

MEETING OF BALKAN MILITARY CHIEFS IN SKOPJE

- ☒ Last week Skopje hosted the Army Chiefs of Staff of six Balkan countries including a delegation of the United States European Command (EUCOM). This gathering is in the framework of the meeting of Chiefs of Staff of the Adriatic Charter members – Macedonia, Albania and Croatia. The main areas of discussions was logistical support to the NATO – led military operations abroad, as well as the preparedness of the armed forces of the Adriatic group members to attain NATO Membership. [Makfax 31/10/07]

POLITICAL CRISIS IN BIH

- ☒ Bosnia and Hercegovina is facing a political crisis after BiH Prime Minister, Nikola Spiric, resigned on Thursday (November 1) in protest of the internationally-endorsed measures aimed at improving the functionality of state institutions, including his cabinet. The decision came a day after the Peace Implementation Council (PIC) Steering Board supported the reforms High Representative Miroslav Lajcak proposed last

month. Namely, in his plan announced October 19, he proposed changes to the quorum rules in the two institutions and thus making it more difficult for ministers and lawmakers to block the adoption of decision and legislation by simply boycotting sessions. According to Bosnian Serb politicians, proposed changes are anti-constitutional and in violation of the Dayton peace Agreement and they threatened to leave their posts at the state-level institutions. Lajcak's response to Spiric's decision was that it is his right and his choice, but it is not a responsible action. [Setimes 02/11/07]

DIRECT TALKS ON KOSOVO STATUS CONTINUE IN VIENNA

- ☒ The new round of talks between Pristina and Belgrade, regarding the future status of Kosovo, will continue this week in the Austrian Foreign Ministry in Vienna. These talks are widely seen as crucial for the process. The talks will start with a separate meeting between both delegations and the international mediators While Pristina will be represented by its standard formation - President Fatmir Sejdiu and Prime Minister Agim Ceku - Belgrade's delegation will not be on a ministerial level, as on the two

previous rounds but on the top state level as both President Boris Tadic and Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica will attend. The mediating Troika is expected to present a new paper, which would include the parties' objections to the 14 working points it presented at the last round and Belgrade has already presented its own 14 working points. [Kosovo compromise, 02/11/07]

NIMITZ'S LATEST PROPOSAL UNACCEPTABLE FOR MACEDONIA

- ☒ Macedonia firmly rejected UN's envoy for the talks Matthew Nimitz's latest proposal to resolve the longstanding name dispute between Macedonia and Greece. In his announcement, Macedonian Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski said that "any name different from the one in its constitution is unacceptable." In one article, in his latest Proposal, Nimitz suggested that Macedonia should accept a new name for international use, different from its constitutional name. President Branko Crvenkovski, who also reviewed the proposal, agreed with Prime Minister Statement and restate that the Proposal definitely unacceptable for Macedonia. [B92, 03/11/07; Setimes , 04/11/07]