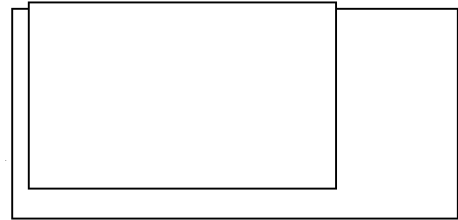


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(b) (1)
(b) (3)

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APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: SEP 2005

Memorandum for the Record

KEY: C/98-06145

EVENT: MEMBER BRIEFING **DATE:** 09/29/1998 **TIME:** **STATUS:** CANCELLED
PLACE: [redacted]
FOR: REPRESENTATIVE
SUBJECT: KOSOVO

ATTENDEES:

<u>ASSOCIATION</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ROLE</u>
DCI/OCA	[redacted]	SUPPORT
DI/BALKAN TF	[redacted]	BRIEFER
REP	WILSON, HEATHER [R-NM]	

Executive Summary:

[redacted] The thrust of this briefing was to provide Rep. Wilson an update on the current situation in Kosovo. Included in this update was an assessment of UCK and VJ strengths and weaknesses and potential outcomes to the conflict. Rep. Wilson appeared well informed on the situation in Kosovo asked questions regarding reported atrocities, violations to the recent cease fire, and reactions by our NATO allies to the US call for force in Kosovo should the Serb violations to the cease-fire continue.

[SUPPORTING-TEXT]

Summary Text:

[redacted] Per DDCI's request, Rep. Wilson spent 15-20 minutes with the DDCI. Following this session, Rep. Wilson was given a 45-minute update on the situation in Kosovo. [redacted] began by providing a run-down on the size of Serb forces in the area and their operations. Serb forces are currently operating north of the Cicavica Mountains and Kosovoska Mitrovica. [redacted] there are new troops in the Urosevac region suggesting action there soon. There has also been activity reported in the past day or so in Suva Reka.

[redacted] At this point, Milosevic thinks he's smashed the UCK, but he's wrong. [redacted] UCK command structure is in tact, waiting for VJ to withdraw and bent on attacking supply lines. Punitive actions have galvanized the Albanian population. While the summer soldiers are gone, [redacted] there are 5-8 thousand UCK fighters in the hills. UCK morale remains strong, some supplies still getting through, but they remain short of ammo. There is evidence that the UCK is reinfiltrating some of the areas they lost earlier and this reinfiltration continues.



[redacted] To keep the UCK on the run, the Serbs must conduct continuous sweeps. To destroy the UCK, the Serbs have to get up into the hills, for which they lack sufficient trained manpower. (Most units in Kosovo are half strength, [redacted] [redacted] the Serbs are experiencing difficulty on mobilizing more troops.)

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[] In the future, [] said the DI sees a relative lull for the immediate future and a slowdown with winter weather. The UCK will lie low as long as VJ battle groups remain out along major roads. Cross border firing between the UCK and VJ will continue, perhaps intensify. At this time, there is no indication the VJ plans anything beyond sweep operations where the UCK rears up. The VJ leadership probably hopes by sealing borders the UCK will wither.

[] UCK's challenge is to improve militarily, which they're addressing via reorganization, strengthening command structure, and getting better arms. Ms. Wilson was told to expect sporadic, low-level guerrilla attacks by the UCK, especially if VJ pulls back off the major roads, but no major fighting. [] ended the brief by predicting that if the UCK successfully resupplies itself by next spring, combat between the Serbs and the Kosovo rebels will reconvene at that time.

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Office of Congressional Affairs

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Follow-up Action Items:

Additional Information: