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SPOT COMMENTARY

DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

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Djindjic Rejects Regime Call for Run-off

There are still no official election returns, despite press reports that the Federal Election Commission was scheduled to announce official results at 0600 EDT today. Press reports indicate that Milosevic has decided to declare that neither he nor Kostunica received the required majority of votes and that a second round of voting is necessary. Opposition spokesmen are threatening to declare Kostunica President if the government does not announce official elections results by Wednesday. *Opting for a second round would mark an admission by the regime that its defeat is too massive to be fixed by vote-rigging. Further delay in resolving the election outcome would indicate serious confusion and indecision within the regime and could spark protests from impatient opposition supporters.*

Democratic Party leader Djindjic told interviewers Milosevic would be "wiped out" in a run-off, but he says the opposition is not inclined to permit the regime to deny it the victory it achieved in the first round. For his part, Kostunica is claiming victory but says he expects Milosevic to call for a second round. *Djindjic is establishing a high media profile and likely intends to dominate the coalition building around Kostunica.*

The election returns reinforce the impression of a massive opposition victory. The regime has won only 10 out of 70 seats on the Novi Sad municipal council, according to independent press reports.

Opposition demonstrations are gradually getting larger as the country waits for the next developments. Crowds in Belgrade yesterday reached an estimated 40,000. Tens of thousands also gathered in Nis and thousands in other cities. The demonstrators so far are well-behaved, *apparently confident for the moment that the regime cannot steal—or has not decided how to steal—the election.*

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