

[REDACTED] YUGOSLAVIA: UNEASY QUIET IN KOSOVO [REDACTED]

ETHNIC ALBANIAN RIOTS IN KOSOVO PROVINCE HAVE EBBED, BUT LOW-LEVEL UNREST WILL CONTINUE AND HAS IMPLICATIONS FOR STABILITY, ECONOMIC REFORM, AND HUMAN RIGHTS. [REDACTED]

THE RECENT RIOTS WERE AMONG THE WORST SINCE THE IMMEDIATE POSTWAR ERA. THE OFFICIAL DEATH TOLL IS NOW 23, AND UNCONFIRMED REPORTS INDICATE IT MAY BE HIGHER. MORE STRINGENT SECURITY MEASURES HAVE BEEN IMPOSED. [REDACTED]

ETHNIC ALBANIANS RIOTED IN KOSOVO BECAUSE THEY BELIEVE THAT THE RECENTLY ADOPTED SERBIAN CONSTITUTIONAL MEASURES WILL SET BACK THE BROAD AUTONOMY THEY WERE GRANTED IN 1974. SERBIAN ACTIVISTS, LED BY PARTY CHIEF MILOSEVIC, FORCED ADOPTION OF THE AMENDMENTS BY OUSTING SEVERAL POPULAR ALBANIAN OFFICIALS WHO OPPOSED THE AMENDMENTS, BY EXAGGERATING THE EXTENT OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST ETHNIC SERBS IN THE PROVINCE, AND BY INTIMIDATING ETHNIC ALBANIANS IN THE PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] UNREST AND SPORADIC ATTACKS ON SECURITY FORCES AND GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS IN THE PROVINCE PROBABLY WILL CONTINUE. NEW WAVES OF DEMONSTRATIONS COULD OCCUR IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS, ESPECIALLY IF SERBIAN OFFICIALS STRONGLY EXERCISE THEIR NEW AUTHORITY OVER THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT. SECURITY FORCES PROBABLY WILL REMAIN ACTIVE IN THE PROVINCE. THE RIOTS ALSO COULD SPAWN ATTACKS BY ETHNIC ALBANIAN EMIGRES ON YUGOSLAV FACILITIES IN THE WEST. [REDACTED]

THE RECENT RIOTS WILL NOT INTERFERE WITH MILOSEVIC'S DRIVE TO INCREASE HIS AND SERBIAN POWER IN YUGOSLAVIA. THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS FORMALIZE HIS GAINS IN RECENT MONTHS; HE ALSO ORGANIZED MASS DEMONSTRATIONS THAT LED TO THE OUSTER OF THE LEADERSHIPS IN MONTENEGRO AND VOJVODINA, BUT A COALITION OF REGIONAL AND FEDERAL OFFICIALS PROBABLY WILL PREVENT HIM FROM MAKING FURTHER SIGNIFICANT GAINS. THE MILITARY, ALTHOUGH DOMINATED BY ETHNIC SERB OFFICERS, MAY BEGIN TO PLAY A BIGGER ROLE IN INTERETHNIC CONFLICTS AND IN POLITICS GENERALLY. [REDACTED]

IMPLICATIONS FOR THE US

X--MORE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS. YUGOSLAV SECURITY FORCES ARE

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ALMOST CERTAIN TO ARREST MORE ETHNIC ALBANIANS FOR MAKING NATIONALIST STATEMENTS. THE COUNTRY'S POLITICAL PRISONERS ARE OVERWHELMINGLY ETHNIC ALBANIANS, DESPITE BEING ABOUT 10 PERCENT OF THE GENERAL POPULATION. YUGOSLAV AUTHORITIES WILL NOT RESPOND TO US REMONSTRATIONS ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS. [REDACTED]

X--STRAINS IN RELATIONS WITH THE US. YUGOSLAVIA'S ETHNIC GROUPS--THE SERBS--TAKE US STATEMENTS ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS PAROCHIALY, A VIEW THAT COULD COMPLICATE LONGSTANDING US EFFORTS TO REFRAIN FROM TAKING SIDES IN YUGOSLAVIA'S NUMEROUS ETHNIC DISPUTES. SERBIAN MEDIA ALREADY ARE MAINTAINING THAT THE US IS PRO-ALBANIAN AND ARE CALLING FOR INCREASED SERBIAN LOBBYING IN THE US. [REDACTED]

X--INCREASED REGIONAL TENSIONS IN YUGOSLAVIA. TENSIONS BETWEEN THE MORE DEVELOPED REGIONS OF SLOVENIA AND CROATIA AND THE SOUTH PROBABLY WILL INCREASE. SLOVENE OFFICIALS GENERALLY SUPPORT THE ALBANIANS, AND THIS UNPRECEDENTED SOLIDARITY WITH NON-SLAVS WILL SEVERELY STRAIN RELATIONS WITH SERBIA. CROATIAN OFFICIALS ONLY BELATEDLY SUPPORTED THE SECURITY MEASURES AGAINST THE ALBANIANS, BUT SERBIAN GAINS IN THE PROVINCE COULD SPUR CROATIAN NATIONALISM. [REDACTED]

X--SLOWER PROGRESS ON ECONOMIC REFORM. THE DEMONSTRATIONS WILL COMPLICATE EFFORTS BY PREMIER MARKOVIC'S NEW GOVERNMENT TO IMPLEMENT MARKET-ORIENTED ECONOMIC REFORMS. THEY PROBABLY WILL ALSO UNDERMINE THE CONFIDENCE OF PRIVATE WESTERN CREDITORS IN THE COUNTRY'S STABILITY. FURTHER COMPLICATING EFFORTS AT REFORM. [REDACTED]