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Balkan Update

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26 May 2004

NR

[Redacted content]

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This report was prepared by the Office of Russian and European Analysis (OREA). *Analysis is indicated in bold italics.* Comments and queries are welcome

[Redacted contact information]

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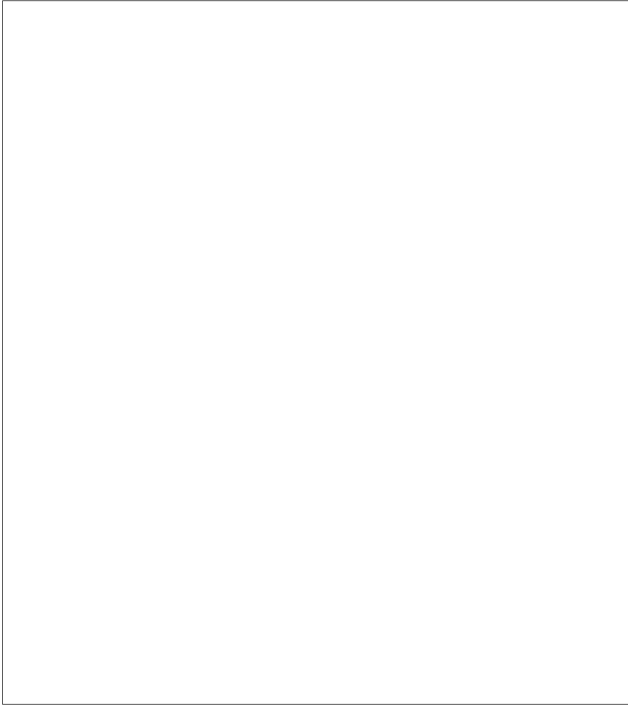
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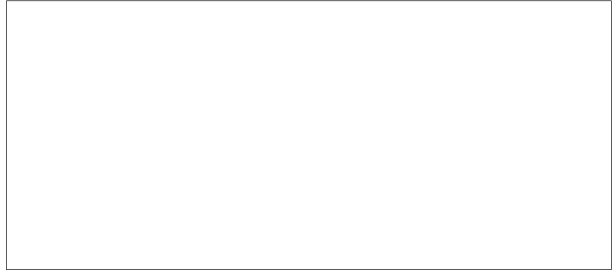
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often dogged by charges of corruption and limiting its investigations to opposition party members, but the ongoing anti-corruption campaign suggests the government may now be more intent on implementing reforms required for NATO and EU integration.

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Interior Ministry Cleaning Out Police Ranks [redacted]

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Prime Minister designate and current Interior Minister Hari Kostov is overseeing an unprecedented culling of the ranks of police officers and station commanders suspected of malfeasance and corruption [redacted]

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- Seventy officers face suspension, criminal charges, or other disciplinary action following an intensive internal investigation [redacted]

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- [redacted] the investigation was professional and thorough and the results were made public. [redacted]

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The scope and breadth of the Interior Ministry dragnet—and an earlier higher profile arrest of a Ministry of Defense functionary—are unprecedented, although much more would need to be done to root out chronic corruption among Macedonian officials. The Social Democratic Alliance of Macedonia (SDSM)-led government is

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