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**"FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA"<sup>1</sup>**

**Slobodan MILOSEVIC**

(Phonetic: meeLOHshehveech)

*President, "Federal Republic of Yugoslavia" (FRY) (since 1997)*

*Addressed as: Mr. President*



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Slobodan Milosevic faces widespread popular opposition to his rule following the devastation of Serbia's economy by over two months of NATO airstrikes. Milosevic--who miscalculated both the likelihood and extent of NATO attacks--is blamed for Serbia's increasing isolation from the international community and for Serbia's worsening economic situation. [redacted] Despite ongoing public demonstrations and criticism from a wide variety of political figures--including major church officials, the former top Yugoslav Army commander, and the former National Bank Governor--there is no indication that Milosevic views his hold on power as slipping. [redacted] Milosevic is counting on the inability of his political rivals to unite and on his control over the security forces to see him through this challenge to his power. [redacted]

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Milosevic technically wields little authority as FRY President. The key levers of power--the Internal Affairs Ministry, the media, and the economy--are controlled in practice at the republic level, and the republic presidents officially have considerable influence over the use of the Yugoslav Army. Despite his limited constitutional prerogatives, Milosevic has been the ultimate decision maker in FRY and in Serbian affairs because of his control over the party apparatus and an extensive patronage system. [redacted]

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Milosevic also has prevented the opposition from effectively mounting a challenge to his authority to date by co-opting opposition politicians into governing coalitions with the SPS and with his wife's Yugoslav United Left (JUL) movement in order to sow dissent and suspicion in his opponents' ranks. He successfully used this tactic to break up local opposition governments in several major towns where prodemocratic coalitions took control following local elections in 1996. Milosevic also has convinced leading opposition parties--specifically the Serbian Renewal Movement and the Serbian Radical Party--to participate in the FRY and Serbian governments in order to maintain his hold on power after the SPS lost its majority in the Serbian Assembly in 1997. [redacted]

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**Rise to Power**



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Milosevic was born in Pozarevac on 20 August 1941. He joined the Communist Party at the age of 18. His father, an Orthodox priest whom he barely knew, committed suicide when Milosevic was in his early twenties and his mother, a hardline Communist, also committed suicide 10 years later, according to press reports. After graduating from the Law Faculty of the University of Belgrade in 1964, he held a series of economic-related party positions. Milosevic joined a Belgrade firm, Technogas, in 1968 and became its director in 1973. In 1978 he assumed the post of president of the Bank of Belgrade, one of Yugoslavia's largest financial institutions. He returned to full-time politics as Belgrade party chief in 1984. Milosevic took over as head of the Serbian Communist party in 1986. In April 1987 he captured international attention with his dramatic appearance at a protest meeting of Kosovo Serbs, where he initiated an

inflammatory nationalist campaign to right the wrongs he claimed they were suffering. He became Serbian President in 1989. He was popularly elected to the position in 1990 and reelected in 1992. After serving the two-term maximum in that post, Milosevic moved to the FRY Presidency (which is elected by Yugoslav parliament members) and engineered his successor's election to the Serbian presidency.

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Milosevic speaks excellent, though accented, English. His wife has been widely described as his closest confidante and adviser. The couple has a daughter, Marija, and a son, Marko.

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**Milosevic's Indictment**

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*Milosevic was indicted on 27 May 1999 by the International War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague for his role as the supreme decision maker in the Yugoslav Army and Serbian Ministry of Internal Affairs brutal repression of the Albanian separatist movement in Kosovo. Further charges against Milosevic for his involvement in the Croatian and Bosnian conflicts may also be filed. The Tribunal has issued global warrants for his arrest, making it extremely difficult for Milosevic to travel outside Serbia--or to go into exile if his hold on power collapsed. Ironically, Belgrade is required to hand over war criminals to the Tribunal--although it has vet to do so--under the Dayton Agreement, which Milosevic himself signed.*

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<sup>1</sup>The US Government does not officially recognize the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

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12 August 99

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