

~~Top Secret~~

**YUGOSLAVIA: Unrest in Kosovo Growing**

Some 4,000 ethnic Albanians attacked police and vehicles yesterday in Kosovo Province, protesting recently passed amendments to the Serbian constitution that reduce the autonomy of their mainly Albanian province. There had been scattered demonstrations over the weekend, and press reports indicate that a local police chief and a police officer were shot dead during protests yesterday. Police are increasingly resorting to tear gas and force to break up demonstrations, and unconfirmed reports suggest four Albanians have been killed. Press reports indicate several hundred ethnic Albanians have been arrested so far, primarily on misdemeanor charges. [redacted]

[redacted] Similar demonstrations are likely today when Serbian constitutional amendments formally become law. Although they are likely to be contained by heavy police pressure, sporadic violence and civil disobedience among ethnic Albanians probably will continue, and the risk of uncontrolled civil disorder is again growing. The reported deaths are the first attributed to the demonstrations. They probably portend more isolated shooting at police and might provoke greater police repression and violence against demonstrators. [redacted]

~~Top Secret~~

28 March 1989

[redacted]