

UNMIK



United Nations Mission in Kosovo

Division of Public Information

Media Monitoring

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► **Media Analysis**

5 December

12 KPC officers accept suspension (*Koha Ditore*)

Koha Ditore reports that the 12 suspended officers of the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC) have decided to accept UNMIK's decision of their six-month suspension. The decision was made Thursday evening after a marathon meeting between the KPC General Staff and the suspended officers. KPC Commander General Agim Çeku also attended the meeting.

'After a long meeting at the KPC HQ, the suspended officers agreed to accept the UNMIK decision, despite the fact that in one moment General Çeku had opposed their decision to renounce from the office,' said KPC spokesperson Shemsi Syla. He added that Çeku offered resignation but the suspended officers opposed such decision from the commander and decided to obey the UNMIK decision, same as the Kosovan leaders did in their meeting with Holkeri. Syla further said that Prime Minister Rexhepi had played a significant role and that the KPC HQ demands from UNMIK to finish the investigations as soon as possible and to return them at work. Syla claims that the officers are innocent.

Koha Ditore quotes its sources as saying that the twelve officers came to work on Thursday. While on the other hand after a meeting with the Kosovo chief administrator Harri Holkeri, Prime Minister Bajram Rexhepi, PDK leader Hashim Thaçi and AAK leader Ramush Haradinaj have asked Çeku to respect UNMIK's decision.

SRSB Holkeri informed officially Kosovan leaders regarding the suspension of the KPC officers. Prime Minister Rexhepi and PDK leader Hashim Thaçi 'demanded the implementation of the UNMIK decision if there is a legal base'.

'This is UNMIK's reserved competence and for the benefit of the KPC as well as for the processes in Kosovo, UNMIK's decision should be respected,' said Rexhepi. He added that this is painful as well for General Çeku as for them, but the decision could not be changed, but had to be respected.

'Suspensions currently exist, but if they lack the facts suspension is not acceptable for us,' said Rexhepi.

‘General Çeku should respect the decision of the Kosovo government,’ said Hashim Thaçi.

On the other hand, *Zëri* reports that even though they were invited to attend the meeting with Holkeri, President Ibrahim Rugova and Assembly Speaker Nexhat Daci didn’t respond to the invitation.

The paper further reports that the participants in the meeting between SRSG Holkeri, Quint representatives and Kosovan leaders assessed, ‘if suspension will not be respected we have no reason to assist the KPC’.

Shala: Political realism and athletics (Zëri)

In a front-page editorial in Zëri, Blerim Shala writes that when the first SRSG Bernard Kouchner was asked what was the most important lesson he had learned during his stay in Kosovo, he had replied: I had to run all day long, only to find out in the evening that I hadn’t moved at all.

As you can imagine, Kouchner was not a reporter from athletic races. By making this statement, the UNMIK chief proved that in those years everything was needed, and that despite the huge efforts of the International Administration, they were still not enough to achieve its goals and the goals of Kosovans.

Kosovo has changed since then. Now the situation is much better, except for one aspect: citizens and politicians had much more patience.

Furthermore, it was believed that the slow pace in changing the situation in Kosovo, especially the economy, the power supply, the public sector and security was first of all a result of a ten-year oppression by Serbia, which tried to ruin everything around here, and also a result of the two years of war. In the end, until March 2002, therefore three years after the NATO bombing campaign that ended this war, we had no central institutions. They were formed after 2001 November elections.

Anyway, we would be showing ingratitude if we didn’t mention the fact that the international community (EU, US and western governments) has done a lot for Kosovo, and that the overall assistance goes up to billions of euros. But today if we are realistic, we, locals and internationals, can conclude together that the situation in Kosovo is not what it should be.

Government to send its positions on privatisation to UN SG Kofi Annan

Koha Ditore reports that the Kosovo Government has compiled its official position on privatization in ten points and intends to send it to the three major addresses for Kosovo: UNMIK, the European Union and the United Nations.

Mimoza Kusari, spokeswoman for the Government, said that the official position would be sent to the UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, the UN Legal Office, the European Union and to UNMIK chief Harri Holkeri. The official stance of the Government was adopted during a meeting with KTA officials held on 21 November and the Government meeting held on 3rd December.

The Government requests are: to immediately restart the privatization process; to sign and ratify the sales contracts from the first and second round of tenders; to announce as soon as possible the third and other tenders; to not review the status of an enterprise unless a complaint is presented to the Special Chamber of the Supreme Court. The Government will also request that all complaints against KTA, filed with international courts, be directed to the Special Chamber, to not recognize transformations carried out after 22 March 1989, and to declare null and void all Serb discriminatory laws. Point eight of the Government's position relates to the request for the dismissal of KTA manager Marie Fucci and KTA Legal Office head Paul Csiszar.

Point nine and ten relate to Government's call for changes in UNMIK Regulation 1999/24 and changes in KTA Regulations in such a way that Serbian laws adopted as of 22 March 1989 are made inapplicable.

In related news *Zëri* quotes its sources as saying that it is possible that UNMIK chief Harri Holkeri might agree to the Kosovo Government's recent proposal to change two articles in the regulation of the Kosovo Trust Agency.

Editorial: The sinner of privatization (Kosova Sot)

Kosova Sot carries a front-page commentary by the editorial office which says that if someone has sinned on privatization, 'then it is certainly UNMIK Pillar IV head Nikolaus Lambsdorff.

With his actions, he has proved an arrogance and negativity that is costing Kosovo dearly. The latest accusations against him that were made by Ahmet Shala, one of the people who worked a long time for the start of the main process for the revival of Kosovo's economy, verify the overall opinion that Lambsdorff is to blame for the blocking of privatization.

It is surprising how Kosovo chief administrator Harri Holkeri closes one eye and ear on this matter. The UNMIK chief, with the highest level of irresponsibility is allowing privatization to turn into a major scandal. By tolerating the unrighteous policy of his deputy, Holkeri is allowing Nikolaus to continue to cheat on the economy of Kosovo. The indifference of the monarch from Finland is unacceptable for Kosovars, because the latter want to have a better future and part of this goal is to have a successful process of privatization. This was already taking place but new circles in the awry pillar of UNMIK (this is how pillar IV can be called) allowed for the opposite to happen – the blocking and endangering of the process of privatization. Although the reasons are related to some legal disputes, the truth seems to be completely different: POLITICAL.

The ill-will Nikolaus is now in the same line with Serbian Deputy Prime Minister Nebojsa Covic, who has launched his usual offensive to impede progressive processes in Kosovo.

The lack of transparency from Nikolaus makes it impossible for us to provide more facts, but even the ones that we have now are sufficient to call him the person in charge of all the evil things that are happening to privatization. Benefiting from the

Kosovan 'tolerance', Nikolaus is having a peaceful sleep, undisturbed by anyone. But this kind of behavior and these delays are causing outrage among local officials, winning bidders, workers, unionists and ordinary citizens. This cannot be kept inside for a very long time.

Therefore, it would be good if Nikolaus' superior ends this ill-will adventure of the head of the awry pillar. Otherwise, there could be unpredictable consequences.

Shala: Those who blocked the privatization should be kept accountable (Koha Ditore)

Koha Ditore carries a report from a round table of privatization that was held in Prishtina.

The stopping of the privatization process is a political and an unprofessional immaturity, said the deputy director of the KTA, Ahmet Shala, while he was referring to UNMIK Pillar IV and the KTA heads.

He claims that the propaganda that Serbian enterprises are purchased in Kosovo instead of SOEs had forced the internationals to make 'unprofessional acts'.

'I can confirm that the 24 enterprises we have sold are SOEs and there are a lots of facts for that,' Shala said. He recalled that everybody should bear in mind that the laws that were adopted after March 22, 1989 should not be applicable in Kosovo. He said that 'privatization in Kosovo will continue, but not on the basis of the Serbian laws'.

Privatization is accepted as the only solution for the resurrection of Kosovo's economy, while its stopping will cause economic, political and social problems and if we don't act very soon ethnic tensions might appear, said Shala.

On the other hand, the KTA privatization director John Johnson said that the privatization process would 'not very soon' be handed over to the Kosovo government. However, he assessed that internationals do not have a certain strategy regarding privatization.

Shala firmly said that a privatization strategy existed, while 'an institutional discrimination will not exist in Kosovo'.

MacKinlay violates UNMMIK and legal procedures (Koha Ditore)

Koha Ditore reports about the new developments around the PTK.

The acting PTK manager Eric MacKinlay has violated the legal procedures of the KTA and UNMIK regulation 27/2001, when he decided to dismiss the PTK financial manager Isak Krasniqi.

'Based on the current regulations for the creation of the KTA and UNMIK regulation 2001/27, the termination of Mr. Krasniqi's contract and forbiddance to enter the PTK premises have a few small mistakes,' writes PTK legal manager Sabahedin

Ramaxhiku in a letter that was addressed to the KTA. The paper claims that it has the copy of that letter.

‘Appointments, dismissals as well as the temporary suspension of PTK managing board members (general manager and managers) should be taken by the KTA or by a special panel created by the KTA. I just recall you the cases of Leme Xhema and Adnan Merovci, ‘ writes Ramaxhiku. The decision to dismiss Mr. Krasniqi was personally taken by Mr. MacKinlay, the paper reports.

The termination of the employment contract should have a 30-days-notice from either the employer or the employee, apart from special cases, claims the PTK legal manager.

‘The announcement for the termination of the contract and forbiddance to enter in the premises should be made in proper legal document and through the archive, because we are dealing with long-term action that have tough consequences for both sides,’ Ramaxhiku writes.

‘Considering the importance of the financial manger position, the problems and consequences that might appear because of his absence, I am addressing you as a ‘virtual’ proprietor of the PTK to act urgently in the resolution of this issue by respecting the current legal procedures. The resolution of this issue with a regular legal procedure and transparence would protect the interest of the PTK and its workers as well,’ concludes Ramaxhiku.

The paper further reports that the KTA decided not to answer questions of *Koha Ditore*. Who will replace Mr. Krasniqi? How would KTA react against MacKinlay’s violations of procedures? Does Mr. MacKinlay plan to dismiss all local managers?



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- Remains of 44 corpses from Serbia were returned to Kosovo (*all dailies*)
- 35 Serb families return in Maxhunaj in Vushtrri (*Zëri*)
- Six kilograms of cocaine confiscated in airplane from London (*Koha Ditore*)
- Tobacco smuggling from Kosovo damages Serbia's budget (*Koha Ditore*)

Kosovo Media Highlights

12 KPC officers accept suspension (*Koha Ditore*)

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Epoka e Re coverage of suspension of 12 KPC officers

On the issue of the suspension of 12 KPC officers, *Epoka e Re* quotes Prime Minister Rexhepi as saying, 'For the sake of the Kosovo Protection Corps and processes in Kosovo, Holkeri's decision must be carried out'.

PDK leader Hashim Thaçi said that KPC Commander Çeku should respect the decision of the Kosovo Government.

AAK leader Ramush Haradinaj was quoted as saying, 'It is a mistake to throw KPC members out on the street'.

'Rugova and Daci just don't give a damn about what is happening with the Kosovo Protection Corps,' added *Epoka e Re*.

Ceku: KPC officers accepted suspension, together we'll prove our innocence

Zëri quotes General Agim Çeku, commander of the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC), as saying, ‘For the sake of the future of the Kosovo Protection Corps, the 12 suspended officers of KPC have decided to accept the measures of suspension. The General Staff and I personally still believe that this suspension is illegal, unrighteous and we are certain that the process of investigations is going to prove the innocence of the 12 officers’.

Vrellaku: KPC will complain to the Strasbourg Court (Zëri)

Zëri also quotes Lieutenant Agim Vrellaku, head of Legal Service of the Kosovo Protection Corps, as saying, ‘We are going to address the Special Chamber of the Supreme Court of Kosovo, as a competent body to evaluate the legality of SRSG Harri Holkeri’s decision. If we don’t receive a response from a Supreme Court, we are then going to address the International Court for Human Rights in Strasbourg’.

Assembly to debate on KPC once tensions are gone (Zëri)

Zëri reports that PDK and AAK assembly groups have asked for the next assembly session to debate on the developments at the Kosovo Protection Corps. However, Kosovo Assembly Speaker Nexhat Daci said that it would be good if the debate is launched once tensions are gone.

Robertson wants NATO countries to find ways to finance KPC (Koha Ditore)

Koha Ditore reports that since the IOM has announced that it was going to end its programs for the Kosovo Protection Corps, the outgoing NATO Secretary General George Robertson has asked NATO foreign ministers to review plans for the financing of the KPC.

Koha Ditore quotes diplomatic sources in Brussels as saying that they were not surprised with the recent measures taken against the 12 KPC officers, and that they in fact had expected even more radical measures.

Holkeri, man of travels (Kosova Sot)

Kosova Sot reports that SRSG Holkeri spent more working days abroad than in Kosovo. ‘Through his travels the SRSG Holkeri keeps Kosovo on the international agenda and avoids the situation that it be set aside or forgotten among other international events in the world. His recent trips also aimed at building international support from the Quint, Contact Group and the UN SC for such issues as dialogue and the standards for Kosovo, said UNMIK spokeswoman Isabella Karlowicz, justifying Holkeri’s frequent trips abroad.

UNMIK, Govt must prepare report on current position of standards (Zëri)

‘It would be good if the Kosovo Government and UNMIK compiled a report on the situation in the Kosovar society vis-à-vis the eight standards,’ says an opinion piece by the editorial office. ‘If it is done in an objective manner, it would serve as example of the joint work of internationals and locals, which is necessary for the future if there are true aims to meet these standards. Furthermore, the compiling of this report would show best what could be the eventual obstacles in the period of the implementation plan.’

Shala: Political realism and athletics (Zëri)

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‘As you can imagine, Kouchner was not a reporter from athletic races. By making this statement, the UNMIK chief proved that in those years everything was needed, and that despite the huge efforts of the International Administration, they were still not enough to achieve its goals and the goals of Kosovars... If we are realistic, we, locals and internationals, can conclude together that the situation in Kosovo is not what it should be,’ Shala writes.

UNMIK to accept Government's suggestion on unblocking privatization?

Zëri quotes its sources as saying that it is possible that UNMIK chief Harri Holkeri might agree to the Kosovo Government's recent proposal to change two articles in the regulation of the Kosovo Trust Agency.

Government to send its positions on privatization to UN SG Kofi Annan (Koha)

Koha Ditore reports that the Kosovo Government has compiled its official position on privatization in ten points and it intends to send to three major addresses for Kosovo: UNMIK, the European Union and the United Nations.

Mimoza, Kusari, spokeswoman for the government, said that the official position would be sent to the UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, the UN Legal Office, the European Union and to UNMIK chief Harri Holkeri.

Ahmet Shala: Those who blocked privatization to be held responsible (Koha)

Koha Ditore quotes Ahmet Shala, deputy director of the Kosovo Trust Agency (KTA), as saying that privatization in Kosovo is going to resume, but not under Belgrade's laws.

'The stopping of privatization is an act of political and professional immaturity by those who have done it. They are going to be held responsible for such actions,' Shala added.

Editorial: The sinner of privatization (Kosova Sot)

Kosova Sot carried a front-page commentary by the editorial office which writes that if someone has sinned on privatization, 'then it is certainly UNMIK Pillar IV head Nikolaus Lambsdorff. 'With his actions, he has proved an arrogance and negativity that is costing Kosovo dearly... It is surprising how Kosovo chief administrator Harri Holkeri closes one eye and ear on this matter. The UNMIK chief, with the highest level of irresponsibility is allowing privatization to turn into a major scandal. By tolerating the unrighteous policy of his deputy, Holkeri is allowing Nikolaus to continue to cheat on the economy of Kosovo. The indifference of the monarch from Finland is unacceptable for Kosovars, because the latter want to have a better future and part of this goal is to have a successful process of privatization.'

Trajkovic: Recent security measures aimed at arresting Albanian extremists

Zëri quotes Momcilo Trajkovic, the leader of the Serbian Resistance Movement as saying that the increased security measures in Kosovo are aimed at preventing the eventual reaction of Albanian terrorists, in case one of the leaders of the Kosovo Liberation Army is extradited to The Hague tribunal.

Eqrem Kryeziu accuses Jakup Krasniqi of coup in Prizren municipality

Zëri quotes the chairman of Prizren Municipal Assembly, Eqrem Kryeziu, as saying that the work of the assembly has been suspended as a result of Minister Jakup Krasniqi's actions, who despite the decision of the local assembly had inaugurated the monuments of former KLA commanders.

On the other hand, PDK advisor Skender Berisha said that the municipal assembly had never reached a decision for the monuments.

Remains of 44 corpses from Serbia were returned to Kosovo (all dailies)

All dailies report that the remains of 44 corpses of Kosovar Albanians, which were exhumed in a mass grave in Batajnica, Serbia, were returned yesterday to Kosovo. The corpses were sent to the morgue in Rahovec, where they will undergo the process of re-identification. After the completion of data, the bodies will be handed over to the families.

35 Serb families return in Maxhunaj in Vushtrri (Zëri)

Zëri reports that 35 Serb families have returned to the village of Maxhunaj, near Vushtrri/Vucitrn yesterday. Representatives of the UN Mission in Kosovo and the German Liaison Office attended the ceremony of handing over the keys of the rebuilt houses.

The German Government invested funds in the return of Serb IDPs and this is the largest return in Mitrovica region.

Six kilograms of cocaine confiscated in airplane from London (Koha Ditore)

Koha Ditore reports that six kilograms of cocaine were found in Prishtina Airport with an Albanian from Macedonia, who had an Australian passport. He was immediately arrested by border police at the airport. The paper adds that the value of the confiscated cocaine reaches up to 360.000 euros.

Tobacco smuggling from Kosovo damages Serbia's budget (Koha Ditore)

Koha Ditore carries an interview that Vladan Begovic, director of the tobacco agency in Serbia gave to the Belgrade-based *Blic* newspaper. 'In Kosovo, according to our information, there has been a major shipment of tobacco and it is ready for transport. The smugglers are getting ready to bring it to Serbia. Even though the control by customs at the border with Kosovo has improved, there are still many alternatives of carrying out smuggling,' Begovic was quoted as saying.

Kosovo Press Headlines

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Ross trying to snatch Kosovo from Serbia (*Vecernje Novosti*)

The Kosovo Standards Implementation Plan that can be nominally attributed to the SRSG's Advisor David Ross is in effect a scenario for more or less forceful exclusion of Serbia and SaM from the process of implementation of Kosovo standards and making them accept the status quo, i.e. the independence of Kosovo. This also means that Belgrade should beforehand accept the fact that all the most important provisions of Resolution 1244 confirm that the FRY's, i.e. SaM's, sovereignty over Kosovo would be excluded from the Kosovo Standards Implementation Plan, as well as from the relations in the Belgrade-UNMIK-Pristina triangle. Creators and inspirers of the Implementation Plan had intended to preliminarily solve the future Kosovo status by the end of the year and to lay foundations for its independence, so that it could be formally recognized and proclaimed by 2005 at the latest. Contrary to Ross and Holkeri's expectations, this game was spoiled early in November when the President of the CCK Nebojsa Covic got hold of the plan and as of that moment everything has become more difficult and things have started to take a different course. Covic had scheduled an urgent meeting with the Ambassadors of the Contact Group for November 14, which showed that only the U.S. Ambassador knew about the plan. Following the meeting, Belgrade had addressed a resolute demarche to the members of the Contact Group and on November 20, Covic had yet another meeting with Ross in Belgrade. Holkeri's Special Advisor had brought with him a somewhat restyled but insignificantly different version of the Kosovo Standards Implementation Plan. Dissatisfied with the Plan Covic made clear to Ross that Serbia would make the whole thing public. The two had met again in Belgrade on November 27 but this failed to produce a significantly improved "last version" of the plan that would take into account Belgrade's objection. In spite of this, Covic had warned Ross that Serbia would not accept a *fait accompli*. Only when Ross had left for Pristina, it became clear that the idea was the following: Holkeri would present the plan to Serbia/SaM on

December 01 and on the same day Ross would present the plan to the K-Albanians. Three days later the Contact Group would give its support to the plan and on December 09, in presence of Kosovo PM Bajram Rexhepi, the plan should be accepted by the Summit of the EU and Western Balkans countries in Brussels. This only forced Covic to request another urgent meeting with Holkeri. The SRSG had tried to avoid this, saying that the new version of the plan still was not finished and trying to postpone everything for another week. After Covic had warned that Belgrade would sever all its ties with UNMIK and would request from the UN SC to intervene a compromise was found and the next day the two of them met in secrecy in Belgrade. According to our sources, they had quite a 'tensed' and occasionally dramatic discussion. This is no wonder, because we have unofficially learned that in one moment the President of the CCK was even forced to warn Holkeri that Belgrade would, if compelled to do so, defend its interests in Kosovo by means that were not only of political nature. After half an hour, the meeting was finished with an agreement that Belgrade should soon receive a new version of the plan. Obviously, it is now on Holkeri and the centers in the international community standing behind all this to draw the next move.

Kosovo's independence would lead to war, says Covic (*Blic*)

"When talking about the issue of Kosovo status many will tell you, that everything is possible. Yes, it is possible, but only within the framework set by Resolution 1244, and this means a substantial autonomy. All those who say that an independent Kosovo is maybe possible must explain how to avoid a new war. I am not advocating changing borders and I think that Serbia must protect its people and its territory."

Do you think that Kosovo's independence definitely leads to an armed conflict?

"If not immediately, quite certainly in the future. To create an independent Kosovo also means creating the second Albanian state that would then slide to Albania. When you put these things together, you get Greater Albania and that would sooner or later trigger new conflicts. Everyone should realize that the Albanian national issue still has not been settled, but neither has Serbian national issue. The first issue cannot be settled detrimentally for the other one," said Covic in an interview with *Blic*.

Covic:Montenegro will not be hostage of Kosovo crisis (*Monitor/Tanjug*)

Serbian D/PM Nebojsa Covic ruled out a possibility that after the expiry of a three-year period that had been defined by the Constitutional Charter as an initial period for of the newly created State Union of SaM, Montenegro could be "a hostage of the unresolved Kosovo issue. This danger does not exist, not in any of its options," Covic told the Podgorica weekly *Monitor*.

Plans for Covic's assassination underway, Italians warn Belgrade (*Kurir*)

Three days ago the Italian Intelligence Service forwarded information to Serbian PM Zoran Zivkovic and the Minister of Interior Dusan Mihajlovic that plans were underway for the assassination of the Serbian Deputy PM and the Head of the Serbian team for the dialogue with Pristina Nebojsa Covic. His assassination is planned to take place either during his next visits to the predominantly Albanian municipalities in southern Serbia or in Kosovo, as it is expected that the DA leader could visit

Kosovska Mitrovica and several other towns during his party election campaign. According to *Kurir*, a team headed by the retired CIA officer William Woker has been developing the assassination plans for the last 45 days. Covic made K-Albanians and their American lobbyists furious in late November, when he had prevented adoption of a secret document, of which our public is yet to be informed, that should have altered the UN SC Resolution 1244 in order to create firm foundations for an independent Kosovo.

Forty-four exhumed bodies of ethnic Albanians handed over to UNMIK (RTS/Tanjug)

The head of the CCK's Bureau for Missing Persons Gvozden Gagic confirmed to *Tanjug* Thursday evening that 44 identified bodies of ethnic Albanians exhumed from a mass grave in Batajnica, near Belgrade, have been handed over to UNMIK. The bodies were handed over to UNMIK at the Merdare checkpoint at the administrative boundary with Kosovo, as was the case of 197 bodies of other victims exhumed earlier from mass graves in Serbia, he said.

Tribunal rejects request for Kosovo indictments to be joined (B92)

The ICTY Trial Chamber has rejected a Prosecution request for the trial of three former Serb leaders to be joined with that of four top army and police officer indicted for war crimes in Kosovo, *B92* reports. The Chamber ruled that the request was premature, since none of the four generals have yet been detained. The four generals – current Serbian Public Security chief Sreten Lukic, his predecessor Vlastimir Djordjevic, former armed forces chief of staff Nebojsa Pavkovic and former general Vladimir Lazarevic – were indicted in October on charges almost identical to those against the three former Serb leaders currently awaiting trial. Prosecutors had argued that their indictment should be merged with that against former Serbian president Milan Milutinovic, former Yugoslav D/PM Nikola Sainovic and former Defence Minister Dragoljub Ojdanic. Today's ruling left open the possibility of a repeat request once all four accused are in tribunal's custody. Belgrade has said the four men should stand trial before Serbian courts.