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DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

### SPOT COMMENTARY

26 September 2000  
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#### Election Commission Says Second Round Presidential Race Needed

The FRY Election Commission said late today that a preliminary vote count of the presidential race gave Kostunica about 48 percent of the vote to Milosevic's 40 percent, suggesting that a second round in the presidential election would be held on 8 October because neither gained the required 50 percent. The commission said this afternoon that it would release the completed official results by 2000 local time Thursday night—the FRY election law requires results to be released no later than that.

- The regime appears to be responding to ever more vocal opposition claims that it won the election outright, which have gained credence both domestically and in the West. By indicating that Milosevic is preparing to go to a second round, Milosevic is trying to buy time to reassure his supporters and come up with a strategy to retain power.
- The pro-Milosevic media late this afternoon began broadly pushing the propaganda line that the next FRY Government would be formed by Milosevic's Socialist Party, the United Yugoslav Left, and Momir Bulatovic's Socialist National Party from Montenegro.

The DOS responded to the Election Commission announcement by denouncing the "huge fraud" perpetrated in the vote count, but gave few details about its future course of action. Opposition leader Zoran Djindjic told reporters that the DOS would "defend the opposition victory to the end," but did not explain what that meant. An hour later, Kostunica told reporters the opposition would reject a second round, but he did not address what the DOS planned to do to induce Milosevic to accept a first round Kostunica victory.

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In Montenegro, press reports indicate that police forces controlled by President Djukanovic this morning increased security at a number of strategic sites around Montenegro, including government and media offices in Podgorica.

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Prepared by: DCI Interagency Balkan Task Force. Questions or comments may be directed to [Redacted]

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