

REPORT

for the period 16 December 2000 to 31 October 2003

Bujanovac, October 2003.

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INTRODUCTION

At the beginning of the 1990', Yugoslavia was swept by a wave of strong inter-ethnic tensions and inter-ethnic armed conflicts, resulting in the disintegration of former SFRY into five internationally recognized states. Armed conflicts have ended in all newly-formed states, in some there was a military intervention by the international community, while international military and security forces (of the United Nations) have been deployed in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in Kosovo and Metohia. Intermittent armed conflicts and incidents in Macedonia, in Kosovo and Metohia and in municipalities Bujanovac, Preševo and Medve a continue to resent a threat to peace in the region.

The tragic consequences of the above conflicts have not yet been fully assessed. Several tens of thousands of citizens have died, become missing, been wounded and injured, and hundreds of thousands have been expelled, have become refugees or internally displaced from their homes. In this manner, the ethnic composition of many settlements, municipalities and regions has undergone significant changes, while for hundreds of thousands life has been changed forever. Serious damage, which can be hardly be remedied, has been caused to property, civilian military buildings and facilities, and major invaluable cultural and historical monuments and works have been damaged or destroyed.

Conflicts mostly broke out in ethnically mixed areas in which seemingly peaceful and tolerant ethnic communities became irreconcilable enemies. With the outbreak of the blood-shed, the hatred became endemic and was manifest in all segments of the population. All negative things that were covered or strongly suppressed within the community during the communist regime, suddenly came to the surface. Ordinary, inactive and politically indifferent citizens in Croatia, Serbia (especially in Kosovo and Metohia and in central southern Serbia), and in other republics of former Yugoslavia became the major actors of speech of hatred and discrimination from the position of confrontation between ethnic groups. Since then, several new generations have been raised with the bitter feeling of discrimination and abuse by other ethnic communities. Ethnic origins have become the principal cause of divisions, intolerance, hatred, separatism and striving for separation and secession. Ethnic divisions soon found support in crime, illegal economy and illegal trafficking of narcotics, weapons and humans.

Lack of successful resolution of these problems in the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) and the Republic of Serbia (RS), especially the problem of Albanian extremism and separatism in Kosovo and Metohia, have led to the aggression of the NATO alliance against the FRY, and later to establishing an international security presence in Kosovo and Metohia.

Armed conflicts of the FRY with the international community ended on 9 June 1999 by adopting the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 (R UNSC 1244) and by signing of the Military-Technical Agreement (MTA) in Kumanovo. According to these documents, international forces KFOR and UNMIK arrived to Kosovo and Metohia, and the Army of the FRY, the Police of the RS and other state authorities of the FRY and RS have withdrawn from Kosovo and Metohia.

Despite the democratic changes in the FRY and RS of 5 October 2000, there was an unexpected transfer of Albanian extremism and armed violence from Kosovo and Metohia to municipalities of Preševo, Bujanovac and Medve a. This caused a serious political-security crisis in the region with a tendency of it changing into armed conflict of greater scope with unforeseeable consequences for all ethnic communities (Albanian, Serb and Roma), for the Republic of Serbia and the FRY, but also for the countries of the region, and the whole South-East Europe. This fact obviously demonstrates that the

fundamental causes of organized crime by Albanian extremists have no connection whatsoever with the democratic developments in Serbia.

The purpose of this report is to present problems, measures that have been undertaken and achievements in resolving the crisis resulting from the activities of armed Albanian extremist and criminal groups in municipalities Preševo, Bujanovac and Medve a in the period from 16 December 2000 to 31 October 2003. The Report emphasizes the contribution of all factors in the process of crisis resolution, and especially the contribution of state authorities of the FRY and RS, authorities of local self-management, the international community and citizens of the region.

The Report also presents an assessment of the security and political situation in central southern Serbia in the past, results achieved and implementation of the Crisis Resolution program. The Result further assesses the destabilizing factors and points to political and economic development as major factors for long-term stability in the region.

1. SECURITY SITUATION IN MUNICIPALITIES BUJANOVAC, PREŠEVO AND MEDVE A UNTIL THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COORDINATING BODY

1.1 Municipalities Bujanovac, Preševo and Medve a (geographic position, population and the ground security zone (GSZ))

Municipalities Bujanovac, Preševo and Medve a are located in the central part of Southern Serbia, directly along the administrative boundary line with AP Kosovo and Metohia. The predominant part of these municipalities is a mountainous area, with major road and railroad routes, connecting central Serbia with central Kosovo, Kosovsko Pomoravlje and Macedonia. The municipality Preševo in the south borders with Macedonia, and together with municipality Bujanovac it exits to the strategically important Balkan ground North-South corridor in the Moravsko-Vardarska valley connecting Central Europe and the Aegean Sea along the route (Belgrade)-(Niš)-(Skopje)-(Thessalonica) – the road Corridor X. These municipalities cover a territory of 1249 km², and according to the census of 2002 it has an ethnically mixed population of 88,966 presented in more detail in Table 1:

Table 1. Statistical overview of the population of municipalities of Bujanovac, Preševo and Medve a based on the population census of 2002.

Municipality	Area in km ²	length of the GSZ in km	POPULATION									
			TOTAL	SERBS		ALBANIAN		ROMA		OTHERS		
				number	%	number	%	number	%	number	%	
Preševo	264	40	34.904	2.984	8	31.098	89	322	1	500	2	
Bujanovac	461	45	43.302	14.782	34	23.681	54	3867	9	972	3	
Medve a	524	55	10.760	7.163	67	2.816	26	108	1	673	6	
TOTAL	1249	140	88.966	24.929	28	57.595	64	4.297	5	2145	3	

The Military-technical Agreement (MTA) signed on 9 June 1999 in Kumanovo established a Ground Security Zone (GSZ) in a width of 5 km along the administrative boundary line around the AP Kosovo and Metohia in a total length of 466 kilometers, as a zone of separation between the Army of FRY (AY) and the international security forces in Kosovo and Metohia, KFOR. According to MTA, there can be no military or police forces in the GSZ except for limited presence of the local police.

The length of the Ground Security Zone in municipalities Preševo, Bujanovac and Medve a is 140 kilometers (Preševo 40, Bujanovac 45 and Medve a 55) and it is in mostly mountainous region (Cerevajka, «Sveti Ilija», Sijarina, Tulare). In the GSZ, the area of Bujanovac and Preševo is densely populated by Albanians, in the vicinity of settlements populated by Albanians in the municipalities of Gnjilan and Kamenica, while the GSZ, in the area of Medve a there is a mixed population of Serbs, Montenegrins and Albanians, in the vicinity of settlements populated by Albanians in municipalities of Kamenica, Podujevo and Priština.

The population in the GSZ, in municipalities Bujanovac, Preševo and Medve a is about 13,000 of which about 12,000 Albanians and about 1,000 Serbs. Most settlements in the GSZ in the area of Preševo, Bujanovac and Medve a (except fro Veliki Trnovac, Lu ani and Kon ulj) is economically extremely underdeveloped and without adequate infrastructure (roads, water supply, telephones). Citizens in these settlements live mostly on livestock breeding and mountain farming, most often at a very low level of social and living standard. A certain number of citizens of Albanian nationality have been displaced from their homes since April 1999, due to armed activities, and this refers especially to settlements in northern parts of municipality Bujanovac, south-west part of municipality Preševo and all settlements inhabited by Albanians in the municipality Medve a.

1.2 Causes, characteristics and consequences of the crisis

The outburst of inter-ethnic tensions, intolerance and hatred, separatist aspirations, ethnic extremism and inter-ethnic armed conflicts have marked the last decade of the last century in the region of former SFRY. The unfavorable historical heritage, lack of ability and accountability of the former Yugoslav and Serbian authorities to deal with the inter-ethnic relations and the Albanian separatism in Kosovo and Metohia and their haste and counter-productive relations with the international community in that respect, have had a major impact on several years of isolation of the former FRY and RS, which were exposed to international pressures of all kinds and to a three-months aggression by NATO alliance during the year 1999.

Through such an attitude of its state and political leadership to issues of prime national interest, Serbia has lost its state sovereignty in Kosovo and Metohia. The Army of FRY and the Police of RS withdrew from Kosovo and Metohia at the end of June 1999. After the withdrawal of the army and the Police, under pressures and terror by Albanian extremist groups, about 250,000 citizens of Serb ethnic community and other communities have left Kosovo and Metohia and have registered as refugees and internally displace persons in Serbia and Montenegro.

After the withdrawal of the army and other forces of the FRY from Kosovo and Metohia and from the state borders and border-crossings towards the Republic of Albania and Republic of Macedonia, around the middle of June 1999, there followed an uncontrolled entry of refugees, terrorists, criminals and foreign citizens and to entry of weapons, ammunition, mine-explosive devices, drugs, vehicles and other goods to the territory of AP Kosovo and Metohia, predominantly from Albania.

Due to the indifferent attitude by KFOR to Albanian extremists, and due to the obligations undertaken in the MTA that there may be no military or police forces of the FRY and RS in the GSZ, except for local police, there followed a transfer of terrorism from the territory of AP Kosovo and Metohia to the municipalities Preševo and Bujanovac. Such developments in this region marked the beginning of organized transfer of terrorists, weapons, ammunition, and explosive devices. Under such conditions, there followed the establishment and “advertisement” of the former AFPBM and its armed provocations and attacks against members of the police, citizens, vehicles, buildings and other property, accompanied with gradual taking control over parts of the GSZ in the territory of these municipalities.

By means of taking over of territory, limiting the freedom of movement for citizens and terrorist acts with serious and most serious consequences, the armed Albanian terrorists violated the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the FRY and RS in parts of municipalities Preševo and Bujanovac with serious violations of the UN SC Resolution 1244 and the MTA.

In the period from 21 June 1999 until 21 November 2000, in the territory of municipalities Preševo, Bujanovac and Medve a there were 294 terrorist attacks, killing 14 persons (8 policemen and 6 citizens); injuring 39 persons (34 policemen, 3 citizens and 2 members of the UN mission) and 2 citizens were abducted.

Most terrorist attacks in the GSZ in the said period happened in the territory of municipality Bujanovac (246), municipality Preševo (6) and Medve a (44). Most often targeted were police locations near the village of Kon ulj (170), Dobrosin (42), Marovac (21) and Mali Trnovac (16).

In the attacks, the Albanian extremists most often used automatic weapons (in 134 cases), automatic rifles (79), snipers (47), mortars (62), hand granates (18), tromblones (6), and hand bombs (7). In 15 cases the terrorist placed 20 anti-tank mines, and in 13 cases other types of mine-explosive devices.

The most serious consequences on members of the local police in the GSZ were caused by explosions of anti-tank mines, killing 3 policemen; 12 persons were seriously injured (7 policemen, 3 civilians and 2 soldiers) and 15 persons were wounded (9 policemen, 3 soldiers and 3 civilians)¹.

Extremism escalated in the territory of the GSZ on 21 November 2000, during an armed attack of a bigger group of Albanian terrorists on police positions in the vicinity of Dobrosin, Lu ani, Kon ulj and Mali Trnovac in the vicinity of Bujanovac, killing 3, and injuring 4 members of the police. In these attacks, with the use of heavier weapons and strong shell support, Albanian terrorists took armed control over several villages of the municipalities Bujanovac, Preševo and Medve a, and the police was forced to withdraw from its positions to the outer line of the GSZ.

Suppression of growing extremism in municipalities Bujanovac, Preševo and Medve a was obstructed by limitations in the use of police and army in the GSZ according to the MTA, unfavorable land configuration, the population structure, inactive homogenization of the Albanian population, and inadequate cooperation of state authorities of the FRY and RS with the international security forces in

¹ In explosions of mines placed by Albanian terrorists:

on 8 June 2000, on the road Kon ulj – Dobrosin, municipality Bujanovac, 5 members of the police received serious body injuries.

on 13 October 2000, on the local road Veliki Trnovac – Mali Trnovac, municipality Bujanovac, 2 members of the police were killed, and 22 received serious body injuries and were wounded.

on 10 November 2000, on the local road Mali trnovac – Veliki Trnovac, 1 member of the police was killed.

Kosovo and Metohia. Under such conditions, the armed Albanian extremists violated the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the republic of Serbia and the FRY, the security and human rights of citizens and the peace in the region.

Such a crisis with an imminent tendency to evolve into an armed conflict of wider scope with unpredictable consequences imposed itself as a problem of highest urgency for the republic of Serbia and the FRY, but also for the countries in the region and the international community at large. Their resolution was a most delicate challenge and one of the most difficult and priority political-security tasks of the new democratically elected authorities of the Republic of Serbia and the FRY. The circumstances and conditions of the evolution and development of the crisis were extremely unfavorable. The activities of the armed Albanian extremist groups was, by no coincidence, limited to the area of the so-called Ground Security Zone (GSZ), established under the Kumanovo Agreement along the administrative line of Kosovo and Metohia, over which the international security forces KFOR had relevant competences and in which the Serbian police had limited scope for action, while the presence of the Yugoslav Army was prohibited.

Despite undisputed competences and responsibilities of KFOR regarding the state of security in the Ground Security Zone, and probably due to lack of confidence towards the military and police formations which, after withdrawal from Kosovo and Metohia were distributed behind the Ground Security Zone, KFOR did not undertake all measures that were necessary to prevent the spread of extremism from Kosovo and Metohia. This created conditions for the organization and activities of armed Albanian extremist groups in municipalities Preševo, Bujanovac and Medve a. Tolerance towards criminal activities and even taking part in them by individual members of state authorities, lack of inter-ethnic confidence and tolerance reached extremely high levels and further contributed to the crisis and its evolving into an armed conflict.

Certain political parties, organizations and individuals offered their visions on how to resolve the crisis. Some of these resembled the already seen recipes for "energetic military-police clash with the extremists". Those advocating such options, on purpose or by coincidence, overlooked the disastrous consequences of such strategies for resolution of conflicts in former Yugoslavia in the recent past. They were overlooking the fact that wherever the Serb problem was resolved by means of weapons, army and police there are no longer any Serbs. In an abundance of nationalistic belligerent ideas, the failure in resolving the crisis was more likely than success.

2. THE COORDINATING BODY, THE PLAN AND PROGRAM FOR THE RESOLUTION OF CRISIS IN MUNICIPALITIES BUJANOVAC, PREŠEVO AND MEDVEĐA

2.1 Establishment and urgent measures by the Coordinating Body

In deliberating that the resolution of the crisis caused by the acts of armed Albanian extremist groups in the GSZ in the territories of municipalities Bujanovac, Preševo and Medve a is an issue of prime and most urgent national and political importance, the Federal government and the Government of the Republic of Serbia established the Coordinating Body for municipalities Bujanovac, Preševo and Medve a. The decision² to establish the Coordinating Body was made by the Federal Government at its 12th session held on 16 December 2000 and was endorsed by the Government of the Republic of Serbia

² Document of the federal government Number 8-10/2000 of 19 February 2001.

at its session held on 6 February 2001. This Decision stipulated that the Coordinating Body shall coordinate all measures taken by the state and political activities towards the resolution of crisis caused by the intrusion of Albanian terrorists into the GSZ. The same Decision appointed the President and members of the Coordinating Body³.

The establishment of the Coordinating Body of the Federal Government and the Government of the R Serbia contributed to a significant improve and better coordination of activities of the police, army and other state authorities, and authorities of local self-government in the said municipalities. Important and effective contacts were established with representatives of the international community, which made a significant contribution to a serious and more systematic approach of the state in resolving the problems and the crisis in the said municipalities.

Right after its establishment, the CB undertook a series of urgent activities re

2.2 The Plan and program for the resolution of the crisis (Contents, objectives, principles and tasks)

One of the key pre-conditions for the beginning of the process of peaceful resolution of the crisis was the adoption of the program for resolution of the crisis, developed by the Coordinating Body and adopted by the Federal Government and the Government of the R Serbia⁴

5.

The Program and Plan for resolution of crisis identified three principal directions for actions by state authorities, specifically:

Establishing security and peace in the region, by removing all forms of threats to the constitutional-legal order and violations of sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Serbia and the FRY; establishing full security of persons and property for all citizens; freedom of movement; and provision of full normalization of functioning of state authorities, authorities of the local self-government and other legal bodies and organizations,

Integration of Albanians in the political, public and social system of the Republic of Serbia and the FRY, and building multi-ethnic and multi-confessional civil society on democratic principles with the respect of human rights, political and minority and civil rights for all citizens in the region, and

Economic and social development of the region with international financial and other support and other assistance for the benefit of all citizens.

For each of the above general aims, specific tasks were identified for a period of three years, divided in six stages. Priority was given to establishing peace and security in the region as a pre-condition for resolution of other identified problems in the remaining two goals, or directions.

2.3 Principal objectives in the resolution of the crisis were the following:

removing all forms of threats to constitutional-legal order and violations of national sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Serbia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia;

⁴ The program and Plan for resolution of crisis was adopted by the Government of the R Serbia at its session held on 6 February and by the Federal Government at its 21st session held on 7 February 2001.

⁵ Appendix 1 defined the Coordinating Body (its tasks, organization, composition, means, budget); Appendix 2 defined the Plan for the media support to peaceful resolution of the crisis in municipalities Peševo, Bujanovac and Medve a; Appendix 3 defined the call upon Albanians for dialogue for the purpose of resolving the crisis; Appendix 4 defined the place, role and support of the International Community in peaceful resolution of the crisis; Appendix 5 defined the proposed Agreement on resolving the crisis in municipalities Peševo, Bujanovac and Medve a; Appendix 5 defined the plan of integration of Albanians in the political, public and social system of the Republic of Serbia and the municipalities; Appendix 5b defined the Plan of establishing security and peace in municipalities Peševo, Bujanovac and Medve a; Appendix 5c defined the specific Plan of economic and social development of municipalities Peševo, Bujanovac, Medve a and Vranje; Appendix 5d defined the time schedule of the Plan of implementation of tasks in resolving the crisis in municipalities Peševo, Bujanovac and Medve a; Appendix 5e defined the proposal to abolish the GSZ and the ASZ.

establishing full security of persons and property for all citizens and full freedom of movement in all parts of the territory of the said municipalities, which will be provided through complete disassembling and disarmament of terrorists, through demilitarization of the region and providing for returns of refugees to their homes;

building multi-ethnic and multi-confessional society based on democratic principles with the respect of human rights, political and minority rights and freedoms of all citizens, according to highest standards,

enabling a quicker economic and social development of the municipalities, with the international financial support to the benefit of all citizens living there.

2.4 Key factors in the implementation of the Plan were the following:

Dedication of the Republic of Serbia and the FRY to resolve the crisis by peaceful, political-diplomatic means and dialogue with representatives of the Albanian ethnic community and with the participation and support of the international community,

Dedication of the Republic of Serbia and the FRY to build a multi-ethnic society based on democratic principles with the respect of international treaties on human rights, minority rights and other rights of all citizens in the region.

The attitude of the international community, the FRY and the RS that any forms of autonomy, special status or change of state borders of the FRY and RS is unacceptable and that all issues are to be resolved within the current order of the FRY and the RS,

The establishment of the Coordinating Body and its dedication to build inter-ethnic confidence in the region, the confidence of citizens and the international community for inclusion of the Albanian ethnic community in the dialogue, and dedication to effective cooperation and comprehensive assistance and support to the process by the international community.

The Program and Plan for the resolution of crisis identified a series of tasks that were systematized in three stages, specifying time frames for their implementation. The first stage included measures to prepare the dialogue with the Albanian ethnic community with the participation and support of the international community. The second stage was designed for the dialogue until the signing of agreement for peaceful resolution of crisis with the Albanian ethnic community, and the third stage was designed for the implementation of such agreement.

The third stage of implementation of the Program referred to the implementation of the Agreement with the Albanian ethnic community and it included three areas of tasks whose implementation was scheduled in six time stages lasting for a total of 36 months.

All the identified tasks were grouped in three areas:

- establishing peace and security in the region;
- integration of Albanians in the political, and state system of the FRY and RS;
- economic and social development of the region.

The Plan for establishing peace and security in the region implied:

full and lasting stop to terrorist acts, disarming extremists and dismantling their organization with the surrender of weapons and destruction of fortifications and equipment;

withdrawal of exceptionally engaged military and police forces; return or stay of regular local police of mixed ethnic composition in communities (check-points, patrols and other forms of regular work) and

wood processing;
building roads, water supply, power and telephone networks in all villages;
recording and reconstruction of Albanian houses for accommodation of refugees willing to return and reconstruction of Serb residential buildings for accommodation of 2,300 displaced persons from Kosovo and Metohia.

Along with the adoption of the Program and Plan for the resolution of the crisis, specific tasks were identified for the Coordinating Body⁶, its organizational structure, staffing composition, status and funding for operation and implementation of the identified tasks.

2.5 The plan of media support to the peaceful resolution of the crisis

The plan of media support to the peaceful resolution of the crisis was one of the most significant components of the overall Program and Plan. The principal objectives of the media support included prompt, accurate and true provision of information to the local and international public concehousenal p34(g t

Serbia, by peaceful means, political and diplomatic means, and dialogue between representatives of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Serbia and the Albanian ethnic community, with the support of the international community;

to support the integration of Albanians in the political, public and social system of the Republic of Serbia, with the respect of their human and minority rights according to contemporary standards;

to support prosperous economic and social development of the region, including development of multi-cultural and multi-confessional society based on democratic principles;

to condemn Albanian separatism in any form and emphasize that the idea of autonomy, special status of changing borders is ungrounded, unacceptable and non-justified;

to condemn and isolate extremists and condemn terrorism as an unacceptable means for achieving any aims;

to support the implementation of the signed Agreement between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Serbia with the Albanian ethnic community and exert pressure on any party which does not respect the Agreement.

To exert influence on the appointment of representatives of the Albanian ethnic community for dialogue with representatives of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Serbia and to appoint its own representatives:

for cooperation and support to dialogue between representatives of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Serbia and representatives of the Albanian ethnic community (EUMM, KFOR);

in the monitoring mission for monitoring and reporting on the situation on ground (EUMM);

in the Joint Commission for monitoring and verification of implementation of the Agreement (EUMM, KFOR);

To support the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Serbia in building a model for resolution of specific issues within resolving the crisis, in training the police for work in the multi-ethnic communities (UNMIK, EUPOL);

To provide financial support for the economic and social development of the region.

To support the right to anti-terrorist actions by security forces of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Serbia if the Albanian ethnic community does not accept the proposed peaceful resolution of the crisis (KFOR) including:

preventing the entry of terrorists, arms and military equipment from Kosovo and Metohia to the GSZ through KFOR formations;

abolishing or reducing the GSZ, or approval for the security forces to enter in line with the MTA and remain in the GSZ in order to suppress terrorism in that territory.

For the purpose of enabling efficient communication in resolving specific issues from the above paragraph the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Serbia have undertaken that they will provide free access to the region to all agreed, announced and accredited compositions and

representatives of monitoring, humanitarian and human rights missions. To this end, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Serbia have called upon KFOR and UNMIK to open their offices in Belgrade, and within the Coordinating Body to appoint their representatives for contacts with international organizations.

3. MEASURES TAKEN AND THE ACHIEVED RESULTS (REALIZATION OF THE PLAN)

3.1. Conditions of the Planned Measures' Realization

Bringing the crisis solution plan and performing the tasks determined by the plan, was followed by a series of unfavorable circumstances, but before all, by a continual activity of armed Albanian extremist groups, which blocked communications and performed other violent acts to limit the freedom of movement and jeopardize the citizens' safety in other ways. Even with all the measures taken by the Coordinating Body to establish confidence and trust, the Albanian extremists groups did not respect reached agreements and statements related to cease fire, and continued daily with their terrorist attacks and provocations against civilians that were members of the army and the police, in order to provoke police and military forces to return fire and thus present themselves as "victims of the Serbian repression".

Only in a period from 21 November 2000, to 24 March 2001, Albanian extremist groups, having adopted this behavior, performed 335 terrorist attacks and provocations at the territories of Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja municipality, and killed 9 people (4 policemen, 4 soldiers and 1 citizen); 28 people were injured (11 policemen, 6 soldiers, 10 citizens and 1 foreigner); and also kidnapped 34 citizens, all accompanied with destruction of important state and private property.

The biggest number of terrorist attacks in the Land Security Zone happened at the territory of Bujanovac Municipality (179), in Presevo (152) and in Medvedja (22). Attacked were primarily locations of the local police near villages Koncul (43), Lucane (74), Dobrosin (2), Marovac (19), Veliki Trnovac (33), Cerevajka (33), Djordjevac (24), Depce (21), Gornja Susaja (20), and Bujic (11).

In those attacks, Albanian terrorists mostly used automatic weapon (68 times), machineguns (20), snipers (14), mine throwers (84), hand projectiles (4), trumolets (4) and hand grenades (1). In four cases, they placed anti-tank mines, and in various instances, the other mines and explosive devices.

In spite of an established dialogue and declarative statements in favor of dialogue and peaceful solution of the crisis, Albanian extremists group showed with such an attitude, that they did not want to give up the violence as their means for achieving the extremist goals.

Apart from terrorist attacks and provocations, the period has been characterized by the following activities of Albanian extremists:

Attempts made by armed and persons in uniform to cross and transfer the weaponry and terrorist equipment from AP Kosovo-Metohija to the Land Security Zone and to Republic of Macedonia, to villages along the state border with Republic of Serbia (Lojane, Klupcare etc.).

Terrorist training of Albanians from the Land Security Zone, in AP Kosovo-Metohija and Albania.

Terrorist grouping of Albanians from LSZ (OVPMB) in AP Kosovo-Metohija within certain settlements of municipalities Gnjilane, K. Kamenica and Vitina, as well as preparations for terrorist acts.

Although accompanied by the above stated events and occurrences, realization of the Program measures brought visible and verifiable results. A dialogue with the Albanian national community, with the participation of the international community representatives, started with difficulties and with a lot of contestation by representatives from both national communities. First confidence building measures were realized even harder.

Key role in the positive turn of events was an undisputable orientation of SRY and R. Serbia that was determined in the Program to:

Resolve the crisis in a peaceful way and through political and diplomatic means, through dialogue with representatives of Albanian national community and with participation and support of the international community;

To build multiethnic societies in municipalities of Bujanovac, Presevo and Medvedja, based on democratic principles and with full respect of international documents on human, minority and other rights of all citizens in the region.

To realize the crisis solution according to principle "step by step" in political, security and economic and social areas.

3.2. Measures Taken and the Results in Establishing Peace and Safety in the Region

In order to prevent surprises and preserve sovereignty, territorial integrity and constitutional order, in the early December 2000, the state leadership brought a DECISION on deploying the Yugoslav Army in the central part of the south of Serbia.

Based on this Decision, the General Staff of the Yugoslav Army(VJ) gave an order to the VJ to use part of its forces and close routes that are coming from the area of Kosovo-Metohija into the depth of FRY. Headquarter of the Joint Security Forces has been defined as the highest professional and commanding organ of the Coordinating Body in charge of preparation and performing the antiterrorist operations of the Yugoslav Army and the Police, in accordance with demands of the Coordinating Body and with the approval of the FRY President and the General Staff of the VJ. It had a command over the VJ and Police troops, based on decision brought by the President of FRY, requirements of the Coordinating Body and orders given by the Chief of Staff of the VJ. This Command submitted to the VJ General Staff regular data on results of talks with international community representatives - KFOR. All proposals for deploying troops were submitted by the Command of the Joint Security Forces (JSF) to Chief of Staff of the VJ in order for him to inform President of FRY and get his approval.

Specificity of JSF Command's work⁷ in planning the operation, was conditioned by the following factors:

By the peaceful character of the operation with reserving rights of units to react in the spirit of combat rules in case of attack with the s given by the "commensurable" force;

By limitations that were defined in document that had been signed by KFOR Commander, President of the Coordinating Body and the JSF Commander for each sector of the Land Security Zone;

By assessed options of armed resistance of the Albanian extremists in certain sectors of the Land Security Zone;

By characteristics of the terrain (its configuration, permeability etc.);

By demographic characteristics of the Land Security Zone;

By organizational and formational structure of Joint Security Forces, and

By the available time for performing operation of redeploying JSF into the Land Security Zone.

Area of Responsibility of JSF covered the overall security at the territories of municipalities Bujanovac, Presevo and Medvedja, sectors "C-East", "B" and "D". By the Decision on this realization and by the documents signed with KFOR, it was the main bearer of antiterrorist operation and of troops' return to Land Security Zone, all in accordance with the Decision on Relaxation and with documents that were signed with KFOR.

Forming of units (subordination and regrouping), deploying and taking over the area of responsibility of JSF was done according to the Plan of Forming and Taking Over the Area of Responsibility in the mid-March of 2001. Coordinating Body's work was accompanied also by a Commission for Implementation of Military Technical Agreement that had been formed based on Article 4 of the MTA, right after deployment of International Security Forces (KFOR) and civilian forces (UNMIK) into Kosovo and Metohija.

By resolution of the planned measures in accordance with the Crisis Solution Program and through the engagement of JSF, the following results have been achieved:

Unblocked all traffic lines, cancelled control of traffic by extremists, secured full freedom of movement for all citizens in all parts of municipalities, as well as free return for all displaced persons to their households;

⁷ The Command of JSF had an immediate responsibility for planning and for return of JSF into the Land Security zone for sectors "C East", "D" and "B", while Commands 2nd and 3rd A planned and realized the return of FRY troops into the sectors "A" and "C-West". All the document of KFOR Command contained the signature of the JSF commander for each entrance of the VJ into the Land Security Zone.

The first entrance and deployment in the Land Security Zone, as you are aware, was done on 14. March 2001. in Sector "C-East" and the last one on 10. June in Sector "C-West", which means that the operation was performed by sectors, phases and steps and lasted less than 3 months.

Armed extremist groups of Albanians were disbanded and disarmed, their terrorist armed attacks considerably reduced in number and in consequences, destroyed their fortification facilities and they were dispossessed of considerable quantity of arms and military equipment, by which the "LABPM" was demilitarized and some of its members pardoned from criminal responsibility if they did not perform violent acts;

By decision brought by NATO and KFOR bodies, the Land Security Zone and Air Security Zone were relaxed and military and police troops of FRY and Serbia were allowed to return to this part of the territory;;

Additionally engaged military and police troops were withdrawn from the vulnerable area, and regular military and police troops returned to the relaxed Land Security Zone and reached the administrative line of AP Kosovo and Metohija.

Number of persons engaged in security tasks within the Land Security Zone was considerably reduced.

The above said results are predominantly achieved through the engagement of JSF (YA and MOI). Direct performer in planning the tasks and deploying troops in reaching the security goals, was the JSF Command.

By return of JSF into the Land Security Zone², the second phase of Coordinating Body's Plan and Program for Peaceful Crisis Solution at the South of Serbia was accomplished and thus created preconditions for stabilizing the peace and strengthening citizens' confidence in state bodies of FR Yugoslavia and Republic of Serbia. JSF Command showed an extreme skill in planning, preparation of units and in realization of decisions brought by JSF commanders for entering and taking over the above mentioned sectors of the Land Security Zone⁹

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Engagement of the Coordinating body of the Federal Government and the Government of the Republic of Serbia, for municipalities of Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja, a closer cooperation was established with KFOR and UNMIK representatives, in finding a peaceful solution to the crisis. In a series of joint meetings and through solutions to specific problems at field, a considerable level of trust was established and also opened possibilities for wider joint Security Forces (JSF) and

d UNMIK.

⁸ Since its formation all the way to the entrance into the last sector of the Land Security Zone, JSF had 6 fatal casualties among its troops due to fire attacks, ambushes or placed PT and PP mines at roads, while there was 21 lightly or seriously injured. All the losses were results of STS activities, but during operations themselves, there were no losses in personnel and in MTS, nor civil casualties in the zone where operations were performed, which means that preparations were carried out very carefully and responsibly by all the factors that participated in preparation of march-exploratory operation and of the return of JSF into the Land Security Zone.

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¹⁰ In the mid April of 2001, there were total 32 combat groups engaged, deployed in 4 tactical groups and 2 operative group commands, subordinated to the JSF Command.

Respect of signed agreements and highly professional performance by the Army of Serbia and Montenegro and MoI, contributed to ever increasing trust of the KFOR Command in security forces of Serbia and Montenegro.

From the moment of JSF formation and from the first contact established through the Commission for Implementation of MTA with KFOR, and even with initial distrust from both sides, the relations and cooperation were ever better. This improvement and mutual trust was especially visible upon successfully organized and executed entrance and taking over the Sector “C-East”.

The trust was further strengthened by strict compliance to the signed documents: “Information from the KFOR Commander on intention of FRY and R. Serbian troops to enter the Land Security Zone”, and “Document on tactical operations of FRY and Serbian troops that are active in LSZ”.

During preparations and execution of operations of entering and taking over parts of the LSZ, detached teams of joint commissions for MTA implementation dwelled in commands and units on field directly. On those occasions they could personally see the professional attitude of all JSF members in realization of many complex tasks completed while entering the LSZ.

Certain irregularities that were reported were solved very promptly and efficiently, through joint field visits made by commissions for MTA implementation.¹¹

Upon JSF's entrance into the Land Security Zone, VJ units were deployed in 27 bases (21 in the PrK zone, 3 in the UK zone and 3 in the PK zone), to secure the administrative line with KaM, 466 km long. Units were accommodated in montage-demontage facilities, that had been erected in the second half of 2001, thus creating conditions for more favorable living and working conditions of soldiers engaged in securing the administrative line and in control of territory within the Land Security Zone.

At the task of securing the administrative line with KaM and controlling the territory within the LSZ, differently from the period of the crisis solution itself, 1200 VJ troops were deployed, which is 3000 soldiers less. That proves the achieved level of relaxation both within the LSZ and in the region as a whole.

Through coordination and direct involvement of the Coordinating Body, an initiative was launched and 149 km of local roads was built and reconstructed for the needs of JSF at the administrative line with KaM, 27 mounting facilities for accommodation were built, IT equipment provided (19 sets of computers “Pentium-4” and 19 digital photo cameras), for automation of reporting the situation and events at the administrative line, and projects were launched for modernization and equipment of troops with optoelectronic devices for surveillance and autonomous protection of bases, which will reduce direct involvement of personnel for one third.

¹¹ On 17 August 2001, the Agreement on Temporary Operative Procedures for Cooperation and Coordination on Both Sides of the Administrative Line with KaM was signed between the KFOR Commander and the JSF Commander, which was an official authorization for FRY troops to be inside the Land Security Zone without limitations regarding equipment and system of armament, except for those given in the MTA as forbidden in the Air Security Zone.

On 27. December 2001, the “Agreement on Temporary Operative Procedures” was signed with the KFOR Command and it defined regulations regarding the Air Security Zone after its partial relaxation, which meant that our aircrafts were granted access to fly into the ASZ up to 10 km from the administrative line with KaM.

On 10. January 2003, the “Agreement on Temporary Operative Procedures” was signed with the KFOR Command and it defined regulations regarding the Air Security Zone after its new partial relaxation, from 10 km to 5 km from the administrative line with KaM.

3.3. Measures Taken and Results in the Sphere of Albanian Integration Into the Political and Social System of Serbia

Creation of multiethnic police represented a key element in the process of confidence building among citizens at the south of Serbia, as well as a basis for realization of other projects. This project has been widely known as a great success of the Coordinating Body and the International community. It has not been completed yet, and pending is taking certain steps for its wider implementation at the whole area.

In accordance with the Plan for Crisis Solution, measures have been taken and achieved the following results:

Brought a decision on cancellation of old municipal assemblies and on creating temporary multiethnic municipal councils;

Multiethnic municipal electoral commissions were created for local elections;

Census was done, control and update of electorate lists in municipalities;

Schedules and held early municipal democratic elections, according to new laws and regulations (proportional system);

Multiethnic Assemblies and multiethnic municipal councils constituted;

At the direct democratic elections, mayors of Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja municipalities were elected;

Multiethnic police was formed; and it functions successfully in multiethnic environment, which considerably improved the national composition of the local police;

Integration of Albanians into state structures initiated, before all into judiciary, educational, health and other state systems;

A Working Group was formed for reintegration of ANZ into state structures of the Republic of Serbia and of Serbia and Montenegro;

Control of legality of police work was tightened as well as control of other state bodies, with a focus on curbing minority rights breaches against Albanians by state bodies representatives;

Full and free access was provided to each part of the territory for all representatives of human rights organizations and given possibility to open their open offices in local communities;

Provided an engagement of multiethnic police patrols when certain measures were introduced in multiethnic settlements;

An exhaustive, planned and defined promotional activity was carried out, and it represented an important segment of media support that had been defined in the Program and Plan for Crisis Solution in municipalities of Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja;

By planned activities in the area of promotional campaigns, the goal was achieved, as well as the highest possible field effect. Coordinating Body provided for that purpose 60¹² sets of billboards, and they contained 12 campaigns during past three years. Those campaigns had not only informative, but also ethnically-integrative character, promoting joint living and tolerance;

All the promotional campaigns were carried out bilingually, in Serbian and Albanian.

Certain campaigns, in their creative expression, were defined through clips aired on radio and TV, through advertisement in newspapers, flyers and posters;

What was the highest goal of this form of activity is that we managed to define clear promotional and communication channels toward population of these municipalities.

3.4. Measures Taken at Economic-Social Plan

In the period so far, and in accordance with the objective situation, the main priority in the region was security and peace stabilization. Without having security and peace in the region, it was not possible to carry out any other planned programs that were aimed to political, economic and social development. A part of financial aid covered the costs of controlling the administrative line to AP Kosovo-Metohija and costs of maintaining the overall security of property and persons.

Process of financial investments was conditioned by needs and requirements of municipal administrations themselves, that are responsible for proper usage of granted funds (Appendix 1). Municipalities of Bujanovac, Presevo and Medvedja rank among the least developed ones in the Republic of Serbia. Years long lagging in development of these municipalities left negative consequences in all spheres of social life. Environment of these municipalities is considerably impoverished during the past decade, and in some areas there is a decade long trend of economic underdevelopment. Lack of qualification and experience of municipal administration bodies in realization of complicated projects, as well as lack of efficient projects themselves, also influenced the implementation of the Plan of Economic and Social Development.¹³

Apart from this plan, significant funds were invested for the development of the region, both by Federal Government and by Government of Serbia (through Coordinating body), as well as by many donors organizations and governments of certain foreign states (Appendix 1a).

In cooperation with the Republic Agency for SME Development and Entrepreneurship, and through Project Proposal, on 18. August 2003, started initiative for creating SME and Entrepreneurship Agency for municipalities of Bujanovac, Presevo, and Medvedja. Such an institution should become a pole for gathering entrepreneurs for joint work on the program of those enterprises that are representing motor for development of each successful economy or the economy that wishes to become developed.

Apart from all this, some other results have been achieved, such as:

¹² Report on implementation of promotional campaigns at the territories of Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja municipalities.

¹³ Report measures for economic-social development in Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja municipalities (review of Annex 56).

Financial investments for renovation and construction of infrastructure (196 km of Water supply and Sewage, 293 km of roads, renovation of all school facilities, facilities for child protection, cultural

aor e

OSCE had given special contribution in starting, monitoring and successful

Summarized results of International community's participation in planning and the help in taking certain measures in solving the crisis are as follows:

Peace introduction and demilitarization of OVPBM ;
Multi ethnic police;
Radio Bujanovac reforms;
Law on local self-management;
Law on protection of national minorities;
Law on amnesties for former members of OVPBM;
Introduction of Working Group for returning in Medvedja;

Law on municipality elections;

Introduction of multi ethnical municipal councils which are managing Bujanovac, Presevo and Medvedja;

Introduction of multi ethnical committees for municipality's elections –Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja;

Municipality elections in Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja;

Founding of multi ethnical municipality assemblies and municipal councils;

First steps on reintegration of Albanian community within the structure of the state of the Republic of Serbia and Serbia and Montenegro – mostly in the administration of justice, education and political system;

Among these, and in accordance with adopted principles of the work of Coordinating Body and the above mentioned Plan, all activities which were introduced in crisis solving, irrelevant of the sphere of action, consider cooperation and the support of International community within the sphere of political, economic and security activities.

4. ASSESSMENT OF TAKEN MEASURES, ACHIEVED RESULTS AND REACHED SECURITY CONDITIONS

At the end of the three year period, when the realization of planed tasks was assessed, it could be stated that the goals, tasks and terms of realization of the Program had been realistically positioned, and mostly realized within estimated dynamics, along with certain laggings in the area of economic development of the region²⁰. The situation in the municipalities of Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja is not as close as it was two years ago. Non-disputable and significant tasks had been realized on introduction of peace and security, multi ethnical institutions and in the area of region development.

Realization of planed measures within these areas, the key goals of the Program and the plan on solving the crisis in the municipalities of Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja had been realized and in particular:

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Disarmament of Albanian extremists and cancellation of their organization together with demolition of their fortifying objects, giving away their armament and military equipment, as well as stoppage of their organized armament activities:

Former Liberation army of Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja (OVPBM) was demilitarized, and the greatest part of their members had been pardoned from criminal charges.

Removed and neutralized were basic causes of jeopardizing the constitutional and legal order such as disturbance of state sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Serbia and Federal republic of Yugoslavia.

By the constructive cooperation with international military and police structures, relaxation of LSZ and SFC, return of JSF, actually military and police forces in the LSZ and their presence at the administrative line of AP of KaM.

Full personal and property security of all citizens was introduced, and non-disturbed freedom of movement has been granted at every part of the territory, which was jeopardized by the crisis;

Full normalization of the work of state bodies, bodies of local self-management and other domestic and foreign government and non-government organization in the region has been provided;

Enabled was the return of refugees and displaced persons to their homes;

Realized efficient cooperation, introduced and significantly improved mutual trust between International security forces in AP KaM and security forces of SAM, especially in security protection and control over passing over administrative line of AP KaM.

3. With political measures of Coordinating Body, including particularly Albanian integration in the municipalities, municipality's executive councils, multiethnic police and in other state bodies, bodies of local self-management, economy and other subjects, a base for further development of multi ethnic and multi confessional society was created on democratic principles, together with respect of human rights, minority and other rights and freedoms of all citizens according to the highest standards.

4. Undertaken measures and financial investments in the economy life area, economy, health care, education, social protection, with international help and support the conditions had been created for further prosperity and fast economy and social development of the region, with the interest of all citizens who live there.

5. Model of crisis solving, whose implementation realized mentioned goals in the municipalities of Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja, could serve as a model for crisis solving in KaM, and in the region in general.

Starting with emphasized, present security situation in the municipalities of Bujanovac, Presevo and Medvedja could be evaluated as stable with the tendency of further stabilization, but with the existence of latent factors and threats of jeopardizing it by single acts of criminal and terrorist actions in the region. Such developments, in the future period as well, requires taking the planed and coordinated

measures of all state bodies on maintaining and improving the achieved level of security and peace on the base of goals, principles and tasks established in the Program and Plan on crisis solving.

Goals realization was predominantly influenced by the following factors:

Serious initiative for ending and solving the crisis that was initiated by CB by making the Program for its realization and acceptance and support of the Program from the part of the Federal Government and the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the most significant factors of IC;

Orientation of SaM and Republic of Serbia to solve the crisis peacefully, by political-diplomatic means and dialogue with representatives of ANZ together with participation and support of International community;

Orientation of SaM and Republic of Serbia to respect in details national and international regulations and documents especially including UNSCR 1244 and the Military–Technical Agreement, in crisis solving, as orientation that every crisis solution must be within the frame of established order of SAM and Republic of Serbia excluding any kind of autonomy, special status or borders changing of Republic of Serbia and Serbia and Montenegro.

5. FURTHER DEVELOPMENT IN SECURITY SITUATION ASSESSMENT

Peace process in the passed period, along with the constant implementation of measures for regaining the trust among nations, had upward trend in spite of certain difficulties, which appeared in certain moments. By the attained peace in the region and increased level of citizen's security, one of the most important goals has been achieved; actually multi ethnical local authorities had been elected, on the democratic principles in the municipalities of Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja.

But the events from the beginning of the year of 2003 predict complex situation trend in the region, with the attempts in creating situation of two years ago. Certain criminal and radical elements are trying, by threatening citizens, members of multi ethnical police and multi ethnical representatives of local authorities, destabilized situation in the region.

Number of death threats, explosions in private apartments of multi ethnic policemen and other citizens, physical assaults, murders of BIA members, placement of mine-explosive devices, murder of the members of Gendarme and several cases of injuries on the territory of municipalities of Bujanovac, Presevo and Medvedja, from the beginning of the year 2003 up until today, confirm, already given, characteristic of the region as "crisis point" of the central part of the south Serbia.

Relevant evaluations point out that regional problem represents vicious circle, which "run" organized crime, violence, extremism and terrorism. So, that is why it is reasonable presumption for stability and region development in keeping down organized crime. It represents the main threat to the security and the economy in the whole region as well, before all, because of illegal drug trafficking, weapon trafficking, people and money laundering. Criminals manipulate with patriotic and national feelings of citizens, and use national flags as a cover, representing the key source of a threat to the security in the region. Organized crime, which does not recognize borders, ethnical, and status subject of their carriers, and has ambition to represent itself as "lesser evil" and "acceptable replacement" for terrorism, and

their carriers, according to this logic, incorporate in political, police, military and state structures, in which they partially succeed.

All this points out a real presumption that Albanian extremists, in the following period, will continue with selective actions such as mine placing on the roads of the Land Security Zone, which JSF are using, by sniper and mortar attacks at the territory of KaM at the objects of the army of Serbia and Montenegro and Ministry of Interior near by the administrative line, as well as by sending smaller terrorist groups in order to perform ambushes and striking with the accent on the directions of: Gnjilane- Konculj, Bujanovac and Karacevo- Car – Breznica – V. Trnovac, so as on the north of KaM and other Serbian settlements.

Security data also point out, that for now, within this territory one cannot exclude the possibility of escalation of clashes of a greater measures, and that terrorists will have these action only to create fear and insecurity among security forces and Serbian population. This will maintain tension and create conditions for starting crisis again with intention to prevent further political dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina.

Political situation at the territory of municipalities of Bujanovac, Presevo and Medvedja still is not on required level for introducing the full stability and situation which is required to all citizens, and that is why additional measures must be taken regarding this plan. Intention in preventing development and further introduction of trust among Serbs, Albanians and Roma, the progress in returning the interethnic confidence and prevention of the progress in peace enabling, law regulation and respect of human right and integration of Albanians in the state, social and public life is the main goal of the forces which do not want stability in the region.

In spite of these problems, Coordinating Body successfully works on normalization of the situation in this region, which includes cooperation with KFOR, OSCE and EUMM, and other international organizations. Extremist behaviors which jeopardize security and all efforts in crisis solving, require adequate response to all extreme threats, terrorist actions and criminal acts, reasonably, responsible and by the law regulated manner.

On the base of all of that it could be concluded that up until now, the highest priorities and the biggest attention was devoted to the security and stability of peace processes. From now on the accent of the activities must direct to the implementation of multi parties municipality elections with introduction of proportional election system, constitution of multi ethnical municipalities and to provide participation in the authority between Albanians and Serbs, in order to have authorities in the municipalities of Bujanovac, Presevo and Medvedja. Transferring security focus on the political and economy-social projects will open the second phase of peace process in the region.

6. SUGGESTION OF MEASURES FOR THE NEXT PERIOD

Political condition in the municipalities of Bujanovac, Presevo and Medvedja is still not on the level of full stability needed for all citizens, which requires taking additional measures with full public mobility and wide cooperation with all subjects who want to solve problems in the direction of full regional stability.

Starting with that as with an achieved level of political security situation in the municipalities of Bujanovac, Presevo and Medvedja and with the achieved level of economy and social development of

these municipalities Coordinating Body evaluates it as important and suggests that in the forthcoming period the tendency goes in the direction of the work of state bodies regarding following issues:

Transfer of priorities in the work from security to the political and economy area.

Further stabilization of political - security situation, more professional attitude, reorganization, modernization and gradual decrease of military police forces in the region.

Continuing of development and enabling multi ethnic institutions and mechanisms for full protection of human rights and minority rights in the region.

Faster economy-social development, which is heading towards prosperity of multi ethnic society.

Reorganization of Coordinating Body along with the changes in its constitution, which is appropriate to the current situation and priority tasks.

Continuing cooperation with international community in realization of the Program of activities in the future.

6.1. Further Stabilization of Conditions

General situation in the municipalities of Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja is far from the situation three years ago. Significant development had been realized in introduction of peace and creation of multi ethnic institutions.

Issues of strategic importance for the south of Serbia solving could not be observed out of the context of complex problems of the region (KaM, Macedonia, South-Eastern Europe and certain Mediterranean region).

General approach in solving such a complex problem requires differentiation on several strategically important domains such as: political, social-economic and security. But, non of these aspects could be separately observed because they are closely connected, with influence to each other and all together influence the whole situation in the region. We should not overlook the fact that solving these problems at the south of Serbia has potential influence on KaM as well, and on the western part of Macedonia. Successful solving of these issues in the previous period has proven to be a good model, which could be used in the regions of other countries with similar problems.

These are the reasons why any other planned activities in each of these domains itself must be within the context of the others in order to provide cohesion and harmonic implementation of these activities.

6.2. Coordinating Body Reorganization

In order to adapt to newly present situation and tasks, in the period to come, it is necessary to regulate Coordinating Body basically and structurally.

Reorganization considers activities of Albanian, Serbian and Roma local representatives, Serbian Orthodox Church, Islamic community, non-government organizations and unions. CB should provide more space within for economy experts on the ministerial level, which will provide better results in project realization regarding economy development, infrastructure, measures on trust building, legislation, health care, education and public administration. In the next period it should transfer the focus from security to the political and economy development. That does not mean that security issue

should be marginalized. Firm determination in the future work is economy development and generalization of great number of unemployed, and zero tolerance towards violence, criminal, extremism and terrorism. Army and police will be present in the number, which will provide total rule of the law and legislation so as zero tolerance toward all shapes of law disrespect. It is obvious that economy development should be in function of faster employment, because great number of unemployed, represent easy target of war profiteers and criminals, which are successfully hiding behind patriotism and national markings, and jeopardize security of complete population.

In order to solve, on adequate way, upper mentioned problems it is necessary to reorganize Coordinating Body and to have experts from various fields which will be ready to fulfill their obligations independently of the current situation, their personal interests and political pressures, and not to declare its political aspiration publicly.

To name –offices within Coordinating Body, which will formulate priorities in all upper mentioned domains, monitor situation and react on time regarding change of priorities and schedule of all resources and financial means²¹. Beside that, these offices would have possibility of a direct contact with potential donators and other partners from the country and abroad and influence on regular distribution of these means in accordance with priorities.

Each office will be responsible for the control over resource and means use which are part of their domain, and inform public regarding its financial activity.

Since Coordinating Body is the body of the Government of Serbia and the Council of Ministers of Serbia and Montenegro, it is necessary to provide greater participation of local self-management and Municipality in decision making which are important for the region. Such approach would provide from one part, participation of local political circles in state bodies functioning, their feeling that they belong to the state, and will provide greater respect to the government of Serbia in the region, and prevent potential segregation of local self-management from the state. At the same time, Coordinating Body, beside the role of general coordination, would have a role in gathering of all relevant factors in the region, which would contribute to mutual confidence and integration.

In order to complete its basic tasks, Coordinating Body should have, as up until now, wider communication with international organizations, and to have special persons for such cooperation.

If there is a need, for solving some issues, to hire domestic and foreign experts, either for consulting or expert assistance.

6.3 Further Participation and Help of the International Community

International community will continue with its activities on providing full respect of the Resolution 1244, as well as with support to the Republic of Serbia in its efforts to preserve sovereignty and territorial integrity on the entire territory.

In accordance with the existing Plan of International Community's Participation in Solving the crisis in municipalities of Bujanovac, Presevo and medvedja, it will initiate and start up activities of including international subjects in solving the crisis in the region in all segments. To support and initiate faster integration of Albanians into the social system of the Republic of Serbia at all levels.

²¹ This is of a significant importance because we know that government of Serbia has modest financial sources.

It fairly assesses, defines and envisages extremist behavior, terrorist acts, criminal activities with focus on organized crimes, and supports SaM and Republic of Serbia in taking adequate steps to fight these acts, all in function of reaching solutions for the crisis in the region.

It is necessary that the International community supports and continue to comprehend problems and ways to overcome them, in order to preserve and further develop the project of the Multiethnic police, as well as the multiethnic life in the region.

Respecting generally adopted working principles of the Coordinating Body and the above mentioned Plan, all the activities for crisis solution that will be carried out, should be realized with direct support, aid and consent of the International Community.

Participation in further realization of the donors conference programs, especially UNDP and CHF, even in new working conditions of the Coordinating Body.

7. CONCLUSION

Success of reorganization of the above mentioned measures will greatly depend on consolidation of political forces in the country, introduction of dialogue with members of Albanian community, and intensity of participation of international factors.

On the other hand, postponing of mentioned measures might lead to political discrediting of Coordinating Body and Ministerial Council and Government of Serbia, situation deteriorating in the production sector, with possible un-reparable situation. Additionally, such situation might lead to psycho-economic reaction of population (particularly Serbian nationality) and mass migration from the region (KaM syndrome).

In order to avoid possible annulment of all, up until now achieved positive results in the region, and to avoid catastrophic consequences, it is necessary, as soon as possible, to start with making working Program of Coordinating Body in the future (2003-2006) and its realization.

8. LIST OF DOCUMENTS USED FOR THE REPORT

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