Kosova asks U.S. to prevent 'genocide'

In a letter to U.S. President Bill Clinton, the government of the Republic of Kosova asserts that the five-power deal over Bosnia opens the way for new aggression against Kosova. The letter was written on May 25 by Dr. Bujar Bukoshi, the Republic of Kosova's prime minister and foreign minister.

Dear President Clinton:

On behalf of the government of the Republic of Kosova, may I express our appreciation for the efforts made in formulating the Joint Action Program to stop the senseless war in Bosnia-Hercegovina, to contain the conflict and to prevent it from spreading to Kosova and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Despite the concerted efforts of the foreign ministers meeting in Washington last weekend, the Joint Action Program for Bosnia is seen by the Serbs in general as a great victory for them. This gives us reason to be even more concerned about the situation in Kosova.

As the Serbs seem to have achieved everything they wanted elsewhere in the former Yugoslavia, they will most probably be compelled to re-tackle, in their own way, the problem of Kosova.

Ominous signs of conflict are already present. Following a recent incident in which two Serbian policemen were shot

dead and five wounded, under circumstances unknown to us, Serbian authorities have intensified their oppression over the Albanian population in Kosova.

One of the Serbian opposition leaders, Vuk Draskovic, stated recently that Vojislav Seselj, leader of the Serbian Radical Party, has been training his forces for months in order to spark a conflict in Kosova. According to him, Serbian soldiers and policemen will become victims of terrorist acts perpetrated by Seselj's men. . . .

Kosova Albanians had no alternative but to seek independence following disintegration of the Yugoslav Federation in which Kosova had been one of the constituent units. We have been, and remain, determined to achieve our goals through peaceful means. In this process we see no turning back.

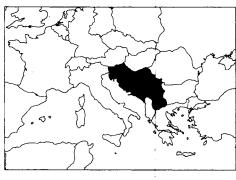
Our greatest concern is that the Joint Action Program falls short of addressing properly the problem of Kosova. Increased international monitoring, included in the program and endorsed by the Kosova leadership, regrettably may not suffice in stopping the conflict from spreading to Kosova.

We also regret that independence of Kosova is not supported in the agreement. An independent Kosova can only be a stabilizing factor in the region. Any other solution will leave the area with a potential problem that will sooner or later involve the entire Balkans in a devastating war.

Considering the current situation, we are calling on the United Nations Security Council to convene an international conference on containing the Balkan conflict at the earliest possible date. The international conference would focus on realistic options for preventing the spread of Serbian "ethnic cleansing" and genocide to Kosova and Macedonia. To this end, we pledge our full cooperation and fervent support.



This map shows the six republics and two autonomous regions of the former Yugoslavia. Kosova, with a majority Albanian ethnic population, was one such autonomous region within the borders of Serbia, but it is now being illegally annexed by the Serbian regime. Macedonia is also threatened.



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