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Wednesday, 7 April 1999

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Leading Developments













FRY: Analytic Perspective

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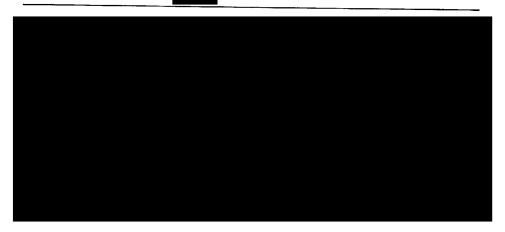
Milosevic's Peace Gambit

President Milosevic largely has achieved his military goals in Kosovo and now will focus on obtaining a favorable political settlement, exploiting his control over "shadow president" Rugova. In the cease-fire announcement, Yugoslav and Serbian authorities offered to reach a temporary political agreement with Rugova that could be the basis for a final agreement keeping Kosovo in Serbia.

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— The announcement said FRY authorities and Rugova would prepare a program for the return of refugees with UNHCR and Red Cross participation.

A FRY official yesterday told reporters his government is offering the cease-fire because the "terrorists are now virtually destroyed." Deputy Prime Minister Draskovic invited refugees to return home and said continued NATO airstrikes during the Serbian cease-fire would mean NATO is against peace.





A spokesman in Albania yesterday said the UCK will not accept a cease-fire without a NATO presence in Kosovo to enforce it. The brutality of recent Serb operations suggests Kosovar Albanians will not be swayed by Milosevic's proposals.

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EU:

Struggling With Refugee Policy

Interior Ministers today are trying to work out an equitable plan for distributing the 100,000 refugees that German Chancellor Schroeder on Saturday said Europe is willing to harbor, but they may defer final decisions to the Foreign Ministers, who meet tomorrow. Several states may increase their initial pledges in an effort to be seen as alleviating the human suffering and providing a constructive civilian counterpoint to NATO's airstrikes.

— Several EU countries in recent days have gone from rejecting new refugees to accepting thousands.

the EU will be wary of repeating its experience with Bosnian and Albanian refugees. Germany and Italy bore the brunt of those inflows, and many "temporary" refugees became permanent residents, exacerbating anti-immigrant sentiment and adding to social services costs.

European leaders say it is best to keep most refugees in the Balkans to facilitate their eventual return and to avoid the appearance of acquiescing to Milosevic's expulsions. EU countries—through the UN, NGOs, and their own militaries—are establishing tent cities and mobile hospitals, and providing food and medicine to entice refugees to remain in Albania and Macedonia.

— The EU has provided \$185 million in humanitarian assistance since the crisis began.

According to media reports, Germany's 320,000 Bosnian refugees added \$2.3 billion to Bonn's social welfare costs in 1996. Some 120,000 ethnic Albanian refugees were living in Germany before the crisis began.