

UNMIK/PR/1070

Wednesday, 03 December 2003

Joint Statement by UNMIK, KFOR and the Quint

PRISTINA – SRSB Harri Holkeri and Commander KFOR Holger Kammerhoff met with Lieutenant General Agim Ceku, the Commander of Kosovo Protection Corps on 3 December. Lieutenant General Ceku was informed about the SRSB's decision regarding the enquiry involving members of the KPC.

The SRSB informed Lieutenant General Ceku that, as a result of the enquiry launched jointly by UNMIK/KFOR in the wake of the attack made on the Loziste Bridge in April 2003, he had decided that the findings against 12 KPC officers in respect of illegal activities merited investigation by the police.

Without prejudging the results of those investigations or making any presumption of guilt, he had decided that the findings were sufficiently serious to merit the suspension of the officers, with pay, for a period of six months pending the investigation results. This is the approach taken by European institutions when serious allegations are made against their members.

The SRSB counts on full cooperation of Lieutenant General Ceku and the KPC in connection with these police investigations, bearing in mind the expectations of the international community on Kosovo Standards regarding the KPC.

The SRSB recognized that with a few exceptions the KPC members act professionally and in keeping with the standards expected of them. The KPC is an important institution for Kosovo; it constitutes one of the standards. It is important to ensure that the enquiry findings are followed up to protect the good name of the KPC.