

Republic of Serbia
MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR
Staff of the Ministry
4 April 1999
P r i š t i n a

MINUTES

of a meeting with senior police officials in KiM /Kosovo and Metohija/

A meeting with the Chiefs of Secretariats in the AP KiM /Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija/ and detachment commanders /komandanti/ of the PJP /Special Police Unit/, SAJ /Special anti-terrorist unit/ and JSO /Special Operations Unit/ was held on 4 April 1999 at 0900 hours with the following agenda:

1. Previous tasks, achieved results and situation on the ground
2. Forthcoming tasks
3. Other matters relating to the completion and execution of assigned tasks

The meeting was held by Lieutenant General Obrad STEVANOVIĆ and Major General Sreten LUKIĆ. It was attended by the chiefs of all secretariats, PJP detachment commanders /komandanti/, SAJ Commander /Komandant/ and the RDB /State Security Department/ JSO Commander /Komandant/.

DISCUSSION

1. Previous tasks, achieved results and situation on the ground
 - Priština Secretariat Chief, Colonel Boško PETRIĆ
 - Measures have been taken to curb terrorism and crime (35 persons, of whom three policemen and four reservists, have been taken into custody) and stabilise JRM /public law and order/
 - Although the Secretariat is currently located in several places, work is expected to return to normal on 5 April 1999
 - PJP members are in the areas of the municipalities of Podujevo, Glogovac, Obilić and Lipljan; the security situation is good
 - Over the past two days, NATO carried out operations in the Gračanica and Ajvalija sectors
 - Kosovska Mitrovica Secretariat Chief, Ljubinko CVETIĆ
 - The crime situation and JRM in the Secretariat's zone are being stabilised
 - 50 checkpoints have been set up to control the territory; cooperation with the VJ /Yugoslav Army/ is good
 - Mentioned the problem with telephone lines
 - Peć Secretariat Chief, Colonel Borislav VLAHOVIĆ
 - Public law and order are stable, 11 persons have been detained for perpetrating crimes, 25 vehicles have been seized
 - Control of territory has been established, anti-terrorist operations will ensue in the areas of Istok and Rugovo (it is estimated that there are 350 terrorists)
 - Mentioned the problem of VJ members seizing vehicles

- Đakovica Secretariat Chief, Lieutenant Milovan KOVAČEVIĆ
- All assigned tasks have been successfully completed
- 38 persons have been arrested so far for perpetrating crimes
- Mentioned the problem with special telephone lines

- Prizren Secretariat Chief, Colonel Miloš VOJINOVIĆ
- 19 persons have been taken into custody for perpetrating crimes
- Mentioned problems with Muslims and Turks leaving, abandoned cattle (between 5,000 and 6,000 head of cattle) and unburied bodies in the zone of anti-terrorist activities

- Uroševac Secretariat Chief, Colonel Bogoljub JANIĆIJEVIĆ
- 58 civilians and eight volunteers have been arrested so far for perpetrating KD /crimes/
- Some terrorists from the Grebno village sector managed to pull out with the civilians
- Mentioned the problem of abandoned cattle (around 8,000 head of cattle) and organisation of collection centres is underway in the area of the Secretariat

- Gnjilane Secretariat Chief, Colonel Dušan GAVRANIĆ
- 34 persons have been arrested so far and there have been problems with volunteers in Žegra
- Terrorist groups have been crushed and parts of the groups are being inserted into the Žegovac sector
- Around 50,000 persons have moved out, while 15,000 persons have been turned back from the Vranje sector

- Srdan GREKULOVIĆ, PJP 36th Detachment Commander /Komandant/
- Assigned tasks have been completed in time, the situation in units is good although the troops are tired
- Proposed sending parts of units to rest for a few days

- Branko PRLJEVIĆ, PJP 35th Detachment Commander /Komandant/
- The situation in units is good, assigned tasks have been partially completed (only Košutovo and Brabonjić remain to be done), units are quartered in outlying housing developments
- Mentioned the shortage of 30 mm ammunition and spare parts for PAT /anti-aircraft gun/ and the disappearance of equipment taken by VJ members following the shelling of army barracks in Kosovska Mitrovica

- Radoslav MITROVIĆ, PJP 37th Detachment Commander /Komandant/
- Budakovo remains to be finished, some terrorists have pulled out towards Jezerce
- The situation in units is good as well as cooperation with the VJ and the Secretariat

- Borislav JOSIPOVIĆ, PJP 23rd Detachment Commander /Komandant/

- Of the assigned tasks, Zatrić has not been done where VJ artillery conducted operations
 - Due to unfavourable terrain, proposed that terrorists be allowed to pull out towards Streočka Mountain; mentioned the shortage of impact rifle grenades
 - Boško BUHA, PJP 21st Detachment Commander /Komandant/
 - Planned tasks have been fully completed; the VJ is not providing sufficient tank support
 - Dragan ŽIVALJEVIĆ, PJP 22nd Detachment Commander /Komandant/
 - The task has been fully completed, the territory is under control
 - Refugees were going towards Medveda, only the elderly and sick remain in villages
 - Territorial forces are over-stretched; troop morale is satisfactory
 - Mentioned the shortage of 20 mm and 30 mm ammunition for PAT
 - Živko TRAJKOVIĆ, SAJ Commander /Komandant/
 - proposed better media coverage of committed crimes and informing of the public about measures being taken against the perpetrators
 - Radislav STALEVIĆ, SAJ Commander in Priština /Komandant/
 - Terrorists pulled out along the Sedlare – Klečka route
 - Mentioned the problem of the VJ failing to show up and coordinated action
 - Milorad JANKOVIĆ, JSO Commander /Komandant/
 - Although the VJ unit which is in a concerted action with them is technically well-equipped, it comprises reservists who cannot be relied on in forthcoming operations and proposed that they be replaced
 - Prizren Secretariat Chief, Colonel Miloš VOJINOVIĆ
 - Mentioned the problem of imprisoned members of terrorist groups (around 200) and control of municipal staffs
2. Forthcoming tasks
- Sreten LUKIĆ, Head of the Staff of the Ministry
 - The MUP carries out its tasks in time of war just like in peacetime, treatment of perpetrators of crimes is the same as in peacetime regardless of their nationality; the courts will receive instructions on future work during the day
 - Functioning of all other services in security matters shall proceed as ordered by the secretariat and the secretariat chiefs are responsible for this
 - Clear up the battlefield, taking all necessary measures and actions
 - Use ammunition and MES /mines and explosives/ very rationally, and especially draw attention of RPO /Reserve police station/ commanders /komandiri/
 - Reduce radio communication to a minimum due to the possibility of revealing the locations of command posts and units, activate courier communications and use coded messages (list of code signs is being worked out)
 - Take rigorous measures towards paramilitary units
 - Seize, store and secure vehicles without documents and licence-plates

- Pay special attention to the number of laid mines and prevent individuals from laying mines in controlled area
- Secretariat chiefs and unit commanders /komandanti/ must report to the Staff

- Obrad STEVANOVIĆ, Assistant Minister
- The first stage of anti-terrorist activities must be completed today and control over territory must be established along with protection of units from air-strikes
- Prepare plans on how to control the territory, regroup forces and fortify
- Make plans for groups of men from units to rest by maintaining necessary readiness to execute tasks
- Mentioned a remark made by the VJ that they could not carry out tasks and make advances because police units were lagging behind, thus measures should be taken to overcome this problem in the forthcoming period (in the absence of the commander, the deputy must take over his duties)
- Civilians should be protected at all times
- Control and command of units in the area of a secretariat is done by the chiefs
- Include all OUP / Department of the Interior/ chiefs in carrying out duties in the area of a secretariat (unless they are engaged in the OUP as in Srbica)
- All members of the ministry, except those undergoing hospital treatment, should be in base hospitals while on sick-leave
- Conduct cooperation with the VJ through the commander /komandant/ on the ground and inform the Staff of any problems

The Deputy Prime Minister of the Federal Government, Mr. Nikola ŠAINOVIĆ, joined in and said that it was necessary for the first stage of anti-terrorist operations to be completed today for the purpose of active defence and for the protection of the territory and the border in case of a breakthrough by the aggressor deep into the territory of the FRY /Federal Republic of Yugoslavia/. He also said that persons who have been detained for perpetrating crimes should be held in custody until they are taken over by judicial organs.

3. Other matters regarding the completion and execution of assigned tasks
Officers awarded early promotions were given letters of appointment to a higher rank.

The meeting ended at 1030 hours

MINUTES TAKEN BY
Lieutenant Colonel
Milenko ARSENIJEVIĆ