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Senior Executive Intelligence Brief

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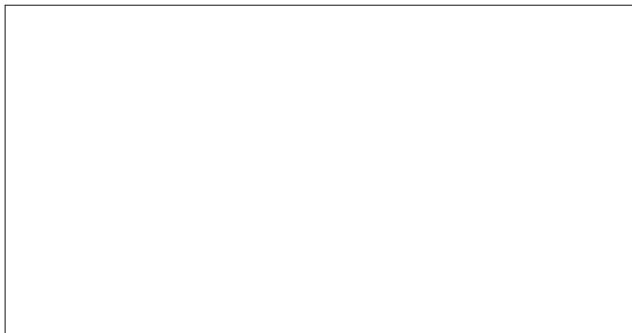
Friday, 29 September 2000

National Security Information

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Regional Notes

EUROPE

FRY:
Analytic Perspective

Milosevic Hanging On by a Thread

The Serbian opposition has exercised bold and effective leadership and seems determined to force President Milosevic to recognize opposition leader Kostunica's first-round victory. More demonstrations will be necessary to force Milosevic from power, however, and the opposition will have to move to more confrontational tactics.

- Protesters' earlier concern about police violence seems to be ebbing, which will embolden demonstrators.
- Democratic Party leader Djindjic has given the electoral commission until today to justify its call for a second round or face "different measures of pressure," according to press reports. He has threatened a general strike.

Security Services Distancing Themselves

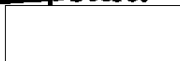
Milosevic has lost his grip on the Army, and the best he can hope for is its continued neutrality. Police loyalties are less clear, but Milosevic probably could count on enough forces to protect government buildings from demonstrators, at least in Belgrade.

- He may not be able to muster sufficient police support to mount a violent crackdown. A state of emergency, if contested, could not be enforced without Army backing.

Governing Coalition Cracking

Serbian Radical Party leader Seselj's public recognition of Kostunica's victory demonstrates the fracturing of Milosevic's ruling coalition. Seselj and Serbian Renewal Movement leader Draskovic may try to wrest control of the Serbian Government from Milosevic's crony, Prime Minister Marjanovic, through a confidence vote in the Serbian legislature, where their two parties hold a narrow majority.

- At the federal level, Milosevic is trying to cobble together a new coalition by bringing in the Montenegro-based Socialist People's Party (SNP), but the SNP's deputy leader has reached out to Kostunica.



Little Room for Maneuver 

Milosevic's only hope is to survive long enough to hold the second round of presidential elections and to rally his supporters. Even that would not save him unless the public gives up the struggle to oust him.

- The regime could not withstand another major shock, such as a public recognition by Moscow of Kostunica's victory. 