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**SERBIA**

**Slobodan MILOSEVIC**  
(Phonetic: meeLOHsheveech)

*President (since 1989)*

*Addressed as: Mr. President* [redacted]

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Slobodan Milosevic widely regarded as an ideologically and tactically flexible politicians working to transform his international image from that of a hardline Serb nationalist and accused war criminal to that of a Balkans peacemaker. Milosevic has put increasing pressure on recalcitrant Bosnian Serb leaders to agree to a settlement since August 1994, when prodded by the international community he imposed an economic and military blockade on the Bosnian Serbs. He subsequently used the Bosnian Serbs military setbacks in mid-1995 to force the Bosnian Serb leadership to accept him as their chief representative to future peace talks. Despite their criticism that he sidelined them during negotiations at the Dayton conference and that he ignored their territorial demands, he extracted their formal promise to abide by the agreement at a meeting he convened in Belgrade in late November.

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[redacted] To further burnish his peacemaker image and to avert Yugoslav Army clashes with Croatian forces, Milosevic also successfully pushed embattled Krajina Serb leaders in Sector East into signing a peace agreement with the Croatian Government in mid-November.

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**Marginalizing Opponents at Home** . . [redacted]

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Virtually unchallenged as leader of Serbia and Montenegro, Milosevic has used his tight hold on the levers of power and the disarray among his political opposition to successfully sideline rival politicians and ultranationalists whom he regards as impediments to his efforts to improve Serbia's image abroad

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[redacted] as president of the Socialist Party of Serbia (SPS formerly the Communist party), he has a broad network of political acolytes who maintain SPS political and financial control throughout Serbia at the local level.

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[Large redacted block]

[Redacted]

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**Rise to Power**

[Redacted]

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Milosevic was born in Pozarevac on 20 August 1941. His father, an Orthodox priest, committed suicide; his mother, a hardline Communist, also killed herself, according to press reports. Milosevic joined the Communist party at 18. After graduating from the Law Faculty of the University of Belgrade in 1964, he held a series of economic-related party positions. Milosevic joined a Belgrade firm, Technogas, in 1968 and became its director in 1973. In 1978 he assumed the post of president of the Bank of Belgrade, one of Yugoslavia's largest financial institutions [Redacted]. He returned to full-time politics as Belgrade party chief in 1984 under the tutelage of his mentor, then Serbian Communist party chief Ivan Shambolic. Milosevic took over as head of the Serbian party in 1986. [Redacted]

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[Redacted] In April 1987 he captured international attention with his dramatic appearance at a protest meeting of Kosovo Serbs, where he initiated an inflammatory campaign to right the wrongs they were suffering and issued demands for rapid progress toward full democracy and a market economy, according to press [Redacted] reporting. [Redacted]

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**Personal**

[Redacted]

**Data**

[Redacted]

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Milosevic has visited the United States more than a dozen times. Since becoming President, however, he has made few international trips. [Redacted]

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[Redacted]

Milosevic speaks excellent, though accented English. His wife, Mirjana Markovic, has been described [Redacted] as his closest confidant and adviser; she has often used her bimonthly magazine column to presage shifts in his official policy. The couple has a daughter and a son. [Redacted]

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LP 95-113618  
7 December 1995

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