

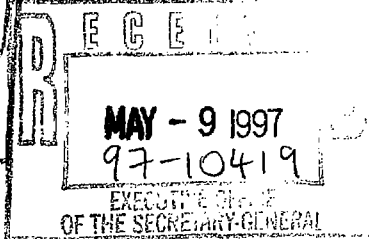
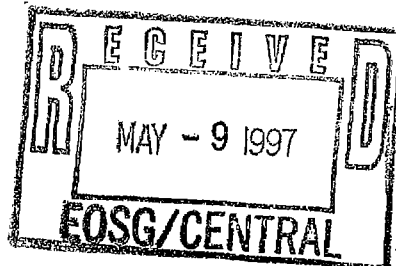
The Permanent Representative of Italy
to the United Nations
2410

Italy
Albania

EDG wfy

New York, 9 May 1997

Excellency,



I have the honour to submit the third report on the multinational protection force for Albania. This report is submitted pursuant to the requirement set out in paragraph 9 of Security Council Resolution 1101 (1997) of 28 March 1997, in which the Council requested the Member States participating in the multinational protection force to provide periodic reports, at least every two weeks, through the Secretary-General, to the Council. The second such report was conveyed to you on 25 April.

I should be grateful if you could have the text of the present letter and the third report (see annex) circulated as a document of the Security Council.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

F. Paolo Fulci
F. Paolo Fulci
Ambassador

H.E. Mr. Kofi Annan
Secretary-General
of the United Nations
New York

THIRD REPORT TO THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL ON THE OPERATION OF THE
MULTINATIONAL PROTECTION FORCE IN ALBANIA.

INTRODUCTION

1. On 28 March 1997, the Security Council adopted resolution 1101 (1997), whose paragraph 2 "welcomes the offer made by certain member States to establish a temporary and limited multinational protection force to facilitate the safe and prompt delivery of humanitarian assistance and to help create a secure environment for the missions of international organisations in Albania, including those providing humanitarian assistance."

2. In paragraph 9 of the resolution the Security Council requested the Member States participating in the international protection force to provide periodic reports, at least every two weeks, to the Council through the Secretary-General.

The first report was provided on 9 April 1997 (doc. S/1997/296) specifying inter alia the parameters and modalities of the operation on the basis of consultations between Member States participating in the Force and the Government of Albania; the second report was provided on 25 April 1997 (doc. S/1997/335).

This third report refers to the events between 23 April and 7 May 1997.

MULTINATIONAL PROTECTION FORCE

Political guidance

3. The Steering Committee, consisting of the political directors of the contributing countries and the Commander of the operation, continues to follow the overall situation on the ground and the full compliance of the activities of the force with the Security Council mandate.

It meets on a weekly base. Up to now it has had meetings on 4, 9, 14, 23, 30 April and 6 May.

4. Slovenia, having formally decided to contribute to the Force with a medical unit (27 men), joined the Steering Committee as of its meeting of 30 April.

5. The ICRC and Belgium joined the Committee as observers.

6. The United Nations is represented by the Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA) while both the Presidency and Commission of the European Union are present. OSCE and WEU are represented by their respective presidencies.

An Albanian representative is regularly invited to attend the meetings.

Cooperation with Albanian authorities

7. The Albanian Ambassador to Rome attended the meeting of the Steering Committee on 30 April. He confirmed the full support of the Albanian Government for the Multinational Protection Force operation and expressed appreciation for the humanitarian activities in the security framework provided by the Force. This

As of 7 May, the deployment of the Force reached a level of 6345 units, 98% of the total envisaged.

15. The current deployment is the following: Austria 116; Denmark 11; France 923; Greece 803; Italy 2973; Romania 399; Spain 341; Turkey 779.

The arrival of the Romanian contingent took place on 4 May. The Danish contingent completed deployment on 7 May.

Summary of operations

16. The Force is consolidating its presence in the planned sites of deployment.

A security framework has been provided for several humanitarian convoys.

Surveillance, patrolling, security has been assured on many itineraries.

Air, naval and telecommunications activities proceeded according to the scheduled plans.

17. Civilian-military cooperation is developing in particular through the specific branch of the Force created for this purpose (CIMIC). Local representatives of the main international organisations active in Albania (including UNICEF, World Food Program, European Union/ECHO and ICRC) took part in a security and logistic support briefing on 30 April.

Reconnaissance by the Force was done in the site of Qafe Shtama/Burrel following the explosion of a munitions depot that caused the death of 22 Albanian civilians.

18. Assistance and protection for official visits has been provided by the Force. Special procedures for this purpose are being defined.

CONCLUSIONS

19. Force deployment is almost complete and has a positive effect on the overall security situation in Albania.

Commercial and industrial activities are resuming as well as maritime connections. Schools have reopened. Sports and social activities are on their way to normal. Curfew has been reduced.

However isolated clashes are still recorded. One involving the Force took place in Vlore on 4 May. Two rival bands opened fire near an Italian camp. The Force fired warning shots. No one was injured and there was no substantial damage.

Organised crime and racketeering are still continuing in certain areas where police control remains insufficient.

position was reiterated to the Greek Minister of Defence who visited Albania on 28 April.

8. The Steering Committee intends to maintain constant contacts with the Albanian authorities, in particular the central commission established to serve as the inter-departmental point of coordination and contact in Tirana. This commission is headed by the Secretary of State to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Pavli Zeri, whom the Steering Committee has invited to attend its next meeting.

Cooperation with International Organisations

9. In compliance with the mandate of resolution 1101, the humanitarian assistance program for Albania has now been largely implemented in the security framework to which the Force contributes.

The Force has already provided direct support to international organisations such as the World Food Program and EU/ECHO. The Force ensures security on the roads used by UNICEF for food deliveries in the North of Albania. Additional activities in the same direction are planned between the Force and WFP. Several NGOs have made enquiries about possible support from the Force.

Special procedures have been established by the Steering Committee for this purpose.

10. OSCE presence has been established in Tirana and Ambassador Grubmayr resident deputy of the Personal Representative of the Chairman in Office for Albania has taken up his functions.

11. The European Union/PHARE program for Albania is about to be activated while UNICEF and the World Food Program are providing emergency assistance to Albania.

ICRC activities are continuing safely as well as those of some NGOs.

12. Following the fact finding mission that visited Albania on 23-25 April, the WEU defined a mandate for a European advisory, training and support program for the Albanian police. OSCE and the European Union are actively considering the possibility of supporting this program, the latter in the framework of a joint action on which initial discussion by the European Union took place at the Ministerial Council in Luxembourg on 29 April.

13. On 5 May WHO and UNICEF have launched polio vaccination campaigns throughout the country.

Force Deployment

14. The deployment of the Force and the achievement of its planned tasks is progressing well within its scheduled time. The control of the key entry points by sea and air in the country is now fully achieved. The Force deployment has substantially improved the security conditions for aid deliveries.

The Force is strengthening its military organisation and progressively expanding the security framework into the country, gaining control of the main roads and communications in application of its mandate.