

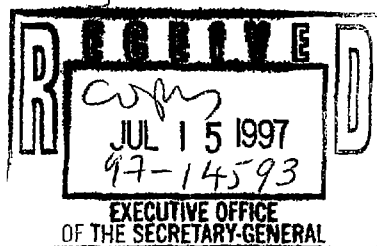


## PERMANENT MISSION OF ITALY TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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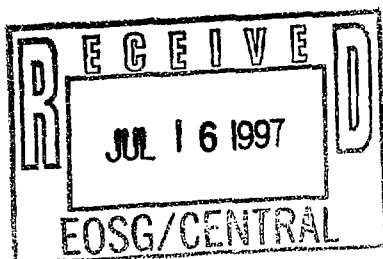
New York, 16 July 1997

Excellency,

I have the honor to submit the ninth 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 1114 (1997) of 19 June 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 eighth such report was conveyed to you on July 2, 1997.

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

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

  
Giulio Terzi  
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

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

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**NINTH 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), in paragraph 2 of which it welcomed 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. On 19 June 1997 the Security Council adopted resolution 1114 (1997) in paragraph 2 of which it welcomed the readiness of the countries contributing to the Multinational Protection Force to maintain their military contingents in Albania for a limited time. In paragraph 3 of the resolution the Security Council welcomed the intention of the countries contributing to the Multinational Protection Force to continue 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. It also took note of all the elements contained in the sixth report on the operation of the Multinational Protection Force in Albania, concerning, inter alia, the electoral monitoring mission of the OSCE-ODHIR. It decided that the operation will be limited to a period of 45 days from 28 June 1997.

3. Both resolutions requested the Member States participating in the Multinational Protection Force to provide periodic reports to the Council through the Secretary General, at least every two weeks. The first eight reports on the operation of the Multinational Protection Force were provided on 9 and 25 April, 9 and 23 May, 6, 13 and 26 June, 2 July 1997.

4. This is the ninth such report to the Security Council on the operation of the Multinational Protection Force in Albania, and the third report submitted to the Council pursuant to paragraph 9 of resolution 1114 (1997).

This report refers to the events up to 15 July and in particular to the role of the Multinational Protection Force in helping to ensure a safe and secure environment for the OSCE monitoring teams during the second round of the electoral operations on 6 July 1997 and on the further electoral operations on 13 July.

**MULTINATIONAL PROTECTION FORCE****POLITICAL GUIDANCE.**

5. The Steering Committee, consisting of the political directors of the 11 troop-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 had meetings on 4, 9, 14, 23 and 30 April, 6, 13, 14 and 22 May, 4, 10, 20, 25 and 29 June, 2 and 15 July.

On 6 and 13 July the Steering Committee Secretariat remained in permanent contact with the Force headquarters from the opening of the polling stations to the conclusion of the voting operations in Albania.

6. Representatives of the following international organisations attended the meetings of the Steering Committee as observers as appropriate: United Nations, Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), European Union (EU), Western European Union (WEU), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

**COOPERATION WITH ALBANIAN AUTHORITIES AND WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS**

7. The Force has helped to create a secure environment during the electoral process, in particular for the OSCE/ODIHR missions, in the framework of UN Security Council mandate.

8. A special office was set up in Tirana at the Force headquarters to follow the developments of the electoral operations in the country, in cooperation with the Albanian authorities and the OSCE.

9. Although reduced in number, humanitarian missions continued in Albania during the electoral period. They resumed after the elections.

The Force facilitated the safe and prompt delivery of humanitarian assistance by such missions and helped creating a secure environment in accordance with the mandate provided by resolution 1114 (1997).

**FORCE DEPLOYMENT**

10. During the whole electoral process the Force maintained its extended deployment virtually all over the country, intensifying reconnaissance, patrolling and escort missions.

11. During the second round of the electoral operations the overall deployment of the Force was the following: Austria 111, Belgium 14, Denmark 57, Greece 766, Italy 3755, France 937, Portugal one aircraft crew, Romania 398, Slovenia 21, Spain 336, Turkey 757.

12. On 6 July the Force granted protection to 58 OSCE monitoring teams in 34 electoral zones. In 32 such zones the second round of the elections took place whereas in 2 zones the first round of the election took place since it had not been held in the previous Sunday.

The OSCE teams were deployed as follows: 2 in Berat, 3 in Diber, 15 in Durrës-Kavajë-Lezhë, 2 in Elbasan, 2 in Korça, 13 in Shkodër, 17 in Tirana and Krujë, 4 in Vlorë.

13. On 13th July the Force granted protection to five OSCE monitoring teams in two electoral zones where the second round of the elections took place. Four OSCE teams were deployed in Pukë and one in Fier.

#### CONCLUSIONS

14. The second round of the voting on 6 July passed relatively smoothly. Some incidents took place without direct involvement of the Force. In some cases however voting process had to be temporarily suspended. In one polling station in the Shkodër area one electoral officer was killed and two injured when a gunman opened fire.

Previously, on July 4, the Force moved to protect OSCE monitoring teams in the Central Electoral Commission headquarters in Tirana when gunshots were fired around the building leaving one dead and several wounded.

The OSCE Special Coordinator for the Albanian Parliamentary elections, Mrs. Catherine Lalumière, the Head of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Delegation, Sir Russell Johnston and the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Mr. Javier Ruperez, stated in their final report that, in their judgment, these elections can be deemed as acceptable, given the prevailing circumstances, and that they should constitute the foundation for a strong democratic system.

The final voting operations on 13 July took place without any incident.

Such positive results should be credited also to the security framework provided by the Force.