinsdag zouden al vijf Servische burgers en een monnik zijn ontvoerd. Albanese betogers kielden gisteren al het standbeeld van legendarische Servische keizer Dušan omver. Veertig man Duitse troepen met tanks beschermden nu het naburige orthodoxe noodklooster tegen aanslagen.

De Servische orthodoxe kerk heeft in het Kosovo-conflict een wisselende rol gespeeld. Bisschop Artemije kreeg vorig jaar in het Westen een goed pers door zijn kritiek op het geweld van de Servische ordebroeders in Kosovo en zijn pleidooien voor democratie. Hij noemde het zelfs „immoreel” om Milošević als garantie voor vrede op de Balkan te zien. In april veroordeelde patriarch Pavle de NAVO-bombardementen en stelde hij dat Serviërs het recht hadden zich te verdedigen. Maar Pavle bevestigde ook dat Albanese klemtoonde ook dat Albanese recht hebben op vrede.

In het begin van de jaren negentig wekte de Servisch-orthodoxe kerk de indruk de Groot-Servische aanspraken in Bosnië en Kroatië blindelings te steunen: nationalistische leiders bekeerden zich tot trouwe kerkangangers. Dat patriarch Pavle later voorop liep in de straatprotesten van 1996/97 had te maken met afkeer van Milošević, die als een atheïstische crypto-communist wordt gezien en de Serviërs in Bosnië en Kroatië in Dayton aan hun lot overliet. Na het nieuwe

debaat in Kosovo eisten de kerk deze week onverloemd het aftreden van Milošević.

De Albanese in Prizren hebben van hun kant alle redenen om de orthodoxe aanwezigheid te wantrouwen. De kerk was en is in Kosovo een instrument van het Servische nationalisme. In 1871 gaf het Ottomaanse Rijk toestemming om een Servisch-orthodox seminarie in de stad te vestigen. Dat ontwikkelde zich tot een centrum van Servische agitatie. Toen de Serviërs in 1912 Kosovo veroverden, was het herstel van het patriarchaat van Peć als hoofdzetel van de kerk een belangrijk symbolisch gebaar.

In de jaren tachtig was de benarde positie van priesters en nonnen de hoofdmoef in de Servische agitatie tegen de autonomie van Kosovo. Albanese zouden het oude gasthuis van het patriarchaat van Peć in 1981 in brand hebben gestoken; nonnen zouden bedreigd en verkracht worden door Albanese politiemensen.

Toen Milošević in 1989 Kosovo innijfde, vond de Servische dominantie in Prizren uitdrukking in restauraties van orthodoxe kerken en kloosters en (bij Prizren) in grandoze plannen voor de wederopbouw van het paleis en het klooster van keizer Dušan (1308-1355), onder wie het Servische rijk zijn grootste expansie beleefde.

De kloosters van Decani en Peć worden nu omsingeld door UÇK'ers. Servische gezinnen zoeken bescherming bij de monniken. Volgens Artemije zijn er nog 40 priesters, 100 monniken en 50 nonnen in Kosovo.

In Prizren gaat UCK zijn gang

Bestuur

Marielle Eudes (AFP)

PRIZREN (AFP) – Het stadhuis, het ziekenhuis, de rechtbank en het hoofdbureau van politie, overal zet het Bevrijdingsleger voor Kosovo (UCK) zijn eigen mensen neer om de stad Prizren te besturen.

Nauwelijks een dag na het vertrek van de Servische troepen lopen er woensdag al strijders van het UCK te patrouilleren in de straten, is een nieuwe burgemeester benoemd en zijn leden van de rechterlijke macht aangesteld. „We beginnen de gemeente te reorganiseren”, zegt de nieuwe burgemeester, Kadri Kryeziu, een oud-woordvoerder van het UCK. Hij was gisteren nog maar nauwelijks voorgesteld aan zijn ondergeschikten of hij had al tal van afspraken met kersverse fabrieksdirecteuren en burgers, die om hulp kwamen vragen.

Voor het pand waar het UCK en zijn militaire politie kantoor houden, wacht een kleine menigte buiten het hek. Hashim Gashi, een gepensioneerde van 61 jaar, hoopt op wat financiële hulp. En Ismet komt toestemming vragen zijn familie te gaan zoeken in Albanië. „Men heeft hem gezegd dat hij daarvoor toestemming moet hebben van het UCK,” zo vertellen omstanders. Tema Ditrionlumi wil een bewijs dat haar vader als UCK-strijder is gedood.

In de rechtbank, die door de Serviërs nog als wapenopslagplaats is gebruikt, vindt al enkele uren een vergadering plaats. „Er wordt bekeken wie als rechters zouden kunnen werken”, zegt een bewaker die Moustafa heet.

In New York noemde een VN-woordvoerder de benoeming van de UCK-burgemeester 'illegaal'. Maar ter plaatse twijfelt kennelijk niemand aan de legitimiteit van de UCK in zaken als het stadsbestuur en het politiewerk. De Duitse troepen van Kfor, doen hun

best om naar vermogen samen te werken met de nieuwe bestuurders. Vertegenwoordigers van Kfor en het UCK bespreken dagelijks de lopende zaken.

„Wij hebben de macht en de middelen niet, om het UCK overal weg te houden”, zegt Hans Klasing, woordvoerder van Kfor. „Het vredesakkoord is een militaire overeenkomst, waarin niet wordt gesproken van ontwapening van het UCK. Nergens staat dat we hen mogen ontwapenen, of ze verbieden hun uniform te dragen. Daarvoor moeten wij op nieuwe bepalingen van de VN wachten.”

Het UCK zorgt er wel voor dat er geen incidenten plaatsvinden. Maar waar mogelijk nemen ze de ruimte om de zaken naar hun hand te zetten. Kfor kan namelijk niet overal aanwezig zijn. Zo zijn alle benzinstations in de stad in handen van het UCK. Overal staat een bewaker en het is onmogelijk benzine te krijgen, zonder schriftelijke toestemming van het UCK.

Door Goran Belojevic*

U-238 de lucht, de grond en het water, en voegt het radio-activiteit toe aan de omgeving met een halveringstijd van 700 miljoen jaar. Aangezien het merendeel van de militaire operaties plaatsvond in Kosovo, zal dit deel van Servië voor lange tijd radio-actief besmet blijven, met grote gezondheidsrisico's voor de bevolking. Met name zwangere vrouwen, foetussen en kleine kinderen worden hierdoor bedreigd. Dit is volledig in tegenspraak met het officiële doel van de NAVO: de veilige terugkeer van de vluchtelingen.

Ecocide is een opstap naar genocide, want door het beroven van de levensvoorwaarden en de veelvoudige toename van de gezondheidsrisico's voor de bevolking, wordt de bevolking zelf vernietigd. Ecocide is een zware oorlogsmisdaad. Deze misdaad is ongestraft gepleegd in Vietnam. Het is zaak dat deze misdaden door de wereldgemeenschap (de VN?) nu niet onbestraft worden gelaten.

* Prof. Ph.D. Goran Belojevic, Instituut voor Hygiëne en Medische Ecologie, Universiteit van Belgrado. (Vert. en bew. HDR)

(1) Het wordt daarom bewaard, maar dit is een uitermate kostbare zaak.

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nomeer, 800 ton geconcentreerd waterstofchloride, ethyleenchloride, chloor en kwik vrij. Uit deze stoffen werd fosgeen gevormd, een gif dat het

laatst in 1917 werd gebruikt.

Verarmd uranium

Radioactief uranium 238, het zogenaamde verarmd uranium, is een afvalstof van kerncentrales dat economisch niet bruikbaar is (1). De toepassing in raketten en artilleriegranaten verhoogt de 'efficiëntie' van die projectielen. Na de explosie besmetten de overblijfselen van

The Price of Milosevic , June 17

Economists estimate that it will take Serbia 40 years to recover from the costs of the NATO bombing and return to the level achieved before Milosevic came to power.

by Dimitrije Boarov in Novi Sad and Christopher Bennett of The Institute for War and Peace Reporting June 17, 1999

The war over, Kosovo effectively lost and Serbia devastated, Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic is telling Serbs that, so long as they pull together, they can rebuild their country. But the truth may not be so promising. On a visit to Yugoslavia's second largest city, Novi Sad, Milosevic promised this week that the bridges across the Danube, which had been early casualties of the NATO bombing, would be rebuilt within 40 days. Wider reconstruction would follow and so too, Serbia's re-entry into the international community. The message is exactly what Milosevic's long-suffering countrymen want to hear. But it is also what he has been promising since he came to power more than a decade ago. In many respects, the most costly aspect of the NATO bombing to Serbia is not the physical destruction-estimated at between \$20 billion and \$100 billion-but the fact that it failed to dislodge Milosevic. This is because the Yugoslav President stands as the primary obstacle to both the kind of reforms needed to put the economy right and to lifting the sanctions which have dried up foreign investment in the eight years since they were first imposed. The peace agreement ending the war, which was ratified by the Serbian parliament on June 3, suggested that, under certain conditions, Yugoslavia would not be excluded from "comprehensive access to the economic development and the stabilization of the crisis region."

The U.N. Security Council resolution of June 10 authorizing international deployment in Kosovo was more specific and promised reconstruction assistance to the southern Serbian province. However, there was no mention of aid to the rest of the country, which, without fundamental political change, seems highly unlikely. Both Washington and London have made it clear that no money would be allocated for Serbia's reconstruction while Milosevic remains in power. Given the terms of the peace agreement, any assessment of the economic cost of having Milosevic as president must factor in the loss of Kosovo. This involves writing off about 11 percent of Yugoslavia's territory, some 15 percent of its population and 5 percent of gross domestic product (GDP). Add to that the direct costs of Serbia's two-and-a-half month war with NATO, and Yugoslavia's GDP could be halved. At the official exchange rate, of just more than 11 dinars to the U.S. dollar, this would mean a GDP of \$14.3 billion, but using the popular black market exchange rate (about 18 dinars to the US dollar) this year's GDP could easily drop below \$9 billion. Last year's GDP was more than \$18 billion.

For comparison, before the break-up of Yugoslavia and Milosevic's rise to power, the combined GDP for Serbia and Montenegro in 1989 was close to \$25 billion. By 1998 it was less than one third of that. Mladjen Dinkic of Group 17, an amalgamation of Serbia's independent economists, has calculated that Yugoslavia would need 16 years to reach the productivity level enjoyed prior to the launch of the NATO campaign and an entire generation to attain the level of 10 years ago. Other economists are not so pessimistic. Former National Bank governor Dragoslav Avramovic, views the destruction caused by the bombing as an "opportunity." He believes that much of what has been destroyed, in particular the military

Tienduizenden Serviërs op de vlucht

Albanese wraak

Donna Bryson, AP

PRISTINA - Een met kogelgaten doorzeefde auto volgepropt met dekens, kleren en eten laat in één oogopslag zien wat de Serviërs in Kosovo vrezen: dat ze niets anders kunnen dan inpakken en vertrekken. Het alternatief is ten prooi vallen aan Albanese wraak.

"Houdt dit ooit op? Eerst werden de Albanesez vermoord, nu zijn het de Serviërs", zegt de Servische agent Milanko Lepovic. Hij onderzoekt de kogelgaten in de Servische auto die Pristina wil verlaten. De chauffeur van de auto is ernstig gewond geraakt toen sluipschutters van het Bevirijdingsleger voor Kosovo (UCK) hem onder vuur namen. Hij zou geen enkele binding hebben gehad met het Joegoslavische leger of de Servische politie, die de strijd aanbonden met het UCK. Na maanden in angst te hebben geleefd voor Servische solda-

ten, hebben de Albanesez weer moed gekregen. Het UCK heeft een kantoor ingericht in Pristina en is opgedoken in voormalige UCK-bolwerken ten westen van de stad en in de Albanese wijken van Prizren. Sommige rebellen zouden op Serviërs hebben geschoten. Volgens het vredesakkoord moet het UCK zijn zware wapens inleveren, maar dat geldt niet voor kleine geweren.

Zoran Ristic, een Servische hondenfokker, heeft de afgelopen elf weken in het leger gevochten. Hij schudt zijn hoofd. "De oorlog was een stommeit", zegt hij nu. Zijn theorie is dat Amerika, Groot-Brittannië en Duitsland de eeuwenoude Servisch-Albanese spanningen uitgebuit hebben om de Balkan te destabiliseren en hun invloedssfeer uit te breiden. Het klinkt als de propaganda van Belgrado. Sinds hij terug is van het front is hij verschillende keren telefonisch bedreigd. Maandag werd een buurman van hem doodge-

bij de oorlog betrokken is geweest. "Het was een waarschuw-
wing aan alle andere Serviërs",
zegt Ristic. Hij overweegt nu ook
naar Belgrado te vertrekken.

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Servische politieke leiders riepen gisteren de Serviërs op niet uit Kosovo weg te vluchten. Zij vrezen dat de provincie die zij als het hart van hun land bestempelen, spoedig geen Serviër meer zal tellen. De Serviërs maakten tot nu toe zo een tien procent uit van de 1,9 miljoen bewoners van Kosovo. Het UNHCR, de VN-vluchtelingenorganisatie, vreest een humanitaire ramp als naast de miljoen ontheemde Kosovaren, die voorlopig nog niet thuis zijn, ook nog eens tienduizenden Serviërs op drift raken.

De internationale vredesmacht Kfor en VN-medewerkers proberen de Serviërs te verzekeren dat ze net zoveel recht hebben op internationale bescherming als de etnische Albanesez. Maar ze waarschuwen ook dat het in Kosovo niet snel rustig zal zijn.

Toen Vera Prica maandagnacht iemand op straat hoorde schreeuwen belde ze de Servische politie, maar die was al vertrokken. Daarna belde ze Kfor. Tegen de tijd dat er hulp arriveerde was het te laat. Een buurman was ontvoerd door het UCK, zegt Prica. Ze riep haar man, zoon, schoondochter en twee kleindochters bijeen en de familie vluchtte naar het huis van een andere zoon in de stad. Het UCK was volgens Prica bezig de Servische huizen in hun eigen wijk te bezetten. "Toen het vredesakkoord werd getekend, was ik opgelucht", zegt ze, vechtend tegen de tranen. "Ik ben hier geboren en mijn voorouders ook. Maar als niemand dit oplost, zullen we moeten gaan."

17-6-99

UÇK en KFOR proberen vertrekende Serviërs gerust te stellen

UÇK: 'Goede' Serviërs KFOR: Loop niet weg, hebben niets te vrezen

...werk voor uw land!

Serviërs met schone handen hebben niets te vrezen, mits ze geen uniform hebben gedragen, zo belooft een UÇK-commandant

Door onze redacteur
PETRA DE KONING
PRISTINA, 17 JUNI. Op de parketvloer liggen dikke tapijten, de banken en stoelen zijn van leer, aan de muur hangen schilderijen. In een buitenwijk van Pristina, in het huis van een van de rijkste Albanese zakenmannen van Kosovo, is het nieuwe militaire hoofdkwartier gevestigd van het Kosovo bevrijdingsleger UÇK voor de noordelijke regio. Op straat oefenen UÇK-militairen patriotische liederen, binnen zit achter een enorm bureau een kleine, magere man. Rustem Berisha (28) is de hoogste commandant voor dit gebied en een van de oprichters van het UÇK. Hij laat zich 'commandant Remi' noemen.

Iedere dag voert de commandant overleg met Britse officieren van KFOR, de internationale troepenmacht voor Kosovo. „Nee,” zegt hij, „nog niemand heeft mij gevraagd of we de wapens willen neerleggen.” Maar het UÇK zal zich houden aan wat volgens hem is afgesproken: „We zullen onze wapens en munitie opslaan in onze barakken, onder eigen controle. We stellen soldaten beschikbaar voor een politiemacht. Het UÇK heeft nu meer dan zestigduizend militairen, die hebben we niet allemaal meer no-

dig.” Het UÇK zal wel een leger blijven, zegt de commandant. Veel Albanese - in delen van Macedonië, Montenegro en Servië - worden nog onderdrukt. Het nieuwe parlement van Kosovo zal volgens hem moeten beslissen hoe die gebieden bevrjvd zullen worden. Geweld, een nieuwe oorlog, zal niet nodig zijn, denkt de commandant. Alleen al drie- en met de kracht van het UÇK zal voldoende de zijn. „De Serviërs bijvoorbeeld zullen nu nooit meer willen vechten tegen Albanese. Ze zijn de verliezers, ze zijn vernederd. Wat wij nu moeten doen is: ons leger versterken, professionaliseren.”

Het UÇK is er „klaar voor” om de grenzen te bewaken en KFOR te helpen bij het opsporen van paramilitairen die nu in burger doorgaan met hun misdaden. Rustem Berisha gaat ervan uit dat KFOR daarmee akkoord gaat. De samenwerking met de KFOR-militairen is volgens hem uitstekend.

Veel Serviërs trekken nu weg uit angst voor het UÇK. Volgens Servische bronnen hebben al meer dan 50.000 van de in totaal 250.000 Serviërs Kosovo verlaten. Niet nodig, vindt de commandant: Serviërs met schone handen hebben niets te vrezen. „Tenzij ze een Servisch uniform gedragen hebben.” En de vele duizenden mannen die afgelopen maanden, vaak tegen hun zin, werden gemobiliseerd? „Ook hen beschouwen wij als verraders. Ze hebben voor Millošević gevochten, en tegen hun eigen land.”

Serviërs zijn waanzinnig moedig en lopen dus niet weg, zo houdt een Britse commandant een groep Serviërs voor.

Door onze redacteur
PETRA DE KONING
PRISTINA, 17 JUNI. „De wereld heeft al genoeg vluchtelingen. Ik smeeek u dat aantal niet groter te maken. Blijf thuis, wij beschermen u.” Terwijl ruim 33.000 Servische burgers en 26.000 man ordetroepen Kosovo achter zich hebben gelaten, probeerde de vredesmacht KFOR gisteren de achterblijvers gerust te stellen. Jackson sprak gisteren 3000 Serviërs toe in Kosovo Polje, een overwegend Servisch stadje vlakbij het beroemde slagveld waar de Serviërs in 1989 slag leverden met de Ottomaanse Turken.

In de avondschemering doet de Britse KFOR-commandant Bailey het nog eens over. Naast de orthodoxe kerk van Kosovo Polje wacht hem een sceptisch publiek van zo'n 500 toehoorders. KFOR is er niet alleen voor de Albanese, begint Bailey. Ook de Serviërs zullen worden beschermd. Een man mompelt: „Eerst bommen gooien en dan vrede brengen. Geweldig.”

De KFOR-commandant zegt dat hij niet is gekomen om over „het verleden” te praten. Het gaat over nu, en over de toekomst. Bailey: „Het zogenaemde Kosovo bevrijdingsleger UÇK zal worden gedemilitariseerd.” Een eerste voorzichtig applaus. De

Britse commandant: „Dat zal gebeuren, dat is zeker. Niet morgen en zeker niet vanavond al, maar het zal gebeuren.”

De Serviërs moeten nu, zegt de Britse KFOR-militair, een beslissing nemen: „Julie kunnen hier blijven en wij zullen jullie beschermen. Of jullie gaan weg en dan moeten jullie jarenlang leven met de gevolgen van die beslissing.” Hij stopt even, de Serviërs houden zich stil. Dan roept hij: „Doe dat niet. Blijf. Werk voor jullie land.”

De KFOR-commandant praat alsof hij een klas met kinderen toespreekt, langzaam, duidelijk, met simpele voorbeelden. „Ikzelf”, zegt hij, „ben bereid fysieke risico's te dragen voor mijn vaderland. Ik ben militair, die risico's horen erbij. Die risico's accepteer ik.” Opnieuw een stilte. Dan: „Een paar dagen geleden vroeg ik iemand in Macedonië: wat zijn dat voor mensen, Serviërs? Ik hoorde dat jullie vooral beroemd zijn wegens een bijzondere kwaliteit: waanzinnige moed.” De Serviërs joelen en klappen nu. Bailey: „Gaan jullie weglopen van hier? Echt? Ik kan het niet geloven.”

Een mooie redevoering, vindt Momčilo Trajković, leider van de 'Servische verzetbeweging' in Kosovo. Misschien zal de internationale gemeenschap eindelijk laten zien dat zij zich ook onpartijdig gedragen kan. „Tot nu toe hebben ze altijd gekozen voor één kant.” Trajković probeert de Serviërs ook over te halen om te blijven: „Wie nu weggaat, zal nooit meer terugkomen. Wij zijn geen lafaards.”

Kfor worstelt met UCK in Kosovo

PRISTINA – Terwijl de etnische Albanezen gisteren Kosovo bleven binnenstromen, vluchtten de Serviërs in steeds grotere getalen de provincie uit, uit angst voor wraakacties. De Servische troepen kregen 24 uur extra de tijd voor hun terugtrekking uit het zuidelijke deel van Kosovo.

De duizenden Albanese vluchtelingen negeerden alle waarschuwingen over boobytraps en mijnen die de Servische troepen zouden hebben achtergelaten. Ze wilden domweg naar huis, ook al wisten ze dat ze daar vaak de puinresten zouden aantreffen van wat eens hun huizen en hun huisraad was geweest.

In de hoofdstad Pristina verdween de aanvankelijke euforie over de 'bevrijding' snel. De inwoners moesten het zonder water stellen. De waterleiding had het begeven en de Servische onderhoudstechnici waren vertrokken, gevlucht.

De Navo heeft inmiddels ongeveer 14 500 man in Kosovo onder 'Kfor'-vlag. Maar de Kfor-militairen lijken steeds machtelozer te staan tegenover de strijders van het UCK, het Kosovo Bevrijdingsleger, die grote delen van de provincie overnemen. De bevelhebber van Kfor, generaal Jackson, zei gisteren dat hij de komende dagen een akkoord met het UCK verwacht over de 'demilitarisering' van deze beweging. Maar diplomaten zeggen dat de Navo er nu over denkt de UCK-strijders politiemacht te laten zijn en ze alleen te vragen zware wapens in te leveren.

In Prizren hebben de UCK-strijders inmiddels een eigen stadsbe-

stuur ingesteld. Brandstof is in de stad niet te krijgen zonder speciale toestemming van de strijders, die daar met veel machtsvertoon patrouilleren. Gewapende Kosovaren staken het vlak bij de stad gelegen Servisch-orthodoxe klooster Svete Trojice (Heilige Drie-eenheid) in brand.

Ruim honderd religieuzen en andere Serviërs die waren omsingeld door UCK-strijders bij een ander klooster bij Prizren vertrokken gisteravond in een konvooi onder bescherming van Duitse Kfor-eenheden. In de groep bevonden zich de orthodoxe bisschop van Prizren, Artemije, en een tiental monniken en theologen. Kfor kan de Serviërs geen veiligheidsgaranties bieden en helpt enkel bij hun vlucht uit Kosovo.

17-6-99

Serviërs doodsbang

17-6-99
ORAHOVAC - In de Zuid-Kosovaarse stad Orahovac is de spanning gisteren opgelopen door de toevloed van enkele honderden strijders van het Kosovo Bevrijdingsleger. Vierduizend Serviërs hebben zich doodsbang samengetrokken in een stadswijk. Bij de toegang staan Duitse en Nederlandse pantservoertuigen. UÇK-commandant Hoca heeft commandant Van Loon van de Nederlandse Gele Ridders toegezegd de Servische burgers met rust te laten. Nederland probeert te bemiddelen over het aanstellen van een nieuw Albanees-Servisch stadsbestuur.

17-6-99

NATO spokesman Jamie Shea: the education of a war propagandist

By Ann Talbot
17 June 1999

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"... the conflict of truth versus truth hid, in reality, a struggle between two forms of propaganda."—French intellectuals and the Great War 1914-1920, PhD thesis by Jamie Shea

NATO spokesman Jamie Shea has become something of a media personality. ITV recently ran a programme featuring his home life, portraying him as an ordinary, if highly successful, family man eager to get back to playing football with his son once the war in the Balkans was over. This was a sympathetic portrait of a man whose daily task it is to brief the media on bombing raids that have laid waste to a small Balkan country and killed thousands of civilians, including the very Kosovan refugees they were ostensibly to protect. It was remarkable not only for its hypocrisy, but also in raising the public profile of a type of functionary whose name would usually be known only to reporters and whose private life is a matter of interest to no one.

But Jamie Shea is a new kind of spokesman. He is a man trained to fight the media war just as a military specialist is trained to operate the lethal technology of modern warfare. His education for this role goes back to his university days at Lincoln College, Oxford, where Shea was a postgraduate student. He was awarded a doctorate for his thesis entitled *French Intellectuals and the Great War 1914-1920*, which was based on literary accounts of World War I. This thesis throws an interesting light on the early development of Shea as a war propagandist.

Shea's aim in his thesis is not to deal objectively with the problem of the literary representation of war. That problem has a long and distinguished history going back to Stendhal's account of the battle of Waterloo in *The Charterhouse of Parma*, in which his young hero discovers that far from being glorious the personal experience of war is chaotic and meaningless. It was a view of war that was to influence Tolstoy in *War and Peace* and all subsequent war literature. But genuine literary criticism is not what interests Shea. His thesis is devoted to attacking those writers who criticised the First World War, satirised the generals who sent men to be slaughtered in thousands and challenged the ideology of nationalism.

Comparing press accounts of the war with those written by soldiers, he comments, "patriotic literature, fulfilling France's needs of the time, was met with embittered, sarcastic rejoinders filtering through from the trenches. As a result, the conflict of truth versus truth hid, in reality, a struggle between two forms of propaganda." For Shea there is no truth, only different forms of propaganda.

The selection of literature dealt with in Shea's thesis is very limited because he restricts himself to those writers who had personal experience of combat. This decision excludes, for example, Marcel Proust, one of the greatest writers of the period, who observed French society between 1870 and the 1920s with a merciless eye. The fact that 2,000 French writers died in the First World War and countless others returned from the war psychologically damaged is perhaps the single most important mechanism of selection. But it is one that Shea does not see fit to mention.

Shea's particular target is Henri Barbusse's wartime novel *Le Feu* [*Under Fire*] with its graphic account of trench warfare. *Under Fire* contains all the attributes that Shea finds obnoxious in First World War literature. He complains, "The novel's consecration by the Prix Goncourt in 1916, its appearance in a single Flammarion edition and its automatic translation into English and German enabled *Le Feu* to win the ideological 'battle of the truths' during the war itself." He continues, "*Le Feu* has become an official history of the Great War. It has the status of the truth." He rejects as propaganda "the image of eternally suffering, victimised *poilus* [ordinary French soldiers] being forcefully coerced into slavery by unscrupulous rulers. To what extent, however, does this sentimental, pacifist vein in war literature, reinforced by the integral pacifist texts of the thirties and supported by such foreign successes as *All Quiet on the Western Front* and *The Good Soldier Schweik* and the war poetry of, for instance, Wilfred Owen, genuinely represent the 'truth'?"

Shea has a problem with the truth. The word rarely appears in his thesis without inverted commas around it. Stendhal and Tolstoy were concerned to convey the truth of war and that has remained the goal of all serious artists. The poets and novelists of the First World War were confronted by a new phenomenon—total war. They strove to find a valid literary means of depicting it and capturing the experience of the soldiers who went through it. Shea is repelled by their honesty. He does not, as one might expect in an academic thesis, bring evidence to bear against the accounts of war that he dislikes so intensely. He simply denies their veracity.

He writes that an account of a massacre of German prisoners of war in Barbusse's later novel *L'Enchaînement* "can be dismissed as untrue, pending the confirmation of proven historical fact. Yet even if it were true, and we must not allow our knowledge of the barbarities of the Second World War to obscure our understanding of the First, such an example would still run the risk of claiming generality for what must have been a unique, extremely exceptional occurrence."

Here we can already recognise the Jamie Shea of NATO press conferences who one day denies that a NATO bomb has killed civilians, the next says it was a rare mistake and the next justifies it. Pilate-like he asks, "What is truth?" and washes his hands in public when NATO bombs hit hospitals, trains and refugee columns.

At their best the writers of the First World War produced works that have a lasting artistic significance. One cannot read *All Quiet on the Western Front*, the war poetry of Wilfred Owen or Barbusse's *Under Fire* without being moved. Shea cannot find any works of similar literary worth that praise or glorify the war. He is obliged to turn for support to the work of literary critic Jean Norton Cru who, in his book *Témoins*, published in 1929, criticised accounts of front-line warfare such as that of Barbusse, claiming that they were not written from experience. In passing it should be noted that Barbusse experienced seven months of heavy fighting in Artois and Picardy, during which he was mentioned in despatches. When his health broke down he remained with his unit as a stretcher bearer, which was in many ways even more dangerous than the role of a front-line soldier. He was hospitalised and returned to the front three times before being invalided out in 1917. *Under Fire* was written both in the trenches and while he was in hospital. Shea does not mention any of this in his thesis.

Cru divides the First World War writers into categories according to how he rates them as eyewitnesses. His A-list does not include any notable authors. But Shea relies on him to condemn *Under Fire* as "Macabre literature, but literature which is empty of thought and without the least basis in reality." ("Littérature macabre, mais littérature pensée à vide, sans le moindre fondement du réel.")

Using Norton Cru's book had the added advantage for Shea that it was virtually unobtainable in British university libraries at the time, making it very difficult to check just how much of Shea's supposedly original work had been lifted from Cru. It is one of only two authorities cited by Shea as a reference. This is a remarkably thin bibliography for a PhD thesis by normal academic

standards. Shea's enthusiasm for mass slaughter and his antipathy towards the opponents of war clearly must have won an appreciative hearing in the highest academic circles.

The most significant of Shea's borrowings from Cru is the simplistic notion that an eyewitness account is the only valid one in literature and that the more experience a writer had of the front the better he would understand the nature of the war. This is laughably crude. Ever since Stendhal, writers have known that the eyewitness who participated in the events was the least able to understand the course of an individual battle let alone the entire war. The understanding of a battle or a war can only come from synthesising many sources of information. For a novelist there is always a conflict, which must be resolved fruitfully if the book is to succeed, between this wider knowledge and portraying in a truthful manner the experience of participants, which is always fragmentary.

Shea criticises First World War writers for being ideologically motivated because they attempt to set their personal experience of battle within the context of a meaningful analysis of the war. Yet he makes no attempt to analyse what ideological currents influenced French writers in 1914. He merely condemns them for not reporting the bare facts of their front-line experience. Had they done so, what they wrote would certainly not have been literature, nor would it have been true, since the truth of war consists of more than an account of the day-to-day experience of combat.

The most notable omission from Shea's thesis is any reference to the Dreyfus case, which was still the great issue overshadowing French literature on the outbreak of World War One. Captain Alfred Dreyfus was falsely accused of selling secrets to the Germans in 1895 and condemned to life imprisonment on Devil's Island. At a time when anti-Semitism was being cultivated by the far-right monarchist and clerical parties, Dreyfus became a scapegoat for the failure of the military because he was of Jewish origin. When evidence of his innocence emerged the military suppressed it and protected the real culprit. The author Emile Zola spoke out in Dreyfus's defence. In an open letter to the president, Zola accused leading generals and the war office of having knowingly kept an innocent man in prison. He was charged with libel and had to flee the country. Dreyfus was not finally exonerated until 1906.

The Dreyfus case divided French society and French literature. Some writers like Anatole France, who had always stood aloof from politics, aligned themselves with Zola. At Zola's funeral France described Zola's stand as "a moment in the conscience of mankind". Marcel Proust was among those who circulated the petition of the intellectuals in support of Dreyfus the day after Zola's open letter appeared. Dreyfus's supporters recognised that the persecution and scapegoating of a man because of his religious background was a challenge to the principles on which the first French republic had been founded. The French revolution of 1789 had established that any one could be a citizen of France, whatever his ethnic origin or religion, provided he accepted the constitution. Other literary figures like the novelist Maurice Barrès and Leon Daudet were violently opposed to Dreyfus being freed. For Barrès the fate of an innocent individual was of far less importance than the reputation and prestige of France's generals.

French literature of the twentieth century is impossible to understand without reference to this background. Although Shea's thesis deals with the years between 1914 and 1920, the formative experiences of the majority of men who fought on the front and wrote about it were in the years when the Dreyfus affair was at its height. From 1914 they had a personal taste of the ineptitude and hardened class hatred of generals from the same military elite that had sentenced Dreyfus. More than one in four French men between the ages of 20 and 30 died in the First World War.

The Dreyfus case is part of the truth of the First World War and so is socialism. In Barbusse's *Under Fire* a soldier says "there is one figure that has risen above the war and will blaze with the

vote for war credits in parliament and was imprisoned for speaking out against the war. He was among a minority of Social Democrats, among them Rosa Luxemburg, Lenin and Trotsky, who maintained a principled opposition to the war.

For Shea all opposition or criticism of the First World War is sentimental pacifism. He takes no account of the range of opposition that existed and is expressed in literature. In *Under Fire* Barbusse gives a much more objective picture. He does not attempt to make every soldier speak like a Marxist. His soldiers are a realistic collection of men who express varying views. But to imagine that Liebknecht's stand had no influence on French soldiers would be entirely unrealistic.

Even if Shea were so steeped in philistinism that he could not deal with subtleties of literature it would have been a simple matter to compare the literary accounts of the First World War with those of historians. No historians are cited in Shea's thesis. The reason is not hard to find. They generally confirm the picture of senseless slaughter that is conveyed by the novels and poetry of the period.

One historian has written of the First World War, "The periodic attempts to achieve a breakthrough in the land war merely confirmed the futility of hurling unarmoured human flesh against the devastating firepower of the machine gun and heavy artillery. The casualty figures of the abortive offensives reached almost suicidal proportions: in the battle of the Somme from July 1 to November 18, 1916, the Germans and British lost 400,000 each and the French 200,000. The reward for the combined Anglo-French casualties of over 600,000 was a maximum advance of about seven miles. In the same year the Germans conducted a ten month siege of the French fortress of Verdun at a cost of 336,000 men while the French army's successful defence was paid for with 350,000 lives. At Passchendaele in 1917 over 370,000 British soldiers perished in order to gain forty-five square miles of mud and shell holes."^{*}

Under Fire describes in terms of the experiences of one small group of men this futile slaughter over tiny strips of land. Barbusse writes of individual deaths, "Little Godefroy—did you know him?—middle of his body blown away. He was emptied of blood on the spot in an instant, like a bucket kicked over", of "woods sliced down like corn-fields" at Verdun, of dead "heaped up like a wood-pile". An historian must present the bald casualty figures. In its different way each approach is just as shocking and just as true.

Reading through Jamie Shea's thesis is a sobering experience. It is always tempting to believe that no educated person could doubt the horrors of war in the twentieth century. It is the leitmotif of our age, one which is founded on experience, borne out by historical research and given profound literary expression by talented artists. But here we find a student exploring how the truth of war can be concealed. His academic efforts ensured him a job with NATO, where he could put the theory that truth is only another form of propaganda into practice. His thesis shows that Dr. Shea is a war propagandist by vocation as well as occupation.

* William R. Keylor, *The Twentieth Century World: An International History*, Oxford University Press, 1996, p. 56

Navo denkt UCK wel aan te kunnen

18-6-99
Van onze correspondent

BRUSSEL - „Het valt reuze mee. Als je kijkt naar de schaal van ongeregelheden, dan hebben we er alle vertrouwen in dat het goed komt.” De Navo-functionaris ziet in de opstootjes met leden van het Bevrijdingsleger van Kosovo (UCK) geen bedreiging voor de vrede.

Toch dreigt in Kosovo mede door toedoen van UCK-milities een steeds grotere chaos te ontstaan. Het bevrijdingsleger omsingelt dorpen en wijken waar Serviërs wonen en dwingt hen te vertrekken.

Gele Rijders aan de wandel met UCK

of auto was gebelev. Hij bleef opvallend kalm, probeerde de Serviërs gerust te stellen en te overtuigen van zijn oprechtheid. De UCK-voorman was woensdagavond minder diplomatiek.

Dat blijkt. In Orahovac is de situatie gespannen. Honderden UCK-strijders zijn de stad binnen gekomen. In de Servische wijk zitten vierduizend Serviërs opeengepakt, doodsbenauwd. Gele Rijders-commandant Van Loon bezocht gisteren de wijk samen met UCK-hoofdman Sken-der Hoxha, pistool aan de gordel. „We wilden die mensen laten zien dat we er zijn en hoe we optreden”, onderstreept Bos. Hoxha werd belaagd door Serviërs die wilden weten waar hun familie

Toen beschuldigde hij de Serviërs ervan zeker duizend mensen te hebben vermoord in de regio. Hij waarschuwde dat „degenen die geen schoon geweten hebben, grote risico's lopen als ze vluchten”. Er zou een lijst van verdachten zijn. Volgens Hoxha wil het UCK die overdragen aan het Joegoslavië-Tribunaal.

viërs bij elkaar te krijgen. Om de bestuurders weer aan een tafel te krijgen is speciaal kapitein Speth overgevologen. Die heeft in VN-verband veel ervaring opgedaan met het opbouwen van democratische bestuur.

De Gele Rijders hebben behalve het uit elkaar houden van Albanezen en Serviërs genoeg om handen: de bevoorrading verzorgen voor de Duitsers, een deze week ontdekt massagraf bewaaken, een kampement opbouwen. En dan klopt Jan-en-alleman ook nog bij de militairen aan voor het regelen van allerlei zaken. „We zitten hier met honderduizend problemen”, zegt Bos. „Als we volgende week compleet zijn, met 850 man, zal het misschieen wat gemakkelijker gaan.”

18-6-99

CNN: Terrorists of KLA ransacked monastery of Devic

June 18, 1999

Srbica, June 18 (CNN) - French peacekeepers stood guard Thursday outside a Serbian Orthodox monastery, following reports that a band of Kosovo Liberation Army fighters had ransacked the site near Srbica and terrorized its clergy for days.

The incident is regarded as one of the most serious assaults by the KLA since NATO peacekeeping troops were deployed in Kosovo and could hurt attempts to convince Serb civilians that they would be protected by NATO forces.

A French soldier told CNN that KLA members occupied the 15th-century Devic monastery, about 40 kilometers (25 miles) west of the Kosovo provincial capital, Pristina, from Sunday to Wednesday, robbing its priest and nine nuns and stealing two cars and all the monastery's food.

Assault rifles were fired next to the heads of the priest and nuns to terrorize them, the soldier said. Numerous shell casings were found in the courtyard.

One nun was stripped naked and taken into a back room by KLA members, he said. When French soldiers found her, she was hysterical and traumatized.

When asked if the woman had been raped, the French soldier said, "What do you think?"

French troops surrounded the monastery, maintaining a 24-hour guard.

KLA forces attempting to return to the monastery fled when they saw the French contingent, the soldier said.



Monastery of Devic desecrated

18-6-99

THE ECONOMIST: NATO WAR IN YUGOSLAVIA COSTING BALKANS DEARLY

June 18, 1999

LONDON, June 18 (Ekos-Tanjung) - The three months of the NATO war in Yugoslavia will cost the economies of the Balkans nearly eight billion dollars this year and the consequences will be present during the following years, too, declared the researchers of the British Economist publication last night.

The war in Yugoslavia will cut down this year's home gross incomes of eight Balkan countries for 7.8 billion dollars on the whole. This sum represents 5.4 per cent of the region's gross incomes on the whole, the agencies transfer the Economist's evaluations.

The economic activities of Yugoslavia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Macedonia and Romania will be cut down for 3.8 per cent on average this year. Before the NATO air strikes, it was expected for these countries to mark an economic growth of 1.6 per cent on average, state the British researchers.

According to the Economist's evaluation, Yugoslavia itself will be the most severely affected. Yugoslavia's gross incomes will be really diminished by forty per cent, thanks to the consequences of the NATO aggression.

Macedonia follows according to the degree of the damaging consequences. Macedonia is largely dependent on the trade with Yugoslavia and the transit of merchandise across its territory. The Economist evaluates that Macedonia will have gross incomes diminished by fifteen per cent this year.

The inflow of direct foreign investment in the Balkan countries will, when compared to the prognoses of before, be diminished by around 1.4 billion dollars. Thus, the investments will be some four billion, while last year they were 5.6 billion dollars.

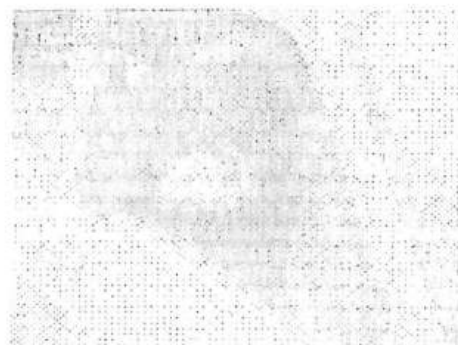
The Economist's analysts state that the fall of economic activity in the Balkans, consequent to the NATO aggression on Yugoslavia, might cause political instability, unemployment and social displeasure all over the Balkans' region, along with diminishing the support through economic reforms.

The Economist evaluates that, during the NATO aggression, which lasted for eleven weeks, the infrastructure and factories in the value of several dozens of billions of dollars were destroyed in Kosovo and Metohija and the rest of Yugoslavia.

New crimes of terrorists

June 18, 1999

Pristina, June 18 (Tanjug) - On Thursday morning, near Pec, terrorists have killed Milos Petrovic, 16 years old, who was on his way back to Kosovo and Metohija from Montenegro in the convoy of cars of the Serbian refugees. He was killed after he has crossed through an Italian control point. An elder Serb, who was at the car together with the



Milos Petrovic - victim of terrorists

boy was injured during the attack. He claims that the members of the KLA were wearing the uniforms of the Italian peace forces which has already caused a truth shock in Italy.

Terrorists killed on Friday Dragan Jankovic from the village of Koljovica near Pristina as well, seriously wounding his mother. The killers were recognized as Eljaz Krasnici with his sons Fata, Murtez and Enez from the same village but it is not yet known how the peace forces reacted.

KLA has continued to kidnap the Serbs. Slavoljub Baltic from Vucitrn, Stanislav Kostic, Desimir Markovic, Nebojsa Stolic, all of them from Stojkovic, Sladjan Milosevic from the village of Varos and Sladjan Milosevic from the village of Zaskok were abducted.

The bishop of the Hercegovina and Zahumlje Atanasije testifies that the KLA has put on fire the villages of Novaci and Ljubiste near Pristina and that it surrounded the villages of Stojkovic and Nerodimlje near Urosevac.

Since the terrorists entered Dragas and placed the Albanian flag on the public buildings about 15000 Goranci have left this municipality.

Around noon on Friday, the members of the so-called KLA have taken over the gas station of "Jugopetrol" near Pristina hospital and the medical center in the Pristina's suburb of Vranjevac.

Compatriots from Albania joined the terrorists. Two of the border villages in Kosovo and Metohija, Gora municipality, were attacked by the Albanians from Albania, Tanjug learns. The villages of Krusevo and Orcusa inhabited by Goranci were the targets of the attack. KFOR was informed of the attacks. Other details concerning the incident in that border area, traditionally kept by Goranci are not yet known.

18-6-99

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Clinton administration sought Thursday to encourage Serb civilians who are fleeing Kosovo to return and cast their lot with the province's NATO-guarded future. With 50,000 peacekeeping troops eventually moving in, and the Kosovo Liberation Army, an ethnic Albanian guerrilla group, pledged to surrender its heavy weapons, Serb civilians and other minorities will have a secure environment, deputy State Department spokesman James Foley said. Besides, in other parts of Serbia, economic mismanagement under Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic and the effect of economic sanctions imposed by the United Nations, make for an unpromising future for the Serb civilians arriving from Kosovo, Foley said.

18-6-99

Patriarch urges Serbs to hold on and stay in Kosovo.

BELGRADE, June 18 (Itar-Tass) - The Patriarch of the Serb Orthodox Church, Pavle, who arrived in the medieval monastery of Gracanica overnight to Friday, called upon the Serbs to hold on and stay in the Kosovo province.

"I call upon you to stay where your ancestors lived for centuries -- in freedom or servitude," the Patriarch said. He told a crowd of Serb farmers from neighboring villages to be patient, but said Albanian terrorists' actions may result in fatalities.

The patriarch, now in his late eighties, lived in Kosovo as a priest for several decades and has a good knowledge of the mentality of the multi-national province.

The local ethnic mix includes Moslem and Christian Albanians, Orthodox Serbs and Montenegrins, Turks, Gypsies, and even Egyptians.

Together with the Prizren Bishop Artemije, the patriarch intends to visit all towns and villages wherever Serbs are still to be found, and encourage them for a feat -- to continue living in a hostile environment.

Yugoslavia's Patriotic Union, the Serb Renovation movement and other political parties also called upon the Kosovar Serbs not to leave the province.

Several ministers from the Yugoslav and Serb governments have been touring the region and meeting with residents. As a rule, they travel together with NATO officials from the KFOR force, including British General Michael Jackson.

A congregation at the Gracanica monastery applauded Jackson when he said that the international force will be disarming Albanian militants.

But the word "disarming" was the interpreter's rendering of "demilitarization" about which Jackson was speaking and which is still treated differently.

KWESTIES / Zigeuners vrezen Albanese wraak in Kosovo

12-6-99

Niet alleen de Serviërs, ook de naar schatting 40 000 zigeuners in Kosovo ontvluchten de regio uit angst voor wraakacties van de Albanese bevolking en het UCK. Die beschuldigen hen ervan te hebben samengewerkt met de Serviërs. In ruil voor straffeloos plunderen zouden de zigeuners hebben geholpen bij het ruimen en verbranden van Albanese lijken. Ook zouden zij aan Servische kant hebben meegevochten tegen het UCK.

De Albanese wraakzucht kwam al op 5 juni naar voren in het Macedonische vluchtelingenkamp Stankovic 1. In het kamp

was de spanning door de overbevolking fors opgelopen. Vluchtelingen beweerden dat zigeuners de Serviërs hielpen en jonge Albanese spraken openlijk over wraak bij terugkeer in Kosovo. Toen een Albanese vluchteling een sieraad van zijn moeder meende te herkennen rond de nek van een zeventienjarige Roma, verkondigde hij aan iedereen dat zijn vader door zigeuners was vermoord en zijn moeder door hen was beroofd. Er brak een volkswoede los, waarbij honderden Albanese met stokken insloegen op een zigeunerfamilie in het kamp. De rust keerde

pas weer toen de Macedonische politie ingreep en de Amerikaanse ambassadeur in Macedonië, Christopher Hill, de Albanese toezegde de zaak uit te zoeken.

In hoeverre de zigeuners, die ook Roma worden genoemd, daadwerkelijk hebben deelgenomen aan Servische oorlogsmisdaden is onduidelijk. Er bestaan veel getuigenissen van Albanese, maar of die volledig betrouwbaar zijn is een tweede. Volgens Orhan Galjus van de Roma Coros-stichting in Boedapest werden de zigeuners als tweederangs burgers behandeld, ook al leefden zij al eeuwen in

het gebied. Momenteel is Galjus in Sofia, waar morgen een congres over de burgerrechten van de Roma begint. Een aantal zigeuners uit Kosovo is op het congres aanwezig om verslag te doen van de huidige situatie.

De meeste Kosovo-Roma zijn inmiddels - grotendeels te voet - vertrokken richting Belgrado. Daar kunnen zij bij vrienden en familieleden terecht die al eerder - al vóór de Navo-bombardementen - de regio hadden verlaten. Zij vreesden slachtoffer te worden van het conflict tussen de Serviërs en de Albanese.

Stijntje Blankendaal

Uittocht Serviërs

18-6-99

**'Buitenwijken Mitrovica
bestaan niet meer'**

MITROVICA, PRISTINA - Het hoofd van de Servisch-orthodoxe kerk, patriarch Pavle, besloot gisteren een daad te stellen. Hij verhuisde naar het West-Kosovaarse Pec om de uittocht van de Serviërs uit Kosovo te remmen.

Tevergeefs. In totaal zijn al 50.000 Serviërs Kosovo ontvlucht sinds de Nato-troepen het land zaterdag binnentrokken. Die stroom zal de komende dagen slechts toenemen, naar gelang het Joegoslavische leger wegtrekt, en het Kosovo bevrijdingsleger UCK het vacuüm opvult, op de voet gevolgd door de terugkerende Albanese vluchtelingen. De troepen van de internationale vredesmacht, Kfor, kunnen daarbij slechts proberen de Serviërs te helpen veilig weg te komen.

Kosovo zonder Serviërs

Deling

Nicole Lucas

18-6-44

AMSTERDAM – De Russen willen een eigen sector in Kosovo. Geen sprake van, zegt het Westen. Het vreest de deling van Kosovo in een Albanees en een, door de Russen beschermd, Servisch deel. Die angst is door de werkelijkheid ingehaald. Nog even, en er is in Kosovo geen Serviër meer over.

Voor de oorlog eind maart begon, werd het hier en daar voorzichtig geopperd. Als ze daar nou echt niet meer elkaar kunnen samenleven, waarom delen we Kosovo dan niet op? Het noordelijke deel voor de Serviërs, het zuiden voor de Albanen. De suggestie werd meestal verontwaardigd van de hand gewezen. Waar blijven we met ons ideaal van een multiculturele samenleving, aldus de (meestal westerse) critici, zo'n oplossing legitimeert alleen maar etnische zuivering. En hebben we dat in Bosnië, met het akkoord van Dayton, nou net niet weten te voorkomen?

Etnisch homogeen lijkt Kosovo toch te worden. Heel Kosovo, wel te verstaan. Het UCK is in snel tempo bezig de borden te verhangen. De vervolgers van gisteren zijn de vervolgd van vandaag. Of voelen zich in ieder geval zo. Tienduizenden Serviërs lappen alle oproepen om 'thuis' te blijven, aan hun laars. Navo-bevelhebbers 'in het veld' laten weten de veiligheid van de Serviërs niet te kunnen garanderen.

Ze kunnen hooguit voor een veilige aftocht zorgen.

Een onafhankelijk, dat wil zeggen Albanees Kosovo is het doel, laten UCK-commandanten niet na te herhalen. Na alles wat er is gebeurd, kunnen en willen we niet meer samenleven met de Serviërs, vindt (een meerderheid) van de UCK-commandanten. En bovendien: net als aan de Kroaten en de Slovenen geeft het zelfbeschikkingsrecht der volken ook ons, Albanen, het recht op een eigen staat.

Met dat argument maakt het UCK duidelijk dat een onafhankelijk Kosovo niet meer is dan een stap op weg naar een Groot-Albanië. Want Albanen, die wonen niet alleen in Kosovo, maar ook in Albanië, Macedonië, Griekenland en Montenegro. Sommige opties gaan nog verder: een nieuwe Albanië tot in Servië zelf. De grenzen die er tussen de Albanen zijn getrokken, zijn steeds door anderen getekend, zegt het UCK. Het wordt tijd het heft zelf in handen te nemen.

Dat is nou precies waar de internationale gemeenschap niet op zit te wachten. Want ze mag – in meerderheid – dan vinden, zoals de Britse historicus Timothy Garton Ash onlangs formuleerde, dat de Serviërs het morele recht op de macht in Kosovo hebben verspeeld, ze is als de dood voor een verdergaande, want onvermijdelijk gewelddadige verandering van grenzen.

De meeste ogen zijn gericht op Macedonië. Albanen en Macedoniërs waren al niet gek op el-

kaar. De stroom vluchtelingen uit Kosovo heeft de verhoudingen nog verder op scherp gezet.

Tegelijkertijd dient een nieuw oud probleem zich aan: Bosnië. Na ruim drie jaar 'vrede' heerst daar nog altijd een breekbaar, wankel evenwicht. Drie gemeenschappen wonen er naast, niet met elkaar. Debuitenwereld houdt er met veel geld en de nodige militaire middelen de staat bij elkaar. Maar waarom moeizaam de façade ophouden van een multiculturele, multinationale staat, als net over de grens de homogeniteit hoogtij viert?

De internationale gemeenschap blijft daarom vasthouden aan de onschendbaarheid van de grenzen van het huidige Joegoslavië. Tot grote voldoening van de Joegoslavische president Milosevic. In zijn toespraak vorige week, hield hij het zijn onderdanen nog triomfantelijk voor: Kosovo is van ons en het blijft van ons.

Op papier is dat waar. De praktijk wordt in snel tempo anders. Het UCK vult het machtsvacuüm op tussen het vertrek van de Servische troepen en de komst van de Navo-soldaten. Albanen vormen opnieuw de meerderheid. Verschil met vóór de oorlog lijkt dat er binnenkort geen minderheid meer is. Een eventuele Russische sector verandert daar niets meer aan: daar komen dan wellicht Serviërs wonen, maar Albanen blijven er weg. De trend naar de vorming van etnisch-homogene regio's en staten lijkt, voorlopig, onomkeerbaar.

19-6-99

Terrorists occupied Srbica

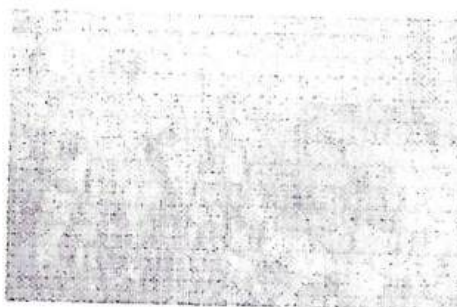
June 19, 1999

Pristina, June 19 (Media center) - Members of the separatist Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) occupied Srbica on Saturday and the French contingent within the international peace forces in Kosovo and Metohija (KFOR) has sent tanks from Kosovska Mitrovica on the scene, the Reuters agency transmitted relaying on the statement by an anonymous French officer.



KFOR cooperate with terrorists

Members of the KLA have entered Srbica downtown and fired from the automatic weapon to the air.



Armed mob

Mitrovica suburb on Friday.

Frenchmen have contacted with the members of the KLA in an attempt to make them turn over their weapons in accordance with the UN Security Council resolution considering the demilitarization of the KLA.

Reuters said KLA have founded its own control point at the Kosovska

French soldiers and armed Albanians are now only several meters away from each others.

19-6-99

Terrorists Kill and Kidnap Serbs - KFOR Observes

June 19, 1999

Pristina, 18 June, 1999 (Media Center) - Milos Petrovic, 16 year old Serb was killed by the members of the KLA, near the place Savina Voda, 5 km from the Serbian - Monte Negro border. The boy was in the column of the fifty Serbian refugees, returning from Monte Negro to Kosovo and Metohija.

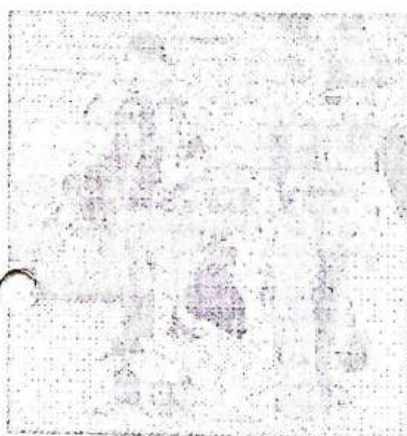


Milos Petrovic killed

Eight members of the terrorist KLA kidnapped eight members of Jokic family in Gusica village near Vitina.

So far, twenty thousand Serbs left Urosevac and its neighboring says the fled villager, Miroslav Cemerikic.

The groups of KLA came in the Goles area from Lipovica, near the military airfield Slatina. They burned down the Serbian houses some 100 meters from the Russian troops.



The kidnapping of the Serbian civilians and soldiers is going on. A sergeant Zoran Tosic, his 9 soldiers and the civilians were kidnapped in Vranjevac: Zoran Raicevic, Branko Markovic and Slaviasa Izdarevic.

A group of the terrorist KLA broke into the Health center in Gnjilane and beat the head of the center, Vladimir Devic.

Armed terrorists beating a Serb

According to the information of the Media center, the groups of the KLA members together with the Albanian civilians broke into the Tobacco factory, the Textile factory and the Gosa factory in Gnjilane.

The members of KFOR intervened in some cases and forced out the criminals from the city's Post office.

According to the information, during the afternoon, the KLA members established the checking points at several roads around Gnjilane.

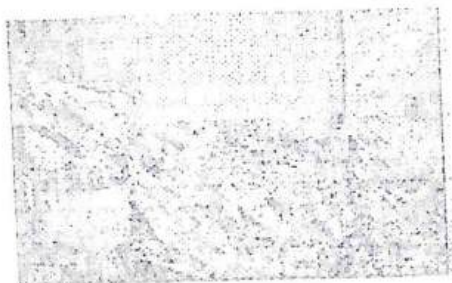
The great number of Serbs and Montenegrins escaped during the day from Gnjilane.

Blagoje Stankovic from Strezovce village and Novica Vasic from



14-6-99

Orahovica village in Kosovska Kamenica County were brutally murdered, yesterday by the Albanian terrorists, states Media Center the statement from the County authorities in Kosovska Kamenica.



Ruins of Serbian house

Stanojko Mihajlovic from Novo Selo was killed in front of his own house by the terrorists.

The separatist KLA members killed 12 Serbs in the area of Kosovska Vitina in the last two days.

According to the last information, almost all Serbs left the villages: Grnovo, Gusica, Pozaranje, Novo Selo, Drobos and Tankosic.

Pristina, 18 June, 1999 - Two days ago, around 10 a.m. Slobodan Pavlovic (1952), Nenad Pavlovic (1984), Momcilo Dinic (1967), Dimitrije Milenkovic (1951), Aleksandar Milenkovic (1954) and Dejan Prokic (1979) were kidnapped in front of their houses in the Kosancic Ivan Street. The eyewitnesses said that they were taken towards Mazgit village.

19-6-99

Solana invited "KLA" to obey the UN resolution

June 19, 1999

Brussels, June 18th (Tanjug) - NATO pact Secretary-General Javier Solana demanded tonight the members of so-called KLA to surrender their arms to the KFOR peacekeeping forces in order to guarantee the security of all Kosmet inhabitants, not regarding their national belonging.



Threat for Serbian civilians - KLA armed to the teeth

"We expect the full obeisance and the cooperation of the Kosovo Albanians community with the international security and civilian presence in Kosovo. NATO expects KLA, as well as the other armed troops from Kosovo to be demilitarized conforming to the Security Council resolution," declared tonight Solana after the session of NATO Foreign affairs and defense ministers held in Brussels.

The main topic of the session, according to him, was the situation "on and about Kosmet". It was concluded, as Solana said, that the disposition of the peacekeeping forces on Kosmet is realized conforming to the inked military and technical agreement with the Yugoslav delegation. Important results are achieved in a week period, the KFOR forces are displayed in the whole Kosmet territory and they are working on the installment of the security atmosphere for all the inhabitants of the province, evaluated Solana.

KFOR will not tolerate any phenomenon of endangering of the inhabitant's security, and it will protect the members of all ethnic groups, stressed Solana. NATO, according to Solana, is tightly cooperating with the representatives of the UN, humanitarian and other organizations whose duty is the application of the military and technical agreement in conformity with the Security Council's resolution about Kosmet.

19-6-99

Kosovaren strippen huizen van Serviërs vakkundig

Van onze verslaggever
Mark van Driel

KIJEVO

Gewapend met een schroevendraaier loopt Florin Kruzium een huis in Kijevo binnen. Hij ziet dat hij niet de eerste is die de Servische woning binnengaat.

Stoelen, tafels en vloerbedekking zijn al meegenomen door zijn Albanese dorpsgenoten.

Maar het huis kan nog leger, luit hij snel. Hij zet zijn schroevendraaier in een achtergebleven wandkast.

Kruzium heeft haast, want de woningen van Serviërs die woensdag zijn gevlucht uit Kijevo worden in hoog tempo leeggehaald. Zwaarbeladen tractoren rijden af en aan, paardenkarren bezwijken bijna

onder de last van de goederen die de Albanese Kosovaren buitmaken.

'Ik doe dit niet voor mijn plezier', zegt 31-jarige Kruzium. 'De Serviërs hebben alles bij mij leeggehaald. Ik haal alleen mijn eigendom terug.'

Ook in andere dorpen vinden Kosovaren het gerechtvaardigd om te plunderen. Vooral op plaatsen waar de KFOR-troepen niet of nauwelijks aanwezig zijn, blijkt de verleiding om huizen van gevluchte Serviërs leeg te halen moeilijk te weerstaan.

De etnische Albanese gaan hun gang, op het oog zonder scrupules. In Kijevo legen kinderen en volwassenen de dertig Servische huizen met groot enthousiasme. Ze doen meer dan het terughalen

van hun eigendom, zoals Kruzium beweerde.

De verlaten Servische woningen, herkenbaar aan de ongebroken ruiten en de bijna overal bloeiende rozenstruiken, worden vakkundig gestript.

Deuren, ruiten, kozijnen en keukenblokken verdwijnen in de voertuigen van Albanese. Dakpannen worden afgenomen, balken losgeschroefd en landbouwwerktuigen versleept.

Ook dieren zijn niet veilig. Bijeengebonden kippen gaan van hand tot hand. Koeien worden voortgeduwd.

Een gewapende man probeert zelfs een bijeenkorf mee te nemen. Pas na een heftig gezoem ziet hij daar vanaf.

In hun drang naar vergelding

zijn sommigen bereid om ver te gaan. De 17-jarige Curtis Morina wil precies kopiëren wat de Serviërs zijn volk hebben aangedaan: eerst de huizen leeghalen en dan brand stichten. Hij knipt zijn aanstekker aan en wijst naar een leeggehaalde woning: 'Straks gaat het vuur er in.'

Kruzium is even genadeloos, maar minder bloeddorstig. Hij vindt dat de Servische woningen een nieuwe bestemming moeten krijgen. Vluchtelingen die hun huis bij terugkeer vernield aantreffen, zouden er volgens hem kunnen overnachten.

'Als de Serviërs dat willen voorkomen, moeten ze het maar met Milosevic opnemen.'

Maar niet alle inwoners van Kijevo doen mee aan het plunderen.

Sommigen omdat ze geen bezittingen van Serviërs in huis willen hebben: 'Ik wil niet in het bed van een Serviër slapen'. Anderen vinden dat misdaden niet met misdaden moet worden beantwoord. 'Dat hoort niet. We moeten een nieuw bestaan opbouwen.'

De tegenstanders van de huizenroof zijn echter voorzichtig met hun kritiek.

Ze willen hun naam niet geven uit vrees voor een conflict met hun dorpsgenoten. 'Mijn buurvrouw is de hele dag al bezig', zegt een 43-jarige eigenaar van een vernielde snackbar. 'Ze loopt de straat over en komt met van alles terug. Planten, potten, pannen. Het is een schande, maar wie doet er wat?'

Ook een lid van het Kosovo Be-

vrijdingsleger UCK uit zijn kritiek alleen onder voorwaarde van anonimiteit. 'Dit kan niet. Ze mogen hun eigendom terughalen. Meer ook niet. Maar wat kan ik doen? Ik kan mijn wapen na de afgelopen maanden moeilijk op mijn eigen volk richten.'

Bajram Gashi, UCK-politieman in de nabijgelegen stad Malishevo, zegt dat hij wel zou optreden als de Albanese bevolking aan het roven zou slaan. Maar aan de roofpartij in Kijevo kan hij niet veel doen, zegt hij.

In elk geval niet meer dan de Duitse NAVO-militair die tegenover de UCK'er wacht houdt in zijn Leopard-tank. Zonder elkaar te hebben gehoord, zeggen beiden: 'We zullen het straks doorgeven aan onze commandant.'

19-6-99



'We halen terug wat van ons is'

19-6-99

Een teruggekeerde Kosovoar gaat er in Kljevo vandoor met een tafel die hij heeft weggehaald uit een huis van een gevlochten Serviër. De Albanezen noemen de plunderingen eufemistisch 'terughalen wat van ons is.' Ze strippen de huizen van Serviërs vakkundig. Verslag op pagina 5

FOTO MARCEL MOLLE - DE VOLKSRANT

KFOR ontdekt martelkamer van UCK'ers

146099
AFP, Reuters, AP, ANP

PRIZREN/ORAHOVAC

Duitse KFOR-militairen hebben gisteren een dode man en vijftien gewonden aangetroffen in een politiekantoor in Prizren dat begin deze week was ingenomen door het UCK. De meer dan 25 rebellen van het Kosovo Bevrijdingsleger die de mannen gevangen hadden gehouden, werden onmiddellijk ontwapend door de Duitse soldaten.

Een zeventigjarige man zat geboeid op een stoel en is waarschijnlijk door UCK'ers doodgeslagen toen zij hem verhoorden. Voor hem kwamen de KFOR-soldaten net te laat, zei luitenant-kolonel Dietmar Jeserich.

De andere vijftien gevangenen - etnische Albanezen, zigeuners en één Serviër - stonden bloedend op een binnenplaats toen de KFOR-troepen hen bevrijdden, aldus Jeserich. Vermoedelijk zijn de mannen gemarteld omdat het UCK hen beschuldigde van collaboratie met de Servische troepen.

De Duitse militairen troffen ook granaten, machinegeweren, mortieren en lege hulzen aan in het politiebureau. Daarnaast vonden de soldaten houten planken met spijkers, volgens KFOR 'martelinstrumenten'. Of de UCK-rebellen vervolgd worden, is nog onduidelijk.

Vanaf vrijdag middernacht moeten alle UCK-strijders in Prizren hun wapens hebben ingeleverd en mogen zij geen uniform meer dragen, aldus de KFOR-woordvoerder. De internationale troepenmacht wil een duidelijk signaal afgeven aan de rebellen dat zij de enige ordetroepen in Kosovo is.

De Joegoslavische autoriteiten beweren dat de vredesmacht te

weinig doet om etnische Serviërs te beschermen. Een vertegenwoordiger van de regering in Belgrado had hierover een gesprek met afgevaardigden van KFOR.

De Britse generaal Richard Dannatt zei gisteren vanuit Pristina dat extra militaire politie het vacuum moet opvullen dat ontstaat nadat de laatste Servische troepen zondagnacht vertrekken. De extra manschappen moeten de orde herstellen en de Servische burgers ervan overtuigen dat ze veilig zijn.

Volgens het Internationale Rode Kruis zijn tot dusver 43 duizend Serviërs Kosovo uitgevlucht die 'doodsbang zijn voor bloedwraak van Albanezen'.

In Orahovac en omgeving - waar de Nederlandse Gele Ridders zijn gestationeerd - zijn volgens het onafhankelijke Joegoslavische persbureau Beta veel Serviërs gewapenderhand uit hun woningen verdreven. Ook zouden zij door de rebellen zijn beroofd.

De interim-gezant van de Verenigde Naties voor Kosovo, Vieira de Mello, zei bezorgd te zijn over de exodus van Serviërs. Op een bezoek in Orahovac bezwoer hij de Servische burgers te blijven: 'Zonder Serviërs is Kosovo geen Kosovo meer', aldus de VN-gezant.

Tyranny of Terrorists

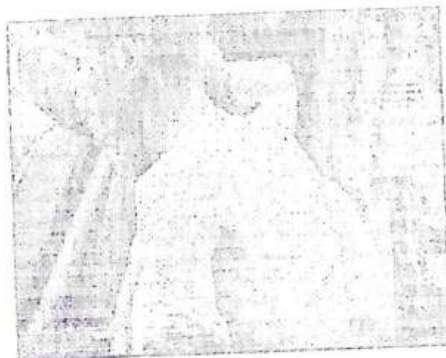
June 19, 1999

Prizren, 19 June, 1999 (Media Center, BETA, inet.co.yu) - An old man died today, after he was beaten by the members of the separatist Kosovo Liberating Army at the former headquarters of the Serbian Police, says the spokesman of the German contingent in KFOR, commander Hans Klassing.



Serbs leaving, Albanians terrorizing, KFOR watching

The members of the German troops in KFOR in Prizren didn't arrest the KLA terrorists for their treatment of the local Serbian residents, but they released them from the building with all documentation. Twenty civilians were captured and tortured in the building, and the body of the dead Gypsy was found, he was accused for the cooperation with Serbs.



Beaten Serb

That seventy years old man "was tied for the chair" in the former police station. The KLA got into the station after the departure of the Serbian police, says Klassing.

Around 25 terrorists captured around 15 persons, mainly Gypsies, accusing them for the "cooperation with Serbs", says an eyewitness.

The prisoners that were released by the German soldiers from KFOR, obviously, had been severely beaten.

After the departure of the Serbian forces from Prizren, the separatist KLA entered the town and occupied all empty buildings - municipality, court, police... and, from Tuesday they started to patrol in the town and control the Serb civilian's houses and took away found weapons.

They were arresting, torturing and interrogating the civilians on Tuesday, as well.

Feeling endangered by the armed members of the separatist KLA, the Serbian population fled from Prizren to Serbia.



Belgrado 12 juni

Bižnana Srbljanković

Gisterenavond ben ik de stad doorgere-
den in de auto, en ben ik weer gestopt
voor rood licht. Toen er mensen door
bommen werden getroffen toen ze voor
het rode licht stonden te wachten, wer-
den stoplichten een geheim wapen van
de Navo. *19-6-99*

Ook in Afrika vallen doden door oorlog in Kosovo

14-6-99
Ik heb me verbaasd over de 'geld speelt geen rol' mentaliteit in de Kosovocrisis. Zonder veel discussie worden miljardenplannen voor de wederopbouw gemaakt. Ook minister Herfkens belooft vele miljoenen tot ver in de volgende eeuw. Maar waar komt het geld vandaan?

Zelf werk ik in Sudan, dat al vele jaren verscheurd wordt door een oorlog. Kortgeleden is de Amerikaanse noodhulp voor de vluchtelingen hier van de ene op de andere dag stopgezet en omgeleid naar de Balkan. Zo vallen er ook in Afrika doden door de Kosovo-oorlog.

Het is niet makkelijk om menselijk leed tegen elkaar af te wegen. Toch verwacht ik dit van een minister voor Ontwikkelingssamenwerking. Er is nog steeds oorlog en armoede ook buiten Europa, al wordt dit niet dagelijks geregistreerd door de camera.

Laten we hopen dat niet daar de rekening voor het Kosovo-drama wordt gepresenteerd.

HOOGEVEEN *Carla Buddingh*

vo, werden negen nonnen en een monnik twee dagen lang getreiterd door UÇK-soldaten.

De abt van het klooster in Dečani liet de poorten sluiten en zei tegen de monniken: „We wachten nu op het ergste.” Vader Arsenija (39) huilde bij de ikonen. Hij was nog niet klaar om te sterven, zegt hij nu. „Ik was nog niet in staat om de mensen die mij zouden komen doden lief te hebben.” Patriarch Pavle probeert de priesters en monniken van Dečani gerust te stellen: „De toekomst ligt in Gods handen.”

21-6-99
Vorige week vluchtte aartsbischop Artimije weg uit Prizren, in het zuiden van Kosovo. Hij sloot zich aan bij de konvoien van Servische militairen en burgers die naar het noorden trokken. Kosovaren staken kerken en kloosters in de buurt van Prizren in brand, een priester werd ontvoerd. In het Drenica-gebied in midden-Kosovo

Het hele weekeinde dringen berichten over Albanese wraak op Servische burgers door tot het klooster van Peć. „Het is onvoorstelbaar gruwelijk,” zegt metropoliet Amfilohije. „Serviërs worden vermoord of ontvoerd, vrouwen verkracht. Het is de bloedwraak van Albanezen, het is hun traditie. Maar onze regering heeft de Albanese broeders ook veel ellende

aangedaan.”

Eind vorige week vroeg de orthodoxe kerk in een officiële verklaring om het aftreden van de Joegoslavische president Milošević. „Milošević” zegt Amfilohije, „is een gek. Hij brengt zijn suïcidale neigingen over op het Servische volk.”

Zondag aan het eind van de middag liggen de lijken van Rade Stošić, Stevo Stošić en Filip Kostić op een tafel bij het huis van Filip Kostić. De metropoliet van Montenegro is naar Belo Polje gekomen voor de begrafenis, zwaar bedreukt door Italiaanse militairen.

Een UÇK-militair bij een checkpoint op de weg naar Peć geeft direct toe dat het UÇK de drie mannen heeft gedood. Hij was er zelf niet bij, maar hij weet heel zeker dat het 'zelfverdediging' was. „Die Serviërs waren bewa- pend.”

Jun 19

Serb returnee killed by KLA in Kosovo

PODGORICA, Yugoslavia, June 18 (AFP) - A 16-year-old Serb was killed Thursday when Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) guerrillas attacked a convoy of Serb refugees returning to their homes in western Kosovo, Montenegrin police officials told AFP Friday.

Some 50 Serbs who had fled to Montenegro tried to return to their home town of Pec, they said.

Montenegrin police officials told the returnees they could not guarantee them protection in Kosovo, but the group decided to press on, crossing the border.

They were then ambushed near the village of Savine Vode, five kilometres (three miles) across the border, a police official said.

One Serb was killed when the KLA opened fire on the convoy, and a KLA fighter was killed and another injured when the Serbs returned fire, the police quoted witnesses as saying.

Nearly 40,000 Serbs have fled Kosovo for the rest of Serbia and Montenegro since last Thursday, after Yugoslav troops started withdrawing from Kosovo, according to an estimate by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

It is estimated that more than 5,000 found shelter in Montenegro, Serbia's junior partner in the Yugoslav federation.

KLA telling Serbs to leave

UROSEVAC, Yugoslavia, June 18 (UPI) -- In what looks to be the reverse of events just a few months ago, Kosovo Liberation Army soldiers are telling Serbs to leave the town of Urosevac in the southern Yugoslav province.

Many Serbs have already left, worried that there are not enough NATO forces to protect them. Others got stuck at the train station today and after a train went by without stopping, they appealed to NATO soldiers for help.

"The KLA said we had to leave by 5 p.m., that we did not belong here," a 38-year-old woman said wearily, her eyes welling up with

tears. She did not want to say her name. Her family was kicked out of Croatia in 1995 when the Dayton Agreement was signed, she's now is being forced from Kosovo, she said. "We called NATO, but they can't do anything," she said. "The KLA is checking our bags to see if we have guns."

When help arrived in the form of food and mattresses from an international aid agency, things got tense.

A line of NATO soldiers stood in a parking lot between the ethnic Albanians and the Serbs to keep the situation from escalating. Children who ran up to the soldiers or to the windows of the train station were quickly shooed away.

"Serbs told us to leave, so now is the time they have to leave," said Zurafet Alajj, 24, who stood on the Albanian side of the parking lot. She returned home Wednesday to find her house relatively intact, but her television had been stolen.

Another man was more forgiving of the people standing with all of their belongings 50 yards away.

"It's OK that these Serbs get help, but not all Serbs -- especially not the ones who forced us out," said 30-year-old Luzim Hatimi.

Serb families got blankets, water and food rations. NATO soldiers were trying to find train or buses to take the people to Serbia if they wanted to go. But gas is scarce in Kosovo and buses and trains are running sporadically.

NATO soldiers have set up operations on the second floor of a former Serb army headquarters near the train station. A second platoon of soldiers was sent to the area Thursday to make sure things remained quiet, said Major Martin Downie, a NATO spokesman for the U.S. forces.

KLA beats 70 year old to death in the name of "justice"

PRIZREN, Yugoslavia, June 19 (AFP) - The Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) deals out rough justice in Prizren: some 15 badly beaten civilians and a 70-year-old who died from his beating were found Friday in the former Serb police station occupied by the KLA.

The elderly man, a Serbian civilian, was found "chained to a chair," said local German Kosovo Force (KFOR) spokesman Major Hans Klasing. He had been dead for about two hours when KFOR troops entered the building.

About 25 KLA fighters including members of the military police were holding some 15 people in the building, "mostly men over 50 years old and mostly gypsies, but also including Albanians," KFOR said.

They had been arrested three days earlier and were accused of

having "betrayed the homeland" or "collaborated with the enemy," witnesses said.

The prisoners, freed by the German KFOR soldiers in charge of this southern Kosovo town, had obviously been severely beaten.

The KLA had set itself up illegally in the former police station after the Yugoslav forces left on Tuesday, and the German troops decided to move it out.

KFOR surrounded the building and disarmed everybody: about 50 Kalashnikovs, pistols, a rocket, handcuffs and rounds of ammunition were piled up in the yard.

After the Serb forces left the KLA fighters entered Prizren and filled all the empty spaces, including the town hall, the courts and the police station. On Tuesday they started to patrol the town, checking up on Serbian homes and seizing any arms they found.

They also arrested civilians and held them for questioning, saying they would release them after a few hours and that suspects would be handed over to KFOR.

The German KFOR troops, saying they had no mandate to disarm the fighters if they were not using their weapons or threatening anybody, negotiated with the KLA leaders for voluntary disarmament.

"An agreement was reached with the KLA leaders and from midnight (Friday) the fighters will no longer have the right to move in and around the town with weapons," a KFOR spokesman announced.

Feeling threatened by armed KLA members, almost the entire Serbian population of Prizren fled to Serbia or to mountain villages with 100 percent Serbian populations. But even there they still feel endangered and do not trust the KFOR to ensure their safety.

In Orahovac, 10 kilometres (six miles) west of Prizren, some 3,000 Serb civilians who had stayed in the Albanian-majority town were terrified on Friday by the presence of KLA fighters.

Huddled in the little Serb quarter, they would not even venture out to go to the market and insisted on being accompanied by a German soldier to go and look for some items they had forgotten in the city centre.

"There are KLA roadblocks everywhere. As soon as the Germans turn their backs they fire at us to frighten us and they kidnap us," said a trembling Dana Denic, 63. "They must all be made to turn in their arms."

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, June 19 (UPI) -- The withdrawal of Yugoslav military forces from Kosovo is largely complete, but incidents involving the Kosovo Liberation Army are reportedly on the rise.

A report today in the Belgrade newspaper Danas says KFOR troops are on a round-the-clock watch at the Serbian Devic Monastery, 25 miles (40 km) west of Pristina.

Within hours of the pullout of Serbian police earlier this week, KLA fighters broke into the monastery, ransacked it, maltreated the abbot and humiliated nine nuns. They held the monastery for three days, until Wednesday.

The report said a French officer, who asked not to be named, told reporters his men found "the youngest and best-looking nun in tears and collapsed in a chair."

To prevent a possible incursion into Decani Monastery near Pec, KFOR troops blocked the main access road with a tank and positioned another tank at the entrance to the monastery, where there are 20 monks and several elderly Serb civilians, Serbian state television reported.

A battle was fought until late Friday night between the KLA and local people in Orcusa and Krusevo, villages southwest of Prizren in the Gora region, near the Albanian border.

A statement from the newly created Gora Defense Front says one civilian was wounded and four KLA fighters were taken prisoner.

The statement, issued in Pristina this morning, called on KFOR to deploy troops in Gora immediately and accused the KLA of making forays into the area from Albania and Macedonia.

French sources in Kosovo report that the KLA captured Srbica, northwest of Pristina, on Friday, and that the French KFOR command at Kosovska Mitrovica has sent tanks into the town. The sources said the KLA came into the center of town firing automatic weapons into the air.

Also on Friday, reports said German KFOR troops raided a former police station in Prizren, where they found the KLA had killed an elderly Albanian and tortured more than 20 other Albanians and gypsies after accusing them of being Serbian police informers.

20-6-99

"Reporters sans frontières" about false information of NATO

June 20, 1999

We proclaim the excerpts from the announcement of the international media organization "Reporters sans frontières" in which is said that NATO has given to the world public false, unchecked and bad-intentioned information on its own aggression on Yugoslavia



The reporting of rumors and exorbitant figures that are impossible to check by certain western political and military officials, and their use of aggressive vocabulary, have strengthened doubts about their goodwill. "NATO should drop this information strategy", Pascal Boniface, director of the Paris-based Institute of International and Strategic Relations, said on 29 March.

Many journalists who have attended the NATO press conferences in Brussels are also very skeptical about the truth and accuracy of the informations supplied by officials of the organization. "What London and Brussels offer to journalists as facts are usually only rumors"; Kevin McEderry of the French news agency AFP wrote on 22 April. On the same day the French daily Libération summed up the situation as follows: "Since the start of the air strikes, at press conference after press conference, NATO officials have put out false reports and rumors."

What is the truth of the matter? Has NATO made blunders attributable to confusion and haste, or have there been deliberate attempts at disinformation? In a propaganda leaflet issued in Yugoslavia, showing a B52 bomber dropping bombs from a high altitude and aimed at encouraging Serbian soldiers to desert, NATO refers to: "Thousands of bombs... and the determination, force and support of the whole world to continue to drop them on your units." To make sure of this "support", which in democratic societies depends on public opinion, might NATO officials have taken a few liberties with the truth? Using some examples of these "media blunders", Reporters Sans Frontières will try to get to the root of the matter.

The bombing of the Chinese embassy in Belgrade on 8 May left western leaders seriously embarrassed. The building was hit by three missiles fired by NATO planes, leaving four people dead, including three Chinese journalists, and several injured. On 10 May US president Bill Clinton apologized to the Chinese government, describing the attack as a "tragic accident". Meanwhile, the NATO spokesman tried to explain to reporters that "the system, not an

building. To put it more clearly, they were admitting that the CIA had not bothered to record that the Chinese embassy had moved to a different building several years earlier, even though the new address is listed in the Belgrade telephone directory.

China rejected this explanation. An official said: "The western media themselves wondered how the intelligence service of the world's leading power had failed to recognize a huge diplomatic building, with a courtyard, a nameplate on the door and a flag." On 11 May, NATO secretary-general Javier Solana promised a "formal investigation", the results of which would be announced as soon as possible. So far they have not been published.

The bombing of a convoy of journalists on 30 May provided a further challenge to NATO's communication skills. Two vehicles carrying journalists were targeted by NATO bombers on the road from Prizren to Brezovica, in Kosovo. The correspondent of the British daily *The Times*, Eve-Ann Prentice, a journalist with Portuguese national television, Elsa Marujo, and a French author, Daniel Schiefer, were injured in the attack, and one of their drivers was killed. Eve-Ann Prentice told her newspaper how the raid had taken place. (NATO officials said on 31 May that despite checks they had "no information" about it). NATO spokesman Jamie Shea commented: "Of course, we cannot guarantee the safety of journalists or individual vehicles in Kosovo."

The attack on a convoy of Albanian refugees on 14 April, the biggest military blunder so far, highlighted the limits of NATO's attempts at justification. NATO planes bombed two groups of refugees in the Djakovica region of south-western Kosovo, killing 75 people, according to Serbian sources. At first the German defense minister, Rudolf Sharping, accused Serbian planes of the bombing. The next day, in a press release issued by its Brussels headquarters, NATO acknowledged that it had bombed a civilian vehicle by mistake:

"Following a preliminary investigation, NATO confirms that apparently one of its planes dropped a bomb on a civilian vehicle travelling with a convoy yesterday." NATO said the attack was made because military vehicles were presumed to be in the area. "Serbian police or army vehicles might have been in or near the convoy", the press release added.

On the same day the AFP correspondent in Kosovo, Aleksandar Mitic, the correspondent of the daily *Los Angeles Times*, Paul Watson, and two Greek television crews were able to go to the scene of the bombing. They found scenes of disaster, with "bodies charred or blown to pieces, tractors reduced to twisted wreckage and houses in ruins." According to Mitic's report, two convoys, one to the north and one to the south of the town of Djakovica, were the target of the bombings. He quoted one refugee as saying the groups had been bombed three or four times, "the planes circling overhead as if they were following us".

sure that we targeted military vehicles." The media were already talking about "NATO's biggest blunder" and underlining the "confusion" in the NATO press release. Public opinion, shocked by film of the bombings, was so outraged that the London government was quick to stress that the bombs used were not British. It was only on 19 April that NATO changed its version of events, admitting that it had hit two convoys with the help of about a dozen planes that dropped a total of nine bombs. It made public a recording of one of the pilots responsible for bombing the first convoy, who said the vehicles in question were "of a military type". As for the second convoy, NATO claimed it had been targeted because its "pace and formation were of a typically military nature". On the same day the British Daily Express revealed that one of the American pilots responsible for the bombings had been warned by a British pilot that the convoy included civilians. Two days later, NATO officials admitted that the recording made public on 19 April had no connection with the bombing of the convoys. Belgrade rubbed salt in the wound by broadcasting a supposed recording of a conversation between an American pilot and an AWACS radar plane, encouraging the pilot to continue with the bombing despite his suspicions that there were civilians in the convoy. NATO immediately condemned the tape as a fake.

The information supplied by NATO seems not to have been carefully checked. "Villages attacked by artillery", "towns razed to the ground", "human shields" and "mass graves" were all reported without any evidence of their existence being given. Naturally, the Serbian authorities were delighted to show film proving that the NATO allegations were wrong, scoring valuable points in the news war. When NATO was caught red-handed blundering - or lying - it was quick to recall the lack of independence in the Serbian media.

Others features of western communication are approximate figures, debatable historic references and the use of vocabulary that has the aim of making the adversary appear monstrous.

Kosovan leaders in exile were invited to London to explain the NATO air strikes and call for them to continue. More discreetly, government sources accused British journalists of giving too much weight to "Serbian propaganda" and of "doubting too systematically the validity of the NATO armed operation". The comment was directly aimed at the BBC's correspondent in Belgrade, John Simpson. The daily The Times said on 16 April that he had been accused by British government officials of "passing on Serbian propaganda indiscriminately in his coverage of the NATO bombings." He was also accused of "over-simplification" and even latent pro-Serbism, for claiming that the conflict had succeeded in rallying the Serbian people behind their president. Unofficial government sources have hinted that an official complaint could be filed against the BBC. The corporation's deputy director, Richard Ayre, defended the journalist, saying: "I pay tribute to the courage of John Simpson and the objectivity of his reporting. (...) It is essential that the public should be able to hear a true account of the atmosphere in Belgrade and not

Reporters Sans Frontières has collected many statements from journalists who are indignant about NATO's communication strategy. Alexandra Schwartzbrod, of the French daily Libération, believes that communication about the bombing of the two convoys was "scandalous", and has a general recollection of "confused", if not deliberately false, information being put out by NATO. "They gave the impression that they didn't really know what they were talking about", she said. Moreover, since the end of April, her newspaper has not seen any point in keeping a permanent correspondent at NATO headquarters in Brussels.

On 27 April NATO officials themselves admitted - although not in so many words - that their communication strategy had failed. They said communication policy should be "thoroughly reviewed (...)" particularly in the light of the disaster of the bombing of convoys of refugees". London then sent some of its leading specialists in press relations to NATO headquarters, including Tony Blair's chief adviser, Alastair Campbell, who was one of the main architects of New Labour's election victory in the May 1997 elections.

In an internal report to the organization, revealed in the Spanish daily El Mundo on 31 May, NATO recognized that "NATO headquarters does not have the mechanisms, resources or experience necessary to conduct an information campaign in wartime". The report said that public opinion should be prepared for three possible scenarios: "a long period of air raids; more intensive raids, not solely against military targets; and a land invasion", and recommended the use of "all possible channels" to improve communication, including non-government organizations and the media. It is to be feared that the strengthening of NATO's communication system is aimed at increasing manipulation of the media rather than improving the quality of information.

In the third month of their military campaign, NATO officials have made practically no mention of "collateral damage" - only of "legitimate targets" such as television buildings and relay stations, post offices, power stations and bridges - without provoking any major movements of protest or indignation. But at what price? While remaining the defender of a "just cause" in the eyes of western public opinion, NATO has not shown goodwill in its relations with the media and has distorted the truth on several occasions. The officialisation of the rumor about the killing of Albanian intellectuals and more or less deliberate attempts to confuse the media about the bombing of civilians have severely damaged the organization's credibility. The British government's pressure on the BBC's Belgrade correspondent is a violation of the freedom to inform. The bandying about of historical references and use of aggressive expressions are unworthy of officials of democratic countries.

LIBERATION OF KOSOVO, The Sunday Times, June 20 1999

Returning Serbs turn anger on Milosevic

As Stanko Petkovic left Kosovo, one image remained imprinted on his mind: the sight of the house he had spent 10 years building with his own hands vanishing in flames. Petkovic is a Serb, one of the tens of thousands who have ignored their own government's pleas to remain in their homeland. He did not believe Nato troops would protect him from his former neighbours, the Albanians.

Petkovic and his family joined the latest wave of Balkan refugees - Serbs fleeing from the retribution they believe will come if they remain in Kosovo. Until a week ago the Serbs gloried in their rule of the province. But as the Serbian war machine wound down, entire communities, including Petkovic's at Suva Reka in central Kosovo, packed their belongings and sucked their cars, tractors and carts between the retreating tanks and trucks.

By the end of the week the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees estimated that up to 55,000 Serbs were on the move.

Petkovic, 49, claimed that his two-storey, six-bedroom house on the edge of his town had been razed by the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA). His livestock were taken, he said, and 33 years' work as a farmer was destroyed.

He ordered Zlatana, his wife, and their children Jovan, 21, Spasa, 14, and Igor, 10, to pack what they could and leave. Another son, Zoran, was serving in the army and for weeks there had been no word of his whereabouts.

"All my life I have worked for my family and to build a home," he said, the grime of three days' travelling caked on his face. "Now I have to abandon it all."

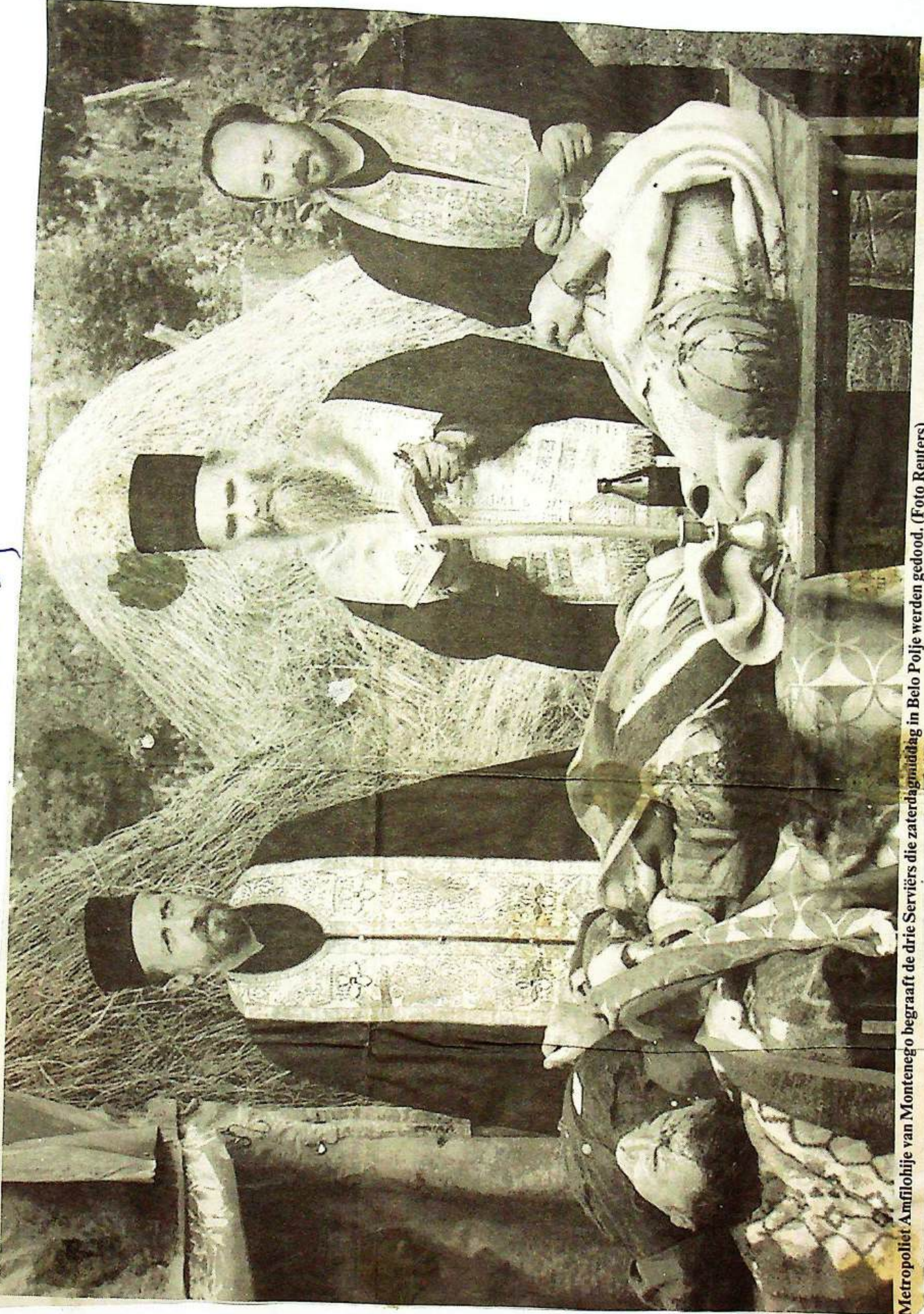
Once a supporter of President Slobodan Milosevic, he has now lost all faith in politics: "I have anger and hate in my heart for politicians - for those in Nato and for the man who led my country into this mess."

His views were typical among the Serbs fleeing Kosovo: having seen the army retreating, many of Milosevic's formerly loyal supporters place the blame on Belgrade.

WHEN the Yugoslav president proclaimed victory over Nato, he cannot have imagined that events would turn so swiftly against him. In Serbia, where political truth is seldom disseminated until years later, the speed has been lightning: the army has returned from Kosovo not in triumph but in disarray; military casualties are 10

2.02.

21-6-94



Metropoliet Amfilohije van Montenegro begraaft de drie Serviërs die zaterdagmiddag in Belo Polje werden gedood. (Foto Reuters)

21-6-99

Eerst Milosevic weg, dan pas hulp

(Van onze redactie buitenland)
AMSTERDAM - Servië hoeft op geen enkele steun te rekenen bij de wederopbouw, zolang president Slobodan Milosevic aan de macht blijft. Dit heeft de groep van zeven vooraanstaande industrielanden en Rusland (G 8) op een topconferentie in Keulen dit weekeinde duidelijk gemaakt.

De staatshoofden en regeringsleiders riepen zowel de Serviërs als de Albanezen in Kosovo op het staakt-het-vuren en de VN-resolutie over de vredesregeling te respecteren. Alle vluchtelingen moeten kunnen terugkeren en alle etnische groepen moeten veilig in Kosovo kunnen leven, aldus de slotverklaring.

Op initiatief van president Clinton van de VS organiseert Duitsland een speciale topconferentie over een stabiliteitspact voor zuidoost-Europa. Die conferentie moet in een Balkanland worden gehouden. "Wij willen duidelijk maken dat ter plaatse wordt beslist," benadrukte bondskanselier Schröder.

Premier Blair van Groot-Brittannië vindt dat de bevolking van Joegoslavië deels verantwoordelijk is voor de in Kosovo gepleegde oorlogsmisdaden. Hij sprak het idee tegen dat Servische burgers niet mogen worden gestraft voor wat hun leiders hebben gedaan: "Hoe meer informatie vrijkomt over de misdaden in Kosovo, hoe meer de Servische bevolking haar verantwoordelijkheid moet nemen."

21-6-09



De Montenegrijse aartsbisschop Amfilohije Radovic leidt de begrafenis van drie Serviërs die zaterdag in het zuiden van Kosovo in de stad Pec zijn vermoord.

21-6-09

FOTO AP

G8 verdeeld over hulp Belgrado

21-6-99

Britten bepleiten keiharde lijn, Italië en Canada zijn milder

KEULEN - Als het aan de Britten ligt krijgt Joegoslavië geen hulp bij het herstel van zijn elektriciteitscentrales, zolang president Slobodan Milosevic aan de macht is.

Dat zeiden Britse functionarissen na afloop van de bijeenkomst van de G8 (de zeven belangrijkste industrielanden plus Rusland), in Keulen. Maar volgens andere staatslieden valt energievoorziening onder noodhulp, vanwege de koude winters in de Balkan. De Britten echter zijn het daarmee oneens.

De Joegoslaven kregen vanuit Keulen keiharde boodschappen te verwerken, die hun hoop op een spoedig herstel van hun bruggen, fabrieken, energiecentrales en ziekenhuizen diep de bodem insloegen. De slotdocumenten bevatten, vanwege de Russen, weinig onvertogen woorden over Joegoslavië, maar wat de staatslieden na afloop zeiden loog er niet om, en hun ambtenaren gingen nog verder.

De Duitse bondskanselier Gerhard Schröder zei dat Joegoslavië op geen cent hulp hoeft te rekenen bij het herstel van zijn in elf weken van Navo-bombardementen zwaar verwoeste infrastructuur. „Voor hulp bij herbouw, het herstel van economische structuren en reïntegratie in Europa is democratie nodig en die is onmogelijk met Milosevic”, zei Schröder.

De Britse premier Tony Blair ging verder. In een gesprek met de BBC weigerde hij een scherp onderscheid te maken tussen het Servische volk (als slachtoffer) en Milosevic (als dader). Eerst moeten de Serviërs, volgens Blair, maar eens meehelpen Milosevic voor het gerecht te slepen.

Later zei Blair dat het Servische volk in de toekomst een partner kan worden als het de democratie omarmt. Maar hij voegde eraan toe: „Duizenden mensen zijn afgeslacht met een onvoorstelbare bruutheid en een onvergeeflijke

barbarij in Kosovo. We kunnen er niet aan beginnen, als een groep landen, om hulp te geven aan een regime dat die bruutheden en die barbarij heeft begaan, en het Servische volk moet dat begrijpen”.

Terwijl Blair en Schröder de harde lijn verdedigen, lijken in de G8 Canada en Italië de voorvechters voor een grote humanitaire actie, ook voor Joegoslavië. De Canadese premier Jean Chrétien noemde ook de Serviërs slachtoffers. Volgens hem zou ook Blair een humanitaire operatie steunen, als er ernstige noodtoestanden ontstaan in Joegoslavië. Ook Chrétien wil geen steun geven aan grote herbouwprojecten, maar over de energiecentrales zei hij: „Elektriciteit is waarschijnlijk essentieel voor de mensen om de winter te overleven”. De Franse president Chirac neigt tot eenzelfde standpunt. Maar Britse functionarissen bleken er anders over te denken. Als delen van Joegoslavië mee zouden profiteren van de herbouw van energiecentrales in Kosovo kunnen de Britten daarmee leven, maar dat is het maximum.

Volgens het slotdocument kan ook Joegoslavië profiteren van het economische hulpprogramma voor de Balkan, het 'Stabiliteitspact voor de Balkan'. Maar dan moet Joegoslavië wel alle beginselen van het pact onderschrijven.

Schröder zei dat de G8 binnen enkele maanden een conferentie zal houden over het stabiliteitspact, in een buurland van Kosovo. Volgens Blair is de eerste zorg om de beloften na te komen aan buurlanden, vanwege hun hulp in de oorlog. Macedonië en Albanië vingen honderdduizenden vluchtelingen op, terwijl Roemenië en Bulgarije hun luchtruim openen voor de Navo. Dat laatste land zeurde bovendien niet over afzwaaiers van de Navo, die op zijn grondgebied terecht kwamen. Over Kosovo komt er in juli een donorconferentie.

MEER OVER G8 OP PAGINA 5 EN 6

Geen hulp Servië onder Milošević

Door onze redacteur

ROBERT VAN DER ROER

KEULEN, 21 JUNI. De zeven rijkste industrielanden zijn het er over eens dat Servië geen geld krijgt voor economische wederopbouw zolang de Joegoslavische president Milošević aan de macht blijft. Dit bleek gisteren tijdens de G8-top in Keulen.

Rusland wilde zich niet vastleggen op dit standpunt, waardoor de Westerse landen een harde passage uit een slotverklaring over het uitblijven van economische steun aan Servië schrapten. Maar Westerse leiders onderstreepten na afloop unaniem dat Servië geen geld krijgt voor wederopbouw zolang Milošević, aangeklaagd als oorlogsmisdadiger door het VN-tribunaal in Den Haag, in functie blijft. „Wederopbouw hulp, herstel van de economische structuren en verankering in Europa maken democratisering noodzakelijk en dat kan niet met Milošević”, zei bondskanselier Schröder. De Franse president Chirac wees erop dat Montenegro, dat samen met Servië Joegoslavië vormt, wel in aanmerking komt voor hulp gelden.

Volgens Schröder is de G8 wel bereid om op korte termijn humanitaire hulp te verlenen aan Joegoslavië, na 11 weken van NAVO-bombardementen. Sommige G8-leiders, zoals Chirac, erkennen dat er een „grijs gebied” gebied bestaat tussen humanitaire hulp en economische wederopbouw. „Is het herstel van het licht voor de winter humanitair of is dat wederopbouw?”, zei Sandy Berger, de nationale veiligheidsadviseur van

president Clinton.

Duitsland organiseert een top over het stabiliteitspact voor Zuid-Oost-Europa. De G8 steunt dit pact, dat de Balkan politiek en economisch moet stabiliseren, met Westerse steun. „Joegoslavië moet een volledige naleving aan alle uitgangspunten en doelen van het pact demonstreren”, aldus de G8 in een slotverklaring.

De G8-landen bevestigen hun deelname aan internationale donorconferentie voor humanitaire hulp en andere noden voor Kosovo in juli, gevolgd door een grootschaliger hulpconferentie in de herfst. Schattingen over de bedragen die nodig zijn voor de wederopbouw van Joegoslavië variëren tussen de vier en vierhonderd miljard dollar. De EU heeft wil de komende drie jaar anderhalf miljard dollar voor de wederopbouw van Kosovo uittrekken.

De G8 zegt voorts „volledig mee te werken” met het oorlogtribunaal in Den Haag, een kwestie waarin Rusland zich in het verleden weigerachtig heeft opgesteld. De Britse premier Blair betoogde dat de Servische burgers een zekere verantwoordelijkheid dragen voor de oorlogsmisdaden die in hun naam in Kosovo zijn gepleegd. Gevraagd of bij een uitblijven van wederopbouw hulp voor Servië Servische burgers niet worden gestraft voor de daden van hun leiders, zei Blair: „Hoe meer we zien wat er gebeurd is in Kosovo, hoe meer zien we dat de Servische burgers een verantwoordelijkheid hebben om Milošević te laten boeten. Zij kunnen niet weglopen voor deze misdaden.”

21-6-99 I

'We moeten op de knieën, net als de Duitsers'

De Serviërs in Kosovo zijn zo bang, voor de wraak van de Kosovaren en het UÇK, dat ze zich graag door de vredesmacht KFOR laten beschermen. De Servische orthodoxe kerk preekt – vergeefs – verzoening.

Door onze redacteur
PETRA DE KONING

BELO POLJE, 21 JUNI. Zes Servische mannen lopen gebukt en met kalasjnikovs in de aanslag door Belo Polje, een dorp in het westen van Kosovo. De andere mannen van het dorp houden zich met hun wapens schuil achter een muurtje en een paar struiken. Op straat ligt het lichaam van Rade Stošić (47). Bloed stroomt uit zijn voorhoofd. Een paar meter verder, voor het huis van Filip Kostić, ligt het lijk van Stevo Stošić (60). Ook hij werd in zijn voorhoofd geraakt. Het is zaterdagmiddag, zes uur. Een half uur eerder, zeggen de Serviërs, reden tien soldaten van het UÇK hun dorp binnen, in drie auto's. Op een bankje bij het begin van Belo Polje zaten vijf Servische mannen en een vrouw. Twee UÇK-soldaten namen Rade en Stevo Stošić mee het dorp in en schoten hen van dichtbij dood.

Dan ontdekken de Serviërs nog een lijk. Filip Kostić (54) ligt in een slaapkamer op de eerste verdieping van zijn huis, ook met een kogelgat in zijn voorhoofd. En er is een gewonde, Mirko Stošić (40). Een kogel raakte zijn hoofd maar drong niet naar binnen. De mannen roepen door elkaar heen: „Ze komen terug, ze willen ons allemaal afmaken. Ze zouden om zes uur terugkomen. De Italianen moeten komen. Ga ze halen.”

De Italiaanse militairen van KFOR hebben hun hoofdkwartier in Peć, anderhalve kilometer van Belo Polje. Een commandant zegt dat hij al heeft gehoord over 'het incident', een patrouille is onderweg. Ruim een uur later rijden Italiaanse pantservoertuigen het dorp in. Opeens heeft niemand van de Serviërs nog een kalasjnikov. „Wij zijn onschuldige burgers,” zegt Momčilo Pavlović. „Ons leger is er niet meer om ons te beschermen tegen terroristen.” Svetislav Mirić, naast hem: „En terugschieten kunnen we niet. Bijna

al onze wapens zijn ook naar Servië teruggestuurd.”

Kort na het begin van de NAVO-aanvallen werden tienduizenden Albanezen uit Peć en de dorpen er omheen verdreven. Hun winkels en restaurants werden geplunderd, hun huizen kapotgeschoten of in brand gestoken. Peć is een zwaar verwoeste en bijna lege stad. Nu de Joegoslavische en Servische troepen weg zijn worden ook Servische huizen en winkels geplunderd, en trekken de Servi-

sche burgers weg. Twaalfduizend gingen er naar Montenegro en Servië, een paar honderd houden zich schuil in het klooster van de Servische orthodoxe kerk net buiten Peć. In dat klooster hebben zich nu de belangrijkste leiders van de orthodoxe kerk gevestigd: patriarch Pavle uit Belgrado, hoofd van de kerk, en de metropoliet Amfilohije uit Montenegro. Omdat de Servische broeders in Kosovo willen steunen, en omdat ze niet willen dat die uit Kosovo wegtrekken. De kerkleiders proberen, hoe hopeloos dat nu ook is, de Albanezen en Serviërs met elkaar te verzoenen. En in een uiterste poging om de wraak van de Kosovaren te stoppen, brengen ze een boodschap die geen Serviër in Kosovo horen wil: ze praten over Servische misdaden tegen de Albanezen. „Op onze knieën moeten we”, zegt de metropoliet van Montenegro, „net als de Duitsers na de Tweede Wereldoorlog.”

Op zaterdagmiddag bezoekt patriarch Pavle het klooster van Dečani, zo'n 20 kilometer ten zuiden van Peć. Een kleine magere man, 84 jaar oud. Hij zegt: „De wonden zijn diep. Alleen met Gods hulp kunnen we weer samenleven.” Volgens de patriarch moeten de Serviërs en de Albanezen hun zonden tot zich laten doordringen, spijt betuigen en om vergeving vragen. Pavle weet, zegt hij, dat de Serviërs niet willen beseffen wat ze de Albanezen hebben aangedaan. „Het is voor een mens makkelijker te zien welke fouten anderen maken.”

Vorige week vluchtte aartsbischop Artimije weg uit Prizren, in het zuiden van Kosovo. Hij sloot zich aan bij de konvooien van Servische militairen en burgers die naar het noorden trokken. Kosovaren staken kerken en kloosters in de buurt van Prizren in brand, een priester werd ontvoerd. In het Drenica-gebied in midden-Koso-

vo werden negen nonnen en een monnik twee dagen lang getreiterd door UÇK-soldaten.

De abt van het klooster in Dečani liet de poorten sluiten en zei tegen de monniken: „We wachten nu op het ergste.” Vader Arsenija (39) hilde bij de ikonen. Hij was nog niet klaar om te sterven, zegt hij nu. „Ik was nog niet in staat om de mensen die mij zouden komen doden lief te hebben.” Patriarch Pavle probeert de priesters en monniken van Dečani gerust te stellen: „De toekomst ligt in Gods handen.”

Het hele weekeinde dringen berichten over Albanese wraak op Servische burgers door tot het klooster van Peć. „Het is onvoorstelbaar gruwelijk,” zegt metropoliet Amfilohije. „Serviërs worden vermoord of ontvoerd, vrouwen verkracht. Het is de bloedwraak van Albanezen, het is hun traditie. Maar onze regering heeft de Albanese broeders ook veel ellende aangedaan.”

Eind vorige week vroeg de orthodoxe kerk in een officiële verklaring om het aftreden van de Joegoslavische president Milošević. „Milošević” zegt Amfilohije, „is een gek. Hij brengt zijn suïcidale neigingen over op het Servische volk.”

Zondag aan het eind van de middag liggen de lijken van Rade Stošić, Stevo Stošić en Filip Kostić op een tafel bij het huis van Filip Kostić. De metropoliet van Montenegro is naar Belo Polje gekomen voor de begrafenis, zwaar bewaakt door Italiaanse militairen.

Een UÇK-militair bij een checkpoint op de weg naar Peć geeft direct toe dat het UÇK de drie mannen heeft gedood. Hij was er zelf niet bij, maar hij weet heel zeker dat het 'zelfverdediging' was. „Die Serviërs waren bewa- pend.”

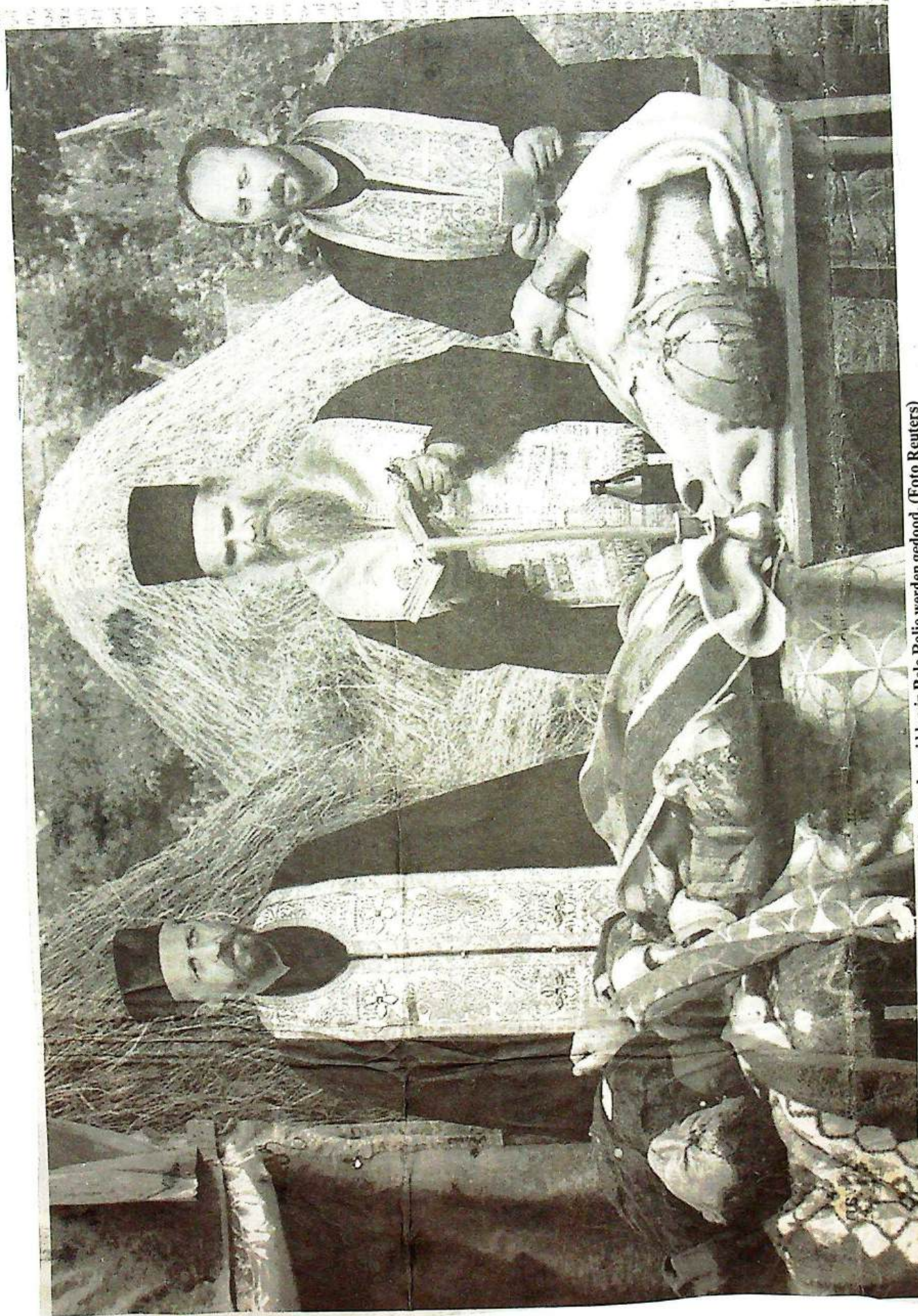
Albanezen die in de buurt van het dorp wonen, zeggen dat de Ser-

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vische mannen van Belo Polje zich onmiddellijk na het begin van de NAVO-aanvallen hadden aangesloten bij de Servische paramilitairen. Ze deden mee aan de plunderingen, ze staken huizen in brand. Nurije Jevkaj woont bij de smalle weg die naar het dorp leidt. Ze zag de Serviërs van Belo Polje voorbij komen in hun uniform. „En toen de Albanese vluchtelingen over deze weg kwamen, stonden hun vrouwen te joelen en te schelden.” Nurije Jevkaj zag ook, zegt ze, hoe ze op karren en in vrachtauto's gestolen spullen hun dorp inbrachten. „Een dag voordat KFOR hier kwam, staken ze nog huizen van Albanese in brand. Ze verdienen niet beter dan te worden afgemaakt.”

De orthodoxe kerkleiders in Peë zullen, zeggen ze, doorgaan hun boodschap van verzoening te verkondigen in Kosovo. Metropoliet Amfilohije: „Wij blijven hier, tot het allerlaatst.”

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Metropoliet Amfilohije van Montenegro begraaft de drie Serviërs die zaterdagmiddag in Belo Polje werden gedood. (Foto Reuters)

21-6-99

Terrorists kill three, kidnap fourteen civilians

June 21, 1999

Pec, June 21 (Tanjug) - A group of the armed terrorists killed three Serbian civilians in the village of Belo Polje near Pec on Sunday evening.

The killed were Stevan (60), Radomir (51) and Filip (46) of family Stosic while Mirko Stosic was heavily injured.



Requiem to Serbian victims

Fearing from the further actions of the armed Albanians KFOR has moved all the Serbs from Belo Polje to Cerovik while the tension in the Pec nearby was intensified by the fact that fourteen Serbian civilians were kidnapped in the last 48 hours.

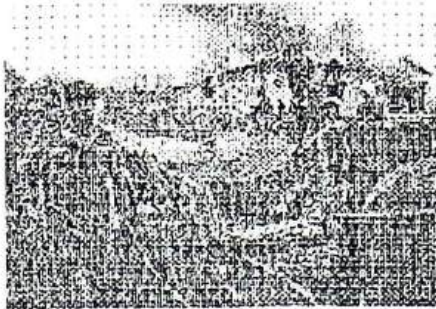
However, it is feared that the toll is not definite since the phone lines are down in the Pec area.

21-6-99

KFOR watches Albanians strip village clean

June 21, 1999

Belgrade, June 21 (BETA) - "British and French troops stood and watched as looters pillaged and burned a Serb village yesterday, making a mockery of NATO's claim that is proving security for both Serbs and Albanians", The Independent daily reported on Monday.



Albanian terrorists robbing and burning Serbian houses

"Serbs in the village of Grece, 10 miles north of the Kosovo capital Pristina, had apparently been warned on Saturday night by returning Albanians that they should leave immediately. Early yesterday morning dozens of tractors and trailers arrived in the tiny village and the Albanians set about taking anything they could find", The Independent's correspondent Andrew Buncombe reported.



"As soon as they had emptied each house of everything they wanted, they set it alight", The Independent said.

"A group of French troops in armored vehicles sat and watched. When asked why they were doing nothing, the soldiers said it was not their problem: this was a

British-controlled sector", the correspondent reported.

"the British were no better. At the end of the track a few hundred yards from the village, soldiers - again in armored vehicles - sat smoking cigarettes. Their excuse was equally poor - 'We can do nothing - this is the French controlled zone', said one. When it was pointed out that this was not true the soldiers claimed that with their 'available resources' they could do little". The Independent concluded.

Lucht in Kosovo ruikt naar wraak

MONE SLINGERLAND

NEDAKOVAC - Opnieuw ruikt de lucht in Kosovo naar wraak. Dit keer zijn het Servische huizen die branden, veelal als gevolg van Albanese vergeldingsacties.

Op een erf in het gehucht Nedakovac, in Noord-Kosovo, ligt een geëlektroceuteerd paard. Zijn bek raakte verstrikt in de elektriciteitsdraden toen het de brandende schuur ontvluchtte.

Vijf opgeschoten Albanese jongens hijsen een oven op een kruiwagen. "De Serviërs hebben mijn huis en spullen in brand gestoken, nu pak ik wat terug," zegt Rexhep Sylla. Hij neemt mij mee naar een nabijgelegen huis, dat nog geen vlam heeft gevat, maar wel wordt leeggehaald.

"Kijk, dit is de eigenaar," zegt Rexhep, en hij haalt een foto van de Servier Dragan Iva-misevic uit het omvergeworpen huisraad. "Hij was een politie-man, net als alle andere Ser-



Servisch-orthodoxe geestelijken bij een rouwdienst in Kosovo. FOTO AP

viërs. Jaren hebben ze ons ge-terroriseerd. Maar nu krijgen ze daarvoor niet langer de kans."

De Serviërs rondom Nedakovac verlieten het gehucht toen de Servische troepen zich eind vorige week terugtrokken uit het gebied tussen Pristina en

nees uit waarom hij hiertoe overging. "Hier woonde een politiemann die mijn broer heeft vermoord. Nu kan ik hem dit eindelijk betaald zetten."

Er verschijnen Franse pantserwagens in het gehucht. Zij begeleiden een kolonne vluchtende Serviërs en zigeuners op tractoren en tot de nok toe volgepakte auto's. De Albanese vrouwen hen uit en steken als teken van overwinning twee vingers in de lucht.

Het nabijgelegen Velika Reka was een gespleten dorp. De ene helft werd bewoond door Albanese, de andere door Servische vluchtelingen uit Bosnië en de Kroatische Krajina-streek.

Na het uitbreken van de oorlog op 24 maart werden alle huizen in het Albanese deel verwoest. "Door onze Servische dorpsgenoten," weet de 52-jarige Rifat Istrefi, die zich de laatste drie maanden met vrouwen en kinderen in de bergen heeft schuilgehouden.

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Winkels plunderen als **genoeardoening**

DAVID - JAN GODFROID

PEC - Twee Italiaanse Kforvoertuigen rijden langs Baneks Discount in Pec. Het kan de soldaten niet ontgaan dat de Servische supermarkt op dat moment wordt geplunderd door de Albanese bevolking van de stad, maar de Italianen, die even vaart hebben geminderd, rijden snel door.

Dit is het weekend van de genoegdoening voor de Albanen in Pec, in West-Kosovo, die niet zijn gevlucht of verdreven. Nu de Servische militairen weg zijn, zijn de overvolle Servische winkels een prooi voor de bevolking van de stad die in geen maanden fatsoenlijk te eten heeft gehad.

De winkels van Albanese eigenaars zijn zonder uitzondering leeggeroofd en verwoest door Servische militairen, paramilitairen, politie-eenheden en gewone bandieten.

Bij Baneks Discount wordt de ruit in de deur ingegooid. De durfals gaan als eersten naar bin-

nen; voorzichtig, want het gat is klein. Even later klautert een vrouw triomfantelijk naar buiten met een pak Pampers onder haar arm en een fles whiskey in haar hand.

Hoewel de meeste inwoners van Pec nog niet zijn teruggekeerd uit Albanië of Montenegro, dat het dichtstbij ligt, groeit de menigte voor de deur snel aan tot een man of dertig. Een wagon, getrokken door een paard, ligt al gauw vol met zakken levensmiddelen en dozen drank.

Hongerige wolven

Het is een duwen en dringen voor de deur van de supermarkt. Als de deurruit helemaal aan diggelen gaat, is er geen houden meer aan. De menigte stormt als een troep hongerige wolven de winkel binnen. Balen chips, flessen rakija, plakken chocolade en pakken vruchtensap zijn binnen een mum van tijd uit de schappen verdwenen.

Ook het magazijn wordt geplunderd. In een minuut of twintig is het meeste geroofd. Alleen

een hoop bonen ligt nog verspreid over de winkelvloer.

Drie keer is de Italiaanse Kforpatrouille langs de winkel gekomen. Niet één militair grijpt in.

Een eindje van Baneks Discount vandaan duikt een klein meisje in de openliggende kelder van Butik Maneken. Na een paar minuten komt ze tevoorschijn met een paar glimmende rode lakschoenen met plateauzolen en hoge hakken. "Nee," schudt haar moeder, omgeven door vier andere kinderen en een oma. Het meisje gooit de schoenen met een sierlijke boog de straat op.

In de westers aandoende supermarkt Vetesherbim heeft het UÇK een soort proletarisch winkelen georganiseerd. Klanten mogen hun tassen en zakken volproppen zonder te betalen.

Toch mort de massa voor de ingeslagen deur. De UÇK-ers hebben zo hun voorkeursbeleid. De eerste 'klanten' zijn jonge, goed uitzieende meisjes; de meeste wachtenden zijn oud.

Als de derde groep meisjes naar binnen mag, ontstaat er tu-

mult. De mensen schreeuwen dat het een schande is dat de UÇK-vriendinnenjes de beste keus hebben. Pas nadat de guerrillastrijders naar buiten zijn gestormd, laat de menigte zich terugdringen.

In puin

Van Pec ligt een groot deel in puin. In wat ooit een wirwar van straten en winkeltjes was, staat bijna geen steen meer op de andere. Iets verwijderd van de laagde supermarkten heerst de stilte van het graf, slechts onderbroken door het geklater van water uit gebroken leidingen.

Twee oude mannen met een kruiwagen kruipten verwoeste Albanese winkeltjes binnen, op zoek naar iets van hun gading. Hun buit tot nu toe: een tuinslang, wat metaal en vier plastic waterflessen.

Dan leveren de plunderingen van de Servische winkels meer op. Ook van Pizzeria Stefaneli gaat de deur aan diggelen. Vier vrouwen wurmen zich naar binnen, een dochtertje van een jaar

of acht op de stoep achterlatend. Vreemd genoeg komen er eerst een aantal verse bloemstukken en grote kamerplanten naar buiten. Daarna volgen het glaswerk, het servies en het bestek. Alles wordt in grote sporttassen gepropt, tot de stofzuiger toe.

De plundermiddag krijgt een onverwacht slot, als de Italiaanse soldaten zich ineens schijnen te realiseren dat dit zo niet langer kan. Met vier wagens scheuren ze naar Baneks Discount. Eén overgebleven UÇK-er wordt door vier Italianen met de automatische wapens afgevoerd naar supermarkt Vetesherbim, waar de laatste 'klanten' ook al weg zijn.

Alle UÇK-strijders worden ontwapend en de Italiaanse militairen nemen het plein van Pec in bezit. Een vrouwelijke UÇK-soldaat gaat onverstoortbaar verder met het opvegen van glassplinters uit de supermarkt. Dan trekken de Italianen zich langzaam terug naar hun basis in hotel Mehtohija, waar de Servische en de Joegoslavische vlaggen nog aan de vlaggenmast wapperen.

Verdreven Serviërs uit de

Krajina moeten opnieuw vluchten

21-6-99

Vervolg van pagina 1

Voor de Serviërs uit de Kroatische Krajina-streek is het de tweede maal in vier jaar dat zij hals over kop op de vlucht slaan. Nadat de Kroaten in augustus 1995 een heroveringsoffensief tegen de Krajina hadden ingezet, kregen alle Serviërs het bevel te vertrekken. De Servische overheid probeerde zo veel mogelijk van deze vluchtelingen in Kosovo te plaatsen om het Servische aandeel in de bevolkingssamenstelling te vergroten.

Uiteindelijk was maar een klein deel van de 150.000 tot 180.000 ge-

vluchte Krajina-Serviërs hiertoe werkelijk te bewegen. De meesten zochten een onderkomen in zuid-Servië, in de provincie Vojvodina of een ander land. De Krajina-Serviërs voelden zich dubbel verraden door de Joegoslavische president, alleenheerser Milosevic.

In het noordelijke deel van de stad Mitrovica is ook een complex van Servische vluchtelingen uit de Krajina gevestigd. Hoewel Franse Kfor-voertuigen voortdurend door de straten patrouilleren, voelen de Krajina-Serviërs zich verre van veilig.

"Wij zijn niet bang voor de Albane-

se buurtbewoners en ook niet voor de Albanese vluchtelingen die terugkeren, maar voor de terroristen van het UÇK," zegt de achttienjarige Mile. "Die zijn met velen en zullen hun moment afwachten om een aanslag op ons te plegen. Nu onze troepen Kosovo hebben verlaten, voelen wij ons vogelvrij."

Ook als Kfor de stad onder controle zou hebben, vrezen ze voor hun toekomst, want onder Albanees bestuur zal het moeilijker worden aan werk te komen. Die angst weerhoudt Nenad, die in 1995 uit een dorp nabij de Kroatische stad Karlovac vlucht-

te, er vooralsnog van naar Servië te vertrekken. Als doodgraver heeft hij de laatste tijd genoeg werk gehad, maar in het verpauperde Servië zal hij moeilijk aan de bak komen, vreest hij.

Het gesprek met Nenad wordt tweemaal onderbroken door schotensalvo's. Vertrekkende buurtbewoners schieten hun pistolen leeg bij wijze van afscheidsgroet.

De Servische autoriteiten, die eerst de Servische exodus uit Kosovo negeerden, proberen deze nu uit vrees voor binnenlandse onrust een halt toe te roepen. Gisteren leidde de Ser-

vische minister van Financiën, Borislav Milacic, een konvooi van dertig Serviërs terug naar Kosovo. Dat staat in geen verhouding tot de ruim zeventigduizend Serviërs die de provincie gedurende de laatste elf dagen na de invasie van de Navo-vredesmacht zijn ontvlucht.

De Servische staatstelevisie portretteert de militairen uit de voorgeen gedemoniseerde Navo-landen nu als de beschermers van de Serviërs. Deze Kfor-militairen kunnen echter met geen mogelijkheid de veiligheid van alle Serviërs garanderen. Vooral niet in de steden van zuid-

Kosovo en in de dorpen waar de meeste misdaden tegen de Albanese burgerbevolking hebben plaatsgehad en de wraakgevoelens hoogtij vieren.

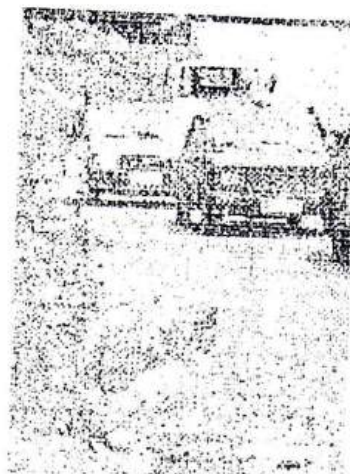
Ook in Noord-Kosovo zijn de Serviërs momenteel hun leven niet zeker. De gepensioneerde Dusana en haar echtgenoot uit Mitrovica willen hun huis echter niet zomaar opgeven. "Wat er ook gebeurt, wij blijven hier," zegt ze. Daar direct aan toevoegend: "Ik heb hoop dat de Franse troepen ons zullen beschermen. Die waren traditioneel toch altijd bondgenoten van de Serviërs."

21-6-99

More than 50000 refugees from Kosovo and Metohija

June 21, 1999

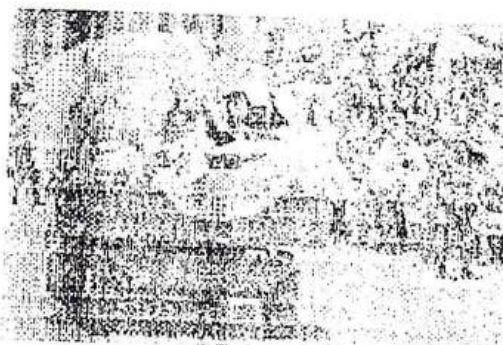
Belgrade, June 20 - United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported on Sunday that more than 50000 Serbs fled Kosovo and Metohija fearing from the terrorist gangs. Despite EFOR's indifference to protect the civilians of Serbian and all the other nationalities around 1800 - 2000 internally displaced persons (IDP) started returning in Kosovo and Metohija.



Serbs flee to Montenegro

In the Serbia's four largest cities only, there were 11000 officially registered refugees from Kosovo and Metohija. In Kragujevac, where from some 30 Serbs went back to Kosovo and Metohija on Sunday, there were 2840 refugees registered.

The Serbian government started an initiative for returning of the displaced persons in Kosovo and Metohija so the convoys of the refugees started returning from several cities in Kosovo and Metohija on Sunday, together with the government's representatives.



Serbs flee - Albanians terrorize

province were reported in that city.

Around 700 refugees left Nis but 3029 displaced persons were registered in that municipality.

From Krusevac, where 2900 refugees were registered, 600 displaced persons returned to Kosovo and Metohija on Sunday. However, new 60 refugees from the Serbia's southern

Eight busses with the refugees who decided to return in Kosovo and Metohija on the initiative of the Serbian government left Kraljevo on Sunday. There are 10000 Serbs from Kosovo in Kraljevo.

Eight hundred and eighty refugees arrived in Mladenovac.

The headquarters for the humanitarian problems in Smederevo announced on Sunday that 1248 refugees were registered in that municipality.

The Washington Post: USA responsible of killing innocent people

June 21, 1999

Washington, June 21 (Tanjug) - "Those who were terrorized should be protected", The Washington Post says in an article entitled "Killing from 10000 meters of altitude" condemning an uncontrolled destruction and killing of innocent people in Yugoslavia.



"USA are responsible, together with the NATO allies, for deliberate choosing of the targets such as electrical and waterworks plants or fertilizer factories, knowing that their bombing would cause suffering of entire civilian population".

The article stresses all the obscenity in the statements by the Clinton's military experts and close associates that the raids were carried out with no (American) victims since, as reported, "thousands of victims caused by the war among the Serbian soldiers, Albanians in Kosovo and Metohija and civilians throughout Yugoslavia were neglected".

The use of the cluster bombs causes not only a momentary but a long-lasting "collateral damage", carried out from the safe altitude of 10000 meters, The Washington Post reports.

According to the saying of Steve Goose, program chief to the organization "Human Rights Watch" supervising the activity of that weapon on the population, these bombs could remain unexploded and explode when touched, becoming in that way as dangerous as the mines since they could cause victims among the innocent civilians years after the end of the conflict.

They look as the yellow-orange cans of the refreshment drinks or green baseball balls, attracting the children mostly, the paper reports the statement by this expert recalling that five children were killed and two injured on April 24 in the vicinity of the village of Doganovic in southern Kosovo and Metohija.

On the occasion of the eleven-week-old air raids on FRY, an article by Nat Hentoff says there are no "surgery-alike precise strikes" not dangerous for the uncontrolled destruction in which the innocent civilians could be hurt.

In the same time, he recalls that an eminent American diplomat Henry Kissinger stated he had the hard time to accept the fact that the American "moral principles were stopped at the altitude of 10000 meters".

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U.N. MISSION IN KOSMET RENEWS ASSURANCES TO YUGOSLAV SIDE

BELGRADE - Chairman of the Yugoslav Committee for Cooperation with the U.N. Mission Nebojsa Vujovic Monday had talks with ranking representatives of the international security forces in Kosovo and Metohija, which are under the U.N. auspices, and contacts with high officials of the U.N. civil mission, in which assurances were once again offered that the international community would not permit ethnic Albanians to take over the existing or form parallel systemic institutions in the province, the Yugoslav Foreign Ministry said.

Ranking representatives of the international community stressed that the consistent implementation of the assumed obligations by the Army of Yugoslavia (VJ) and the Serbia Interior Ministry had produced a strong political credibility and shifted the focus of the international community's pressures to the ethnic-Albanian separatist structures, so that they would meet their obligations regarding the disarming and demilitarization of the terrorist KLA, a released statement said.

Vujovic categorically requested of international security forces commander Gen. Michael Jackson and his chief aides immediately to put an end to the vandalism, hooliganism, plundering and threats against and blackmail of Serbs, Montenegrins and other population in Kosovo and Metohija by ethnic-Albanian bands, which have illegally crossed into Serbia's southern provinces, making use of the initial weaknesses and lack of experience of the international security forces, the statement set out.

UNHCR AID FOR PERSONS TEMPORARILY DISPLACED FROM KOSOVO

BELGRADE - The UNHCR, together with the Serbian Refugee Commissariat and other humanitarian agencies, on Saturday sent six trucks and four trailers of humanitarian aid for persons in Serbia

, temporarily displaced from Kosovo and Metohija province, said an UNHCR press statement on Monday.

In coordinated efforts with the UNHCR, other humanitarian organizations will also secure aid for displaced persons over the next few days.

The UNHCR also began regular deliveries of aid for the territory of this southern Serbian province, and relief convoys daily leave Skopje for Pristina as well.

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**TEMPORARILY DISPLACED SERBS, MONTENEGRINS
CONTINUE RETURNING TO KOSMET**

KRAGUJEVAC - The third group of temporarily displaced Serbs and Montenegrins, who were taken in by relatives or accommodated in reception centres in the Sumadija region, left from Kragujevac for Kosovo and Metohija Tuesday morning.

The group of 150 people, who left by a bus and 20 or so private cars, has brought the total number of the temporarily displaced who have so far returned home from Sumadija to 400.

**OVER 700 SERBS, MONTENEGRINS LEAVE KRALJEVO,
RETURN TO KOSMET**

KRALJEVO - Over 700 temporarily displaced Serbs and Montenegrins in the Kraljevo municipality, central Serbia, have returned to Kosovo and Metohija, the Raska district Civil Defense Headquarters said.

Over 600 people returned to Leposavic and Zubin Potok in seven organized convoys on Monday, whereas a column of 30 private cars with 110 people left Kraljevo on their own, the Civil Defense Headquarters specified.

**DISPLACED KOSOVO AND METOHIJA INHABITANTS
RETURN HOME**

SMEDEREVO, Serbia - The first convoy of about 130 Kosovo and Metohija inhabitants, who temporarily left their homes and were accommodated in the Danubian district, left for the province Tuesday morning.

Three buses and a score of passenger automobiles, coming from Smederevo, Smedervska Palanka and Velika Plana, met on the highway at Velika Plana and proceeded together.

The returnees are going to Kosovo Polje, where a reception centre has been set up, and will from there return to their homes.

The group which left this morning comprises Serbs, Montenegrins and Romanians from Pristina, Kosovo Polje, Prizren, Gnjilane, Kosovska Mitrovica, Gracanica and other towns in Kosovo and

Metohija.

ABOUT 50 SERBS LEAVE POZAREVAC TO RETURN TO KOSOVO

POZAREVAC - A group of about 50 Serbs, temporarily displaced from Kosovo and Metohija, on Monday left Pozarevac for that southern Serbian province.

The group is accompanied by Pozarevac Assembly Vice-President Dragoljub Jovanovic, Socialist Party of Serbia (SPS) District Board Secretary Milic Jovanovic, and municipal refugee headquarters President Miroslav Stepanovic.

THIEVES FROM ALBANIA TERRORISE SERBIA'S KOSOVO-METOHIIJA

PRISTINA, Serbia - The situation in Kosovo- Metohija, which had begun to stabilise with the end of NATO's aggression on June 10 and deployment of peacekeepers, is again being disrupted, this time by robbers' raids from neighbouring Albania.

The gangs of robbers coming from north Albania are quite indiscriminate in their choice of targets, plundering both Serbian and ethnic Albanian abandoned houses and flats.

Meanwhile, car thefts are becoming more frequent, especially of luxury cars and especially in Pristina, chief city of the Yugoslav republic Serbia's Kosovo-Metohija province.

Nebojsa Vujovic, who chairs the Yugoslav committee for cooperation with the U.N. mission, drew the attention of the commander of the U.N. peace force in Kosovo-Metohija (KFor), General Michael Jackson, to this state of affairs in Pristina on Sunday.

Vujovic said that this state of affairs hampers the implementation of the U.N. Security Council's relevant resolution and jeopardises the peace accord.

He stressed that these are completely new kinds of crime, which had not existed at the time when the Yugoslav army controlled the border with Albania, and described them as designed to spill chaos and anarchy from Albania into Kosovo-Metohija.

Vujovic said it was the duty of the international peace force to guarantee safety to all people in the province, and demanded of Jackson that the Yugoslav-Albanian border be sealed and all Albanian criminals returned to Albania.

Making use of the accord's provision on refugee repatriation, hundreds of all kinds of thieves have crossed into Kosovo-Metohija

Profiting by the hiatus before the deployment of U.N. troops, the robbers steal everything they can lay their hands on.

Citizens of Pristina daily report thefts to the city's Centre for Peace and Tolerance, invariably saying their homes were plundered by robbers from Albania.

The bandits are not discriminating and break or force their way at gunpoint into the homes of Serbs, ethnic Albanians and other nationalities alike.

The situation is similar with car thefts, with the thieves, confident that there is nobody to stop them and check their papers at the border, taking the cars straight across the border into Albania and selling them there.

In the past two days and nights alone, robbers and terrorists have stolen at gunpoint a score of mostly company cars, with a fair sprinkling of private cars as well.

Except in the case of the theft of two cars belonging to the Kosovo-Metohija provisional executive council, when they were eye-witnesses to the incident, KFor troops have taken no action, claiming that their only duty at present is to confiscate weapons.

An especially moving story has been told to TANJUG by one N.V., a refugee from Croatia who settled in the Pristina area in 1993.

N.V.'s car, a Volkswagen Passat, was stolen two days ago, and the owner saw his vehicle in Pristina on Sunday and immediately reported to the British KFor battalion.

Although he had valid papers proving his ownership of the car, and the robbers had nothing, the British troops just shrugged and said they were only in charge of security.

TANJUG's correspondent had a front-row view of the swarm of robbers from Albania late last week, when he passed through several Metohija towns - Prizren, Oraovac, Djakovica, Pec and Klina.

Hundreds upon hundreds of vehicles, mostly vans and lorries, with Albanian number-plates, moved unchallenged along the roads in the area, with German KFor troops watching unconcerned.

As of Monday, with the withdrawal of Yugoslav army and police units, U.N. peacekeepers have assumed responsibility for all that happens in Kosovo-Metohija, including robberies.

22-6-99

UN concerned over Serb exodus from Kosovo.

GENEVA, June 22 (Iar-Tass) - Some 140,000 Kosovo refugees, mostly ethnic Albanians, returned home from Macedonia and Albania over the past week, the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees in Geneva reported on Monday. According to their information, some 636,000 Kosovo Albanians are still staying in Macedonia, Albania and Bosnia.

The Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees is very much concerned over the difficult situation of Serbs, who continue to flee Kosovo, fearing terror at the hands of Albanian gunmen. The Office reports that some 50,000 people came to the central part of Serbia or passed by it. The number of displaced persons is especially great in the cities of Kraljevo, Nis and Kragujevac. The unemployment rate is high there, food reserves are small, and it is difficult to provide accommodation

for the newcomers. Experts from the Office, who examined the situation there, said that the overall situation was gloomy. 140,000 tonnes of food were sent to Central Serbia on Saturday as a form of humanitarian assistance.

Meanwhile KLA separatists continue attacking and killing Serbs and Gypsies and are arresting and intimidating Kosovo Albanians who support Ibrahim Rugova's movement.

Details of the seizure by Albanian separatists of the ancient monastery Devic west of Pristina became known in London on Monday. KLA militants broke into the monastery's territory, desecrated the temple, opening up the shrine of Orthodox Saint Jaonikios and scattering the Saint's remains over the temple's floor.

KFOR ASSUMES FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR KOSOVO-METOHJA SECURITY

PRISTINA - The U.N. peace force (KFor) on Sunday assumed full responsibility for all developments and security in the Yugoslav republic of Serbia's Kosovo-Metohija province.

This was stated at Sunday's meeting in Kosovo-Metohija's chief city of Pristina between KFor Commander General Michael Jackson and Serbian and Yugoslav officials.

The remaining Yugoslav army and police forces pulled out of Kosovo-Metohija during the day on Sunday, and KFor troops have taken control of the territory, it was noted at the meeting.

22-6-94

Vujovic especially insisted on the obligation of the international security force to make possible immediate deliveries of relief aid, which has already arrived from several towns in Serbia, for the people in Orahovac, Urosevac, Pec and Strpce.

Since Kosovo-Metohija's chief city of Pristina has recently been experiencing serious difficulties with water supply, Vujovic asked Jackson to take full control and ensure a regular water supply.

Jackson, for his part, said that the international security force faces the most important part of its job, which is to combat crime and disarm and demilitarise the KLA.

He said that an accord on disarming the KLA is ready to be signed, and firmly promised that the operation of the KLA's complete disarmament, which is in progress, will be completely successful.

He was also categorical in his promise that all attempts at provoking chaos and anarchy will be thwarted.

He announced that he will soon be meeting with the commander of the international security force in Albania (AFor) to agree measures for establishing full control of the border and returning to Albania criminals who have chosen the dangerous and unacceptable behaviour which the U.N. force will not condone.

Jackson showed special interest in the U.N. security force continuing to maintain contact and dialogue with Yugoslav army and Serbian police officials, in order to continue to exchange views, cooperate and consistently and justly implement the Kumanovo military-technical accord.

He expressed satisfaction that the Yugoslav and Serbian forces have fully complied with the terms of the military-technical accord, and stressed that he had been sure this would happen, knowing he was dealing with a brave, highly professional and well-organised army and police.

He stressed that the return of displaced people is of great importance for the success of the U.N. mission, adding that this would affirm the policy of peace and the multi-ethnic character of Kosovo-Metohija.

He expressed special pleasure with the organised return of large groups and thousands of Serbs and Montenegrins to Kosovo-Metohija on Sunday alone, and gave full guarantees for the reception and protection of all returnees of Serbian and Montenegrin nationality who will continue to return to their homes in the province.

He also expressed complete understanding for the humanitarian needs of the population, promising protection for the relief aid convoys for Serbs, Montenegrins, ethnic Albanians and all other ethnic communities that wish to live in peace and harmony.

22-6-y

Under the peace accord and the relevant U.N. Security Council resolution, the Yugoslav forces had until midnight on Sunday to pull out of Kosovo-Metohija, and the withdrawal has been accomplished before the expiry of the deadline.

Ranking KFOR officials expressed satisfaction with cooperation with Yugoslav army and Serbian police, and appreciated their professionalism and discipline.

In recognition of their highly professional cooperation, Gen. Jackson granted all requests made by the government officials at the meeting.

YUGOSLAVIA'S VUJOVIC ASKS KFOR'S JACKSON

For cooperation with the U.N. mission, asked commander of the U.N. peacekeeping force to Kosovo-Metohija General Michael Jackson in Pristina on Sunday to meet his obligation under the military-technical accord and disarm and demilitarise the ethnic Albanian terrorist Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA).

Vujovic said that the Yugoslav army and the Serbian police have consistently met their obligations stemming from the military-technical accord, and that the international security force must keep step and fully protect the person and property of all people in Kosovo-Metohija, including the Serbs and Montenegrins living in that heartland province of the Yugoslav republic of Serbia.

He informed Jackson that large numbers of displaced Serbs and Montenegrins and other non-Albanians are returning to Kosovo-Metohija from the directions of Kursunlija-Merdare-Pristina, Lesak-Leposavic-Kosovska Mitrovica, Rozaj-Kula-Pec, and asked the British general to guarantee full safety and absolute protection to all returnees.

Vujovic expressed profound disappointment in the fact that the international security force has not prevented incursions by numerous gangs of Albanian nationals who, in quest of plunder, threaten the population of Kosovo-Metohija, including the local ethnic Albanians.

He said these are completely new kinds of crime, which at the time of the government's control of the border had never existed in the southern Serbian province, and added that their purpose is to spill Albania's chaos and anarchy over into Kosovo-Metohija.

He said that the international security force has the obligation to ensure life in peace for all people, and demanded of Gen. Jackson that the Yugoslav-Albanian border be sealed and all Albanian criminals returned to Albania.

UCK

27-6-11

Schande wat er nu weer gebeurt in Kosovo. Nu geschiedt daar hetzelfde barbarisme, alleen is nu het UCK (die dappere vrijheidsstrijders) de agressor, die naar hartelust kan mishandelen en moorden. En dat onder de ogen van de NAVO. Zij zouden toch de wapens neerleggen? De NAVO heeft eenzijdig partij gekozen en die andere idioten aan de macht geholpen. Was dat nu de bedoeling? Kijk ze nu eens de held uithangen. Wat een gebrek aan controle en aan visie van de NAVO.

Haarlem, Daan van Onderen



Kosovaren duwen in het dorp Grace een auto met spullen van Serviërs - de buit van de plunderingen. Op de achtergrond een brandend huis. (Foto Reuters)

22-6-94

Door onze redacteur
PEIRA DE KONING

PEC, 22 JUNI. Een Albanese man gooit met stenen de ruit kapot van een Servische winkel in Pec, in het westen van Kosovo. Zo'n veertig mensen dringen zich door het gat naar binnen en slepen zakken suiker, waspoeder, meel, flessen olie en potten jam en tomatenpuree naar buiten. Italiaanse KFOR-militairen staan een paar meter verder, hun hoofdkwartier is aan het eind van de straat. Ze doen niks.

Een tolk van de hulporganisatie UNHCR rijdt langs, stopt en roept: „Houd daarmee op. Jullie verlagen jezelf tot het niveau van de Serviërs.” De plunderaars roepen terug dat hij zich met zijn eigen zaken moet bemoeien.

Plundering? Alles is toch eigenlijk van de Albanezen

Dan komt er een soldaat van het Kosovo Bevrijdingsleger UCK. Visar Krasniqi begint te schreeuwen en probeert de mensen de winkel uit te trekken. De winkel is van een Servier die een dag eerder is gevlucht. Na tien minuten schelden en duwen heeft hij de plunderaars onder controle. Drie andere UCK-soldaten lopen tien meter verder. Ze zien een deel van de gestolen spullen op de stoep staan, pakken die op en lopen

ermee weg. „Wat de anderen doen kan me niet schelen”, zegt Krasniqi. „Ik heb orders. We moeten dit stoppen. Er zijn zoveel mensen die honger hebben.”

Een kwartier later staat Visar Krasniqi in de etalage van de winkel en deelt zelf de spullen uit. De mensen staan in een rij te wachten tot ze iets van hem krijgen.

„Zo is het afgesproken met de Italianen”, zegt Erthem Ceku,

UCK-commandant van Pec. „De plunderingen zijn toegestaan, omdat de mensen zoveel tekort komen. Maar het moet geen chaos worden.”

Onzin, zeggen de Italiaanse militairen bij een checkpoint in de stad. Als ze denken dat ze iets doen kunnen tegen de plunderingen, doen ze dat. Een dag eerder nog bewaakten ze een Servische zaak die al helemaal leeggehaald was. CBS filmde hoe ze een jongetje tegenhielden. Het pro-

beerde in de puinhoop nog iets te vinden dat de moeite waard was. Zijn vader kwam hem zoeken en werd ook door KFOR apart gezet en be-waakt. Zij waren een voorbeeld zeden de militairen, voor de andere plunderaars in de stad.

In een buitenwijk halen Albanese vrouwen en kinderen een flat leeg waar tot voor kort Servische vluchtelingen uit Kroatië wonen. Blerita Zihiti (14) zit met een te grote zonnebril op een lading spullen die haar vader met een kar zal komen ophalen. Kleren, meubels, een koelkast. Het UCK heeft gezegd dat zij alles van de Serviërs kunnen pakken, vertelt ze. „omdat ze toch eigenlijk alles van de Albanezen is”. Blerita is erg tevreden met de zonnebril. „Ik heb alleen nog geen spiegel.”