



Security Council

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Letter dated 8 May 2006 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I have the honour to transmit to you the attached report on the international security presence in Kosovo covering the period from 1 to 31 March 2006 (see annex).

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

(Signed) Kofi A. Annan

Annex

[Original: English]

Monthly report to the United Nations on the operations of the Kosovo Force

1. This report covers the period from 1 to 31 March 2006.
2. As at 31 March 2006, the total number of troops in theatre was 16,083, which includes 2,741 troops from non-NATO countries.
3. Mongolia no longer contributes to the Kosovo Force (KFOR). The Mongolian platoon, deployed to KFOR as part of the Belgian contingent, departed on 23 March 2006.

Security

4. The overall security situation in Kosovo remains tense owing to the ongoing future status talks, the reshuffling of the Kosovo Government, the high unemployment rate, and the inability of the power company to provide sufficient electricity for the province. In addition, the directive of the Coordination Centre for Kosovo on the double salaries issue has a potential for raising tensions between the Kosovo-Serbs and the Kosovo-Albanians and, to a lesser extent, among Kosovo-Serbs themselves. The second anniversary of the riots of March 2004 passed without incident. The people of Kosovo continue to monitor the developments at the level of the status talks and expectations of results may affect stability at critical junctures in the process. The international community's active involvement in the negotiation process may help to maintain stability in Kosovo in the interim. Levels of propaganda in Belgrade and Pristina have increased and both sides are using recent events to show dissatisfaction with the current situation in Kosovo.
5. During the reporting period there was a slight increase in the number of incidents. The overall situation remains tense. Further violence is likely to escalate as the status talks progress.
6. No incidents were recorded against KFOR.
7. A total of 408 incidents relating to unexploded ordnance, illegal weapons possession, weapons and ammunition findings, human trafficking, drugs and counterfeit currency were reported during the past month. Weapons seizures made up the vast majority of incidents during the month. In the previous month 297 incidents were reported. This represents a 37 per cent increase in related incidents within one month and 133 per cent within two months.
8. KFOR continues operations to prevent ethnic violence and protect patrimonial sites and remains vigilant to deter possible threats directed against international organizations and military bases. The Force continues to improve its crowd and riot control capabilities in order to be better prepared to counter any resurgence in violence.

Compliance by the Federal Army of Serbia and Montenegro and the Ministry of Internal Affairs Special Police

9. During March 2006 there were no cases of non-compliance.

Kosovo Protection Corps

10. The main focus for the KFOR Inspectorate for the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC) in March 2006 has been the coordination and preparation of KFOR training to KPC, the evaluation of the Kosovo-wide roll call and the implementation of an extended reporting system.

11. The KPC personnel establishment list includes 3,014 active members; 184 of them are minorities (6.1%), of which 34 are Ashkali, 3 Roma, 10 Egyptian, 13 Croat, 26 Bosniac, 14 Muslim, 35 Turkish, 3 Goran and 45 Serb. The percentage of minorities in KPC is still far from the 10 per cent target (Standard 8). At the moment, 38 slots on the personnel establishment list are empty. The reserve list contains 2,000 positions, of which 1,883 are filled (including 40 from ethnic minorities).

12. Sixteen KPC colonels graduated from the five-week KPC colonel's course at Tradoc on 31 March 2006. Sixteen out of 52 colonels are now trained. Scheduling for the next colonel's course is being coordinated.

13. From 5 to 7 March 2006 the Adem Jashari Days were celebrated. A total of 2,045 KPC members and 20,000 civilians took part in this ceremony in a peaceful manner at many different sites throughout Kosovo.

Conclusion

14. The overall situation in Kosovo continues to be tense. The status talks, political instability, natural disasters, and electrical supply problems have affected the population of Kosovo throughout the winter period. As the status process continues, ethnic tension may rise. The threat against UNMIK and other international community facilities remains medium. The threat against KFOR is low.