

# A chronology of current conflicts

## Albania

**April 1981:** The Albanian minority in Yugoslavia's Kosovo province mounts a series of bloody disturbances with demands ranging from autonomy to unification of Kosovo with Albania, at the instigation of the Tirana government. Relations between Belgrade and Tirana deteriorate rapidly. Albania's leaders consider the possibility of military action. The crisis reaches a high point during late June and early July.

**June 1981:** Albania for the first time sends a large delegation of professors from the University of Tirana, on extended visits to the Universities of Venice and Rome. In the course of the year, Italy becomes Albania's largest trading partner. During the summer and autumn, Albania announces that it seeks closer relations with Italy, Greece, Turkey, and Algeria.

**November 1981:** The Albanian Communist Party holds its Eighth Congress and ratifies the new foreign policy. A large-scale purge follows. Enver Hoxja, the 74-year-old party chief, is seriously ill and isolated from developments. His longtime collaborator, Prime Minister Mehmet Shehu, is assassinated on Dec. 17, 1981, in unexplained circumstances. Defense Minister Kantri Hasbiu, Shehu's nephew, is purged.

**January 1982:** In the first half of the month, four more ministers, including another Shehu nephew, Mako Shehu, are purged. On Jan. 5 an assassination is attempted against Enver Hoxja. On Jan. 15, Hoxja appoints a new Prime Minister, Antil Karkani, who officially reiterates that "the opening to the West" will continue. Greek and Yugoslav analysts conclude that the younger generation of leaders has adopted a policy of confrontation with Yugoslavia and open rapprochement with P-2 factions in Italy.

## Yugoslavia

**April 1981:** The most severe crisis since the end of World War II begins as a result of the Kosovo riots. The Soviet Union increases its presence in Yugoslavia in a spectacular way.

**June 1981:** A large Soviet naval task force demonstratively shows the flag in Yugoslavia's Adriatic ports. Among the visiting Soviet officers is the formidable Admiral Gorchkov. During 1981, Yugoslavia's trade

with the U.S.S.R. increases by 62 percent.

**December 1981:** After the conclusion of the Albanian Communist Party's congress, Yugoslavia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs issues a public statement Dec. 10 emphasizing that it considers three positions adopted at the congress to be "unacceptable": interference in Yugoslavia's internal affairs, encouragement of resistance among Yugoslavia's Albanian minority, and expression of territorial ambitions at Yugoslavia's expense. During the Serbian Central Committee plenum of Dec. 24, a fight breaks out with mutual recriminations between Serbs, and representatives of Kosovo and Vojvodina. On Dec. 25, Yugoslav Presidium member Milos Minic, also president of the Commission for International Affairs, gave an interview on the subject of relations with Albania and Bulgaria, stating: "The main danger from [Albania's] pursuit of this kind of policy is that the great powers can become involved in it, unless, of course, they have already become involved."

**June 1982:** The Yugoslav League of Communists will hold its Twelfth Party Congress, on constitutional changes in the relations between the central government and ethnic minorities. Augmented authority for the Serbian-dominated military is expected.

## Greece

**October 1981:** Ten days before the Albanian party congress, on Oct. 20, Socialist Andreas Papandreou takes office after an election prearranged among himself, his conservative opponents, and President Constantine Caramanlis. The managers of the scheme were Propaganda-2 and NATO influentials. An effort by traditionalist officers to obstruct Papandreou's election was quietly defused by NATO.

**November 1981:** Papandreou complains officially against Turkey on the Cyprus question.

**December 1981:** Socialist International chief Willy Brandt spent two weeks in Cyprus trying to stir up the Greek Cypriot side. Rumors circulate that the Greek military is sending reinforcements to the island. Turkish authorities in response begin actual reinforcements. Meanwhile, Papandreou takes an ostentatious "anti-NATO" stance at the Atlantic Council meeting in Brussels, stage-managed by Air Force General N. Kouris, a veteran of NATO's Allied Command in Naples; Kouris later is promoted to chief of the Air Force.

**January 1982:** The General Staff of the Army, Navy, and Air Force are all replaced mostly by generals with extensive NATO backgrounds and professional training in Britain. The field commands of the I, II, III, and IV Army Corps, of the First Greek Army, and of the Supreme Military Command of Athens and Interior, the last being the "coup d'état capability," were all handed to officers loyal to the exiled King.