

APPROVED FOR RELEASE DATE:
06-23-2010

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Senior Executive Intelligence Brief

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Saturday, 30 September 2000

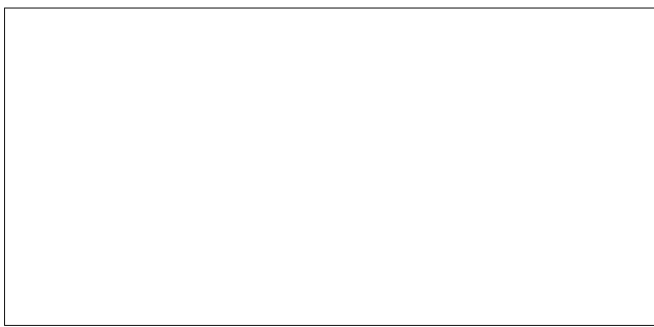
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Leading Development

FRY:

Djukanovic's Feud With Kostunica Heats Up

Public sparring between Montenegrin President Djukanovic and Serbian opposition leader Kostunica is becoming increasingly bitter. Djukanovic, who has recognized Kostunica's victory in the FRY presidential election, yesterday told the press that Podgorica would not accept anti-Montenegrin policies from Serbia, regardless of whether the regime in Belgrade was dictatorial or was "wrapped in a democratic package."

- Djukanovic issued a thinly veiled warning that he could call a referendum on independence.
- Kostunica at an opposition rally in Belgrade on Wednesday charged that Podgorica had turned its back on the Serbian opposition.

Djukanovic's comments have grown more strident during the past week as the Serbian opposition and the Montenegrin Socialist National Party (SNP)—Djukanovic's rival—have begun discussing a coalition in the FRY legislature. *Such a coalition under a Kostunica presidency would threaten Djukanovic's position at home and his importance to the West.*

