Letter dated 30 April 2007 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I have the honour to convey the attached report on the international security presence in Kosovo covering the period 1 to 28 February 2007 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ban Ki-moon
Annex

Letter dated 20 April 2007 from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with paragraph 20 of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I attach a report on KFOR operations covering the period 1 to 28 February 2007. I would appreciate your making this report available to the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Jaap de Hoop Scheffer
Enclosure

Monthly report to the United Nations on the operations of the Kosovo Force

1. This report covers the period from 1 to 28 February 2007.
2. As at 25 February 2007, the total number of troops in theatre was 15,085, which included 2,532 troops from non-NATO countries.
3. There was no change to the status of NATO/NATO partner/non-NATO country contributions.

Political situation

4. The United Nations Special Envoy, Martti Ahtisaari, presented his draft comprehensive proposal for a Kosovo status settlement to Belgrade and Pristina on 2 February 2007. Reactions in Kosovo were mixed, Kosovo Albanian political leaders reacted positively to the Special Envoy’s proposal. Kosovo Serbs rejected the proposal as did radical Kosovo Albanians. A violent demonstration, organized by the Movement for Self-Determination (MSD) in Pristina on 10 February 2007, targeted Mr. Ahtisaari’s proposal. The demonstration resulted in two deaths, and the MSD leader, Albin Kurti, was arrested. As a consequence of the events, the Minister of Internal Affairs of Kosovo, Fatmir Rexhepi, resigned on 12 February 2007. Shortly thereafter, on 14 February 2007, UNMIK Police Commissioner Steven Curtis also resigned upon the request of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General.

5. Former Kosovo Prime Minister Ramush Haradinaj arrived in The Hague on 26 February 2007, to appear before the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia on war crimes charges. Before his departure, he met with all Kosovo Albanian political leaders and with Special Representative of the Secretary-General Ruecker. In his statement at the Alliance for the Future of Kosovo (AAK) presidency meeting, Haradinaj called on the population to be responsible and to refrain from violence. The bombing of a United Nations vehicle in Pristina on 19 February 2007, alleged to have been carried out by the “renewed Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA)”, was condemned by all political forces in Kosovo, as well as the Kosovo Protection Corps Headquarters.

Security situation

6. During the reporting period, no inter-ethnic incidents were reported.
7. During the reporting period, no incidents against the Kosovo Force (KFOR) were recorded.
8. A total of 262 incidents related to unexploded ordnance (76), illegal weapons possession (105), weapons and ammunition findings (16), drugs (20), counterfeit currency (20), smuggling (21) and human trafficking (4) were reported during the past month, compared to 308 in the previous month.
9. KFOR continued to conduct framework operations. The operational tempo remained high in anticipation of possible demonstrations, popular reactions to the final status and further reactions from the 10 February 2007 demonstration in Pristina. KFOR continued to gather intelligence and improve situational awareness.
regarding reactions to the future status proposal. Multinational Task Forces maintained a reinforced presence in specific areas to deter any potential violence and to help maintain a safe and secure environment. KFOR activity in the sector of Camp Nothing Hill continued.

Compliance

10. Two major cases of non-compliance with the statement of principles of the KFOR Commander and UNMIK Regulation 1999/8 were decided at the Disciplinary Board meeting of 19 February. Brigadier General Nuredin Lushtaku was suspended for four months, with pay, until the next meeting of the Disciplinary Board, and was fined 20 per cent of his salary. Captain Agim Buja was sanctioned and received a written warning and a delay in promotion.

Kosovo Protection Corps

11. The current active personnel establishment is 3,030. There are 210 (6.93 per cent) active ethnic minority members (180 males, 30 females), 36 Ashkalis, 4 Romas, 12 Egyptians, 19 Croats, 53 Bosniaks, 38 Turks, 1 Goran and 47 Serbs. The total number of ethnic minorities decreased by 1 member (Kosovo Serb), compare to last month.

12. During the month of February there were nine ceremonies, which involved more than 110 KPC members and more than 900 civilians. No incidents were reported.

Conclusion

13. The overall situation in Kosovo remains calm but the political and diplomatic uncertainty related to the future status process may cause tension in the near term. KFOR remains fully ready to support UNMIK and the local authorities in their response to potential unrest as the situation evolves. The threat level against UNMIK and other international community facilities remains medium, and the threat level against KFOR remains low.