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Yugoslavia: Continued Unrest in Kosovo [REDACTED]

Continued disturbances by Albanian nationalists in Kosovo Province and neighboring republics reflect growing dissatisfaction with Belgrade over demands for an end to Serb domination and a higher standard of living. At this point, the unrest does not appear to have reached the level of last March when violent rioting resulted in at least nine deaths and over 100 injuries. Given the inability of the Yugoslav leadership to come up with a viable solution to Kosovo's economic and nationality problems, however, a further resurgence of unrest cannot be discounted. The upcoming anniversary on 11 March of the inception of last year's violence could spark a major incident.

In the last few months, manifestations of unrest have largely been confined to small-scale demonstrations, the appearance of antiregime slogans, and distribution of pamphlets calling for republic status for Kosovo or unification with neighboring Albania. There also have been reports of some violence. According to Yugoslav officials, Serb and Montenegrin Kosovars have been assaulted in Pec, one of the centers of last year's rioting.

Despite attempts over the last year to rid Pristina University of all potential troublemakers, a number of loud but nonviolent demonstrations involving between 30 and 100 students have occurred on its campus. Albanian nationalists at the university reportedly have gone beyond calling for republic status for Kosovo and view unification with Tirane as the only escape from Serb domination.

Disturbances involving Albanian nationalists have not been confined solely to Kosovo, but have been reported in the border regions of neighboring Montenegro and Macedonia. Both of these republics have large ethnic Albanian populations. Early this month, five Albanian students at Pristina University went on trial in Skopje, the Macedonian capital, for disseminating "propaganda material" from Albania. Concern also has been expressed in Montenegro where

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slogans praising Albania and its leader, Enver Hoxha, have appeared. Even in Croatia, three Albanian soldiers in the Yugoslav National Army are going to trial for involvement over the last two years with an Albanian-based organization whose primary aim is unification of Kosovo with Albania.

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