

Sidste Nyt fra Albanien, Kosóva og Makedonien

The Latest News from Albania, Kosóva and Macedonia



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Præsident Moisiu har tildelt Kozara Kati, leder af den Albanske Menneskerettighedsorganisation (ACHR), medaljen 'For Special Civil Merits'. Der er flere Danske der har samarbejdet med Kozara K. Andre har fået andre hædersbevisninger, fx har Servet Pëllumbi fået Skanderbeg-ordenen.

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EU European Union (EU)

NATO NATO

ICTY - Tribunalet i Haag ICTY

Balkan, generelt The Balkans

Kosóva Kosóva [Kosovo]

Øst Kosóva / Presevo-dalen / Syd-Serbien Eastern Kosóva

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Montenegro Montenegro

Makedonien Macedonia [FYRoM]

Grækenland Greece

Tyrkiet Turkey

Italien Italia

USA United States (US)

England England

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Frankrig France

Danmark (Norge, Sverige) Denmark (Norway, Sweden)

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UGEOVERSIGT (resumé)

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Det drejer sig om økonomien, skriver SET på:

http://www.setimes.com/cocoon/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/features/setimes/articles/2006/12/18/reportage-01.

Albanien: Kan, bør Lokalvalget udskydes? Præsidenten vil ikke stille sig i vejen - hvis Partierne enes herom.

Præsident Moisiu har tildelt Kozara Kati, leder af den Albanske Menneskerettighedsorganisation (ACHR), medaljen 'For Special Civil Merits'. Der er flere Danske der har samarbejdet med Kozara K. Andre har fået andre hædersbevisninger, fx har Servet Pëllumbi - fremtrædende partiteoretiker i »gamle« dage og i nyere tid Parlamentsformand - fået Skanderbeg-ordenen.

PM Berisha har (påny) udtalt sig om de forestående valg. Regeringen har stillet forskellige konkrete forslag mhp at tackle rejste problemer, siger han, men man vil ikke med virke til en udsættelse af valgene.

UM Besnik Mustafaj har været i Kosóva og talt med SRSG Rucker forskellige Politikere, især Albanske, men også Serbiske. Fra mødet med Rucker skriver det Albanske UM: »Minister Mustafaj and the UNMIK Chief praised the stance of President Ahtisaari that Kosovo represents a unique case and as such, it requires a unique solution, which respects the will of his own citizens, relying on the fundamental principles of non-return to the situation prior to 1999, non-partitioning and unification of Kosovo or part thereof with another country«.

FBI siges at undersøge om der i Albanien findes radioaktivt materiale der kunne bruges til terrorvirksomhed.

Militærsamarbejde. »President Moisiu pointed out that it has been three years since our countries, Albania, Croatia and Macedonia signed the A3 Agreement that was initiated from Prague Summit and had the US support. Since then our countries have been working together coordinately to meet the objective for the integration in NATO. The experience has shown that a certain decision was very important. Three A3 countries have shown a very clear sign of success, dialogue and regional cooperation. This example will serve to other regional countries united in the Paternity for Peace. Riga Summit, continued Mr. Moisiu, reconfirmed the policy of the open doors and encouraged our aspirates for receiving the membership invitation in the next Summit. Our country highly greets the decision of Riga and considers it as a historically important decision for the Albania and Albanians. Albania is committed to undertake any political, military and economical step that strengthens the relationship among the A3 countries, and between our countries and NATO.«

Det Albanske FM er ganske fornøjet over at Lega Zogu II er blevet bedste udenlandske Student i sin officersuddannelse i England.

Illegale Albanske Immigranter i Grækenland. »Kathimerini« skriver: 16-12-2006 Police arrested two Albanian nationals close to Ioannina in northern Greece yesterday attempting to smuggle into the country 20 of their fellow countrymen in the back of a truck.

Serbien: Kosovo / Kosóva: Den Serbiske Regering skriver: UN Security Council members divided in opinion on Kosovo-Metohija status issue.

Strategy for improvement of living conditions of Serbs in Kosovo presented.

Samarbejdsaftale mellem Serbien og Rusland - bl.a. om en pipeline.

Mediation Centre i Nis. Den Serbiske Regering skriver: Nis, Dec 21, 2006 – Serbian Minister of Justice Zoran Stojkovic and Regional Alternative Dispute Resolution Programme Manager within the International Financial Corporation (IFC) Wilma Van Benthem opened today a Mediation Centre in the Nis District Court.

Makedonien: Præsident Crvenkovski: 'Første halvdel af 2007 er umådeligt vigtig for Makedonien i forhold til EU'.

USA: Præsident Bush har holdt indsværingsceremoni for FM Robert Gates.

Næste nummer ventes at udkomme 12.1.2007. **Læserne ønskes en glædelig jul og et godt nytår.** Venlig hilsen, Bjørn Andersen

INTERNATIONALE ORGANISATIONER m.v.

Opmærksomheden henledes på *Economic Reconstruction and Development in South East Europe*. Adressen er www.seerecon.org. Her kan man finde materiale om aktuelle møder og konferencer.

FN

VERDENSBANKEN, IMF M.FL.

Se under de enkelte lande / områder.

OSCE, Europarådet

Se under de enkelte lande / områder.

EU

EU welcomes signing of new Central European Free Trade Agreement [CEFTA]:

Prime Ministers of South Eastern European countries and territories have today signed a new Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA). This marks the conclusion of ambitious negotiations launched on 6 April this year. The new CEFTA consolidates 32 bilateral free trade agreements in the Southern European Region into a single Regional Trade Agreement. Although the EU is not a party to this new Agreement, the European Commission has provided continuous political, technical and financial support, at every stage of the trade liberalisation process in South Eastern Europe. The EU warmly welcomes the conclusion of the agreement.

EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson said: "CEFTA will replace the spaghetti bowl of regional FTAs in South Eastern Europe with a single agreement that will boost trade and attract investment. The expanded CEFTA will offer real economic benefits to all sides. But they also send an important political signal. Closer trade relations in South Eastern Europe are a foundation for stability and growing prosperity".

EU Enlargement Commissioner Olli Rehn said: "The CEFTA complements the Stabilisation and Association Agreements Commission has or is negotiating with the countries of the Western Balkans. It makes an important contribution to constructive regional co-operation. For candidate and potential candidate countries CEFTA is an apprenticeship in the close economic cooperation that is an inevitable part of Membership of the European Union. "

The EU is by far the region's biggest trading partner and a key source of foreign direct investment. The process of strengthening trading links between the economies of South Eastern Europe is an important part of the EU's wider strategy of growth and stability in the region. The experience of trade liberalisation in South Eastern Europe is an important precursor to the economic cooperation that is an inherent part of Membership of the European Union.

The signatories of CEFTA are Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania and Serbia (including Kosovo, as defined in United Nations Security Council resolution 1244). Romania and Bulgaria will leave CEFTA when they become members of the European Union on 1 January 2006.

What does the regional free trade agreement contain?

The agreement creates a regional free trade area, based on the existing bilateral agreements which liberalise more than 90% of trade and almost all trade in industrial goods.

The agreement consolidates and modernises the region's "rule book" on trade and includes modern trade provisions on issues such as competition, government procurement and protection of intellectual property. It will provide for convergence of relevant trade-related rules, notably with regard to industrial and sanitary-phytosanitary rules.

The result is a simplified single system of rules that will make it easier to trade within the region. Increased trade plays a key role in promoting economic growth, job creation and reduced unemployment.

CEFTA will make the region more attractive as a consolidated market for foreign investment. Overall, FDI flows in the region remain low. They are insufficient to finance the countries' current account deficits. The countries need to attract greater levels of foreign direct investments, in particular new investments are becoming increasingly important as the privatisation process in the region winds down.

CEFTA will also assist those that are not yet part of the WTO to prepare for membership - because the two processes are rooted in the same goals and rules of progressive liberalisation and open trade.

For more information on EU trade relationship with the Western Balkans please visit:
http://europa.eu.int/comm/trade/issues/bilateral/regions/balkans/index_en.htm

NATO

ICTY - TRIBUNALET I HAAG

Verserende sager vedr. Kosovo: Anklageskrifter og udskrifter af retsmøderne kan findes på:
<http://www.un.org/icty/cases-e/index-e.htm>

ICTY vs Slobodan **Milosevic**, (IT-02-54). Sagen er afsluttet uden dom pga Milosevic' død 11.03.2006

ICTY vs Fatmir **Limaj** et al. (IT-03-66). Der er fældet dom, se nærmere i [# 284](#)

ICTY vs Ramush **Haradinaj** (IT-04-84). Haradinaj er løsladt (på visse betingelser) indtil sagen skal for Retten.

Krav fra ICTY. Den Serbiske Regering skriver:

National council responds to seven new requests from ICTY Prosecutor's Office

Belgrade, Dec 20, 2006 - The National Council for cooperation with the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) held its 38th session today and decided to submit extensive documentation upon seven requests made by the ICTY Prosecutor's Office and to free seven witnesses from the obligation of keeping official secrets in the trials before the Tribunal.

In 2006, the National Council has held 14 session, during which it responded to 110 requests of the Tribunal for submitting documentation that include several thousands of pages.

In addition, 73 witnesses have been freed from the obligation of keeping a state, official and military secrets at the request of the Prosecutor's Office, and requests continue to be submitted and resolved.

The National Council has positively responded to 170 requests from defence lawyers for submitting documentation, and several dozens of persons have been freed from the obligation of keeping a state, official and military secrets at the request of defence lawyers.

At the same time, the ICTY Prosecutor's Office was given access to archives of the Serbian state bodies in May this year and since then it has been developing without problems.

The National Council will continue to respond to requests from the ICTY Prosecutor's Office and

the defence lawyers in a timely manner, with the aim of establishing full cooperation and fulfilling internationally assumed obligations to this court, the statement adds.

BALKAN LANDE, LANDE VED ØSTLIGE MIDDELHAV

BALKAN GENERELT



Udsnit af EU's Europakort 2004. [Udsnittet kan forstørres ved at klikke på det]. Kortet indgår i en præsentationsbrochure, der kan downloades som pdf fra: http://europa.eu.int/comm/publications/booklets/eu_glance/20/da.pdf.

KOSÓVA

Bynavne: Angives der to navne på samme lokalitet, er den Albanske nævnt først. Se oversigten på: <http://bjoerna.dk/kosova/byer.htm> • **Rapporter fra FNs Generalsekretær** • 040616 SG Kofi Annan udtaler at han agter at udpege Søren Jessen-Petersen som 5' SRSG. **Søren Jessen-Petersen** blev senere udpeget og tiltrådte i Kosóva 040816. Søren Jessen-Petersen fratræder igen i slutningen af juni 2006 • 0308 Harri Holkeri tiltrådte som 4' SRSG. Fratrådt 0406 af helbredsmæssige grunde. • 020214 Michael Steiner tiltrådte i Kosova som 3' SRSG og fratrådte i begyndelsen af 0307. • En biografi over 2' SRSG Hans Hækkerup kan læses på [Danske Politikere](#). En anmeldelse af hans bog »Kosovos mange ansigter« indgår i »**Albansk Almanak 2004**« • **Constitutional Framework for Provisional Self-Government**. • **Kosova's Regering**. • **Webside vedr. 2004-valgene**

Parlamentsvalget 2004, se: <http://kosovoelections.org/eng/>. Præsidenten - Ibrahim Rugóva - blev genvalgt efter valget af Parlamentet *the Assembly*, han døde 21.01.2006. Ny præsident er [Fatmir Sejdiu](#)

Relationerne til EU, se: http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/serbia/kosovo/index_en.htm

UM Besnik Mustafaj har været i Kosóva og talt med SRSG Rucker forskellige Politikere, især Albanske, men også Serbiske. Fra mødet med Rucker skriver det Albanske UM: »Minister Mustafaj and the UNMIK Chief praised the stance of President Ahtisaari that Kosovo represents a unique case and as such, it requires a unique solution, which respects the will of his own citizens, relying on the fundamental principles of non-return to the situation prior to 1999, non-partitioning and unification of Kosovo or part thereof with another country«. Se under: [Albanien](#).



Pressemeddelelser fra UNMIK:

Kosovo Joins Enlarged Central European Free Trade Agreement [CEFTA]

PRISTINA – The new modernised and enlarged Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA) was signed today at the South East European summit of Prime Ministers in Bucharest. Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General in Kosovo (SRSG) Joachim Rucker, together with Kosovo Minister for Trade and Industry Bujar Dugolli and Deputy Head of UNMIK Pillar IV Andreas Wittkowsky, participated in the signing ceremony on behalf of Kosovo.

The CEFTA will lead to a new era in relations among the new CEFTA members, and in their relations with the European Union and the international community, noted the joint declaration adopted at this summit meeting in Bucharest, Romania. The Agreement will unify, simplify and modernise trade relations among the parties, and also create new institutions, such as the Joint Committee and the Secretariat, which will be established to support the work of the CEFTA.

“For Kosovo, the signing of this agreement is the final milestone in the process, which started with concluding a network of bilateral Free Trade Agreements among the CEFTA members”, Mr. Rucker said. “The signing of CEFTA one more time demonstrates UNMIK’s support to Kosovo to be a part of all initiatives of regional integration and EU association. It is the third important regional integration agreement following signature of the Energy Community Treaty in 2005 and the European Common Aviation Area Agreement earlier in 2006.”

The market created by this CEFTA comprises nearly 30 million consumers. The other parties who signed the agreement were Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, and Serbia. The CEFTA agreement signed today replaces 32 bilateral and other trade deals, harmonising their substance to increase transparency, enhance predictability and cut red tape.

CEFTA has played an important role in improving trade relations and in preparing its members for eventual accession to the European Union. It was originally established in 1992 by Poland, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia. They were later joined by Slovenia, Romania, Bulgaria, Croatia and Macedonia. Those countries that became members of the European Union have since left CEFTA.

After Bulgaria and Romania join the EU on 1 January 2007, CEFTA will have eight members. The agreement is intended to enter into force on 1 May 2007 following ratification by the parties.

Det drejer sig om økonomien, skriver SET på:

http://www.setimes.com/cocoon/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/features/setimes/articles/2006/12/18/reportage-01

Ugerapport fra Dansk KFOR. Hærens Operative Kommando skriver (på <http://www.hok.dk/>):

Forandring fryder?

KOSOVO: Den danske bataljon holder sine enheder skarpe ved konstant at udsætte dem for nye tiltag.

18-12-2006 kl. 10:49

Af Jørgen Pedersen, major, staben KFOR

Missionen i Kosovo er blevet den oversete succes, men selv om der er ro på overfladen, så kan uroen alligevel bryde ud med få øjeblikkes varsel.

I 2004 blev de militære styrker i Kosovo på ubehageligste vis mindet om, at fredelige tilstande kan ændres til frådende optøjer i løbet af nogle få timer. Det var i særdeleshed ubehageligt at måtte erkende, at den valgte taktik med mange små militære forlægninger overalt i ansvarsområdet faktisk var en klods om benet med hensyn til mulighederne for at lægge en effektiv dæmper på urolighederne. Bevogtning af alle disse installationer beslaglagde nemlig en stor del af de soldater, der kunne have været indsat i løsning af opgaver andetsteds.

Belært af disse erfaringer valgte man nu at oprette store lejre, hvortil større manøvreenheder blev deployeret og dermed opnåedes en større fleksibilitet samt mulighed for at kunne indsætte store styrker uden at kompromittere sikring af lejrene.

En gang i fremtiden - og forhåbentlig inden alt for længe - håber man at kunne begynde at

reducere de militære enheder samt - nok så vigtigt - at samle de tilbageværende i færre lejre. Det skal tjene flere formål, nemlig reducere synligheden af de militære enheders tilstedeværelse i det daglige samt blot opretholde et beredskab, der kan rykke ud i de tilfælde, hvor de stedlige politimyndigheder ikke kan løse de opståede problemer.

Alt dette kræver øvelse, øvelse og atter øvelse. Bataljonens manøvreenheder, nemlig panserinfanterikompagniet fra Den Kongelige Livgarde samt den fransk spejdereskadron fra 11. Luftbårne Brigade, har derfor øvet indsættelse i naboenheders ansvarsområder - i det daglige blot benævnt XBO (Cross Boundary Operations).

Men kært barn har mange navne, og derfor er de efterhånden velkendte XBO blevet omdøbt til KWO (Kosovo Wide Operations), hvilket betyder, at man nu kan øve indsættelse ikke bare i naboenhedens ansvarsområde, men overalt i Kosovo.

I de forgangne uge gennemførte bataljonen derfor KWO FREEZE, hvor den franske spejdereskadron blev sendt ud af bataljonens ansvarsområde, og det tilbageblevne kompagni skulle så dække hele ansvarsområdet.

I en lille flække ved navn Bica ca. 40 km fra Camp Olaf Rye lå der en tidligere anvendt lejr med primitive, men dog brugbare faciliteter, og stabskompagniets lejrsektion blev derfor sendt af sted for med vanlig snilde at gøre denne lejr beboelig inden spejdereskadronens ankomst.

Der blev oprettet underbringelse til 100 mand i store oppustelige telte og der blev tilvejebragt strøm, lys, madlavningsmuligheder samt aftrædelsesfaciliteter, således at det ville være muligt at opbygge kampkraften mellem operationerne.

Kort før mørkets frembrud rullede de franske kolonner ind i lejren, der var blevet døbt Camp Midgaard, og kunne dermed berede sig på tre dages øvelser med patruljekørsel i et nyt og ukendt område.

Carl Henrik Guldbæk fra operationssektionen beretter:

Det er tydeligt for enhver i Camp Olaf Rye, at julen nærmer sig. Alle kontorer og fælles faciliteter er fint pyntet op med julepynt. Om aftenen er der lys i det flotte juletræ på Christian den IV plads, og præsten spiller dæmpet julemusik i velfærdsgaden. Selv om julehyggen breder sig, skal de daglige operationer passes.

Den franske eskadron, der er underlagt den danske bataljon, har i ugens løb været på en midlertidig opgave udenfor det danske ansvarsområde. Denne operation har operationssektionen naturligvis fulgt. For at den franske eskadron kunne operere i det fremmede område, var det nødvendigt at stabskompagniet oprettede en midlertidig teltlejr til eskadronen med dertil hørende faciliteter.

Jeg har været til "Chief Engineer Conference", hvor KFOR ingeniørtjeneste koordineres. Her udveksles der blandt andet erfaringer og skabes gode kontakter. Det kan munde ud i at låne eller at få støtte af ingeniørmaskiner og andre konstruktionsgenstande af hinanden.

Herudover har jeg været til "Explosive Ordnance Disposal" (EOD) konference, som vedrører miner, fjernelse af almindelig ammunition og improviserede bomber. Mødet startede på en skole, hvor KFOR EOD-personel underviste børnene i at undgå at komme til skade med disse genstande. Herefter fortsatte mødet i en KFOR lejr, hvor der naturligvis var erfaringsudveksling m.m.

I forhold til andre KFOR enheder i Kosovo får danske ingeniørsoldater kun få EOD opgaver. Det hænger blandt andet sammen med, at alle kendte minefelter og områder med suspekt ammunition i det danske ansvarsområde er blevet ryddet.

For at holde de danske EOD- soldater opdateret på området, har de været ved en anden EOD-enhed, men kun som observatører.

Vinteren er startet med nattefrost, og der har i flere uger været tåget. For at forhindre færdselsuheld og for at give overblik over passagemuligheder på de største veje, opdaterer bataljonens taktiske operations center (TOC) løbende informationer om sne, is og rydning deraf.

Tågen har i flere perioder været meget tæt, og det har givet problemer med at sende personel på leave (ferie) og at få dem tilbage igen via Pristina lufthavn. En stabil periode med frostsne kan forhåbentlig løse dette problem.

Operationssektionen deltog i en fodboldturnering med alle øvrige enheder i lejren og fik en 2. plads. Det blev fejret med en fælles middag og et besøg i en lejr, hvor et dygtigt svensk popband spillede. Forsangeren og basguitaristen var et par flotte piger, og det var virkelig med til at få stemningen til at stige hos soldaterne.

Der har 8. december været en sprængning af en jernbanelinie ca. 18 km. fra vores lejr. Sprængstedet var udenfor det danske ansvarsområde. Jernbanen blev hurtigt repareret igen, og bortset fra denne episode er situationen meget rolig hernede.

Alle venter på, at det serbiske valg bliver overstået 21. januar 2007. Herefter fremsætter FN's særlige udsending for forhandlinger om Kosovo og leder af de afsluttende forhandlinger finnen Martti Ahtisaari et forslag om Kosovos fremtidige status. Hvor hurtigt det kommer til at ske, og hvilke reaktioner det giver hernede, må vi vente med at se.

Jeg talte på et tidspunkt med en UNMIK betjent. Han sagde, at den bedste årstid han kunne lide i Kosovo, var vinteren. Så var der koldt, og de folk, der plejede at lave dumme ting, var i stedet for optaget af at holde sig varme. Jeg håber, at temperaturen vil blive godt under frysepunktet til midten af februar ... :!"

Conrad, oversergent, Liaison & Monitoring Team 4 beretter:

LMT4 har i denne uge haft en "normal" arbejdsuge, hvor vi har kørt i Zubin Potok og besøgt og snakket med en masse af de lokale serbere.

De fleste lokale, som bor i bjergene er mere eller mindre klar til vinteren sætter ind - med sne, kulde og ufremkommelige veje.

Under samværet med de lokale indbyggere får man et godt kendskab til, hvordan de lever, og man må konstatere, at de generelt lever meget sundt, idet der spises mange grøntsager suppleret med svine- eller lammekød fra dyr, de selv avler.

Deres rakija, som de gerne selv brænder og indtager for at få varmen, drikker de gerne i en mere mild version om vinteren, hvor de varmer noget rakija op i en gryde og tilsætter masser af sukker.

Denne "te" skulle efter sigende have en mirakuløs indvirkning på ens sjæletilstand, idet selv den tristeste og kedeligste dag vil blive lys og varm... hvis bare man tager et par ordentlige hiverter af denne drik. Det lokale brød fremstilles i utallige varianter, og en af de nemme måde at fremstille friskt brød på er denne: Dejen slås op, og den står til hævnning. En varm stegepande smøres med lidt olie, hvorefter man med en ske lægger nogle små dejklumper på den varme pande. Efter nogle minutters stegning har man en frisk og varm bolle... lige til at spise!

Dette er noget af det tætteste, vi er kommet på fastfood her ude i disse små bjerglandsbyer.

I disse omgivelser med store prægtige bjerge, finder man også ud af, hvor meget de lokale lever i et med naturen. At man vælger det rigtige sted på bjerge, at slå sig ned og lade en landsby vokse op.

I én af bjergbyerne - Andrici - er der for eksempel aldrig rigtig noget sol, hvilket gør det noget koldere lige netop dér - navnlig når sneen sætter ind. Men efter at have talt med de lokale ældre i landsbyen, så finder vi ud af, at de har lært at klare sig og er ved utrolig godt mod - også selvom solen stråler sjældent når til dem.

Sneen, som endnu ikke har ramt Camp Olaf Rye og de lavere liggende egne endnu, er dog faldet oppe i bjergområderne, og vi færdes her med allerstørste forsigtighed ad disse uvejsomme jordveje for ikke at komme galt af sted.

Men det er et betagende syn, når man pludseligt og uventet ligesom kører ind i postkortagtigt motiv med uberørt sne og træer og buske, der er tynget ned af sneen og i baggrunden knejser majestætiske bjergmassiver.

I LMT4 kan vi godt mærke, at folk er begyndt at rejse på leave, og vi har derfor måttet låne folk fra andre enheder til at køre vore biler, men efter planen er vi all samlet igen om et par uger.

LMT4 vil ved samme lejlighed gerne ønske alle, vores familier, venner og bekendte en rigtig god jul og et godt nytår."

Arne S. Jakobsen, major, CIMIC (civilt-militært samarbejde) beretter om endnu et CIMIC-projekt:

En talsmand fra den lille kosovo-albanske by, Vitak, kom til hold 14 og spurgte til muligheden for at den danske bataljon kunne hjælpe med at konstruere en lille bro over et nærtliggende vandløb. Denne bro var meget vigtig at få bygget, idet den ville lette børnenes vej til skole, thi som oftest kunne børnene passere vandløbet uden videre, men når der var meget vand i vandløbet, måtte børnene søge udenom til en bro, og det medførte, at skolevejen blev forlænget med mere end tre km... til fods vel at mærke.

Nok er børnene i Kosovo vant til at gå langt for at komme i skole, men der er trods alt grænser, og derfor valgte hold 15 at samle tråden op efter hold 14 og afslutte dette broslagningsprojekt således, at byens skolebørn tørskoede kunne gå den korteste vej til skole.

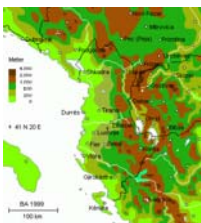
Opgaven blev naturligvis overdraget til stabskompagniets konstruktionssektion, der med vanlig entusiasme kastede sig over denne spændende opgave. De danske ingeniørsoldater brugte to dage på at bygge broen, og under arbejdet blev de flittigt besøgt af nysgerrige fritgående køer. De fritgående køer og deres interesse for brobyggeriet gav anledning til flere overvejelser om, hvordan broen skulle bygges.

Ingeniørsoldaterne besluttede at hæve broen med en lille trappe i hver ende, så køerne ikke kunne passere den og måske ødelægge den med deres betragtelige kropsvægt. Materialeprisen for den færdige bro beløb sig til ca. 500 kr., men børnenes glæde gjorde værdien af arbejdet betydeligt højere. Igen har den danske bataljon gjort en forskel.

ØST KOSÓVA / PRESEVO-DALEN / SYD-SERBIEN

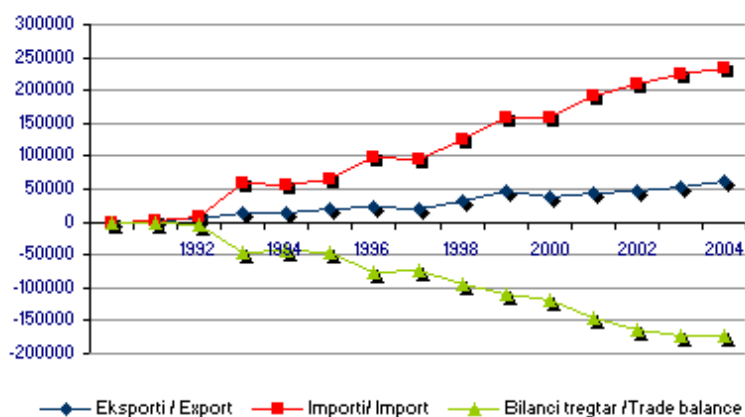
For nemheds skyld bruges betegnelsen *Øst Kosóva / Presevo-dalen* om det omstridte område med byerne: Presheva, Medvegja og Bujanoci (Albansk stavemåde). Ca. 75 % af befolkningen skønnes at være etniske Albanere - måske omkring 70.000. En modstandsgruppe har tidligere været i funktion, men synes nu at være »lukket ned«. Gruppen kaldtes i forkortet form **UCPMB** (som står for noget i retning af: Ushtria Clirimtare e Presheva, Medvegja dhe Bujanoci; på Engelsk: Liberation Army of Presheva, Medvegja and Bujanoci). Gruppen sagde at den **intet** havde at gøre med Kosova's UCK, og at den var en lokal gruppe.

ALBANIEN



Klik på kortet, hvis du vil have det forstørret / click <http://bjoerna.dk/kort/Albanien.gif> to enlarge it

Info fra Albaniens Statistik: **Befolkningstal**: 3,1 Mio (1.1.2004). **GDP** (Gross Domestic Product): 630 Mia Lek (2002, current prices); **GDP-structure**: Agriculture: 26 %, Industry 10-11 %, Construction: 7-8 %, Services: 55-56 %. **Export**: 54 mia lek (2003) [heraf til Danmark: 23 mio lek; størrelsesorden 1,2 mio kr], **Import**: 226 mia lek (2003) [Heraf fra Danmark: 855 mio lek; størrelsesorden: 45-50 mio kr], **Tradedeficit**: 171 mia lek (2003). Største import fra Italien (75 mia lek) og Grækenland (45 mia lek), største eksport til Italien (40 mia lek). **Unemployment**: 14-15 % (2004-III)



Seneste handelstal: Maj 2006: <http://bjoerna.net/sidste-nyt/313.htm#Handelsbalance> [Bemærk ændring i farvekoder]

Meddelelser til udlændinge fra det Albanske Indenrigsministerium. Det Engelske Udenrigsministeriums 'Country Advice' til rejsende kan findes på adressen: <http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket%2FXcelerate%2FShowPage&c=Page&cid=1007029390590&a=KCountryAdvice&aid=1013618385522>. Det Danske UM har pt ingen rejsevejledning, men henviser til det Engelske UM. Den Norske Ambassade kan findes på: <http://www.norvegji.org/>. Det Amerikanske UM har Juni 2004 offentliggjort en 'Background Note' om Albanien: <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/3235.htm>

Mother Teresa: <http://bjoerna.dk/albanien/Teresa.htm>.

Parlamentsvalget i 2005 [Præsidenten vælges af Parlamentet for 5 år, næste gang i 2007]: Se nærmere i: <http://bjoerna.net/sidste-nyt/265.htm>

Kan, bør Lokalvalget udskydes? Præsidenten vil ikke stille sig i vejen - hvis Partierne enes herom
Præsidentkontoret har udsendt flg.:

Regarding the public statements about the possibility of postponing the elections' date by President Moisiu.

December 15, 2006

Regarding the public statements which allude about the possibility of postponing the date of electing the bodies of local governance by the President of the Republic, the Press Office of this institution clarifies that: "The President of the Republic fulfilling his constitutional obligation and in compliance to the electoral legal framework has already decreed the date of the upcoming local elections. After that, the Head of state has not taken any action regarding the elections' date, but, as he has also stated on another previous case, if a possible dialogue among the political forces would bring about a consensus for the postponement of local elections then the President of the Republic would not become an obstacle."

Præsident Moisiu's aktiviteter [Billederne i denne sektion kan som regel forstørres ved at klikke på dem (mens man er på nettet)]. **Præsident Moisiu har tildelt Kozara Kati, leder af den Albanske Menneskerettighedsorganisation (ACHR), medaljen 'For Special Civil Merits'. Der er flere Danske der har samarbejdet med Kozara K. Andre har fået andre hædersbevisninger, fx har Servet Pëllumbi - fremtrædende partiteoretiker i »gamle« dage og i nyere tid Parlamentsformand - fået Skanderbegordenen.** Præsidentkontoret har udsendt flg.:

President Moisiu decorates noted personalities in the field of Albanian justice, diplomacy, medicine, art and sport.

December 21, 2006

During an official ceremony, the President of the Republic, Alfred Moisiu issued today his high appreciation for a few noted personalities who have given precious contributions in the field of Albanian justice, diplomacy, medicine, art and sport.

In the presence of the Minister of Health, Maksim Cikuli, the Minister of Culture, Bujar Leskaj and family members of the decorated ones, the Head of state has bestowed the Grand Master Order to Doctor Jorgji Eftim Adhami, and to Misters Sabri Peqini, Shyqyri Rreli and Filip Çakuli who are renowned for all the Albanian art lovers and fans of soccer.

President Moisiu honored with the Golden Naim Frashëri Order the painter Pashk Përvathi, with the Medal "For Special Civil Merits" the constitutionalist Njazi jaho and Mrs. Kozara Kati in sign of appreciation for the active contribution in the field of jurisprudence. President Moisiu also honored with the Medal of Gratitude (post mortem) Ermioni Prifti and through the Medal of Gratitude it was paid a special honor to the work of Jorgo Dhrami and personalities in the field of diplomacy, Arben Cici and Jonuz Begaj.

Mr. Jonuz Begaj spoke on behalf of the decorated personalities and he expressed the heartfelt gratitude for the great honor paid by the President of the Republic to their work. Mr. Begaj pointed out that this work will continue also in the future with the same dedication in the interest of the country, Albanian people and our orientation towards Europe.



December 14, 2006

The President of the Republic, Alfred Moisiu decorated today with the Gjergj Kastrioti Skënderbeu Order the noted politician and intellectual, the former Speaker of the Albanian Assembly, Servet Pëllumbi. The Head of state honored this way the important contribution of Mr. Pëllumbi to the political and democratic developments on Albania and his work to strengthen the values of institutional cooperation, dialogue and tolerance throughout the time when exercising the high duty.

"One of things I value most is tolerance, the virtue which the future generations will inherit." – stated President Moisiu during the ceremony while emphasizing the need of the Albanian politics for more understanding and trust. Then the Head of state pointed out that the capability of our politics is that it can find by itself the common language to solve the main problems.

Mr. Pëllumbi expressed the gratitude for the honor that the President of the Republic paid to his work throughout the years of transition by stressing that likes to share this appreciation with friends and colleagues with whom he has collaborated during the whole time for establishing the democracy in our country.

PM Sali Berisha's aktiviteter: [Billederne i denne sektion kan som regel forstørres ved at klikke på dem (mens man er på nettet)]. **PM Berisha har (påny) udtalt sig om de forestående valg. Regeringen har stillet forskellige konkrete forslag mhp at tackle rejste problemer, siger han, men man vil ikke medvirke til en udsættelse af valgene;** Den Albanske PMs Informationskontor skriver:

Standpoint of the Prime minister regarding the electoral situation

18/12/2006

In todays' meeting of the DP Parliamentary Group, the Prime Minister discussed the electoral situation in the country. He informed the DP Parliamentary Group about the meetings he has held these last days with the ODIHR Mission in Tirana, during which they discussed about the concerns of the opposition amongst other things.

Prime Minister Berisha informed the Democratic Party MPs about the three proposals he made to the opposition concerning the increase of the certificates security:

1. Not allowing people to vote if they do not present a certificate that bears the code of the Civil Registry Office of the electoral zone in which the person is voting.
2. Presentation of a second identification document, pursuant to the list of documents accepted in the 2005 elections
3. Sanctioning through a law a three year imprisonment sentence for every citizen who presents a forged certificate.

These measures, declared the Prime Minister, are much more advanced than those taken during the 2005 elections, when thousands of certificates with no Civil Registry Office code were issued.

The Prime Minister declared that despite these proposals, he asked the ODIHR Mission in Tirana to study the issue of certificates and if it finds any problems, he will welcome every suggestion they will make to increase the security of the voting process.

Prime Minister Berisha stressed that the lists of these elections will be the best lists Albania has ever had. These lists, the Prime Minister explained, are based on the 2005 electronic lists, which were accepted by international monitors. Around 110 thousand voters, figuring in the temporary register, must still be added to those lists as well as 60 thousand who have reached voting age, 25 thousand who have changed their Civil Registry Office and 45 thousand people that have passed away should be removed from the lists. There is a total of 250 thousand names to be changed in 410 Civil Registry Offices in the country, an average of 600 names per office. Pursuant to Albanian Law, lists must be compiled by local administration offices, which are run by the Socialist Party in 90 per cent of the capital and 2/3 of the country, said Prime Minister Berisha.

The Prime Minister also informed that he has invited the ODIHR Mission to fully monitor the process of the drafting of lists. Mr. Berisha said the Government is willing to pay the judges that will operate within the Civil Registry Offices for the registration of citizens overtime, so that they can register even those citizens who might have been left out of the lists even on election day.

Concerning the date of elections, Prime Minister Berisha said that this is an issue the government can not negotiate on. The Head of the Socialist Party, declared the Prime Minister, has demanded the postponement of the day of elections 6 months ago, threatening boycott and obstruction of voters lists in case the elections were not postponed. The date of elections is decreed by the President of the Republic, not by the government, said the Prime Minister. According to the Constitution, Local Government has a 3 year mandate, and today, none of the conditions mentioned in the constitution that would allow the lengthening of their mandate exist, concluded the Prime Minister.

UM Besnik Mustafaj har været i Kosóva og talt med SRSG Rucker forskellige Politikere, især Albanske, men også Serbiske. Fra mødet med Rucker skriver det Albanske UM: »Minister Mustafaj and the UNMIK Chief praised the stance of President Ahtisaari that Kosovo represents a unique case and as such, it requires a unique solution, which respects the will of his own citizens, relying on the fundamental principles of non-return to the situation prior to 1999, non-partitioning and unification of Kosovo or part thereof with another country«. UM skriver:



UM Mustafaj og SRSR Rückel. Foto: UNMIK/DPI.

Minister Mustafaj meets the Chairman of the Alliance for the Future of Kosovo, Mr. Ramush Haradinaj

Today, Minister Mustafaj did also meet the Chairman of the Alliance for the Future of Kosovo (AAK) Mr. Ramush Haradinaj.

After briefing Mr. Haradinaj on the Albania's role as a neighbour country, during this diplomatic year in the negotiation process, Mr. Mustafaj noticed with delight a further progress on the part of Kosovo institutions; the latter have succeeded in gaining the sympathy of the international factor. However, Mr. Mustafaj stressed that it remains important that this stability and progressive trend should not be shaken from different provocations, aimed at destabilization and image spoil. In addition, he pointed out that Kosovo society faces two challenges, the loss of confidence on the status and avoidance of possible provocations.

The AAK Chairman considered very important the visit of Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Besnik Mustafaj, whom he extended the thankfulness for the role played by Albania and the Albanian diplomacy during this year.

He did also express his pleasure for the achievements of Albania towards Euro-Atlantic integration, highlighting the signature of SAA with EU and the steps towards NATO membership.

In addition, both interlocutors focused on other issues of mutual interest.

- - -

Minister Mustafaj meets the Representative of Kosovo Serbs, Mr. Dragisha Kerstoviq

In the second day of his visit in Kosovo, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Besnik Mustafaj, had a special meeting with one of the representatives of the Serbian community in Kosovo, Mr. Dragisha Kerstoviq.

Minister Mustafaj said that he considered very important the direct contacts with the representative of the Serbian community in Kosovo, which represents one of the significant chains of Kosovo's multi - ethnic society.

Afterwards, Mr. Mustafaj emphasized that today, multi - ethnicity is an indication of democracy and that Kosovo joins its neighbor countries, Serbia, Macedonia and Montenegro in their common aspiration for European integration.

The Albanian Foreign Minister told Mr. Kerstoviq about the encouragement of the Albanian Government to Albanians in Prescevo, with regard to their participation at the general elections in Serbia, due to be held in January, pointing out that Kosovo Serbs should be similarly involved

into Kosovo institutions.

After praising the message of Minister Mustafaj, Mr. Kerstoviq mentioned that Kosovo Serbs have realized the mistake of their non-participation at the latest parliamentary elections and that this is negatively reflected in their representation to the Kosovo Assembly.

The contribution of minorities for a democratic Kosovo was also at the focus of a meeting that Minister Mustafaj held today, with the representatives of other non - Serbian communities.

Minister Mustafaj pointed out that Kosovo belongs to all and he agreed with his interlocutors that all should contribute to its construction.

- - -

Minister Mustafaj meets the Chairman of "Ora" Movement, Mr. Veton Surroi

While on his visit in Kosovo, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Besnik Mustafaj met with the Chairman of "ORA" Movement, Mr. Veton Surroi.

Minister Mustafaj hailed the contribution of Mr. Veton Surroi, as a member of the Unity Team and for chairing with professionalism the Minority Consultative Group, for the serious cooperation in the spirit of full partnership with the international community.

After commending the realistic Report submitted by the UNMIK Chief to the UN Security Council, which evaluates the progress in Kosovo and the standard accomplishment, both interlocutors expressed their support for President Ahtisaari, for the submission of his Status Report, by the end of January next year.

After outlining the developments in Kosovo and his meetings with international factors, Mr. Surroi expressed the satisfaction on the role played by Albania in terms of stability, democracy and conveying Kosovo's image to the international factor.

- - -

Minister Mustafaj meets the Speaker of the Assembly (Parliament) of Kosovo, Mr Kolë Berisha

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Besnik Mustafaj held talks with the Speaker of the Assembly (Parliament) of Kosovo, Mr. Kolë Berisha.

. Minister Mustafaj commended the contribution of Berisha at the helm of the Assembly in these significant moments for the status, and simultaneously, emphasized the role and contribution of the Assembly, in support of institutions, i.e. the Government of Kosovo, Unity Team, law enactment and the materialization of standards required by the international factor.

. Both interlocutors shared the same view that Kosovo Assembly will be at the head of the state consolidation processes, the adoption of Constitution and new statehood symbols, legislation related to standards implementation, regional and European integration processes.

They were also like-minded that, the Assembly and the deputies in particular, thanks to the contacts with the citizens of their constituencies are those that better than anyone else could have a substantial impact in averting possible provocations, which will not fail to occur in this crucial period for Kosovo.

- - -

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Besnik Mustafaj meets the UNMIK's Chief, Mr. Joachim Rucker

In the second day of his visit in Kosovo, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Besnik Mustafaj met in Pristina the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General, in Kosovo, Mr. Joachim Rucker.

During the talks, they commended the progress achieved to date in Kosovo, in terms of domestic stability, standard fulfillment, improvement of inter-ethnic relations, building a modern state of the rule of law, which safeguards the respect of individual's rights and freedoms.

Minister Mustafaj praised the active contribution of Mr. Rücker, at the helm of UNMIK, for the realistic presentation submitted to the UN Security Council on the progress made in Kosovo in the field of standard implementation, its messages addressed during these defining moments of status definition to the negotiating team, the political class and all Kosovo citizens for unity, maturity and self-restraint. More important than the deadlines for both interlocutors remains the fact that the direction which Kosovo has taken remains unchanged.

Both interlocutors spoke on the fastest conclusion of the final status process, underscoring that any delay will not facilitate the process, but will add to the tensions and difficulties. Likewise, they emphasized the significance of the international presence after the status definition, the continuity of standard implementation, the functioning of the rule of law and the safeguard of the respect for the minority rights.

Minister Mustafaj and the UNMIK Chief praised the stance of President Ahtisaari that Kosovo represents a unique case and as such, it requires a unique solution, which respects the will of his own citizens, relying on the fundamental principles of non-return to the situation prior to 1999, non-partitioning and unification of Kosovo or part thereof with another country.

The President of Kosovo, Mr. Fatmir Sejdiu, received the Minister of Foreign Mr. Besnik Mustafaj

Today, on the first day of the visit in Kosovo, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Besnik Mustafaj was received by the President of Kosovo, Mr. Fatmir Sejdiu.

In this meeting it was broadly talked over the further extension of the inter-regional cooperation and in this framework on finding new possibilities for the enhancement of the bilateral cooperation between Albania and Kosovo.

In addition, Minister Mustafaj and President Sejdiu exchanged ideas on the latest developments in Kosovo, with particular emphasise on the significance of the final status definition for the maintenance of stability in the country and for the unity of the Negotiation Group.

Both parties highlighted that in this period, both important and delicate for its history, Kosovo should not fall victim of any provocation. Minister Mustafaj and President Sejdiu welcomed the efforts of international community, underscoring that diplomacy is the only solution .

The interlocutors underlined that the political class in Kosovo has shown the necessary political maturity in taking the relevant responsibilities for the country's destiny.

In the meeting it was also underscored, that the President of Kosovo is a symbol of unity of all its citizens of the country and he will be the embodiment of Kosovo's sovereignty all over its territory.

Minister Mustafaj emphasized that just as to date the Albanian Diplomacy, even though not a direct actor will continue to be active in the irrevocable process of Kosovo's status definition and will also support the successful accomplishment of President Ahtisari mission.

On his part, President Sejdiu extended his thankfulness for the important role, the Albanian Government and Diplomacy have played and play, backing up all the activities of Kosovo's factors to the benefit of the fastest resolution of Kosovo's final status.

Minister Mustafaj meets the Prime Minister of Kosovo, Mr. Agim Ceku

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Besnik Mustafaj met the Prime Minister of Kosovo, Mr. Agim Ceku, whom he commended on his active role and the role of his Government for the progress made in the field of standard implementation; the latter is also reflected in the Report which the UNMIK Chief, Joachim Ruecker submitted to the UN Security Council.

According to both interlocutors, the rapid conclusion of the process of final status definition would put an end to ambiguities, that still exist among the citizens of Kosovo; at the same time, it would avert tensions likely to be produced by extremists.

Minister Mustafaj conveyed the message of the Albanian Government that unity, maturity and self – restraint are required during these defining moments in terms of the final status definition, as proofs of the standards already accomplished by the Kosovo society and institutions and as a testimony that they merit the independent state.

After thanking Minister Mustafaj for the contribution and support of the Albanian Government, Prime Minister, Mr. Ceku, highlighted his personal contribution and the contribution of Albanian diplomacy in the process of final settlement and the messages addressed to the citizens and the political factor in Kosovo and beyond; in addition, he briefed Mr. Mustafaj on the work of the Government and other institutions of Kosovo to date, in meeting the standards and in making the preparations for the post-war period.

Minister Mustafaj pointed out that Kosovo accounts for a major place in the Albanian foreign policy, as part of democratic and integration processes of the region and beyond. He added that official Tirana perceives Kosovo's independence, as a guarantee for peace, stability and cooperation in the region of the Balkans.

Responding to the interest on the possibility of training of future diplomats in Tirana, Minister Mustafaj said that the establishment of the necessary infrastructure is under way, so that experts or students from Kosovo could go through training courses, benefiting the upcoming independent state of Kosovo.

FBI siges at undersøge om der i Albanien findes radioaktivt materiale der kunne bruges til terrorvirksomhed. Makfax skriver:

FBI searches in Albania for radioactive material intended for terrorism attacks

FBI agents in cooperation with Albanian authorities are investigating eventual smuggling of radioactive material deemed to have been planned for using in terrorist attacks across Europe.

Citing sources from the Prosecution Office, the Albanian media reported there are grounds for suspicions that 170 kilograms of radioactive material was brought in the country.

According to the same sources, the illegal shipment was planned to serve for the purposes of carrying out terrorist attacks in Western Europe.

FBI agents have taken in five suspects, including three Albanian police officers and two residents of Skadar. After questioning, they have been released

Militærsamarbejde. »President Moisiu pointed out that it has been three years since our countries, Albania, Croatia and Macedonia signed the A3 Agreement that was initiated from Prague Summit and had the US support. Since then our countries have been working together coordinately to meet the objective for the integration in NATO. The experience has shown that a certain decision was very important. Three A3 countries have shown a very clear sign of success, dialogue and regional cooperation. This example will serve to other regional countries united in the Paternity for Peace. Riga Summit, continued Mr. Moisiu, reconfirmed the policy of the open doors and encouraged our aspirates for receiving the membership invitation in the next Summit. Our country highly greets the decision of Riga and considers it as a historically important decision for the Albania and Albanians. Albania is committed to undertake any political, military and economical step that strengthens the relationship among the A3 countries, and between our countries and NATO.« Det Albanske FM skriver:

12 Dhjetor 2006

Defense Ministerial US- A3 has been concluded

The Defense Ministerial of US-A3 was held today at Sheraton Hotel.

In that important meeting were present :

Albanian Minister of Defense Fatmir Mediu, the Croatian Minister of Defense Breslau Ronçeviç, the Macedonian Minister of Defense Llazar Elenovski, Assistant of the American Secretary of

Defense Daniel Fata, the special delegate of NATO General Secretary Georgio Katsirdakis, the Commander of NATO Headquarter, Admiral Harry Ulrich, Minister of Defense of Montenegro Boro Vuçiniç, Serbian deputy Minister of Defense Zvonko Obradoviç, and deputy Minister of Bosnia Herzegovina Enes Becirbasic.

President of the Albanian Republic Mr. Alfred Moisiu was invited as a special guest at the meeting. The meeting was opened by the Albanian Minister of Defense Fatmir Mediu, who after greeting the participants highlighted that this meeting of the Defense Ministers of A3 assets special values as it is held few days after the Riga Summit. This has given positive messages regarding the membership in NATO of A3 countries: Albania, Croatia and Macedonia and the involvement of Serbia, Montenegro and Bosnia Herzegovina in the Paternity for Peace.

Subsequently, Minister Mediu gave the floor to the President Alfred Moisiu. In his greeting speech President Moisiu pointed out that it has been three years since our countries, Albania, Croatia and Macedonia signed the A3 Agreement that was initiated from Prague Summit and had the US support. Since then our countries have been working together coordinately to meet the objective for the integration in NATO. The experience has shown that a certain decision was very important. Three A3 countries have shown a very clear sign of success, dialogue and regional cooperation. This example will serve to other regional countries united in the Paternity for Peace. Riga Summit, continued Mr. Moisiu, reconfirmed the policy of the open doors and encouraged our aspirates for receiving the membership invitation in the next Summit. Our country highly greets the decision of Riga and considers it as a historically important decision for the Albania and Albanians. Albania is committed to undertake any political, military and economical step that strengthens the relationship among the A3 countries, and between our countries and NATO.

NATO representative Mr. Georgio Katsirdakis and the commander of NATO Headquarter Nepal Mr. Harry Ulrich delivered their speeches in the first session of the Ministerial. They appreciated the pace of reforms in the military field in the A3 countries, the results achieved in meeting the required standards for NATO membership. They also encouraged the representative of Serbia, Montenegro and Bosnia Herzegovina for the invitation received in Riga Summit to be involved in the Paternity for Peace, which is an important step regarding the Euro Atlantic integration.

NATO Admiral especially dwelled on the strengthening of the stability and security in the Balkans, stressing that NATO and its forces will keep staying in that region. NATO headquarters in Sarajevo, Skopje, and Tirana cooperate closely with one another and soon a NATO office will be open in Belgrade.

During the sessions, the three ministers of Defense of A3 countries, delivered their speeches. Minister Mediu highlighting the importance of the Riga Summit message, pointed out that there is no much time to the next NATO Summit therefore during this period we have to make our active endeavor and be able to fulfill successfully the required reforms and standards for the integration in that Alliance.

Subsequently, he appreciated the continuous role and support of USA, NATO and other partners, considering that as a huge encouragement towards the Euro-Atlantic future.

Minister Mediu highlighted the support of the Albanian Government given to the AF for their transformation by increasing their budget 80% more than it was in 2001 and that is supposed to reach 2% of GDP for 2008. Many trainings and initiative are taken in the framework of A3, demonstrating our commitment to become part of the Alliance. On their way to integration our countries should be committed to undertake other advanced steps, increase the cooperation by sharing respective experiences regarding the reforms we are carrying out. The common projects are useful and with a reasonable cost for us, therefore they should be regarded with priority in the future. Albania is ready to establish the Regional Defense College, which will be open for all our region and dealing with the military personnel training, sharing experience and information. We have discussed that also with the Italian part and with the Minister of Defense Parisi, who supports our idea to establish that training regional centre. Albanian AF are undertaking other steps more concrete for their further reforming and are intensifying the work to meet the major goal; NATO membership within 2008. At the end of his speech, Minister Mediu said that to meet the common objective we need to compile more common projects and work together to accomplish them.

Croatian Minister of Defense Ronçeviç and Macedonian Minister of Defense Elenovski, who delivered their speeches after the Albanian Minister of Defense, expressed their appreciation

regarding many issues related to the AF reforms, cooperation and interaction with the military troops in the framework of A3 and NATO. Expressing the new optimism brought by Riga Summit message, they confirmed the commitment of their states and their armed forces to finalize the process of reformation, establishing a very cooperative peaceful environment in the region as well to meet all the standards required for the membership in the Euro Atlantic structures. They congratulated the invitation of Riga Summit for the involvement of Serbia, Montenegro and Bosnia Herzegovina in the Paternity for Peace. In their speeches they expressed their willingness to increase further more the cooperative contacts not only in high levels but also in all levels of our armed forces.

Mr. Daniel Fata in his speech said that in order to continue confidently until the forthcoming Summit of NATO Expansion. USA, he said, during these 15 years has believed that your three countries will be integrated in the Euro-Atlantic Alliance and that you would establish a better democracy. USA supports you in every aspect and especially in the recent challenge of NATO membership. Furthermore, Mr. Fata highlighted that A3 is a very beneficial initiative, which has been a very important mechanism through which you have realized several common works. The Riga Summed has opened for you a new possibility, but you should continue the work for the reforms in the field of Defense, to strengthen the jurisdictional state and democracy, fight against corruption and organized crime. At the very end of his speech he pointed that USA supports A3 countries; Albania, Macedonia, Croatia to become NATO members.

The second session of Ministerial was focused on the cooperation and strengthening of the security in the region and beyond. Minister of Montenegro Vuçinić and Deputy Minister of Bosnia Herzegovina, Becirbašić, and Deputy Minister of Serbia Obradović delivered their speeches during that session. They appreciated the Riga Summit invitation to involve their countries in PfP as a great opportunity for the integration of their countries in NATO and considered as an encouragement the common achievements and endeavors of the A3 countries. The representatives of the three countries mentioned the good relationships that already exist in our region and the strengthening of our cooperation especially in the military field for the joint exercises, training of the military personnel and border security and etc. They shared information about the work they are doing in order to reform the armed forces, establish new military structures, reduce the troops and increase the defense budget, which are determined as the NATO required standards in order to become a NATO member.

During discussions conducted in the Ministerial adequate suggestions were made, suggestions that will contribute more to the accomplishment of the duties and objectives of the A3 countries, and of other countries of our region in the framework of the Euro-Atlantic integration. There were shared many thoughts and suggestions to increase the effectiveness of fight against illicit traffics, organized crime, narcotics and other negative phenomena, which unfortunately exist transit in our region. In order to increase the effectiveness of the fights against those phenomena it was proposed to establish common preventive capacities and systems especially to improve the controlling and observing systems.

At the end of the meeting, the chairmen of the delegations held a press conference, where they answered the journalists' questions. At the end of the press conference Minister Mediu thanked the participants of the Ministerial stressing that this meeting was a reflection moment after the Riga Summit Declaration concerning the ways of cooperating towards the Euro-Atlantic integration. That Ministerial made a concrete step to meet furthermore the standards of our countries' membership in NATO. Minister Mediu thanked once more United States' Government, President Bush and other NATO Commanders for the continuous support they have given to the A3 countries and other countries in the Balkans region.

The chairmen of the participating delegations approved a Common Declaration of Defense Ministerial US-A3.

Det Albanske FM er ganske fornøjet over at Lega Zogu II er blevet bedste udenlandske Student i sin officersuddannelse i England:



15 Dhjetor 2006

Leka Zogu II, the best student of British Military University Minister of Defense Fatmir Mediu received in an official meeting Leka Zogu II.

The goal of the visit was to congratulate him for the maximal evaluation in finishing the Military Academy of the UK. In the end of his studies he was evaluated as "Best foreign student of the Academy"

British Defense Attaché in Tirana Mark Vickers participated in the meeting.

Minister of Defense congratulated Leka Zogu II for the achieved results stressing that this graduation testifies the great willingness of the Albanian students to be further qualified.

Subsequently, he thanked Great Britain for the valuable assistance given to the Albanian students and our Armed Forces, especially in the field of education and professional training.

On his side Leka Zogu thanked the Minister Mediu for the reception and he kindly presented the results of his studies at the Academy stressing that with these results he had represented with dignity the Albania and Albanian government.

Illegale Immigranter i Grækenland. »*Kathimerini*« skriver:

16-12-2006 Police arrested two Albanian nationals close to Ioannina in northern Greece yesterday attempting to smuggle into the country 20 of their fellow countrymen in the back of a truck. The illegal immigrants had each paid [Euro] 700 to reach Greece and been hidden under bales of hay on board the truck, police said. The immigrants had been picked up in Greece by the organizers after walking into the country along an unguarded point on the Greek-Albanian border.

Bombesprængning, storbrand. International Herald Tribune skriver 20.12.2006 at Chefdommer Jak Ndoka's bil er sprængt i luften i Lezha. Vinduer og døre i hans hus blev ødelagt.

Nogle dage tidligere hærgede en brand tre oiletanke / benzintanke i Shengjin. Branden varede i 30 timer, flere brandfolk blev såret. Man prøver at finde ud af om branden var udløst vha et eksplosiv.

SERBIEN

Det Amerikanske UM har offentliggjort en 'Background Note' om Serbien - Montenegro: <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5388.htm> • Det Engelske Udenrigsministeriums 'Country Advice' til rejsende kan findes på adressen: <http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket%2FXcelerate%2FShowPage&c=Page&cid=1007029390590&a=KCountryAdvice&aid=1013618386622> • En biografi over tidligere Forbundspræsident Kostunica kan læses på [Serbiske Politikere](#).

Præsidentvalg i Serbien. Boris Tadic blev i Juni 2004 valgt som Præsident. Seneste Parlamentsvalg: 031228.

Kosovo / Kosóva: Den Serbiske Regering skriver:

UN Security Council members divided in opinion on Kosovo-Metohija status issue

Belgrade, Dec 16, 2006 – Coordinator in the Serbian state team for negotiations on the future status of Kosovo-Metohija Slobodan Samardzic said today that UN Security Council members, who are to bring a decision on a peaceful and compromise solution regarding the future status of Kosovo-Metohija, were widely divided in their positions at the last session of the Security Council.

In a statement to the news agency Tanjug, Samardzic said that this shows that there are differences not just within the Security Council but also in the Contact Group. He warned that it should be kept in mind that members of these two bodies are to bring the most important decisions regarding the continuation of the process of negotiations, as well as contribution to a peaceful and compromise solution for the future status of Kosovo-Metohija.

He stressed that in this context the role of UN Special Envoy Marti Ahtisaari and his proposal for determining the future status of Kosovo-Metohija, which he is supposed to present by the end of January or beginning of February, should also be examined.

The contents of this document are of less interest to us than what the Contact Group, and later the Security Council will say concerning it, stressed Samardzic, and added that Ahtisaari's proposal should be based on the general policy of the Contact Group regarding Kosovo-Metohija.

Samardzic explained that that means this document should, above all, be examined by the Contact Group who should take a stand regarding it before Belgrade and Pristina consider it.

According to Samardzic, the Contact Group must beforehand establish minimum consensus regarding the document, because Ahtisaari, besides being obliged to behave in accordance with his mandate, should also conduct a policy and present a document in strict cooperation and coordination with the Contact Group.

He said that we should move in the direction of opening a new round of negotiations between Belgrade and Pristina on the basis of the proposal presented by Ahtisaari, which should be approved by the Contact Group, and serve as a framework for the further development of the negotiation process in a normal manner, to reach the Security Council at the end which will bring a decision on it.

Strategy for improvement of living conditions of Serbs in Kosovo presented. Den Serbiske Regering skriver:

Strategy for improvement of living conditions of Serbs in Kosovo presented

Belgrade, Dec 18, 2006 - Head of the Economic team for Kosovo-Metohija and southern Serbia Nenad Popovic said today that the Strategy for the long-term economic development of Serbian communities in Kosovo-Metohija aims to improve living conditions of the population and stop them from leaving the province.

Speaking at a press conference held after the plenary meeting of the Economic team at which the Strategy was presented, Popovic said that this Strategy is focused on the development of infrastructure, education, employment and measures for encouraging investments.

He said that the main strategic goals are intensive economic integration with the economy in other parts of Serbia and with neighbouring countries, improvement of living standards of the population and reduction of poverty of Serbian communities in Kosovo-Metohija, and stopping Serbs from leaving the province.

According to Popovic, a precondition for the functioning of the economy and decent life of people is securing electricity stability and the resolution of the acute problem of electricity shortages with the donation from the Serbian government, construction of new and reconstruction of the existing roads, as well as the recognition of Telekom Srbija's licence and return of confiscated property.

The head of the Economic team said that incentives worth €70 million will be set aside from the state budget and the National Investment Plan next year for the realisation of the Strategy in Kosovo-Metohija.

Popovic announced that as of January 2007 a wide range of activities will begin with the aim of presenting the Strategy to all interested groups, from local communities to international financial and other organisations.

He also pointed out that the economic team drafted an action plan for the implementation of the strategy and stressed that if economic activities are to begin it is necessary to have institutional support through a wide network of offices of the National Employment Service.

Popovic stressed that according to the Strategy, the Trepca mining and processing company should be one of those that are to carry out the economic development of Kosovo-Metohija.

The head of the economic team also recalled that the Strategy for the long-term economic development of Serbian communities in Kosovo is the first document on long-term development of this region in the past 15 years. He stated that renowned experts from Serbia and abroad were engaged in its drafting, as well as that the Irish and Swedish experiences were referred to.

He added that the strategy was harmonised with the Serbian National Development Strategy from 2006 to 2012 and the Strategy for Serbia's EU Accession.

Popovic said that the Strategy for the long-term economic development of Southern Serbia was also presented at the economic team's plenary meeting adding that it is aimed at stimulating a favourable business climate, improving administrative capacities of local self-governments and improving the efficiency of local resource valorisation aiming to attract foreign capital to this region.

Samarbejdsaftale mellem Serbien og Rusland - bl.a. om en pipeline. Den Serbiske Regering skriver:

Economic and political cooperation between Serbia and Russia at a very high level

Belgrade/Moscow, Dec 20, 2006 – Serbian Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica announced that a Memorandum of Understanding on the construction of the gas pipeline through Serbia was signed today in Moscow between Russia's GazpromExport and the Serbian government, under which a 400 kilometre gas pipe line running through Serbia will be built.

In a press conference Kostunica said that this investment is worth \$1 billion and pointed out that it will create new jobs and provide a reliable source of gas for Serbia.

The Prime Minister stated that the Memorandum of Understanding was signed by Serbian Minister of Energy and Mining Radomir Naumov, General Director of Serbian gas company Srbijagas Milos Milankovic and General Director of Russia's GazpromExport Aleksander Medvedev.

Kostunica said that with the construction of this gas pipeline, Serbia will attain the position of a key state in the region when it comes to the transport of natural gas and will not be only a user and last user, but a country of transit, which significantly changes its position.

He also recalled the agreement on the clearing debt between Serbia and Russia adding that it will be signed in a few days.

He explained that the agreement regulates the issue of debt in a manner which allows new developmental investments, and stressed that the debt issue is in the past, and at the same time investments can be made in Djerdap and Vinca.

The Serbian Prime Minister said that in the first quarter of the upcoming year the Russian Duma will ratify the agreement on free trade between Russia and Serbia, and recalled that this agreement has remained at the implementation stage for years.

According to Kostunica, the ratification will increase the importance of that document and become an added incentive for all those who are interested in widening cooperation between

Serbia and Russia.

Kostunica recalled that Serbia signed the Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA) yesterday, and pointed to the fact that Serbia is the only country which, besides the New Independent States, has a free trade agreement with Russia.

He stressed that besides economic cooperation, excellent political cooperation exists between Russia and Serbia in all areas, especially regarding the issue of Kosovo-Metohija.

When it comes to this issue, Russia and Serbia have expressed the same commitment to consistent respect of international law, above all the UN Charter, concerning territorial integrity and sovereignty of existing states, the Serbian Prime Minister affirmed.

He said that more and more countries are taking a similar stand on the matter, which is respect of international law, and this is an encouraging fact.

Kostunica expressed satisfaction with the fact that economic and political cooperation between Serbia and Russia are equally developed, and that equal progress is being made in both areas.

According to Kostunica, it is beyond doubt, as Russian President Vladimir Putin has said, that Kosovo-Metohija can not serve as a unique example because every country presents a unique case, but precisely due to that there are rules which must be consistently applied in all cases.

Russia has given support to the clear position that international law must be respected, that a compromise must be found, and that this will be easy if it is sought in the framework of international law and the UN Charter, stressed Kostunica and concluded that compromise can not be achieved if a solution is sought outside the boundaries of the fundamental principles of the Charter.

Russian Ambassador in Belgrade Alexander Alekseev expressed satisfaction at the signing of the Memorandum, due to improvement of cooperation between the two countries, and due to the fact that mutual relations between Serbia and Russia have entered a new and improved level.

Alekseev recalled that political dialogue on all questions of common interest is being developed between Russia and Serbia, and Russia's stand is that the issue of the future status of Kosovo-Metohija should be resolved in the spirit of safeguarding stability and security in the region and entire Europe.

He recalled that Serbia is one of the most important trade partners of Russia, and added that it is expected that trade between the two countries in 2006 will be worth more than \$2 billion.

Serbian Minister of Economy Predrag Bubalo said that signing the Memorandum on constructing a gas pipeline through Serbia will be of great advantage to Serbia, and added that the route of the pipeline will follow the route of the highway to the Bulgarian border.

Bubalo said that the construction of the gas pipeline through Serbia requires nearly two years. He added that the joint Serbian-Russian working group will prepare the details of the Memorandum, in which the next step will be concluding the agreement and drafting the project documentation.

He outlined that this project is the biggest Greenfield investment in the recent period and is a huge incentive for the National Strategy of Serbia's economic development, keeping in mind the fact that the Serbian government planned that GDP growth should be 7%, and that this projection is based on a minimum of annual investments worth \$2 billion.

According to Bubalo, the upcoming ratification of the agreement on free trade with Russia will increase the confidence of foreign investors, and have a positive effect on liberalisation of trade between Serbia and Russia.

Krav fra ICTY. Den Serbiske Regering skriver:

National council responds to seven new requests from ICTY Prosecutor's Office

Belgrade, Dec 20, 2006 - The National Council for cooperation with the International Tribunal for

the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) held its 38th session today and decided to submit extensive documentation upon seven requests made by the ICTY Prosecutor's Office and to free seven witnesses from the obligation of keeping official secrets in the trials before the Tribunal.

In 2006, the National Council has held 14 session, during which it responded to 110 requests of the Tribunal for submitting documentation that include several thousands of pages.

In addition, 73 witnesses have been freed from the obligation of keeping a state, official and military secrets at the request of the Prosecutor's Office, and requests continue to be submitted and resolved.

The National Council has positively responded to 170 requests from defence lawyers for submitting documentation, and several dozens of persons have been freed from the obligation of keeping a state, official and military secrets at the request of defence lawyers.

At the same time, the ICTY Prosecutor's Office was given access to archives of the Serbian state bodies in May this year and since then it has been developing without problems.

The National Council will continue to respond to requests from the ICTY Prosecutor's Office and the defence lawyers in a timely manner, with the aim of establishing full cooperation and fulfilling internationally assumed obligations to this court, the statement adds.

Mediation Centre i Nis. Den Serbiske Regering skriver:

Nis, Dec 21, 2006 – Serbian Minister of Justice Zoran Stojkovic and Regional Alternative Dispute Resolution Programme Manager within the International Financial Corporation (IFC) Wilma Van Benthem opened today a Mediation Centre in the Nis District Court.

Stojkovic stressed that mediation is one of the steps in the reform of the judiciary which helps resolve disputes more easily as parties do not feel that they either won or lost.

He added that the centre will provide new, efficient and cheaper ways to solve disputes, which will upgrade efficiency of the local judiciary.

He said that the Ministry of Justice pledges for decentralisation of judiciary and expressed hope that Nis also gets a council for organised crime.

The founders of the Centre are the Serbian Ministry of Justice and International Financial Corporation, a member of the World Bank, that provides technical assistance for the Centre's work.

The opening of the centre was also attended by Bulgarian Minister of Justice Georgi Petkanov.

Apart from the introduction of mediation, the Centre will be in charge of mediator training, licence issuing, organising seminars, expert meetings and similar.

There are 15 judges and five lawyers who finished training for mediation in Nis.

OSCE om grænsehandel:

OSCE seminar on cross border trade and transport in South-Eastern Europe identifies measures to improve customs and border proceedings

BELGRADE, 15 December 2006 - Border, customs, trade and transport officials as well as private sector representatives from South-Eastern Europe identified measures that would harmonize customs and border procedures during a two-day seminar that ended in Belgrade today.

The event focused on the implementation of the United Nations Commission for Europe (UNECE) Convention on the Harmonization of the Frontiers Controls of goods.

"Improving the flow of goods across borders requires modern procedures and standards in a

legal framework," said Vesna Arsic, State Secretary of the Serbian Finance Ministry.

Participants tackled existing challenges related to cross border movement of goods and exchanged information on best practices. They agreed that harmonizing and reducing the number of and duration of border controls would enhance the regional trade potential. The event also addressed ways to combat corruption at border crossings.

"I believe that the large attendance by high level participants from all over South-Eastern Europe proves that we are on the right track, that indeed the OSCE has a role to play in promoting integrated border management, harmonized legislation and transport policies and in improving cross-border cooperation in its region," said Ambassador Frank Geerkens, Head of the Belgian Foreign Ministry's OSCE Chairmanship Unit.

He also noted that a decision adopted at the OSCE Ministerial Council, held last week in Brussels, said the Organization should continue to promote dialogue in the field of transport and confirmed its role in providing political support for the implementation of transport-related conventions.

Participants visited three border-crossing points on the border between Serbia and Croatia.

The Belgrade seminar was a follow-up to the 14th OSCE Economic Forum, held earlier this year in Vienna and Prague. The forum's theme was secure transport networks. The seminar also was part of a joint OSCE/UNECE pilot project on promoting UNECE key legal instruments related to trade and transport. A similar event, targeting the Eastern Europe, South Caucasus and Central Asian region took place in October in Moscow.

Roma-kvinder og politisk deltagelse. OSCE skriver:

OSCE Mission, Roma Women's Network organize visit of young Roma people to Serbian Parliament

BELGRADE, 16 December 2006 - A group of 80 young people from Roma settlements in western Serbia visited the National Assembly today.

The visit was part of the OSCE Mission's to Serbia project "Empowerment of Roma Women for Decision-Making" and was organized in co-operation with the NGO Roma Women's Network.

"The visit symbolically presented the Assembly as a open door institution whose work is transparent to all citizens," said Hannelore Valier, Head of the OSCE Mission's Democratization Department. "We wanted to let the young Roma know that they are also welcome here and that one day they might be elected as national representatives to the Assembly."

The Roma visitors asked legislators to support those who had interrupted their primary school education and are thinking of completing it at a later stage in life.

Assistance to Roma is a priority area for the OSCE Mission and is in line with its mandate and the Decade of Roma Inclusion, an initiative of nine Central and South-Eastern European countries to improve the socio-economic status and social inclusion of the Roma minority across the region.

Last month, the Mission also helped organize a visit by Serbian Assembly members and representatives of several Ministries to Roma settlements near Valjevo and Sabac.

MONTENEGRO

Præsidentvalg 030611: Filip Vujanovic blev valgt. Forrige Parlamentsvalg 021020, seneste 060910.

Folkeafstemning 21.05.2006 om Montenegro's forhold til statsforbundet Serbien-Montenegro. Der var

et mindre flertal for at udtræde af forbundet (55,4% mod 44,6%), hvilket er blevet anerkendt af EU m.fl. Serbien har accepteret den nye tingenes tilstand, skønt der var nogen murren efter at resultatet blev kendt.

MAKEDONIEN

Det Engelske Udenrigsministeriums 'Country Advice' til rejsende kan findes på adressen: <http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket%2FXcelerate%2FShowPage&c=Page&cid=1007029390590&a=KCountryAdvice&aid=1013618386163> • Det Amerikanske UM har offentliggjort en 'Background Note' om Makedonien: <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/26759.htm>

Der er omkring 25 % etniske Albanere i Makedonien. Folketælling afholdtes 021101-021105.

Folkeafstemningen 041107 om decentralisering (= imødekomme af Makedonien-Albanske interesser): Folkeafstemningen "faldt". Stemmedeltagelsen var kun omkring 26 %. Hvis afstemningen skulle have kunnet udvirke en ændring af decentraliseringslovgivningen, skulle deltagelsen have været mindst 50%, og desuden skulle der have været flertal mod lovgivningen. Det var ventet at stemmedeltagelsen ville have været noget større, selv om både Regeringspartierne og den Albanske minoritet anbefalede at man blev hjemme. Man kan nu gå videre i overensstemmelse med Ohrid-aftalerne.

Præsidentvalg i Maj 2004: Branko Crvenkovski - hidtidig PM - blev valgt (efter Boris Trajkovski som omkom ved en flyulykke).

Parlamentsvalg fandt sted 020915. Der kan henvises til flg. OSCE/ODIHR-oversigtsside:

http://www.osce.org/odihr/elections/field_activities/skopje2002/. **Seneste Parlamentsvalg fandt sted i Juli 2006: Den hidtidige Regering led nederlag.** Der kan henvises til: <http://www.osce.org/item/19800.html> og http://www.osce.org/documents/odihr/2006/07/19801_en.pdf

Makedonien forhandler med EU om optagelse. Aktuell status, se: http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/fyrom/key_documents.htm. Se også den generelle side: http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement/index_en.html

Præsident Crvenkovski: 'Første halvdel af 2007 er umådeligt vigtig for Makedonien i forhold til EU'.
Makfax skriver:

Crvenkovski says 2007 crucial for Macedonia's EU integration

The first half of 2007 is crucial for Macedonia's ambitions to join the EU, President Branko Crvenkovski said while making his annual address to the nation.

The year 2007 holds a key to Macedonia's road to the EU, i.e. whether the country will catch up with Croatia or it will remain in the group of other Western Balkan countries, President Crvenkovski said.

Neither MPs of the ruling coalition VMRO-DPMNE/DPA nor government officials attended the address by the head of state at parliament's chamber.

"The first six months of the next year are key period. The pace of country's integration into the EU will greatly depend on what will be accomplished in the forthcoming months," he added.

According to President Crvenkovski, Macedonia could either catch up with Croatia or next to Croatia, or it will remain in the group of other countries in the Western Balkan region with great uncertainty over the next chance.

He stressed that Macedonia should do its utmost to ensure that it receives the start-date for EU accession talks by the end of 2007.

Det Amerikanske Fredskorps. US Ambassaden i Skopje skriver:

Eleventh Group Of Peace Corps Volunteers Begin Service In Macedonia

Forty-Nine New Volunteers Take Oath at Ceremony in Veles

December 15, 2006

U.S. Ambassador Gillian Milovanovic swear-in 49 new Peace Corps Volunteers in Macedonia Veles,

VELES, Macedonia -- The eleventh group of U.S. Peace Corps Volunteers in Macedonia has completed its pre-service training.

On December 15, forty-nine new Volunteers marked the conclusion of twelve weeks of pre-service training in Veles, Chaska, Negotino, Kavadarci, Sveti Nikole and Kumanovo. After being sworn in by U.S. Ambassador Gillian Milovanovic in a ceremony attended by the President of the Republic of Macedonia, Branko Crvenkovski, and other Government of Macedonia officials, municipal authorities and representatives of cooperating organizations, the Volunteers will begin their two-year service assignments in thirty-two communities throughout the Republic of Macedonia.

There has been steady growth in the Peace Corps program in Macedonia. The 49 new Peace Corps Volunteers brings the total number of Volunteers serving in Macedonia to 82.

Peace Corps Macedonia Director Lucianne Phillips said, "Mayor Ace Kocevski, the people of Veles, and the training center have been very helpful and gracious. The communities of Veles, Chaska, Kumanovo, Negotino, Kavadarci and Sveti Nikole, which hosted the Volunteers during training, have been wonderfully hospitable in welcoming and working with the Peace Corps Volunteers."

The new Volunteers received intensive Macedonian language training, and for those who will work in western parts of the country, instruction was provided in both the Albanian and Macedonian languages. The Volunteers also received information about the Macedonian educational system, economic and business issues, governmental and non-governmental organizations and programs, and organizations involved with environmental issues.

Volunteers also received practical hands-on training by teaching at local schools, working in municipal and non-governmental organizations, and implementing small community development projects in the Veles area. Each U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer lived with a host family to gain better understanding of the community and culture in Macedonia, and to facilitate the development of their language skills.

The Volunteers will move to their assignments throughout Macedonia within the next few days. Twenty-five will work in English language education, while twenty-four will help non-governmental and local government organizations throughout the country.

Volunteers will work in the communities of Skopje, Centar Zupa, Pehcevo, Bitola, Tetovo, Sveti Nikole, Stip, Vratnica, Vinica, Murtino, Veles, Negotino, Kocani, Resen, Ohrid, Kumanovo, Gevgelija, Gradsko, Strumica, Ropotovo, Injevo, Krusevo, Prilep, Probistip, Kratovo, Gostivar, Kavadarci, Struga, Makedonski Brod, Demir Hisar, Novo Selo and Kicevo.

The Peace Corps was founded in 1961 by President John F. Kennedy. To this day, the three original goals articulated by the Peace Corps when it was founded remain the same: 1) to assist countries requesting skilled individuals to provide technical assistance; 2) to help promote a better understanding of the American people through the individual

Volunteers; and 3) to share with American communities and families information about the communities and countries where Volunteers live and work. Through these efforts, Peace Corps Volunteers work to foster peace in the international community and better understanding among peoples of different cultures and heritages.

While maintaining its original goals, the Peace Corps also has grown over the years and extended its services in many ways. For example, the Peace Corps has been active in the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, and has assisted in disaster recovery efforts in several countries.

For more information about the Peace Corps program, please contact the office at Ulica Oslo 6, 1000 Skopje, or telephone 02/3090-012.

GRÆKENLAND

Seneste Parlamentsvalg 040307.

Illegale Immigranter i Grækenland. »Kathimerini« skriver:

16-12-2006 Police arrested two Albanian nationals close to Ioannina in northern Greece yesterday attempting to smuggle into the country 20 of their fellow countrymen in the back of a truck. The illegal immigrants had each paid [Euro] 700 to reach Greece and been hidden under bales of hay on board the truck, police said. The immigrants had been picked up in Greece by the organizers after walking into the country along an unguarded point on the Greek-Albanian border.

TYRKIET

UMs rejsevejledning: <http://www.um.dk/da/menu/Borgerservice/FoerRejsen/Rejsevejledninger/RejsevejledningTyrkiet.htm>.

Seneste Parlamentsvalg blev holdt 021103. Det blev i December 2004 aftalt (med EUs Regeringschefer) at der i Oktober 2005 skal indledes forhandlinger om **optagelse af Tyrkiet i EU.**

LANDE UDEN FOR BALKAN OG ØSTLIGE MIDDELHAV. NATO-LANDE**ITALIEN**

Mother Teresa. I anledning af saligkåringen ('beatificeringen') 031019 har Vatikanet etableret en internetside: http://www.vatican.va/news_services/liturgy/saints/ns_lit_doc_20031019_index_madre-teresa_en.html

USA**FBI siges at undersøge om der i Albanien findes radioaktivt materiale der kunne bruges til terrorvirksomhed.** Makfax skriver:

FBI searches in Albania for radioactive material intended for terrorism attacks

FBI agents in cooperation with Albanian authorities are investigating eventual smuggling of radioactive material deemed to have been planned for using in terrorist attacks across Europe.

Citing sources from the Prosecution Office, the Albanian media reported there are grounds for suspicions that 170 kilograms of radioactive material was brought in the country.

According to the same sources, the illegal shipment was planned to serve for the purposes of carrying out terrorist attacks in Western Europe.

FBI agents have taken in five suspects, including three Albanian police officers and two residents of Skadar. After questioning, they have been released

Præsident Bush har holdt indsværingsceremoni for FM Robert Gates. Det Hvide Hus skriver:



Vice President Dick Cheney swears in Robert Gates as Secretary of Defense at the Pentagon Monday, Dec. 18, 2006. Mr. Gate's wife Becky is pictured holding the bible during the ceremony. White House photo by Eric Draper

Office of the Press Secretary, December 18, 2006

President Bush Attends Swearing-In Ceremony for Secretary of Defense Robert Gates

1:22 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you all. I'm pleased to join you here at the Pentagon. We're here to congratulate Bob Gates on becoming our nation's 22nd Secretary of the Defense.

Bob Gates entered public service 40 years ago. He is an experienced and thoughtful leader. He has got a track record of steering large organizations through change and transformation. I know Bob Gates will be an outstanding Secretary of the Defense.

I want to thank Bob's wife, Becky, and their family, and their many friends who are with us here today. I appreciate the fact that the Vice President is here to administer the oath. I want to thank the members of my Cabinet who have joined us in welcoming a new member to the Cabinet. I appreciate so very much Senator John Warner and Senator Carl Levin for joining us. I thank the other members of the United States Congress who are with us today, not the least of whom is my Congressman, Chet Edwards, from Central Texas. I suspect he's here because of the Texas A&M connection. (Laughter.)

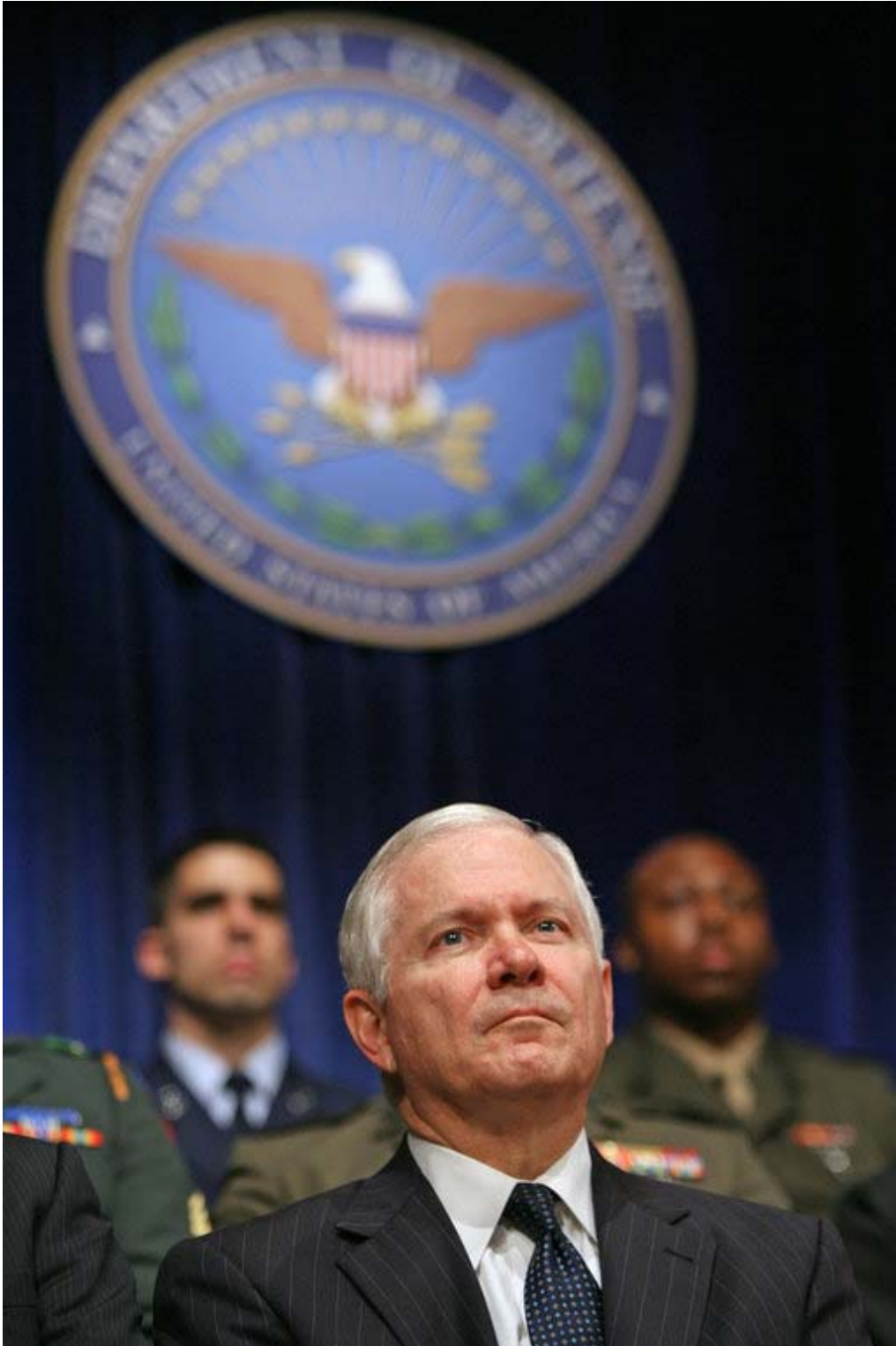
I want to thank Deputy Secretary England for joining us. I thank Dr. Harvey and Dr. Winter and Michael Wynne, Secretaries of the Army, Navy and Air Force, for joining us here today. I appreciate so very much General Pete Pace, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, and his wife, Lynne, as well as the other members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. I thank our distinguished guests.

Most importantly, I thank those who wear our uniform. This has got to be an exciting time for Bob Gates. I can't tell you what an honor it is to be the Commander-in-Chief of unbelievably fine people. And I suspect he will share that same sense of enthusiasm as the Secretary of the

Defense.

The job of Secretary of Defense is one of the most important positions in our government. The Secretary must understand the challenges of the present, and see the threats of the future, and find the best ways to prepare our Armed Forces to meet them.

We are a nation at war. And I rely on our Secretary of Defense to provide me with the best possible advice, and to help direct our nation's Armed Forces as they engage the enemies of freedom around the world. Bob Gates is the right man to take on these challenges. He'll be an outstanding leader for our men and women in uniform, and he's going to make our nation proud.



Robert Gates listens to President George W. Bush speak during his swearing-in ceremony as Secretary of Defense at the

Pentagon Monday, Dec. 18, 2006. White House photo by Eric Draper

Bob is a man of vision, integrity, and extensive experience. In 1966, Bob began his rise from an entry-level position at the Central Intelligence Agency to become its director. During his years of public service, Bob Gates has worked under six Presidents, from both parties. He spent nearly nine years at the White House working on the National Security Council staff. He's amassed nearly 30 years of experience in national security matters. Bob Gates' lifetime of preparation will serve him well as the Secretary of Defense.

Bob follows a superb leader at the Department of Defense. For nearly six years, Don Rumsfeld has served with exceptional strength and energy at a time of challenge and change, and he produced impressive results. During his tenure, he developed a new defense strategy, established a new command structure of our Armed Forces, helped transform the NATO Alliance, took ballistic missile defense from theory to reality, and undertook the most sweeping transformation of America's global defense posture since the start of the Cold War. He led our Armed Forces with determination and distinction. And on Friday at the Pentagon, the men and women he led showed their admiration and devotion to him.

I want to thank Don Rumsfeld for his service, and I wish him and his family all the very best.

As Bob Gates raises his hand and takes the oath of office, he does so at a time of great consequence for our nation. He knows the stakes in the war on terror. He recognizes this is a long struggle against an enemy unlike any our nation has fought before. He understands that defeating the terrorists and the radicals and the extremists in Iraq and the Middle East is essential to leading toward peace.

As Secretary of Defense, he will help our country forge a new way forward in Iraq so that we can help the Iraqis achieve our shared goal of a unified democratic Iraq that can govern itself, sustain itself, and defend itself, and be an ally in our struggle against extremists and radicals.

Bob Gates is a talented and innovative leader who brings a fresh perspective to the Department of Defense. I'm pleased that he's answered the call to serve our nation again. He has my trust and my confidence. And he has the gratitude and the prayers of the American people.

And so I look forward to working with Bob Gates. I congratulate you, sir. I appreciate you taking on this job. And now, I'm going to ask the Vice President to administer the oath of office for our nation's 22nd Secretary of Defense. (Applause.)

(The oath is administered.) (Applause.)

MR. GATES: Thank you. Mr. President, I am deeply honored by the trust you have placed in me. You have asked for my candor and my honest counsel at this critical moment in our nation's history, and you will get both.

Mr. Vice President, thank you for administering the oath of office. I first worked closely with the Vice President when he was a very successful Secretary of Defense, and I hope some of that may rub off.

My sincere thanks to the members of the United States Congress who are here today. I appreciate the prompt and fair hearing that I received in the Senate and the confidence that senators have placed in me.

Chairman Pace, thank you. I look forward to working with you and the Joint staff.

To the service chiefs and the service staffs, to all the uniform military here today, I value your professionalism and your experience, and I will rely on your clear-eyed advice in the weeks and months ahead.

Finally, I want to thank Becky, my wife of 40 years, and my children, Eleanor and Brad, for their infinite patience. I want to thank other family and friends who are here, but single out one especially, my 93-year-old mother. She told me that if she could make it from Kansas to Texas A&M football games every fall, she certainly could be in Washington for this ceremony. (Laughter and applause.)

I, too, want to say a few words about my predecessor. Donald Rumsfeld has devoted decades

of his life to public service. He cares deeply about our men and women in uniform, and the future of our country. I thank him for his long and distinguished service, and wish him and Joyce and their family all the best.

It is an honor to have the opportunity to work with the people in this Department, dedicated professionals whose overriding priority is the defense of our nation. Long ago, I learned something about leading large institutions: Leaders come and go, but the professionals endure long after the appointees are gone. The key to successful leadership in my view is to involve in the decision-making process early and often those who ultimately must carry out the decisions. I will do my best to do just that.

This Department, as always, is carrying on many different activities all at the same time. All are valuable, all are important. However, as I said in my confirmation hearings, Iraq is at the top of the list. In the days since the Senate confirmed me, I have participated in most of the National Security Council meetings on Iraq, I have received a number of briefings here at the Department of Defense, and I have discussed the situation and way forward in Iraq in depth with the President.

I intend to travel quite soon to Iraq and meet with our military leaders and other personnel there. I look forward to hearing their honest assessments of the situation on the ground and to having the benefit of their advice -- unvarnished and straight from the shoulder -- on how to proceed in the weeks and months ahead.

Another pressing concern is Afghanistan. The progress made by the Afghan people over the past five years is at risk. The United States and its NATO allies have made a commitment to the Afghan people, and we intend to keep it. Afghanistan cannot be allowed to become a sanctuary for extremists again. How we face these and other challenges in the region over the next two years will determine whether Iraq, Afghanistan, and other nations at a crossroads will pursue paths of gradual progress towards sustainable governments, which are allies in the global war on terrorism, or whether the forces of extremism and chaos will become ascendant.

All of us want to find a way to bring America's sons and daughters home again. But, as the President has made clear, we simply cannot afford to fail in the Middle East. Failure in Iraq at this juncture would be a calamity that would haunt our nation, impair our credibility, and endanger Americans for decades to come.

Finally, there is the matter of what is referred to as defense transformation. As I mentioned in my Senate testimony, I was impressed by how deployable our military has become since I last served in government. Before he came to office, the President said that one of his top priorities was to help our military become more agile, more lethal, and more expeditionary. Much has been accomplished in this; much remains to be done. This remains a necessity and a priority.

I return to public service in the hope that I can make a difference at a time when our nation is facing daunting challenges and difficult choices. Mr. President, I thank you again for the opportunity to do that, and thank all of you for being here. (Applause.)

END 1:34 P.M. EST

ENGLAND

TYSKLAND

FRANKRIG

DANMARK (NORGE, SVERIGE)

Ugerapport fra Dansk KFOR. Hærens Operative Kommando - se under: [Kosova](#).

LANDE UDEN FOR BALKAN OG ØSTLIGE MIDDELHAV. IKKE NATO-LANDE

RUSLAND

UMs Rejsevejledning: <http://www.um.dk/da/menu/Borgerservice/FoerRejsen/Rejsevejledninger/RejsevejledningRusland.htm> Samarbejdsaftale mellem Serbien og Rusland - bl.a. om en pipeline. Den Serbiske Regering skriver:

Economic and political cooperation between Serbia and Russia at a very high level

Belgrade/Moscow, Dec 20, 2006 – Serbian Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica announced that a Memorandum of Understanding on the construction of the gas pipeline through Serbia was signed today in Moscow between Russia's GazpromExport and the Serbian government, under which a 400 kilometre gas pipe line running through Serbia will be built.

In a press conference Kostunica said that this investment is worth \$1 billion and pointed out that it will create new jobs and provide a reliable source of gas for Serbia.

The Prime Minister stated that the Memorandum of Understanding was signed by Serbian Minister of Energy and Mining Radomir Naumov, General Director of Serbian gas company Srbijagas Milos Milankovic and General Director of Russia's GazpromExport Aleksander Medvedev.

Kostunica said that with the construction of this gas pipeline, Serbia will attain the position of a key state in the region when it comes to the transport of natural gas and will not be only a user and last user, but a country of transit, which significantly changes its position.

He also recalled the agreement on the clearing debt between Serbia and Russia adding that it will be signed in a few days.

He explained that the agreement regulates the issue of debt in a manner which allows new developmental investments, and stressed that the debt issue is in the past, and at the same time investments can be made in Djerdap and Vinca.

The Serbian Prime Minister said that in the first quarter of the upcoming year the Russian Duma will ratify the agreement on free trade between Russia and Serbia, and recalled that this agreement has remained at the implementation stage for years.

According to Kostunica, the ratification will increase the importance of that document and become an added incentive for all those who are interested in widening cooperation between Serbia and Russia.

Kostunica recalled that Serbia signed the Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA) yesterday, and pointed to the fact that Serbia is the only country which, besides the New Independent States, has a free trade agreement with Russia.

He stressed that besides economic cooperation, excellent political cooperation exists between Russia and Serbia in all areas, especially regarding the issue of Kosovo-Metohija.

When it comes to this issue, Russia and Serbia have expressed the same commitment to

consistent respect of international law, above all the UN Charter, concerning territorial integrity and sovereignty of existing states, the Serbian Prime Minister affirmed.

He said that more and more countries are taking a similar stand on the matter, which is respect of international law, and this is an encouraging fact.

Kostunica expressed satisfaction with the fact that economic and political cooperation between Serbia and Russia are equally developed, and that equal progress is being made in both areas.

According to Kostunica, it is beyond doubt, as Russian President Vladimir Putin has said, that Kosovo-Metohija can not serve as a unique example because every country presents a unique case, but precisely due to that there are rules which must be consistently applied in all cases.

Russia has given support to the clear position that international law must be respected, that a compromise must be found, and that this will be easy if it is sought in the framework of international law and the UN Charter, stressed Kostunica and concluded that compromise can not be achieved if a solution is sought outside the boundaries of the fundamental principles of the Charter.

Russian Ambassador in Belgrade Alexander Alekseev expressed satisfaction at the signing of the Memorandum, due to improvement of cooperation between the two countries, and due to the fact that mutual relations between Serbia and Russia have entered a new and improved level.

Alekseev recalled that political dialogue on all questions of common interest is being developed between Russia and Serbia, and Russia's stand is that the issue of the future status of Kosovo-Metohija should be resolved in the spirit of safeguarding stability and security in the region and entire Europe.

He recalled that Serbia is one of the most important trade partners of Russia, and added that it is expected that trade between the two countries in 2006 will be worth more than \$2 billion.

Serbian Minister of Economy Predrag Bubalo said that signing the Memorandum on constructing a gas pipeline through Serbia will be of great advantage to Serbia, and added that the route of the pipeline will follow the route of the highway to the Bulgarian border.

Bubalo said that the construction of the gas pipeline through Serbia requires nearly two years. He added that the joint Serbian-Russian working group will prepare the details of the Memorandum, in which the next step will be concluding the agreement and drafting the project documentation.

He outlined that this project is the biggest Greenfield investment in the recent period and is a huge incentive for the National Strategy of Serbia's economic development, keeping in mind the fact that the Serbian government planned that GDP growth should be 7%, and that this projection is based on a minimum of annual investments worth \$2 billion.

According to Bubalo, the upcoming ratification of the agreement on free trade with Russia will increase the confidence of foreign investors, and have a positive effect on liberalisation of trade between Serbia and Russia.

KINA

Information om »Sidste Nyt«

»Sidste Nyt om Albanien, Kosóva og Makedonien« hører til et *web-site* om de Balkan-lande hvor der lever mange Albanere:
<http://bjoerna.dk/albanerne.htm>.

Her kan du også finde »gamle nyheder«, anmeldelser, links og en [Balkan Brevkasse](#).

»Sidste Nyt« sættes på nettet senest hver fredag morgen, hvor der sendes besked til dem der ønsker det.

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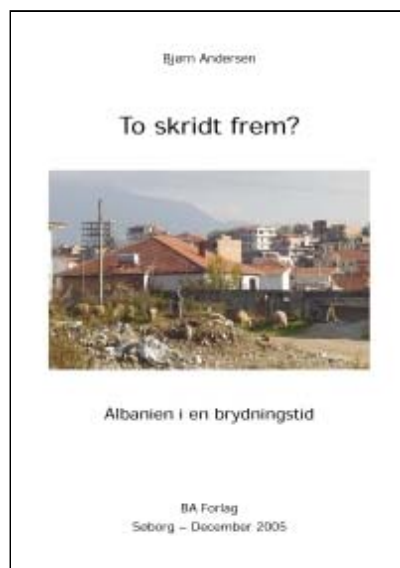
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»To skridt frem? Albanien i en brydningstid«

Baggrundsmateriale kan findes via:
<http://bjoerna.net/to-skridt-frem/#Linksamling>

»Albansk Almanak 2004«

Almanak'en for 2004 er udkommet i december 2005. Her finder du nyhedsbrevene fra 2004 og nogle kommentarer.

Bogen udgives i et sæt bestående af et hæfte (de første 77 sider) og en CD (alle 1264 sider). På CD'en også supplerende materiale - ikke mindst »1912 - Med den serbiske Armé i Makedonien« - Fritz Magnussen's beretninger v/ Palle Rossen.

Se indholdsoversigt på: <http://bjoerna.dk/albansk-historie/almanak-2004.htm>.

Se pris på: [Bestillingsliste](#).

»Albansk Almanak 2005«

Almanak'en for 2005 er udkommet i april 2006. Her finder du nyhedsbrevene fra 2005 og forskelligt supplerende materiale.

Bogen udgives i et sæt bestående af et hæfte (ugeoversigterne) og en CD (med ugebrevne og det supplerende materiale - i alt omkring 2.150 sider).

Se pris på: [Bestillingsliste](#).

»Albanske Studier« bd. 1-2

Kommentarer til Bjøl, Huntington, Machiavelli, Sørlander, DUPI (Humanitær Intervention), Clausewitz, Mao Zedong, Lars R. Møller, Malcolm og flere andre.

Englændere på rejse i Albanien: Edward Lear, Edith Durham og Robert Carver.

Bøger om slægtsfejder og blodhævn. Diskussion af Anne Knudsen's disputats om blodhævn på Korsika og af Ismail Kadare's roman »Ufuldendt april«.

Baggrundsmateriale om den Sønderjyske general Christian von Holstein, der deltog i Habsburgernes felttog ind i Kosóva i 1689-90.

Sidst i bogen et forsøg på en sammenfatning i form af nogle 'grundlæggende synspunkter'.

Desuden en kommentar til Hans Hækkerup's »På skansen«. På CD'en supplerende materiale om traditionelle Albanske klædedragter og om Holstein. Hans bog om Kosovo er omtalt i »Albansk Almanak 2004«.

Du kan downloade indholdsfortegnelsen og kommentaren til »På skansen« fra: <http://bjoerna.dk/albansk-historie/studier-2002.htm>

Bogen findes i trykt form og på CD (som pdf-fil). Papirudgave 368 A4-sider i 2 bind. Bogen sælges som papirudgave m/ CD og som CD alene. Se pris på: [Bestillingsliste](#).

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