



~~TOP SECRET~~ [redacted]

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

TIER  
9/28

DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

### SPOT COMMENTARY

27 September 2000  
15:00 EDT  
Spot Comm 9

#### Yugoslav Army Likely to Stay on the Sidelines at Protest Rallies [redacted]

The Democratic Opposition of Serbia (DOS) presidential candidate Kostunica shows no signs of backing down from his refusal to participate in a second round runoff in the presidential race, calling the regime's latest political gambit "an insult to Serbian voters." The DOS plan to stage a huge rally in the center of Belgrade tonight to "declare an election victory" is already underway.

- Internet reports from the Free Serbia internet site indicate that as of 2100 local time in Belgrade, over 200,000 people had descended into the street. Observers anticipated that tonight's protest would be "the largest rally Belgrade has seen."
- *In an attempt to foil the opposition*, Serbian police earlier today ordered opposition activists to dismantle the stage for the rally, forcing them to switch the venue from the Yugoslav parliament building to the downtown central square. Opposition leaders stated publicly that the rally would go ahead as planned.
- Activists from the student-based Otpor movement warned publicly that government provocateurs dressed in their t-shirts might try to cause trouble.
- *Anticipating opposition claims of election fraud at tonight's rally*, regime-backed media today aired a segment stating that the international election monitors unanimously assess that the FRY elections were "free and fair." Meanwhile, Belgrade has denied the opposition's request to check the Federal Election Commission's official election results, according to press reporting

[redacted]

CIA:DI SPOTCOMM 000927-1500

APPROVED FOR RELEASE   
DATE: 23-Jun-2010

Prepared by: DCI Interagency Balkan Task Force. Questions or Comments may be directed to [redacted]  
[redacted]

~~TOP SECRET~~ [redacted]

[redacted]