

BALMUN'24

H: NATO

**Under Secretary General:
Deniz ATILGAN**

**Academic Assistant:
Demir ERENER**

STUDY GUIDE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- I. Letter from the Secretary-General
- II. Letter from the Under Secretary-General
- III. What is NATO••
- IV. History of NATO
 - A. Foundation of NATO
 - 1. Structure
 - 2. Accomplishments
 - 3. Cold-War era
 - B. NATO and how it functions
 - 1. Vision and mission of NATO
 - 2. Sixth Strategic Concept 1999
 - 3. The functioning subsidiary units of NATO
- V. Definitions of NATO terminology and explanation of necessary articles
 - A. Article 5 (Collective Defence)
 - B. Article 6 (Collective Attack)
- VI. Kosovo War
 - A. Countries Stance on the issue
 - B. Timeline
- VII. Now what will happen / NATOs objective
- VIII. Further Sources
- IX. Bibliography

I. Letter from the Secretary-General

Most Esteemed Participants,

As the Secretary-General of the conference, it is my utmost pleasure to welcome you all to the very first edition of BALMUN'24.

The World is changing in various and major impacts. Every single day, another crisis occurs in a different location on Earth. Policies are changing, economies are changing, and even human culture is changing. However, the only thing that does not change is humanity's desire to achieve their own interests. This desire has been the main factor in the establishment of the global system in the past, present, and future.

At this conference, we aimed to show you the real politics, the truth behind the curtains, and provide a full United Nations simulation experience for you. We created eight wonderful committees that contain all the political aspects of the past, present, and future. We are expecting a lot from you to find initiative solutions for crises, successfully cooperate with other ideologies, have lasting reconciliation for the problems which occurred in the World for more than a century...

While academically improving yourselves also, I, as Ceylin Umay Köylü, sincerely hope you have fun during the conference. MUN events brought me amazing friends that I would not have even dreamed of. I wholeheartedly wish you to gain friendships and enjoy every single second of the conference.

We were the past, we are the present and we will be the future. I wish you to all find your importance and purpose in the World.

Yours Faithfully,

Secretary-General

Ceylin Umay Köylü

II. Letter from the Under Secretary-General

Most esteemed participants

I am so honored to welcome you all to the first edition of BALMUN 24' as the Under Secretary-General of the NATO committee,

My name is Coşkun Deniz Atılğan and i am an 11th grader and an ib student in İstek Atanur Oğuz Anatolian High-School

Our committee H-NATO is being considered as an advanced committee so I am confident that the committee will be magnificent and vibrant as a result of your collaboration and participation. With the guidelines of the study guide you will be expected to debate and **TAKE ACTIONS**, as you have read, you, the delegates will be capable of taking actions since its an Historical committee.

With your hardwork and cooperation, we will accomplish our tasks and show everyone the absolute power of the NATO, because **TOGETHER WE ARE STRONG, UNITED WE ARE NATO**

Please do not hesitate to ask or request anything that you have a question of or couldn't understand (mail - cdenizatilgan@gmail.com :)

Under Secretary-General
C. Deniz ATILGAN

II. What is NATO

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization or simply known as NATO is an international security organization containing 30 member states as of today. It was founded during the Cold War by American and European efforts to defend themselves from the threats posed by the USSR. After the dissolution of the USSR, the alliance has incorporated several former Soviet republics and Warsaw Pact member states to its membership such as Estonia, Lithuania, Bulgaria and Romania.

To foster trust and ultimately avert conflict, NATO promotes dialogue and collaboration on defence and security matters as well as the promotion of democratic ideals. It is devoted to the mediation of conflicts. It possesses the necessary military capability to conduct crisis-management operations if diplomatic attempts are unsuccessful. They are carried out in accordance with Article 5 of the Washington Treaty, member states can act either alone or with the assistance of other nations and international organizations. As the principle of consensus determines all choices, a "NATO decision" is an expression of the collective will of all member nations. NATO aims to keep the peace around the globe but should there be an attack on any member state, the organization will not refrain from military operations so as to establish peace again.



III. History of NATO

A. Foundation of NATO

The idea that one region's security is intimately linked to that of the other led to the creation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), a military alliance of countries from North America and Europe. Near the conclusion of WWII, Allied Powers were concerned with constructing a security framework to secure the peace and prosperity of North America and Europe. In August 1941, US President Franklin D. Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill met to sign the Atlantic Charter. The Atlantic Charter's signatories vowed to uphold the principles of non-aggression, free trade, and self-determination. Even though the Soviet Union was a part of the Allies during World War II, European Allies were beginning to fear its revisionist policies. Both the 1948 Berlin Blockade and the Communist takeover of Czechoslovakia were examples of Soviet aggression. Belgium, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom signed the Treaty of Brussels in 1948 to lay the groundwork for a military alliance out of concern about a German resurgence and a Soviet invasion. The Atlantic Charter and the Treaty of Brussels were joined together in 1949, when Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom, and the United States nations signed the North Atlantic Treaty.

The North Atlantic Treaty is based on the ideas of containment and mutual cooperation. An armed assault on one or more member states is deemed an attack against all, as stated in Article 5 of the treaty, and as a result, NATO member states must respond to such attack either independently or together. Moreover, member nations are required under the treaty to give the alliance high priority and abstain from activities that would be in opposition to the alliance's principles. Thus, the confinement notion is strengthened by the employment of collective security.

1. Structure

Being the only governing body specifically established by the treaty, the North Atlantic Council (NAC) holds effective political authority and powers of decision over the alliance. Weekly meetings of the permanent representatives of NATO's member states are held to address political, military, and strategic issues referring to the alliance. Cabinet ministers from the member states will also meet at the NAC throughout the year. The Secretary-General, who is Jens Stoltenberg of Norway as of now, chairs meetings of the NAC. All decisions taken at NATO are made in accordance with the idea of collective security. As a result, there is no voting in the NAC and negotiations will continue once all Member States reach an agreement which expresses the alliance's collective will. The Defence Planning Committee whose mission is to prepare mutual security, and the Nuclear Planning Group through

which member states examine specific policy concerns related to nuclear forces are two additional significant NATO bodies.

2. Accomplishments

Successes

The Cold War: During the Cold War, NATO's efforts were centered around three goals: controlling the Soviet Union, dissuading militant nationalism and communism across Europe, and establishing greater European political unity. The alliance played a major role in maintaining the tense peace of the Cold War and ensuring the war remained 'cold'. With the end of the war, NATO worked to further maintain peace. They established the North Atlantic Cooperation Council and, in 1997, NATO encouraged bilateral discussion between the United States and Russia through the Founding Act.

Modern Day Protection: Today, NATO continues to provide a level of protection for its members. Since its founding, a NATO member has only been attacked and evoked

Article 5 once (the United States after 9/11). Member countries are afforded collective security, just as NATO originally sought to do. Additionally, NATO has created a global network of more than 40 countries and other partners around the globe—ranging from the African Union to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). This network provides NATO support in its crisis management operations, ranging from aid operations such as its delivery of relief supplies after the 2005 Kashmir Earthquake to counter-terrorism operations in the Mediterranean and the coast of Somalia.

The Ukraine War: NATO has publicly denounced the Russian invasion of Ukraine and NATO member countries and allies have provided substantial aid to Ukraine. The United States has contributed roughly \$54 billion to Ukraine. Other countries have provided humanitarian aid and support for the more than 5 million refugees of the war. The Ukraine war has reaffirmed the importance of NATO, and even spurred Finland and Sweden to increase their efforts to join the alliance. These countries' membership would strengthen the alliance militarily through increased air and submarine capabilities, allowing for NATO to further dissuade Russian aggression.

Failures

Funding Issues: In 2006, NATO Defense Ministers agreed to a commitment that 2% of their countries' GDP would be allocated towards defense spending. However, the majority of NATO members do not meet this goal. Currently, the United States accounts for over two-thirds of the alliance's defense spending.

Afghanistan: After 9/11, NATO was a considerable presence in Afghanistan, and their forces were crucial in their support of the Afghan government. When President Donald Trump signed an agreement with the Taliban in 2020, both NATO and American troops were withdrawn from Afghanistan. What followed was an immediate fall in the Afghan government at the hands of the Taliban. Despite the two decades NATO spent in Afghanistan, no long term solution was reached, and without their presence, the nation's former government could not survive.

Right-Wing Nationalism: With the spread of right-wing nationalism across Europe, discontent with international institutions like NATO and the EU grows. If right-wing nationalist movements continue to increase in popularity across Europe, there could be increased calls for countries to leave institutions like NATO. The challenge NATO faces now is how to combat and address their criticism, and how to unify a divided Europe.

Russian Aggression: Despite supposed verbal promises to Russia that it would not expand to the east, NATO has admitted several former Warsaw Pact members since the fall of the Soviet Union. Now, with NATO members bordering Russia and the promise of further expansion, Russia feels increasingly threatened. The possibility of Ukraine joining NATO has been cited as a significant reason for Vladimir Putin's invasion of the country.

3. Cold-War Era

As the main foe of NATO no longer existed after the end of the Cold War and the collapse of the Soviet Union and Warsaw Pact, NATO underwent significant changes. NATO updated its Strategic Concept for the very first time since its founding. The 1991 Strategic Concept stated that there is a "threat of a simultaneous, full-scale attack on all of NATO's European fronts" and that the alliance's attention will shift to new causes of conflict such as racial tensions and political instability. NATO member states encouraged former Warsaw Pact nations to join the alliance as part of its Partnership for Peace agenda during the 1994 Brussels Summit. After the Cold War, the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Poland were the first three nations to join the alliance. Also, NATO's operational structure changed as a result of the absence of an obvious enemy. When it came to issues involving the former Yugoslavia and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), NATO said in 1992 that it would assist UNSC peacekeeping efforts to the maximum degree of feasibility.

Although there was a significant change in the political landscape of the world, NATO's fundamentals and the North Atlantic Treaty have not changed much. The member states of the alliance met after the September 11 terrorist attacks and used Article 5 for the first and only time. Invoking Article 5 changed the alliance's long-term political and military activities, but it also demonstrated to the world that NATO still had an important role in global affairs. The early military operations in

Afghanistan were commanded by the United States and the United Kingdom, but other NATO Member States also contributed significantly, either individually or collectively. NATO expanded geographically and continued to develop mechanisms for its military leadership and crisis management.

Since the conclusion of the Cold War, NATO's ties with Russia have not been consistent. NATO designated Russia as a crucial ally in maintaining transatlantic peace in the 1999 Strategic Concept. The NATO-Russia Council (NRC) was established by the alliance and Russia in 2002 as a way of collaboration in fields including environmental security, counter-terrorism, and drug trafficking. Due to Russia's military actions against Georgia and its diplomatic recognition of Georgia's breakaway regions, activities in the NRC were paused from 2008 to 2009.

4. NATO and how it functions

NATO is an organization that focuses on crisis management and has the ability to undertake various military operations and missions worldwide. It manages complex ground, air, and naval operations in different environments and currently leads operations in Kosovo and the Mediterranean. It has also initiated a training mission in Iraq to enhance its security forces and institutions, supports the African Union, and conducts air policing missions upon Allies' request. Additionally, NATO assists in responding to refugee and migrant crisis, has deployed Patriot missiles and AWACS aircraft in Turkey, and carries out disaster relief operations. Although not a formal operation or mission, NATO also supports civilian efforts in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic in its member and partner countries and provides support for local authorities in deployed areas. NATO's operations and missions have increased in diversity and frequency since the 1990s. Briefly, NATO's mission is to ensure peace in a global scale and to enhance the security of its member states.

5. Vision and Mission of NATO

NATO's vision is to create a secure and stable environment for the member states, based on the principles of democracy, individual liberty, and the rule of law. This vision is aimed at ensuring the freedom and security of its member states and to promote peace and stability in the Trans-Atlantic area.

The mission of NATO is to safeguard the freedom and security of its member states through political and military means. This involves collective defense, crisis management, and cooperative security. NATO aims to prevent conflicts and to manage crises before they escalate into armed conflicts. In case of armed attacks against any of its members, NATO will take all necessary measures to defend its member states. The organization also aims to promote international security and

stability through cooperation with other international organizations, countries, and partners.

NATO's mission has evolved over time, and it has adapted to the changing security landscape. NATO's focus is not only on traditional military threats but also on new security challenges such as terrorism, cyber threats, and hybrid warfare. NATO's mission is to ensure that its member states can live in peace, security, and freedom, and that the Euro-Atlantic area remains stable and prosperous.

6. Sixth strategic concept 1999

In 1999, NATO adopted a new Strategic Concept on its 50th anniversary, amidst the ongoing wars in the former Yugoslavia. The concept emphasized the importance of common defense and peace in the wider Euro-Atlantic region, recognizing various factors such as political, economic, social, and environmental aspects that contribute to security. The report included new dangers such as terrorism, ethnic strife, violations of human rights, political unrest, economic turbulence, and the proliferation of biological, chemical, and nuclear weapons. Security, consultation, deterrence, and defense were outlined as NATO's primary responsibilities, with crisis management and collaboration also being considered as crucial for improving security and stability in the Transatlantic region. The plan advocated for maintaining an adequate balance of nuclear and conventional forces while developing the military capabilities required for the complete spectrum of activities, from mutual protection to peacekeeping and other crisis response operations. A confidential strategic guidance paper that offered tactical advice to NATO force and operational planners was a supplement to the 1999 Strategic Concept.

7. The functioning and subsidiary units of NATO

- **NATO Headquarters:** Located in Brussels, Belgium, it acts as NATO's political and administrative hub. It is in charge of overall organization administration.
- **International Military Staff (IMS):** Providing military advice and assistance to NATO's political bodies is the responsibility of IMS.
- **Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACER):** NATO's SACEUR is in charge of organizing and carrying out military operations and missions in the Transatlantic region. The commander is in charge of guaranteeing that NATO has the military resources required to complete its duties and advising NATO's political authorities on matters of military strategy. SACER was General Joseph Ralston between 2000 and 2003.
- **Allied Command Operations (ACO):** The planning and execution of NATO's military missions and actions are within the authority of ACO. It is led by the

Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR) and has its headquarters in Mons, Belgium.

- Allied Command Transformation (ACT): ACT is responsible for improving NATO's military capabilities and efficiency. It is based in Norfolk, Virginia, USA, and headed by the Supreme Allied Commander Transformation (SACT).
- NATO Communications and Information Agency (NCIA): The NCIA is responsible for providing secure communication and information systems to NATO and its member states.
- NATO Defense College (NDC): The NDC is responsible for providing higher education and professional military education to NATO and its member states.
- NATO Parliamentary Assembly (NATO PA): The NATO PA is a forum for members of national parliaments from NATO member countries to discuss and promote transatlantic security issues.

All these institutions work together to support NATO's mission of ensuring the collective defense and security of its member states.

Our committee is a supreme entity that covers all of these inferior units of NATO. Military decisions taken in our committee will be delivered to SACEUR for final consideration. Keep in mind that you will be writing a “Joint statement” after negotiations within the Alliance to take any action. These joint statements will be brought together in order to write the final document of our committee which is a communique



V. Definitions of NATO terminology and explanation of necessary article

Strategic Concept: An important document for NATO is the Strategic Concept. To further offer a collaborative evaluation of the political and military situation, it underlines the ideals and goals of NATO. Moreover, it propels NATO's strategic evolution and directs the alliance's upcoming political and military advancement. Regular reviews and revisions are made to the Strategic Concept. It has been modified roughly every ten years since the end of the Cold War to reflect changes in the state of the world as well as to make sure NATO is ready for the future.

Exercise: Exercises are key instruments for NATO to test and confirm its principles, processes, technologies, and strategies. Additionally, armies and civilian organizations are deployed in theaters of war to evaluate their capabilities and practice operating efficiently in a challenging crisis situation. Military exercises are planned and carried out to prepare commanders and troops for actions in times of peace, crisis, and conflict. Thus, they must align with the priorities and operational requirements of the moment. There are three ways to perform the exercises. A real-time exercise (LIVEX) in which troops are involved. A command-post exercise (CPX) is a type of exercise that takes place at participating headquarters and involves commanders, their staff, and communications both inside and between those headquarters. The last type is an exercise study which might consist of a war game, a lecture series, a discussion group, or an organization strategy.

NATO Response Force (NRF): The NATO Response Force (NRF) consists of land, air, and sea forces as well as the Special Operations Forces (SOF). It is a highly prepared and technologically equipped multinational force that NATO can swiftly

deploy wherever it is required. The NRF may be used for improved technology utilization, expanded exercises, higher disaster relief help, stronger education and training cooperation in addition to its military duty. The main goal of the NRF is to be ready to respond militarily quickly to a developing crisis, whether it is concerning collective defence or other emergencies. The NRF equips the alliance with the tools it needs to react quickly to varied crises across the world.

Deterrence and Defence: NATO members are committed to defending each other's freedom and security from all external threats as NATO is a military alliance. One of NATO's main responsibilities is deterrence and defence. The deterrence and defence of NATO, which serves as the foundation for the allies' Article 5 obligation to support one another, are being greatly strengthened by allies. The fundamental and permanent goal of NATO is to protect each member state's independence and security via political and military action. According to Article 5 of the Washington Treaty, NATO's core purpose is collective defence. In a world where stability and safety cannot be taken for granted, NATO's main duty is to safeguard and defend the territory and populations of its allies against assault. A key component of NATO's overall policy is deterrence which includes averting conflict and war, safeguarding 12 territories of allies, and defending freedom. Deterrence further supports the ideals and values NATO upholds which includes individual liberty, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. Transatlantic defence must be credible in order to support democratic societies and the rules-based global system. A suitable combination of nuclear, conventional, and missile defence capabilities, together with space and cyber capabilities, forms the foundation of NATO's deterrence and defence posture. NATO continues to have the independence and versatility to respond to a wide range of issues in a suitable and specialized manner.



Collective defence and Article 5 & 6: The North Atlantic Treaty which established NATO, was primarily intended to establish a pact of mutual aid to counter the possibility of Soviet expansion over Eastern Europe and other regions of the continent. The treaty's Article 5 on collective defence essentially became a

cornerstone of NATO since every participant nation acknowledged that this kind of cooperation was at its core.

Article 5 of the Washington Treaty states that;

“The Parties agree that an armed attack against one or more of them in Europe or North America shall be considered an attack against them all and consequently they agree that, if such an armed attack occurs, each of them, in exercise of the right of individual or collective self-defence recognized by Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, will assist the Party or Parties so attacked by taking forthwith, individually and in concert with the other Parties, such action as it deems necessary, including the use of armed force, to restore and maintain the security of the North Atlantic area. Any such armed attack and all measures taken as a result thereof shall immediately be reported to the Security Council. Such measures shall be terminated when the Security Council has taken the measures necessary to restore and maintain international peace and security.”

According to Article 5, if a NATO ally is the target of an armed attack, every member of NATO must see the violence as an armed assault on all members and must take necessary steps so as to support the attacked ally.

There is also Article 6 which aims to complement the previous article. Article 6 states that;

“For the purpose of Article 5, an armed attack on one or more of the Parties is deemed to include an armed attack”

- on the territory of any of the Parties in Europe or North America, on the Algerian Departments of France, on the territory of Turkey or on the Islands under the jurisdiction of any of the Parties in the North Atlantic area north of the Tropic of Cancer;

- on the forces, vessels, or aircraft of any of the Parties, when in or over these territories or any other area in Europe in which occupation forces of any of the Parties were stationed on the date when the Treaty entered into force or the Mediterranean Sea or the North Atlantic area north of the Tropic of Cancer.”

When Article 5 is invoked, member states are obliged to offer any kind of support they think is required to handle the crisis. Each member state has a unique responsibility under this agreement, and each member state is in charge of deciding what it thinks is required under specific conditions.

Along with other allies, NATO goes forward with help. It is not always military; it is based on each nation's available material resources. So, the choice of how each individual member country will participate is left to their discretion. Keeping in mind that the ultimate goal is to restore and sustain the security of the North Atlantic region, each nation will discuss with other member states. The events of 9/11 attacks invoked Article 5 for the first and only time in NATO's history.

VI. Kosovo War

The Kosovo War of 1998-1999, a poignant and tumultuous chapter in the modern history of the Balkans, unfolded in the contested region of Kosovo, then a province within the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. At its core, the conflict pitted the forces of the Yugoslav government, under the leadership of President Slobodan Milosevic, against the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), an ethnic Albanian separatist group.

The genesis of the conflict lay in the intricate web of ethnic and political tensions that characterized Kosovo. The province, with its majority Albanian population, yearned for increased autonomy from the central authority in Belgrade. The Milosevic government, however, staunchly resisted these aspirations and, instead, escalated repression against the Albanian populace. This oppressive environment gave rise to the KLA, an armed militant faction committed to securing independence for Kosovo.

The conflagration reached a critical juncture in 1998 when the KLA initiated a series of attacks on Yugoslav security forces, eliciting a harsh response from the government. The ensuing conflict quickly descended into a maelstrom of violence, marked by brutal crackdowns and egregious human rights abuses. The deteriorating situation gave rise to a humanitarian crisis, with tens of thousands of civilians displaced and reports of widespread atrocities permeating the international community.

Efforts to address the crisis began with diplomatic negotiations, but as the violence persisted, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) intervened. In March 1999, NATO launched a military campaign, employing airstrikes against Yugoslav targets with the primary objective of compelling the government to cease its repression in Kosovo. The NATO intervention, however, ignited a global debate about the legality and appropriateness of the use of force without explicit authorization from the United Nations.

The airstrikes persisted for a grueling 78 days, inflicting significant damage on Yugoslav infrastructure but also contributing to the eventual withdrawal of Yugoslav forces from Kosovo. Post-intervention, Kosovo entered a new phase under the administration of the United Nations, accompanied by the deployment of international peacekeeping forces. This period witnessed a profound shift in the political status of Kosovo.

In 2008, Kosovo unilaterally declared its independence from Serbia, a move that garnered recognition from a substantial number of countries. However, Serbia, along with a few others, vehemently contested this declaration. The Kosovo War left an enduring imprint on the region, exposing the complexities and limitations of international intervention in internal conflicts. It prompted soul-searching discussions about the delicate balance between national sovereignty and the responsibility to protect vulnerable populations. Moreover, the conflict's aftermath has left a legacy of ethnic tensions and intricate political dynamics that continue to influence the trajectory of the Balkans in the contemporary geopolitical landscape.

VII. Countries Stance on the Issue

The United States of America: In 1998, the United States, led by President Bill Clinton, took a strong stance against the humanitarian crisis in Kosovo, condemning Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic's actions. The U.S. and its NATO allies pursued diplomatic solutions, advocating for a negotiated settlement. As the situation worsened, diplomatic efforts failed, prompting the U.S. and NATO to consider military intervention. In March 1999, NATO initiated airstrikes against Yugoslav targets to compel Milosevic to end repression in Kosovo. President Clinton emphasized preventing atrocities and protecting civilians, framing the intervention as a response to a humanitarian need. This marked a significant chapter in U.S. foreign policy, showcasing evolving principles related to humanitarian intervention and protecting vulnerable populations. The U.S. stance was part of a collective NATO effort, emphasizing the responsibility to act in the face of human rights abuses.

The Russian Federation: During the Kosovo War (1998-1999), Russia, with historical ties to Serbia, opposed NATO's intervention, considering it a violation of international law. Under President Boris Yeltsin, Russia criticized the military campaign, stressing the need for a UN Security Council mandate before the use of force. While not directly involved militarily, Russia engaged in diplomatic efforts, trying to mediate between NATO and Yugoslavia. The disagreement strained relations with Western powers, and Russia, a UN Security Council member, vetoed resolutions authorizing force, highlighting

international divisions. After the conflict, Russia opposed Kosovo's independence in 2008, aligning with Serbia and criticizing the UN's involvement in Kosovo. Overall, Russia's stance emphasized opposition to NATO intervention, a commitment to national sovereignty, and diplomatic solutions.

The Republic of Serbia: During the Kosovo War (1998-1999), Serbia, part of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, took a firm stance against Kosovo's independence. President Milosevic's government opposed the ethnic Albanian population's demand for autonomy, responding with a heavy-handed approach and facing accusations of human rights abuses. Serbia adamantly resisted international intervention, viewing it as a violation of sovereignty, a position extended to NATO's involvement. After Kosovo declared independence in 2008, Serbia, along with some countries, refused recognition, considering Kosovo part of its sovereign territory. The Serbian government, at times, downplayed reports of atrocities, contributing to strained relations with the international community. In summary, Serbia's position centered on opposing Kosovo's independence, resisting foreign intervention, and maintaining control over the province as part of its sovereign territory. The conflict significantly shaped the region's political dynamics and recognition challenges.

Republic of Albania: During the Kosovo War (1998-1999), Albania strongly supported ethnic Albanians in Kosovo, expressing solidarity against Yugoslav government repression. Albania backed the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), offering assistance such as weapons, training, and refuge. It played a humanitarian role, providing aid to refugees from Kosovo. Albania advocated for international intervention to address the crisis, emphasizing the need to protect civilians and the rights of ethnic Albanians. The country engaged in diplomatic efforts to raise awareness and seek support for a resolution. In summary, Albania's stance was one of solidarity, KLA support, humanitarian aid, advocacy for intervention, and diplomatic engagement.

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: During the Kosovo War (1998-1999), the UK expressed deep concern over the humanitarian crisis and initially engaged in diplomatic efforts. As diplomatic solutions faltered, the UK actively supported NATO's military intervention to address atrocities by Yugoslav forces against ethnic Albanians. The UK, as a NATO member, contributed to airstrikes aiming to compel President Milosevic to end repression. The involvement was framed within the responsibility to protect civilians from gross human rights abuses. British forces played a significant role in the military campaign and later participated in peacekeeping and humanitarian efforts in Kosovo. In summary, the UK's stance involved diplomatic efforts, strong support for NATO intervention, and subsequent contributions to stability and humanitarian assistance in Kosovo.

The Italian Republic: During the Kosovo War (1998-1999), Italy, as a NATO member, expressed deep concern over the humanitarian crisis in Kosovo. Initially engaging in diplomatic efforts, Italy prioritized finding a peaceful solution. As diplomatic initiatives faltered, Italy actively supported NATO's military intervention, contributing to airstrikes to compel President Milosevic to end repression and withdraw Yugoslav forces. The Italian military played a role in degrading Yugoslav military capabilities. Post-intervention, Italy continued involvement in peacekeeping, emphasizing stability and facilitating the return of displaced persons. In summary, Italy's stance involved diplomatic efforts, strong support for NATO intervention, and active contributions to military and peacekeeping operations in Kosovo.

The Republic of Türkiye: During the Kosovo War (1998-1999), Türkiye, as a NATO member, supported the alliance's intervention in response to the humanitarian crisis. Expressing deep concern over reported atrocities, Türkiye contributed to NATO military operations, including airstrikes against Yugoslav targets. The country's stance was influenced by cultural ties with the Balkans, a significant Muslim Albanian population, and strategic concerns about regional stability. In summary, Türkiye's involvement aligned with NATO solidarity and broader international efforts to address the Kosovo crisis.

VII.

Timeline 1989

Pressured by Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, the Kosovo Assembly abolishes the province's autonomous status. Legislation is passed that denies ownership and work to Kosovo-Albanians. Tens of thousands of ethnic Albanians in Kosovo lose their jobs. Serbia suppresses Albanian cultural institutions in Kosovo.

1990

Serbia dissolves the Kosovo assembly. In response ethnic Albanian legislators in the province declare a republic.

1991

A secret referendum is held in which the Republic of Kosovo is created. Only Albania's Parliament recognizes this self-declared Republic.

1991-2

The Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (S.F.R.Y.) breaks up. Wars break out in the former republics of Slovenia, Croatia, and Bosnia-Herzegovina; in the latter two, Serbs ethnically cleanse and seize control of significant parts of the country. In response, the international community imposes sanctions on Yugoslavia. The United States recognizes the independence of the former Yugoslav republics and refuses to accept rump Yugoslavia as the successor state.

In defiance of the Serbian authorities, ethnic Albanians elect writer Ibrahim Rugova as president of the self-proclaimed Republic of Kosova and set up a provincial assembly. Serbia declares the election to be illegal. The Kosovo Albanians begin non-violent resistance to the oppressive rule from Belgrade.

1995

Bosnia Peace Talks conclude at Wright Patterson AFB; the problems in Kosovo are identified as issues needing to be resolved before the "Outer Wall of Sanctions" could be lifted from the FRY.

1996

In response to continued suppression by Belgrade and attacks from the Serbian police, the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) begins reprisals, claiming responsibility for a number of bombings and attacks against Serbian police and state officials.

1997

In October, Serb police crush Kosovo-Albanian student demonstrations. The KLA responds by additional attacks against the Serb police.

1998

February-March: Serbian police conduct a series of raids in the Drenica region of Kosovo. Houses are burned, villages emptied, and dozens of ethnic Albanians are murdered.

March 31: The UN Security Council adopts Resolution 1160 condemning the excessive use of force by Serbian police force against civilians in Kosovo; also establishes embargo of arms and material against the FRY.

April: 95% of Serbs vote in a referendum against international mediation in Kosovo. With the exception of Russia, the Contact Group for the Former Yugoslavia (U.S., Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy, and Russia) agrees to re-impose some of the sanctions on Yugoslavia that had been lifted.

May: Ambassador Richard Holbrooke goes to Belgrade and arranges the first meeting between F.R.Y. President Slobodan Milosevic and Dr. Rugova.

May: Yugoslav President Milosevic invites Rugova for peace talks. Milosevic and Rugova meet once. Milosevic appoints a negotiating team that goes to Pristina to begin talks. Following a deliberate Serb offensive in Decani where several dozen Kosovo-Albanians are killed, the dialogue process breaks down.

May: Special Representative Robert Gelbard meets with KLA representatives in Geneva.

May: The U.S. Ambassador to Macedonia, Christopher Hill, is designated as the U.S. Special Envoy to Kosovo and begins shuttle diplomacy between Belgrade and Pristina in an attempt to negotiate a peaceful, political settlement to the crisis. The European Union later names the Austrian Ambassador to Yugoslavia, Wolfgang Petritsch, as its envoy.

June 16: Milosevic travels to Moscow, where he meets with President Yeltsin of the Russian Federation. Following the meeting, they issue a joint statement on Kosovo, which among other things would permit the presence of diplomatic observers in the region.

June 23: U.S. special envoy Holbrooke again meets with Milosevic in Belgrade to urge a peaceful end to the conflict.

June 24: Holbrooke meets with KLA commanders in the Kosovo village of Junik.

July 6: The U.S. Charge d'Affaires in Belgrade, Richard Miles, and his Russian counterpart launch the Kosovo Diplomatic Observer Mission (KDOM), which begins to patrol Kosovo in armored vehicles and to report on freedom of movement and security conditions throughout the region.

August 16: The UN calls for a cease-fire after the village of Junik, is overrun by a Serb offensive.

September 2: During a Clinton-Yeltsin summit meeting, Secretary of State Albright and Russian FM Ivanov issue a joint statement on Kosovo calling on Belgrade to end the offensive and for the Kosovo-Albanians to engage with Belgrade in negotiations.

September 5-7: John Shattuck, Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, and former Senator Bob Dole visit Kosovo to see firsthand the conditions there. They then return to Belgrade to deliver a stern warning to Milosevic about his treatment of prisoners and refugees in Kosovo.

September 23: The UN Security Council approves (with China abstaining) Resolution 1199, which demands a cessation of hostilities and warns that, "should the measures demanded in this resolution . . . not be taken . . . additional measures to maintain or restore peace and stability in the region" will be considered.

September 24: NATO takes the first formal steps toward military intervention in Kosovo, approving two contingency operation plans -- one for air strikes and the second for monitoring and maintaining a cease-fire agreement if one is reached.

September 29: The UN High Commissioner for Refugees announces on September 29 that as many as 200,000 civilians have been displaced within Kosovo since fighting began in February. Sixty thousand of them are now living in the open without shelter. The situation threatens to worsen with the onset of winter.

October 1: The White House urges Yugoslav President Milosevic to heed Western demands for a cease-fire and a withdrawal of Serbian troops from Kosovo. Special UN Security Council consultations on the Kosovo crisis begin at the initiation of the British Government.

October 13: Ambassador Holbrooke, after nearly 10 days of negotiations in Belgrade with Milosevic, flies to Brussels to inform the North Atlantic Council that progress has been made. He credits pressure from the Alliance and asks that this pressure be maintained. NATO approves an activation order ("ACTORD"), placing authority for air strikes in the hands of the Secretary General, and says execution will begin in approximately 96 hours.

October 15: NATO Secretary General Solana travels to Belgrade to sign the agreement for NATO forces to carry out the air verification regime to oversee Serbia's compliance with UN Resolution 1199.

October 16: OSCE President Geremek signs an agreement that calls for 2,000 members of the Kosovo Verification Mission to move in.

October 16: NATO extends the deadline for the "Federal Republic of Yugoslavia" to come into compliance with terms of the accord on Kosovo, giving President Milosevic until October 27 to honor the agreement.

October 20: NATO sends the Supreme Allied Commander (SACEUR), General Wesley Clark, to Belgrade to deliver a message to the Yugoslav military leadership on compliance.

October 24: UN Security Council Resolution 1203 is passed, which endorses the OSCE agreement and demands full cooperation from both sides.

October 24-25: SACEUR returns to reiterate importance of compliance as deadline nears. Clark-Naumann agreement sets benchmarks for VJ/MUP levels.

October 27: With hours to go before the deadline expires, 4,000 special police troops depart Pristina in a variety of vehicles, thus bringing Serbia into compliance with the terms of the agreements it had reached.

November: The Kosovo Verification Mission, headed by an American, Ambassador William Walker, begins to arrive and function. Its mission quickly expands beyond verification to trying to head off armed conflict through negotiations and mediation.

November 23: UNSCR 1199 adopted.

December 13: Serbs claim more than 30 ethnic Albanians are killed in a series of engagements along the border.

December 23: The Yugoslav Army and internal security police undertake military action near Podujevo, in northern Kosovo, along the main road linking the provincial capital Pristina to Belgrade. The United States condemns this action.

1999

January 15: The bodies of 45 ethnic Albanians are discovered in the village of Racak.

January 16: KVM Chief Walker attributes the Racak massacre to F.R.Y. forces. The international community condemns the massacre.

January 18: The international community expresses outrage over the Yugoslav FM's decision to expel Ambassador Walker following his comments on Racak. He is given 48 hours to depart the country.

January 21: Under pressure, the Yugoslav government reconsiders and says that it is "suspending" its declaration that Ambassador Walker is *persona non grata*. He is permitted to stay.

January 21: The UN High Commissioner for Refugees notes that 20,000 people have fled their homes since late December; 5,000 are from the Racak area alone.

January 27: Russian FM Ivanov and Secretary of State Albright meet and issue a joint statement on Kosovo.

January 29: The six-nation contact group meets in London and gives Serbs and ethnic Albanians an ultimatum to attend peace talks in France starting February 6. These talks are to last one week, with the possibility of an extension to a second week if progress is deemed to be made.

January 30: The North Atlantic Council once again agrees that the Secretary General may authorize air strikes against targets on Yugoslav territory.

February 1: Political leaders in Kosovo say they will participate in proposed peace talks.

February 2: A KLA spokesman says the KLA will also send representatives to the talks, thus completing the Albanian delegation.

February 4: Following a vote in its Parliament, the Serbian government agrees to participate in the talks.

February 6: Talks begin in Chateau Rambouillet, in France, under the auspices of the Contact Group and the co-chairmanship of French FM Hubert Vedrine and British FM Robin Cook. Three co-mediators representing the U.S., the European Union, and the Russian Federation preside. U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright participates actively and in person in the final days of the talks.

February 23: After a further extension of the deadline for 3 days, the talks pause. At the last minute, the ethnic Albanian delegation agrees in principle to sign the political accord but says it first wants to return home to consult further. The Serbs say they support a political agreement but charge that it was changed at the last minute to suit the Albanian side; they continue to reject any discussions of the military annex, because it includes a "NATO-led" peace-keeping force in Kosovo. The co-chairs announce that talks will resume on March 15.

March 8: Senator Dole, unable to get a visa from the F.R.Y. to travel to Kosovo, goes to Macedonia instead to meet with the Kosovo Albanian delegation in an effort to persuade them to sign the agreement.

March 10: Ambassadors Holbrooke and Hill travel to Belgrade to urge Milosevic to accept the interim political accord for Kosovo.

March 15: Talks resume at the Kleber Center in Paris. The ethnic Albanian delegation signs the interim agreement proposed at last month's meetings in Rambouillet. President Clinton encourages Milosevic to agree to the terms as well in order to avoid further conflict and bloodshed.

March 18: The Paris peace talks are suspended, as the Serb delegation refuses to budge and, in fact, walks back from its earlier positions at Rambouillet. In the meantime, one-third of the FRY's total armed forces have massed in and around Kosovo.

March 19: Kosovo Verification Mission withdraws.

March 20: The Yugoslav armed units launch an offensive, driving thousands of ethnic Albanians out of their homes and villages, summarily executing some, displacing many others, and setting fire to many houses.

March 21: One last diplomatic effort is made by the international community, which sends Ambassador Holbrooke to Belgrade to deliver a "final warning" to Milosevic.

March 22: The NAC authorizes Secretary-General Solana to decide, upon further consultations, on a broad range of air operations, if necessary.

March 23: Ambassador Holbrooke departs Belgrade in the evening, having received no concessions of any kind from Milosevic.

March 24: NATO airstrikes began. Tens of thousands of Kosovars have already fled the heavy fighting throughout Kosovo.

March 25: The Yugoslav government breaks off diplomatic relations with the United States, France, Germany, and the United Kingdom.

March 26-30: NAC decisions to escalate air campaign to phase II and then phase II-plus.

March 27: Ethnic Albanians who have fled or been expelled from their homes in Kosovo begin pouring into Albania and Macedonia. A U.S. F-117 stealth fighter goes down near Belgrade but the pilot is rescued. Meanwhile, the Russian Duma adopts a resolution condemning the NATO actions and postponing ratification of the Start II treaty.

March 29: It is reported that refugees are crossing the border from Kosovo at a rate of 4,000 per hour. In Albania there are about 60,000 refugees, half of whom had arrived in the past 48 hours. In Montenegro, the government announces that its "technical and political" limit of 50,000 refugees would be reached imminently.

March 30: Russian PM Primakov, FM Ivanov and DM Sergeyev hold talks with President Milosevic in Belgrade.

April 1: Three U.S. soldiers are captured near the Macedonia-F.R.Y. border and shown, bruised, on Serb television. Kosovar refugee count stands at 48,000 in Montenegro; 104,000 in Albania; and 30,500 in Macedonia.

April 3: NATO missiles strike central Belgrade for the first time and destroy the Yugoslav and Serbian interior ministries.

April 4: An airlift is proposed to take 100,000 refugees from the front line states to NATO countries. Macedonia agrees to camps for another 100,000.

April 6: NATO airstrikes hit the residential area of Aleksinac, killing five. F.R.Y. declares a unilateral cease-fire to commence at 1200 EDT and last until 1800 EDT April 11. Belgrade claims that all F.R.Y. army and police actions in Kosovo will end and that the government will negotiate with Rugova. NATO rejects the offer, with French President Chirac calling the proposed cease-fire indefensible without a political agreement and security package. State Department Spokesman James Rubin announces the five conditions for NATO bombing to end.

April 9: Bosnia's Kosovar refugee population crosses the 31,000 mark.

April 10: F.R.Y. expels about 2,000 Kosovars from the village of Vragolja. Belgrade warns Albania not to allow "terrorist" attacks from its territory or risk an escalation of the war. In discussion with the OSCE, Russian FM Ivanov says that a NATO-led Kosovo implementation force was "unrealistic" and calls for greater UN involvement.

April 12: After reaching a compromise with Russia and Belarus, Hungary releases an aid convoy to the F.R.Y., including some trucks supplying diesel oil. UNHCR reports that 309,000 Kosovars have fled to Albania and 119,380 are in Macedonia to date. NATO hits a passenger train south of Belgrade, killing 30 according to the F.R.Y. NATO apologizes for the accident.

April 14: Germany unveils a plan for a 24-hour halt to the airstrikes to give the F.R.Y. a chance to start pulling out of Kosovo. Russian President Yeltsin names former PM

Chernomyrdin as F.R.Y. peace envoy. NATO airstrikes hit a Kosovar civilian convoy in Kosovo. F.R.Y. reports 64 dead.

April 16: Kosovar refugee exodus returns to the crisis level of 20,000 per day.

April 17: The Pentagon announces that U.S. Forces are holding a F.R.Y. POW who was captured by the KLA.

April 18: UNHCR reports 359,000 refugees in Albania and 132,700 in Macedonia to date. UN High Commissioner Ogata estimates that well over half a million Kosovars have now fled to other countries since the bombing started. F.R.Y. formally charges two detained Australian aid workers with spying on military installations.

April 20: U.S. Representative James Saxton meets with F.R.Y. FM Jovanovic in Belgrade. NATO allows safe passage for Russian Patriarch Alexi II to visit Serbian Patriarch Pavle. OSCE reports that Serb forces and Albanian troops exchanged gunfire in the first clash between the two armies since the start of the crisis. NATO Secretary-General Solana directs update of ground force plans.

April 21: It is reported that all EU countries have agreed to back a proposed plan to stop oil product deliveries by or through member states to the F.R.Y. NATO missiles in Belgrade hit the headquarters of Milosevic's Serbian Socialist Party and his private residence.

April 22: NATO Summit decision on Kosovo reaffirms Five Points and adds conditions for suspending bombing. NATO announces intensification of air campaign.

April 23: NATO destroys the Serbian state television building in central Belgrade, killing at least 10 people. The FRY agrees to accept an international military presence in Kosovo after Chernomyrdin-Milosevic talks in Belgrade.

April 24: Kosovo dominates the NATO 50th anniversary summit in Washington. Member nations announce plans for a visit and search regime to cut off the flow of oil to the F.R.Y.

April 25: NATO invites Chernomyrdin to talks on Kosovo. Canadian FM Axworthy announces he will go to Moscow to meet with him. F.R.Y. Deputy PM Vuk Draskovic is interviewed on Studio B TV. He calls on Serb leaders to tell the public "the truth" about NATO's resolve, world opinion toward the Serbs, and that Russia will not provide military aid to the F.R.Y. Draskovic advises the Serb population to support the introduction of a UN peacekeeping force in Kosovo.

April 26: ICRC President Summaruga meets briefly with the three captured U.S. servicemen.

April 27: Deputy Secretary Talbott meets Russian FM Ivanov in Moscow. It is announced that the Rev. Jesse Jackson will lead a delegation to Belgrade on April 29.

April 28: Deputy PM Draskovic is sacked by Milosevic.

April 29: F.R.Y. files suit at the International Court of Justice against 10 NATO countries. UNSYG Annan arrives in Moscow and meets with Chernomyrdin prior to the Russian envoy's departure for Bonn, Rome and Belgrade.

April 30: NATO hits the VJ headquarters and Defense Ministry. Rev. Jackson arrives in Belgrade and meets with the U.S. servicemen. Russian envoy Chernomyrdin reports "progress" after 6 hours of talks with Milosevic in Belgrade.

May 1: President Clinton extends U.S. sanctions to ban oil sales and freeze Belgrade's assets in the U.S.. Following an agreement with NATO and F.R.Y. authorities on modalities, the ICRC announces plans to return to Kosovo. Rev. Jackson secures the release of the captured servicemen following a 3-hour meeting with Milosevic.

May 2: Rev. Jackson escorts the released servicemen to Ramstein AFB and reportedly carries a letter from Milosevic to Clinton calling for face-to-face talks. A U.S. F-16 crashes inside the F.R.Y. and the pilot is rescued. NATO bombs hit a power transmission facility at Obrenovac, cutting off power in most F.R.Y. cities.

May 3: F.R.Y. navy closes Montenegrin port of Bar to civilian shipping. Montenegrin officials characterize the action as another step in Milosevic's "creeping coup" against them.

May 4: Russian envoy Chernomyrdin meets with U.S. officials and UNSYG Annan. U.S. fighters shoot down a Mig-29 near the F.R.Y.-Bosnian border. The Bulgarian parliament approves an agreement for NATO to use their airspace.

May 5: Two U.S. Army pilots are killed when an Apache helicopter crashes on a training mission in Albania, the first Allied deaths in the NATO actions against the F.R.Y. The first group of Kosovar refugees arrive in Fort Dix. Ibrahim Rugova arrives in Italy with his family.

May 6: Rugova tells a press conference in Rome that NATO's participation in an international peacekeeping force and the withdrawal of Serb forces were both essential conditions for the return of refugees. At the Group of Eight meeting in Bonn, the West and Russia announce agreement over the basic strategy to resolve the conflict.

May 7: Moderate Albanian leader Fehmi Agani is found dead in Kosovo. NATO planes accidentally hit the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade, killing 3 and wounding 20.

May 8: The UNSC convenes in an emergency session to debate the bombing of the Chinese Embassy. China implicitly accuses the U.S. and NATO of a deliberate attack while the alliance apologizes for a "terrible mistake." Thousands demonstrate in front of U.S. diplomatic posts in China. Russian FM Ivanov cancels his trip to London in the wake of the attack.

May 9: President Clinton writes to Chinese President Jiang Zemin to offer regrets for the bombing. Chinese demonstrations continue. UNHCR announces it is facing a financial crisis in its Kosovo emergency operations.

May 10: Chinese demonstrations continue for a third day. China suspends contacts with the U.S. regarding arms control and human rights. Serbs announce a partial withdrawal from Kosovo. F.R.Y. accuses NATO of genocide and demands that the World Court order an immediate end to NATO air strikes.

May 11: Russian envoy Chernomyrdin meets with President Jiang Zemin in Beijing and labels the Chinese embassy bombing an act of aggression. China hints that it might hold up Western attempts to achieve a peace deal at the UN unless the bombing stops. NATO disputes F.R.Y. claims of a troop withdrawal from Kosovo, saying that F.R.Y. military and police had actually stepped up their actions against the KLA. Albanian frontier police and F.R.Y. forces exchange fire at the F.R.Y.-Albania border; two civilians are killed. UNHCR says it is running out of cash to deal with the refugee crisis.

May 12: German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder visits China on a "working visit." Chinese fatalities from the embassy bombing arrive in Beijing, but no demonstrations are reported at U.S. diplomatic missions in China. NATO claims hits on F.R.Y. troops and the destruction of five MIG-21 planes. Russian FM Ivanov and Deputy Secretary Talbott begin meetings in Moscow.

May 13: U.S.-funded Camp Hope in Fier, Albania, opens to Kosovar refugees from F.Y.R.O.M..

May 14: About 87 Kosovar Albanians are killed in the village of Korisa by NATO bombing. NATO says that it hit a military target and suggests that Serb troops were using civilians as human shields. Amnesty International says that Korisa had been under attack by VJ and MUP forces prior to the bombing. The ICRC returns to Kosovo for the first time since March 29 to assess humanitarian needs in and around Pristina. The UNHCR receives 20 million Euros from the EC for assistance to Kosovo refugees.

May 15: F.R.Y. announces that the two Australian aid workers held on suspicion of espionage will go on trial this week in Belgrade. The Non-Aligned Movement nations approve a UNSC resolution on the Kosovo humanitarian situation along the lines of the G-8 principles.

May 16: A Kosovar refugee who witnessed the NATO strike on Korisa reports to Deutsche Welle that F.R.Y. police forced some 600 displaced Kosovars to serve as human shields there before the attack. The F.R.Y. army detains about 150 draft-age Kosovar refugee males in Montenegro and transports them back into Kosovo. Italian PM D'Alema proposes a NATO cease-fire on condition that Russia and China support a UNSC resolution imposing the G-8 terms on Milosevic.

May 17: The EU announces that Finnish President Martti Ahtisaari will serve as the EU's new senior Kosovo envoy. The Greeks call for a temporary cease-fire "to give diplomacy a chance."

May 18: The two Serb POWs held at Ramstein AFB are returned to the FRY.

May 22: NATO bombs army barracks at Kosare, unaware it was captured by Kosovo Liberation Army guerillas a month earlier.

May 23: NATO begins a bombing campaign of the Yugoslav electricity grid, creating a major disruption of power and water supplies.

May 24: Sergio Vieira de Mello, head of the UN fact-finding mission, announces he saw "revolting" signs of ethnic cleansing in Kosovo.

May 25: NATO agrees to increase the size of an eventual ground force in Kosovo to about 48,000.

May 27: Milosevic and four other Serbian leaders are indicted by the UN war crimes tribunal for crimes against humanity.

May 29: Two Australian aid workers and Yugoslav colleague are convicted in Belgrade of espionage and are jailed.

June 1: The FRY tells Germany it has accepted Group of Eight principles for peace and demands an end to NATO bombing.

June 3: The FRY accepts terms brought to Belgrade by EU envoy Ahtisaari and Russian envoy Chernomyrdin. NATO announces that NATO raids have killed over 5,000 members of Yugoslav security forces and wounded more than 10,000.

June 6: NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana announces it will be difficult to help rebuild Yugoslavia while Milosevic remains in power.

June 7: NATO and Yugoslav commanders fail to agree to terms of pullout from Kosovo and suspend talks. NATO intensifies bombing. G 8 foreign ministers in Bonn attempt to finalize UN resolution. The FRY insists on a UN Security Council resolution before any foreign troops enter Kosovo.

June 8: Russia's defense minister says his ministry has drawn up proposals for sending up to 10,000 troops to a peacekeeping force in Kosovo, but they would not be under NATO command. The Kosovo Liberation Army promises the United States its forces will let Serb forces withdraw from the province of Kosovo without attacking them. The West and Russia reach a landmark agreement on a draft UN resolution at G8 talks in Cologne. NATO calls on Milosevic to resume military talks on troop withdrawal at once. The resolution, which calls for an "international security presence" under the auspices of the UN, is being studied by Security Council members. NATO says a B-52 bomber catches two Yugoslav Army battalions in the open near the Kosovo-Albanian border, possibly killing many hundreds of them on June 7. Talks between senior NATO and FRY officers on a Serb pullout from Kosovo resume in Macedonia and continue into the night. China's deputy permanent UN representative in New York, Shen Guofang, says Beijing still has "some difficulties" with two points in the text on the draft UN resolution.

June 9: Military talks continue with senior NATO and FRY officers with three interruptions, when FRY officers leave the talks to consult with Belgrade. Late in the day a Military Technical Agreement is signed between the two parties.

June 10: After receiving definite evidence that Serb forces are withdrawing from northern Kosovo, Solana calls a suspension of NATO airstrikes. UN Security Council adopts resolution 1244 on Kosovo. US Deputy Secretary of State Talbott rules out a separate sector for the Russians in Kosovo. In Cologne, G8 ministers draft a plan to anchor the Balkans to Western Europe and rebuild Kosovo.

June 11: Russian President Yeltsin says ties with NATO remain frozen, despite NATO's bombing suspension, but he does not rule out improvement. Russian troops enter Yugoslavia from Bosnia, US says it has pledge from Moscow they will not enter Kosovo before NATO.

June 12: Russian troops enter Pristina 3-1/2 hours before NATO troops enter Kosovo and take up position at the airport. Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov calls the deployment an "unfortunate mistake." British NATO troops enter Kosovo at dawn to begin taking control from withdrawing Serbian forces and reach Pristina in the afternoon. French and US troops also enter Kosovo.

June 13: Hundreds of Serbian soldiers pull out of Pristina. Russian troops are still encamped at Pristina airport and refuse to let British and French troops move onto the airport.

June 14: Kosovar Serbs flee Kosovo as ethnic Albanian refugees pour in. The ultra-nationalist Radical Party led by Serbian Deputy Prime Minister Vojislav Seselj quits the Serbian government. NATO cordons off mass gravesites around Kacanik, which locals say contain 91 villagers killed by Serb paramilitaries. 20,000 hungry and displaced ethnic Albanian refugees are discovered in Glogovac, west of Pristina.

June 15: Russian troops sharing control of the main airport at Pristina ask British NATO forces for supplies. A Russian relief convoy to resupply them departs from their base in Bosnia. NATO peacekeepers arrest five suspected KLA soldiers during the night after a Serb was killed in Pristina. OSCE reports that approximately 2,000 refugees have begun to return to Kosovo from Albania. The remains of at least 20 ethnic Albanians are discovered by Dutch peacekeepers in Velika Krusa. Italian troops find two mass graves in the village of Korenica near the Kosovo town of Pec. Four Albanians are murdered in the provincial capital, Pristina. Two ethnic Albanians returning home are killed by a landmine, another one is injured. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) reports that at least 33,000 ethnic Serbs have fled since the weekend. Serbia's influential Orthodox Church urges Yugoslav President Milosevic and government to resign. Serbian President Milan Milutinovic issues a resolution rejecting the ultra-nationalist Radical Party's resignation from the Serbian government.

June 16: NATO reports that the Yugoslav withdrawal from Zone 1, the zone extending from Pristina to Kosovo's southern border is largely completed by the midnight deadline. Serb forces are given an additional 24 hours to vacate the zone due to road congestion. Defense

Secretary William Cohen meets with his Russian counterpart in Helsinki, Finland, to negotiate the standoff over Russian participation in the international security force in Kosovo.

June 17: A British official estimates that Serb forces killed more than 10,000 people during two months of war and ethnic cleansing. President Clinton announces that he is "positive and hopeful" that an agreement can be worked out on Russian peacekeeping troops in Kosovo, but says Russian soldiers must come under NATO command, in order to ensure unity of command. UNHCR estimated that 18,400 refugees returned to Kosovo on June 17.

June 18: Secretary Albright and Defense Secretary Cohen reach agreement with their Russian counterparts in Helsinki about Russian participation in Kosovo. They decide that Russia will not have a separate sector in Kosovo, unity of command of the international security force will be preserved, Kosovo will not be partitioned, with Russian troops serving in US, French and German sectors, and that all KFOR forces will operate under common rules of engagement. In addition, the agreement states that the Pristina airport will be open for all members of the international security force. UNHCR estimates that 21,000 refugees returned to Kosovo on June 18. A meeting of the G8 nations takes place in Cologne, with the hope of rebuilding Kosovo. President Clinton stresses that reconstruction goes beyond material needs and that, "we will have to give a lot of care to the emotional, the psychological scars of the Kosovars - especially the children."

June 19: Among the International Security Force's pledges that it will protect all citizens in Kosovo, Serbia calls on fleeing Kosovar Serbs to return to Kosovo. A British forensic team finds more evidence of the atrocities committed by the Serbs in Velika Krusa. 100 bodies are found. UNHCR estimates that 29,000 Kosovar Albanians returned to Kosovo on June 19. NATO warns refugees that dozens of refugees have already been wounded by land mines or booby traps and two have been killed in Kosovo.

June 20: In accordance with the June 9th Military Technical Agreement, Serb forces completely withdraw from Kosovo, leading NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana to officially end NATO's bombing campaign in the Former Republic of Yugoslavia. Despite UNHCR's pleas for refugees to wait to return to Kosovo, UNHCR estimates that more than 100,000 have returned to Kosovo in the first week after the peace deal was signed. At the G8 Summit in Cologne, President Clinton and Russian President Yeltsin agree to put their differences over Kosovo behind them.

June 21: NATO and the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) officials sign a disarmament agreement. The KLA's promise to disarm leads President Clinton to call KLA commander Hashim Thaci and thank him for signing the deal. UNHCR estimates that 35,400 refugees returned to Kosovo on June 21, while 140,000 refugees returned to date. Two KFOR soldiers and two civilians die while trying to detonate piles of unexploded NATO cluster bombs.

June 22: Secretary of State Albright visits Romanian and Bulgarian leaders and thanks them for their assistance during NATO's air campaign. UNHCR estimates that 37,150 refugees returned to Kosovo on June 22, while 214,050 returned to date. NATO and UNHCR

announce that organized repatriations of refugees to Kosovo will begin next week. NATO states that it will assist in returning refugees from Albania on July 1, while UNHCR states that organized returns from Macedonia could begin even earlier. President Clinton visits a refugee camp in Macedonia, where he urged refugees to wait until it has been deemed safe before they returned to Kosovo. He also urged the refugees not to seek revenge on the Kosovar Serbs. President Clinton meets with the Presidents of Albania and Macedonia and thanks them for the role they played in helping Kosovar refugees. The President meets with KFOR troops. UN Secretary General Annan announces that Dominique Vian, governor of French Guyana, will be Annan's deputy special representative for the interim civilian administration in Kosovo. In a move for peace, KLA leader Hashim Thaqi expresses his hopes that the KLA and moderate Albanian leader Ibrahim Rugova could work together.

June 23: The leaders of Germany, Italy, France, and the UK met in Kosovo to see the situation first hand. French Defense Minister Richard and German Foreign Minister Fischer visits KFOR troops, while British Foreign Secretary Cook visits an atrocity site. At the request of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY), the Swiss government freezes the assets of Milosevic and four other war criminals. An opinion poll conducted from June 9 to 14 surveying 800 people across Serbia shows Milosevic's popularity declining. UNHCR estimates that 29,000 refugees returned to Kosovo on June 23.

June 24: The Yugoslav parliament approves a government proposal to end the state of war, which was in effect since March 24. They decide to lift the war regime on June 26. NATO Secretary General Solana and Supreme Commander General Clark visit Kosovo where they meet with KFOR Commander General Jackson and with leaders of ethnic Albanian and Serb communities. Solana urges Kosovar Serbs, to stay in Kosovo, where KFOR will protect them, and urges Kosovar Albanians not to seek revenge, but instead work to establish a democratic, multiethnic society. A US initiated rewards program is announced by the State Department, offering up to 5 million dollars for information leading to the arrest or conviction in any country of persons indicted for serious violations of international humanitarian law by the ICTY. UNHCR estimates that 34,500 refugees returned to Kosovo on June 24, and that 251,700 have returned to date.

June 25: Russia's upper house of Parliament approves Russian participation in KFOR. Thousands of Roma flee their homes due to revenge attacks by ethnic Albanians, who accuse the Roma of collaborating with the Serbs. The UNHCR estimates that 48,800 refugees returned to Kosovo on June 25th, 300,500 refugees have returned to date.

June 26: The FRY officially lifts the state of war, although most restrictions remain in place through the Serbian Parliament.

June 27: The village of Bellopoje, near Pec is looted and burned to the ground. Russian aircraft land at Pristina airfield to deliver additional troops and equipment. Romania suspends its air corridor for Russian aircraft flying to Kosovo after a plane is deemed to have violated an accord. German KFOR forces announce a curfew in Prizren to hinder violence.

June 28: KFOR continues to deploy throughout Kosovo, troops in Kosovo now number 23,000. UNHCR estimates that 415,900 refugees have returned to Kosovo to date. UNHCR begins organized return of ethnic Albanian refugees from Macedonia to Kosovo. About 320 refugees depart Stankovic camp aboard UN buses. UN begins soliciting personnel contributions from UN countries for an international civilian police mission as part of the international provisional administration. The US offers to provide a substantial contingent of police to serve in the mission. EU leaders pick Bodo Hombach as their Balkans stability pact coordinator and select Thessaloniki as the base for an EU reconstruction agency.

June 29: UNHCR continues organized returns from Macedonia, 370 refugees returned to Kosovo on UN buses on June 29. 447,100 refugees have returned to Kosovo to date. Following the undertaking, the KLA establishes weapon storage sites by the deadline, midnight on June 28. KLA personnel have vacated fighting positions, are moving to assembly areas, and are assisting KFOR with mine clearance. Pristina airfield closes until July 3 to allow for reconstruction and equipment installation. UNHCR introduces a new identity card for refugees to rectify the removal by Serb forces of all documents providing the identity of those forced out of Kosovo. The cards will be used until new formal documentation can be issued in Kosovo. The UN deploys the first team of the international police force in Kosovo, which will help to address criminal activities. UNHCR estimates that approximately 25,000 refugees returned to Kosovo on June 30.

June 30: Secretary Albright meets with other UN foreign ministers at a meeting of the "Friends of Kosovo" group. UN Secretary General Annan called the meeting to ask the key players involved in Kosovo for monetary and personnel support to begin the task of organizing the interim civil administration. Commitments to the UN police force for Kosovo reach more than 900. US pledges to contribute 450 police officers. The UN takes a step in re-establishing the judicial system in Kosovo, by appointing three district court judges, two investigating judges, and four public prosecutors to address the issue of detainees arrested by KFOR. UNHCR organized returns continue in Macedonia with 700 refugees returned to Kosovo. Organized returns from Albania start with 800 refugees beginning their two-day trip back to Kosovo. UNHCR estimates that 23,500 refugees returned to Kosovo on June 30 equaling 500,600 returns to date.

July 1: Following two days of NATO - Russia discussions at SHAPE on detailed modalities for full-scale Russian deployment, the Russian delegation has returns to Moscow for consultations. UNHCR organized returns continue in Macedonia and Albania. The FBI team concludes its on-site investigation of the sites in Gjakove (Djakovica) that were assigned to them by the ICTY prosecutor. UNHCR estimated that 23,300 refugees returned to Kosovo on July 1.

July 2: The UN Secretary General informs the President of the Security Council of his intention to appoint Mr. Bernard Kouchner (France) as his Special Representative to head the United Nations Mission in Kosovo. He appoints Mr. Jock Covey (USA) as Principal Deputy to his Special Representative. The four major components of the mission will each be headed by a Deputy Special Representative and are: Interim Civil Administration, Mr. Dominique

Vian (France), Humanitarian Affairs, Mr. Dennis McNamara (New Zealand), Institution Building, Mr. Daan Everts (Netherlands), and Reconstruction, Mr. Jolly Dixon (UK). UN Acting Special Representative Sergio Vieira de Mello states that he wants Kosovar Serbs and Albanians to form a council to take on political decisions and to try to quell the violence in Kosovo. After meeting Vieira de Mello, Kosovar Albanian and Serb leaders issue a joint appeal for an end to the violence in Kosovo. KFOR detains six heavily armed Serbs in Orahovac, and detained 5 Serbian VJ soldiers July 1, who were on the Kosovo/Serbia border in the vicinity of Novakova. They were detained because they violated the 5-km ground security zone as specified in the Military Technical Agreement of June 9.

July 4: Discussions between NATO (SHAPE) and Russia continue. A land mine blast killed a child in a field where people had already been working without incident.

July 5: UNHCR estimates that 81,700 refugees returned to Kosovo over the weekend, 606,300 returned to date. Russia and NATO continue talks on Russian KFOR participation.

July 6: A spontaneous protest against the Milosevic regime erupts in Leskovac after a call for action against the local government by a television editor. It is reported that up to 20,000 people joined the protest, which was observed, but not stopped by the police. Discussions in Moscow on July 4-5 between NATO (SHAPE) and Russia resolved outstanding military technical details on Russian participation in KFOR, especially on precise deployments, command arrangements and rules of engagement. No new elements were introduced as a result of the discussions. The reconstruction work and installation of equipment at the Pristina Airfield is completed. Several flights land in Pristina. Newly appointed Special Representative for Kosovo, Bernard Kouchner announces that he will be traveling to Kosovo next week to take over what he described as a "very heavy and very difficult task" from the Acting Special Representative Sergio Vieira de Mello.

July 7: UN Secretary General Annan announces that US appeals court judge Patricia Wald will succeed Gabrielle Kirk McDonald on the ICTY. Wald will be one of fourteen judges on the tribunal. In the FRY, anti-Milosevic demonstrations occur in Nis, where demonstrators collect signatures on a petition calling for Milosevic to resign, Leskovac, and also in Uzice, where Alliance For Change drew more than 5,000 people. UNHCR organized returns from Montenegro begin with 407 refugees traveling on the first convoy back to Kosovo. UNHCR estimates that 10,200 refugees returned to Kosovo on July 7, 628,800 returned to date.

July 8: Almost 2500 civil police of 3100 needed have been pledged to the UN civil police mission. In Belgrade, the Democratic Party, which holds 31 of 110 Belgrade City Council seats, calls for Milosevic to resign and submits a declaration to that effect for City Council approval. 160 of the 48,000 refugees in Germany return to Kosovo.

July 12: In Macedonia, UN war crimes prosecutor Arbour expresses her belief that having Milosevic on trial is a very realistic goal. She also states that she believes that additional war crimes charges will be made as investigations continue in Kosovo. A crowd of anti-Milosevic demonstrators stormed the headquarters of Milosevic's Socialist Party in Valjevo. UNHCR

estimates that 662,000 refugees have left Kosovo as of July 11. Representatives from many countries hosting Kosovar refugees, as well as the UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), meet in Geneva and agree to accept UNHCR guidelines for voluntary returns and to coordinate the return process.

July 13: A petition for Milosevic to resign circulates in Belgrade. UN war crimes prosecutor Louise Arbour arrives in Kosovo where she meets with KFOR commander Gen. Jackson. UN agencies announce their intent to start organized voluntary return of refugees from countries outside the Balkans on July 15. Up to one thousand per day are expected to fly into Skopje, and then move onto Kosovo. In due course, some may fly directly into Pristina. UN agencies announce that all refugees wanting to return can expect to be back in Kosovo before winter. Two more mass graves, with 4 and 230 bodies respectively, are found in Kosovo.

July 14: UN war crimes prosecutor Louise Arbour visits a mass grave site in Kosovo. While there, Arbour states, "every step we take, every grave that we uncover, every indictment we bring is an irreversible step" towards bringing those indicted closer to justice. David Gowan, the British Foreign Office's Kosovo War Crimes Co-ordinator, verifies earlier British government estimates that at least 10,000 Kosovar Albanians died in ethnic cleansing atrocities. Sergio Vieira de Mello visits Kosovo, where he states that Kosovo's political leaders must "take urgent and effective action to establish calm" in Kosovo. He further urges the political leaders to call on their supporters to not engage in violence. Vieira de Mello also calls on the people of Kosovo to work with the international community to prevent violent acts and to "speak out against acts of intimidation, violence and random crime" directed against the different ethnic groups in Kosovo. He states, "everyone who wishes to see his or her children enjoy a prosperous and secure life in a new and democratic Kosovo has a duty to help end this violence now." UNHCR estimates that 654,600 refugees have returned to Kosovo to date.

July 15: Special Representative for the UN Secretary-General Bernard Kouchner arrives in Kosovo. While in Kosovo Kouchner states that "the people of Kosovo must listen, must talk, must walk with us, not only to build the administration of course, but also the democracy." He also urges Kosovar Serbs and Albanians to move towards "peace and reconciliation, so that people may speak to each other and build a democracy and another system of life." The head of the Kosovo Democratic League, Ibrahim Rugova, visits Kosovo briefly, where he expresses his willingness to work with the KLA and "all the political forces of Kosovo and with international institutions and administration."

July 16: The first meeting of the Kosovo Transitional Council meets with Special Representative for the UN Secretary General Kouchner. This council brings together all the ethnic communities in Kosovo, and will serve as an intermediary with UN officials. Ibrahim Rugova did not attend the meeting. UNHCR announces that protection of Serbs in Kosovo is now their "most critical issue." World Food Program estimates show that 146,000 Serbs have fled Kosovo for Serbia. NATO Secretary-General Solana states, "the political forces in Kosovo must have a common objective, they must work together and must see they are rebuilding a country for which the international community has done a lot." UNHCR

estimates that 662,000 refugees have returned to Kosovo to date. During the week UNHCR, with the help of the German THW agency distributes 2,000 emergency shelter kits in the Orahovac area and plans to distribute 16,000 more.

July 17: OSCE starts recruitment of a new Kosovo Police Force.

July 18: Two U.S. KFOR soldiers die in a car accident near Domorovce when their armored personnel carrier overturns.

July 19: German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder meets with Serbian opposition leader Zoran Djindjic, after which Chancellor Schroeder pledges his support for the Serbian opposition. Chancellor Schroeder states, "Germany supports the opposition and there is an interest in all of Europe that democracy comes to Yugoslavia -- a democracy without Milosevic." In central Serbia, Vuk Draskovic, leader of the Serbian Renewal Movement, launches a campaign for early elections saying it was time to end Milosevic's rule. According to press reports, his top priority is to establish a transitional government under Milosevic to end sanctions. He also calls for Milosevic to be given immunity from arrest or extradition from his war crimes charges as an incentive for him to step down. State Department spokesman James Rubin reiterates the U.S. Government position against granting sanctuary or amnesty to indicted war criminals as a violation against UN Security Council resolutions. In the Italian sector, the bodies of four ethnic Albanians are found southwest of Klina. All had been shot. Also, a KFOR patrol discovers a KLA detention camp at Ponosevac. One detainee is found and seven KLA are arrested.

July 21: Under Secretary for Global Affairs Frank E. Loy meets with UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Sadako Ogata. He tells her that the U.S. will provide an additional \$61.7 million to UNHCR to aid refugees in Kosovo and elsewhere around the world. Fifty million dollars will support the UNHCR's programs to assist Kosovar refugees and IDPs return home and begin rebuilding their lives and communities. Of the \$50 million designated for Kosovo \$10 million will be used to launch a Kosovar Women's Initiative, supporting counseling, job training, and microcredit programs, etc. Another \$5 million of the Kosovo donation will go to implement humanitarian projects in Montenegro. The UNHCR

moves displaced Roma from a school at Kosovo Polje, where they had been taking shelter for weeks, to a new tented site at Obilic with a capacity for around 5,000. KFOR will provide security at the site. UNHCR estimates that 716,800 refugees have returned to Kosovo as of July 21. UNHCR estimates the number of IDPs from Kosovo in Serbia and Montenegro at 170,000. In the past week, UNHCR delivered more than 80,000 blankets, 24,000 hygienic kits and sanitary items, tons of soap, as well as jerrycans, stoves, heaters, and humanitarian daily rations to Red Cross branches in Belgrade, Kraljevo, and Bar areas for distribution to IDPs. The UN reports that it has approximately 156 police officers from 13 countries now in Kosovo.

July 22: Former F.R.Y. Army Chief of Staff Momcilo Perisic calls for the peaceful removal of the Milosevic regime from power. Midnight July 21 was the deadline for KLA forces to place all prohibited arms and 30% of all automatic weapons in secure storage sites. KFOR

Commander General Jackson indicates that he is "encouraged by the quantity of weapons that have been handed in over the past few days," however he notes that time is necessary to ensure that the accounting process is completed correctly. He grants KLA Gen. Agim Ceku's request for more time so that he can be certain his forces have complied with the undertaking. General Jackson says that he sees General Ceku's request as an "indication of the seriousness with which General Ceku is taking this important issue."

July 23: Five ethnic Albanians are detained after an exchange of fire with KFOR troops in western Kosovo. UNHCR estimates that 720,700 refugees have returned to Kosovo as of July 23. The UN's Mine Action Coordination Center becomes operational in Pristina, serving as a focal point for the planning and coordination of mine and unexploded ordnance related activities in Kosovo. Fourteen Serb farmers are shot dead in Kosovo at night in the village of Gracko. KFOR spokesman Major Jan Joosten states that "KFOR and the international police will hunt down those responsible for this awful crime. We will ensure they are brought to justice to face the full might of the law."

July 24: UN Chief Prosecutor Louise Arbour states that she has launched an investigation into the killing of 14 Serbs on July 23. Around 260 Serbs returned to Kosovo from Belgrade and Kraljevo areas on July 24. Escorted by KFOR troops, the Serbs proceeded to Kosovo Polje.

July 26: A group of Yugoslav army reservists in Nis begin a hunger strike in protest over outstanding payments. UNHCR estimates that 727,000 refugees have returned to Kosovo as of July 26. UNSYG Special Representative Kouchner postpones the Kosovo Transitional Council meeting for July 26 at request of Serb members. UNHCR releases the "second cut" of its Rapid Village Assessment. The report uses data collected from 456 war-affected villages and indicates that 54% of the houses in those villages suffered severe damage or complete destruction. A functioning health facility was reported in 23% of the villages, a health worker was present in 68% of the villages and 40% of the villages said they had inadequate water supply.

July 27: Greek Prime Minister Costas Simitis travels to Kosovo to visit Greek KFOR troops.

July 28: Radio Pristina starts broadcasting in Albanian, Serb-Croat, and Turkish under the supervision of OSCE. Donors pledge \$2.082 billion in aid for Kosovo at the Donor's Conference in Brussels. The U.S. pledges \$556 million in additional humanitarian aid and urgent non-humanitarian aid for Kosovo, from the budget supplemental passed by Congress and signed by the President on May 21, 1999. The \$500 million promised by the U.S. is going toward food aid, health care, clean water, emergency shelter, winterization supplies, landmine clearance, and agricultural assistance. The U.S. allocated \$41 million of that amount for police training and \$20 million of that amount for the prosecution of war crimes. All U.S. pledges are subject to a clear assessment of overall needs, congressional concurrence, and confirmation that U.S. aid will form one part of a robust international effort.

Chris Poortman, World Bank coordinator for southeast Europe, announces after the conference that Kosovo's "most immediate urgent requirements which were the objectives of

this meeting have been met." UNHCR estimates that 734,000 refugees have returned to Kosovo as of July 28.

July 29: Secretary of State Albright visits Kosovo, where she meets with KFOR Commander General Michael Jackson and SRSG Bernard Kouchner. After talks with the two, she states that she is encouraged by the cooperation between the UN and KFOR mission. Secretary Albright also meets with Serbian Orthodox Archbishop Artemije and KLA leader Hashim Thaqi. During her visit in Kosovo, Secretary Albright urges the Kosovar Serb population to stay in Kosovo and help create a multi-ethnic society, stating that KFOR "is set up in order to protect them." Secretary Albright states to Kosovo Albanians, "Democracy cannot be built on revenge and you will lose the support of the international community if you will not be tolerant and you take the law in your hands." KFOR announces that three ethnic Albanians have been detained for further investigation in connection to the killing of 14 Serb farmers over the weekend.

July 30: World leaders meet in Sarajevo at the Stability Pact Summit. President Clinton announces during the summit that he will work with Congress to provide \$10 million this year and more over the next 2 years to strengthen the independent media, non-governmental organizations, independent trade unions, and the democratic opposition in Serbia. Ibrahim Rugova returns to Kosovo.

July 31: Russian KFOR troops briefly detain KLA General Agim Ceku. As of July 31, UNHCR has delivered 13,000 tents in Kosovo; tens of thousands of houses were damaged during the war.

August 1: A bomb explodes in a Serbian Orthodox Church under construction in Pristina. There are no casualties.

August 2: The first repatriation flight from a non-neighboring country arrives in Pristina carrying 150 refugees. UNHCR estimates that there are approximately 155,000 Kosovar non-Albanian (mostly Serb and Roma) internally displaced people in Serbia. The figure includes about 3,000 refugees from Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina who have also left Kosovo. Another 23,000 non-Albanians from Kosovo are now staying in Montenegro, according to UNHCR field staff reports. UNHCR estimates that 743,300 refugees have returned to Kosovo as of August 2. Students and teachers return to Pristina University.

August 3: Human Rights Watch publishes a report on atrocities against Serbs and Roma in Kosovo. Although the report stopped short of accusing the KLA of specific atrocities, it suggested that the KLA leadership "take swift and decisive action" to prevent further atrocities.

August 4: NATO names British Defense Secretary George Robertson as its next Secretary-General. UNHCR estimates that nearly 90% of the over 850,000 ethnic Albanians who fled Kosovo during the war have returned to the Serbian province.

August 5: Approximately 400 civilian police, including some transferred from Bosnia, are on the ground in Kosovo. Over 100 additional U.S. police depart for Kosovo.

August 6: Ibrahim Rugova joins the Kosovo Transitional Council.

VIII. Nato's Objective

To sum up, the member states of NATO have to come together so as to invoke the alliance. You should back each other and crush those ones that are guilty of Kosovo war and genocides. Your main objectives are to solve the ideological problems occurring in Europe, accomplish NATO's interest in balkan region and to show dedication on proxy wars occurring all around the world

You will have to debate and set a common ground with other delegates in order to achieve your goals. Remember that every NATO member has to agree on an act before any measure is taken. Do not be worried to differ from other NATO members if the interests of your nation are at stake. You will be gathering on 1998 at NATO Headquarters in Brussels . Lastly, bear in mind that,

THIS IS AN ALTERNATIVE UNIVERSE!

You do not need to relive the courses of action in the real world. You may take any actions in any order you wish.

You may take as long a time as you want tackling problems and crises in this committee. This guide is meant to explain the context of our committee a little bit and to give you an idea of what you might do. You are not restricted to any specific dates or operations in this guide. Feel free to create your very own alternative course of events; this is a fictional committee after all.