

CHRONOLOGY: NOVEMBER 1996 – MAY 1998**NOVEMBER 1996**

- 3 November Parliamentary elections held in FRY and Montenegro.
- 6 November Croatia sworn in as a member of the Council of Europe.
- 8 November RS President Plavsic announced the replacement of Ratko Mladic and other Entity Army personnel.
- 14 November Paris Conference: two-year, 13-point consolidation plan for BiH announced.
- 15 November President Clinton announced that approximately 8,500 United States troops would remain in Bosnia in 1997.
- UNSCR 1079 extended UNTAES mandate until 15 July 1997.
- Yugoslavia Sanctions Committee dissolved.
- 17 November In the second round of Serbian local elections, the opposition party Zajedno gained major cities including Belgrade, Novi Sad and Nis. The SPS complained of irregularities. The failure by local Election Commissions to announce results where the opposition had won, or to announce re-runs, precipitated demonstrations in protest in towns throughout Serbia.
- 20 November Mass demonstrations held in Zagreb protesting against decision to deny Radio 101 a frequency.
- 21 November OSCE extended its Bosnia mandate to the end of 1997.
- 22 November EU statement urging Serbia's authorities to investigate opposition complaints of electoral irregularities and to conduct re-runs in accordance with democratic norms.
- 24 November The Belgrade municipal court annulled 33 of Zajedno's 60 seats in the 110-seat Belgrade Assembly.
- 26 – 27 November PIC met in Bonn.
- 27 November Re-runs of some Serbian local elections. A number were boycotted and in Belgrade demonstrators paint-bombed the State television building.

Second session of “RS” National Assembly held in Jahorina. The Federation-based delegates walked out when the Assembly decided they had no right to vote because they had not taken the oath.

Britain undertook to provide 5,000 ground troops for the follow-on Stabilisation Force in Bosnia Herzegovina in 1997.

29 November

The Hague Tribunal sentenced Drazen Erdemovic to 10 years for his part in the Srebrenica massacre.

30 November

The Bosnia Herzegovina Presidency agreed a six-member Council of Ministers: one Serb and one Bosniac co-chair (rotating weekly), one Croat vice-chair, one Croat Foreign Minister, one Serb Minister of Civil Affairs and Communications, one Bosniac Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations.

DECEMBER 1996

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2 December

Chief Arbiter, Roberts Owen, extended the Brcko arbitration deadline until 15 April 1997.

3 December

Independent Radio B92 was closed down by the Serbian Ministry of Transport and Communications on the grounds of lack of a valid broadcasting licence. Radio Indeks was also taken off the air.

President Tudjman visited Vukovar in Eastern Slavonia.

4 – 5 December

An Action Plan for the next 12 months was agreed at the London Peace Implementation Conference.

4 December

EU issued a statement deploring the closure of independent radio stations in Belgrade.

5 – 6 December

Southern European Cooperation Initiative (SECI) launched in Geneva.

5 December

B92 and Indeks radio stations resumed broadcasting, although B92 was still officially classified as illegal.

The Belgrade Electoral Commission (BEC) called on Serbia’s Supreme Court to review the decision of the Belgrade Court to annul the opposition success.

Britain and BiH initialled a bilateral agreement on economic cooperation.

6 December

Autonomous Trade Preferences (ATP) for the FRY were turned down by the EU.

- 7 December** Serbia's Supreme Court ruled that five out of the 46 Belgrade seats won by the opposition had been justifiably annulled.
- Croatian President Tudjman awarded medal to ICTY indictee, General Tihomir Blaskic.
- 8 December** The Chairman of the Belgrade Election Committee declared his intention to appeal to the Federal Court of Justice, Federal State Prosecutor and to the Serbian Public Prosecutor against the judgment of 7 December.
- 9 – 10 December** The Federal Court (and Federal and Serbian Prosecutors) rejected the Belgrade Election Committee's request for a review of the Supreme Court's ruling.
- 12 December** Serbian President Milosevic issued an open letter to the US Secretary of State, justifying the Serbian action on the local election results.
- 19 December** The EU agreed that the Mostar Rear Party should leave Mostar by the end of April 1997.
- 20 – 21 December** An OSCE mission, led by former Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, visited Belgrade. His subsequent report, dated 27 December 1996, confirmed opposition election victories in Serbia, and recommended action be taken to ensure freedom of the media, human rights, particularly in Kosovo, and free elections.
- 24 December** President Milosevic addressed a rally of his supporters in Belgrade. An opposition demonstrator was killed.
- 31 December** Concern over events in Serbia expressed by Montenegrin Assembly. EU made a demarche in Belgrade.

JANUARY 1997

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- 3 January** First session of BiH House of Representatives: Council of Ministers appointed. First session of BiH House of Peoples held in Lukavica in the RS.
- In a letter to the OSCE responding to the Gonzalez Report, FRY Foreign Minister, Milan Milutinovic, agreed Zajedno had won some, but not all, of the municipalities in question.

- 6 January Student leaders visited Serbian Interior Minister and Chief of General Staff (CGS). The latter assured the students that the Army would not attack them.
- The OHR took over from the EU Administration in Mostar (EUAM).
- 8 January The Serbian Government announced that Zajedno had won 37 of Nis's 70 seats (Zajedno claimed 41).
- 9 January An EU statement endorsed the Gonzalez Report and called for the acceptance of Serbian election results.
- An Albanian SPS member was shot dead in Kosovo.
- 11 January Contact Group met in Brussels.
- 13 January Croatia issued a Letter of Intent on Eastern Slavonia region.
- BiH opposition parties formed a cross-IEBL Alternative Council of Ministers.
- 14 January The BEC overturned court rulings on the City Assembly and confirmed the original results of the 17 November elections: Zajedno 60, SPS/ JUL/ND 23, SRS 15, DSS 2, leaving 10 seats in dispute.
- The Electoral Commission in Nis, a major Serbian town, awarded Zajedno 41 seats.
- UNSCR 1093 extended the mandate of UN Military Observers (UNMO) until 15 July 1997.
- 16 January The Serb Dean of Pristina University injured in car bomb.
- 20 January Belgrade demonstrators beaten by police.
- 22 January BEC ruled on 10 remaining seats in the City Assembly: Zajedno 4, SPS/JUL/ND 4, SRS 1, one to be judged by the courts.
- 23 January The Serbian Supreme Court handed responsibility for SPS and SRS appeals back to the First Belgrade Municipal court.
- 24 January One of two frequencies made available by the Croatian Government was won by Radio 101.

27 January	The Belgrade First Municipal Court accepted SPS and SRS appeals against BEC's decisions in favour of Zajedno.
28 January	Zajedno set up a parallel local government in Smederevska Palanka.
29 January	3 + 3 Education Agreement meeting.
30 January	OSCE announced new municipal elections in Mostar in 1997.
31 January	Contact Group met in Rome.
	Natwest Markets cancelled its FRY debt renegotiation consultancy.
	First FRY ambassador accredited to Croatia.
FEBRUARY 1997	* * * * *
1 February	Three Albanians shot dead in Kosovo.
2 February	Belgrade police used batons and water cannon on demonstrators. The GSS leader, Vesna Pesic, was beaten.
4 February	3 + 3 Kosovo Education meeting held in Belgrade.
10 February	Croatian police shot at Bosniacs visiting graves in West Mostar: one killed, several injured. Twenty-six Bosniacs evicted from West Mostar.
11 February	Serbian Parliament adopted a Special Law confirming local election results (except for Belgrade and Mladenovic).
12 February	Bosniacs and Croats reached agreement on Mostar action, including restoring east/west telephone links and naming and punishing those responsible for the 10 February shooting.
13 February	Serbian Electoral Commission announced local election results.
21 February	The Belgrade City Assembly formed. Opposition member, Zoran Djindjic, was elected mayor.
	Kosovo Albanian leader Rugova announced parliamentary and presidential elections on 24 May.
25 – 27 February	Zajedno leaders in London.

25 February	UN Secretary-General called on the Serbs in Eastern Slavonia to participate in elections and to participate fully in Croatian political life as equal citizens.
26 February	“Stela” and other Bosnian Croat criminals were arrested.
28 February	FRY and RS signed agreement on “special parallel relations”, subject to ratification by BiH Assembly.
MARCH 1997	* * * * *
2 March	A spate of violence, which began on 26 February when an armed Bosniac crossed the IEBL to Gajevi, escalated when a crowd of Serbs attacked the village, burning down Bosniac prefabricated buildings.
7 March	Brcko Implementation Conference held in Vienna.
10 March	Serbian Minister of Information presented a draft media law allowing the State more extensive coverage than independent media.
13 March	Montenegrin President Bulatovic and Serb BiH Presidency member Momcilo Krajsnik met in the Montenegrin capital, Podgorica.
15 March	RS Assembly ratified the FRY/RS agreement on special parallel relations. OHR’s Sir Martin Garrod walked out of an official function when Neretva canton President said the EU got what it deserved in Mostar.
17 March	Serbia’s Assembly adopted a declaration supporting FRY/RS special relations agreement. The meeting was boycotted by Zajedno.
20 March	Mostar trial of five police for 10 February shooting: three were found guilty of “harassment” and given suspended sentences. FRY Assembly ratified the FRY/RS Agreement.
22 March	The SDS Main Board adopted a resolution allowing RS Vice-President Dragoljub Mirjanic to sign decrees in place of RS President Plavsic.
24 March	The DPS Main Board meeting debated DPS/SPS and Montenegro/Serbia relations. Montenegrin Prime Minister Djukanovic resigned his party posts after being outvoted.

31 March

UNSCR 1103 increased the IPTF by 192 personnel in Brcko.

APRIL 1997

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2 April

PIC Steering Board met in Istanbul.

6 April

In a referendum held in Eastern Slavonia, 99 per cent voted for the creation of a single county.

8 April

UNSCR 1104 forwarded nominations for the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) judges to the General Assembly.

Royaumont (Process for Stability and Good Neighbourliness in South-East Europe) meeting held in Skopje.

9 April

UNSCR 1105 suspended reduction of UNPREDEP until the end of the current 31 May 1997 mandate.

11 April

The Serb Regional Assembly in Eastern Slavonia agreed to vote in forthcoming elections.

Serbia's deputy Interior Minister, General "Badza" Stojicic, assassinated in Belgrade.

12 – 13 April

Pope John Paul II visited Sarajevo.

13 April

Croatian elections for the Upper House of Parliament and for local authorities. In Eastern Slavonia polling was extended to 14 April and in some cases 15 April to allow all to vote in spite of problems with the electoral lists.

15 April

Oral agreement reached by BiH Presidency on a single currency coupon, its design to be agreed later. The decision must be ratified by BiH Parliament.

22 April

UNTAES Administrator Jacques Klein certified the election results in Eastern Slavonia: the Serbian Democratic Independent Party won one town council and 10 municipal authorities; Croatian parties won two town councils and 25 municipal authorities.

24 April

Croatian Government adopted UNHCR/UNTAES programme on return of refugees and displaced persons (DPs) to and from Eastern Slavonia.

29 April

The EU granted FRY ATP for 1997, to be reviewed in the absence of progress on the Gonzalez Report.

MAY 1997

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1 May

Two buses carrying visiting SDP members stoned by Serb residents of Brcko.

7 May

Dusko Tadic found guilty by the Hague Tribunal on 11 out of 31 counts for war crimes.

Sarajevo police arrested an associate of Fekret Abdic in spite of his immunity as an FBiH Member of Parliament.

8 May

Rugova postponed parliamentary and presidential elections.

9 May

Montenegrin Prime Minister Djukanovic visited Britain where he met British Foreign Office Minister, Tony Lloyd.

12 May

The Main Board of the Montenegrin DPS party re-elected Djukanovic party vice-president.

16 May

UNSCR 1107 increased the IPTF by 120 personnel.

19 – 20 May

British Minister of Defence, George Robertson, visited Bosnia.

22 May

The OSCE closed five Banja Luka voter registration centres following fraud.

24 May

The “Croatian Community of Herzog-Bosna” was re-established in Neum.

29 – 30 May

The North Atlantic Council (NAC) Ministers and PIC Steering Board met in Sintra. Carlos Westendorp was appointed the new High Representative.

30 May

The Pristina court convicted 20 Albanians for terrorism.

31 May – 1 June

US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, visited Croatia, FRY and Bosnia.

JUNE 1997

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1 June

In accordance with Dayton, the BiH Standing Committee on Military Matters was established.

- 3 June The trial of 15 members of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) began in Pristina.
- 5 June Vlado Gotovac, the Social Liberal Party (HSL) candidate for Croatian presidency, was assaulted by a Croatian captain on the campaign trail.
- 8 June President Tudjman took the “peace train” to Vukovar; he said the return of between 150,000 and 200,000 Serb refugees was not possible. The train was stoned by Serbs.
- 11 June All four Brcko registration centres were closed due to massive fraud.
- 12 June UNSCR 1112 agreed Carlos Westendorp’s appointment as High Representative.
- 15 June President Tudjman was re-elected President of Croatia with 61 per cent of the vote. The OSCE reported that the elections were free but not fair with candidates not receiving equal media coverage.
- A Sarajevo court rejected the appeal to re-open the trial of a Serb convicted for the murder of three Bosniacs, two of whom were later found to be alive.
- 25 June President Milosevic visited Kosovo.
- 26 June The OSCE mandate for Croatia was extended: it was agreed that a Mission be built up as UNTAES withdrew.
- 27 June The former Serb mayor of Vukovar, Slavko Dokmanovic, was arrested by ICTY and UNTAES in Eastern Slavonia.
- 28 June Radovan Karadzic tried (unsuccessfully) to register to vote on the last day of in-country registration.
- 29 June RS President Plavsic detained at Belgrade airport by Serbian police on her arrival from Britain. She was escorted to the RS border where RS police detained her overnight in Bijeljina.
- 30 June The Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ) city board for Mostar decided to unify the three Croat municipalities, in violation of Dayton.
- JULY 1997** * * * * *
- 3 July RS President Plavsic dissolved the RS Assembly and called new elections for 1 September.

- 4 – 5 July The RS Assembly met in Pale. It annulled its dissolution and requested the RS Constitutional Court to rule on the legality of President Plavsic's decision. Plavsic was invited to Pale for discussions. Pro-Plavsic demonstrations at Banja Luka took place.
- 9 July Three people killed in clashes in Gostivar, Macedonia, when police removed Albanian flags from municipal buildings.
- 10 July SFOR detained indictee, Milan Kovacevic, in Prijedor. Indictee, Simo Drljaca, was killed while violently resisting arrest.
- The Serbian Government ousted the Party of Democratic Action for the Sandzak (SDA) authorities of Novi Pazar municipality and installed new non-elected authorities.
- The RS Constitutional Court suspended RS President Plavsic's dissolution of Assembly.
- 11 July At DPS Main Board Meeting: Montenegrin President Bulatovic and his supporters walked out. Those remaining voted to replace him as party chairman.
- 14 July UNSCR 1119 extended the UNTAES mandate until 15 January 1998.
- UNSCR 1120 extended UN Military Observer Mission in the Prevlaka peninsula (UNMOP) mandate until 15 January 1998.
- In The Hague, Dusko Tadic was sentenced to 20 years.
- The Venice Commission ruled that President Plavsic's dissolution of the RS Assembly was not unconstitutional.
- 15 July Milosevic appointed FRY President.
- 18 July PIC Steering Board met in Sarajevo.
- Serbian Parliament passed an electoral law which raised the number of electoral units from 9 to 29.
- 19 July SDS Main Committee expelled RS President Plavsic from the party.
- 23 July The RS Supreme Court upheld the legality of Plavsic's dissolution of RS Assembly.
- 23 – 24 July Bosnia Donors' Conference.

28 – 30 July

British Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, visited Bosnia and Croatia.

AUGUST 1997

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1 August

The Federation failed to meet deadlines agreed at Sintra on the appointment of BiH ambassadors, and on the passing of citizenship and passport laws.

6 August

President Tudjman and BiH Presidency Chairman Izetbegovic met in Split to discuss continued implementation of the Dayton and Washington Agreements.

8 – 10 August

Diana, Princess of Wales, visited BiH for the Landmines Survivors Network.

8 August

BiH reached agreement on the distribution of ambassadorial slots (delayed from 1 August).

11 August

BiH Central Bank officially commenced operations. The convertible marka (KM) became the official BiH currency.

15 August

The RS Constitutional Court ruled President Plavsic's dissolution of Assembly unconstitutional.

16 August

In Montenegro, President Bulatovic's faction of the DPS elected its own Main Board, Executive Board and three party vice-presidents.

17 August

Special police loyal to President Plavsic seized Banja Luka police station run by Pale-loyal police. SFOR surrounded the station.

20 August

SFOR and IPTF removed 12 tons of illegal weapons from Banja Luka police stations.

27 August

Mladen Naletilic "Tuta" was formally charged by the Croatian authorities with incitement to murder. "Stela" was charged with murder.

28 August

In Brcko, authorities loyal to Pale used sirens to call residents to pre-empt President Plavsic's takeover of police station. Incited by anti-international radio broadcasts, Serb demonstrators destroyed the IPTF HQ and 30 vehicles and injured two US SFOR troops.

SEPTEMBER 1997

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1 September

No agreement was reached on the Sintra BiH flag deadline.

SFOR troops guarding Udrigovo TV transmitter near Bijeljina since 28 August were stoned by Serb demonstrators.

2 September

American SFOR troops handed Udrigovo television station back to police loyal to Pale following agreement between BiH Serb Presidency member Krijisnik and American SFOR that television would: halt anti-SFOR material; provide one hour a day prime time for the expression of opposition views; and give one half hour slot to the High Representative.

4 September

Contact Group met in Brussels.

Fifteen Djakovica Albanians in Kosovo indicted for “hostile activity”.

American SFOR troops withdrew from the Brcko bridge which they had previously guarded.

8 September

A planned SDS rally in Banja Luka failed when SFOR halted buses sent from Pale-controlled RS. Krijisnik, who had previously had a church-brokered meeting with RS President Plavsic, was forced to retire to the town hotel which was then besieged.

10 September

The Pale-loyal (dissolved) RS Assembly agreed not to boycott municipal elections.

11 – 14 September

Attacks took place on 12 Kosovo police stations: the KLA claimed responsibility.

13 -14 September

Municipal elections held in BiH, before and during which the OSCE made a number of adjustments to the electoral procedures.

16 September

Contact Group met in London.

18 September

A car bomb killed six and injured more than 40 in West Mostar.

21 September

Parliamentary and presidential elections held in Serbia. Presidentials went to a second round.

24 September

President Plavsic and Mr Krajisnik met in Belgrade. Witnessed by FRY President Milosevic they agreed: RS Assembly elections would be held on 15 November; the Assembly to form a commission to carry out elections for RS President and Serb BiH Presidency member on 7 December; and RS television would broadcast Pale and Banja Luka material on alternate days.

The Contact Group met in New York.

- 25 September Croatia's Constitutional Court ruled that part of the law on temporary use of property was unconstitutional.
- 29 September Reconstruction of Mostar's Old Bridge began.
- 30 September Mayor of Belgrade, Zoran Djindjic, was voted out of office on a motion tabled by the Serbian Renewal Party (SPO) .
- OCTOBER 1997** * * * * *
- 1 October SFOR seized four RS television transmitters following distorted news coverage of press conference by ICTY Judge Louise Arbour.
- Kosovo student demonstrations were broken up with tear gas, water cannon and truncheons.
- Police used batons to break up a demonstration in Belgrade protesting against the ousting of Djindjic.
- PIC Steering Board met in Brussels.
- 5 October Second round of Serbian Presidential Elections. Although ultra-nationalist, Vojislav Seselj, gained most votes, turnout was announced as less than 50 per cent; he did not therefore win.
- First round of Montenegrin presidential elections.
- 6 October Dario Kordic and nine other Croats surrendered to ICTY in Split. They were flown to The Hague.
- 13 October Croatia announced it would not use the \$78 million IMF loan.
- 15 October Albanian attack on Kosovo police station: one Albanian was killed.
- 17 October Contact Group met in Rome
- 18 October Second phase of UN troop withdrawal from Eastern Slavonia began.
- A gypsy boy was beaten to death in Belgrade.
- 19 October The second round of Montenegrin presidential elections took place: Djukanovic won by 5,500 votes.

- 21 October Bulatovic supporters began demonstrations in Podgorica, to protest Djukanovic victory.
- British Minister of Defence, George Robertson, visited BiH.
- 24 October JUL deputy chief Zoran Todorovic (Kundak) shot dead in Belgrade.
- 27 October The trial began of 19 Albanians charged with KLA membership and terrorism.
- 29 October An Albanian student demonstration passed off peacefully in Pristina.
- NOVEMBER 1997** * * * * *
- 3 – 4 November Balkan Summit in Crete was held: the Heads of State of Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Macedonia, FRY, Turkey and Romania participated. BiH observed.
- 6 November PIC Steering Board met in Sarajevo
- 7 November Britain offered sanctuary to up to four endangered ICTY witnesses a year.
- 10 November SFOR confiscated RS special police unit weapons in Dodoj for non-compliance with previous SFOR requirements.
- 13 November The Brcko Municipal Assembly elected a Serb Mayor, Bosniac president of the town assembly and Croat chief of police.
- Gunmen opened fire on RS President Plavsic's office.
- 18 November An Albanian SPS deputy in the FRY Assembly was shot and wounded. The KLA claimed responsibility.
- 21 November OSCE announced that BiH arms reduction targets agreed in 1996 had been met by the destruction of nearly 6,600 pieces of weaponry.
- 22 – 23 November RS Assembly elections held.
- 25 – 26 November Two killed, and others wounded, during two nights of armed clashes including a Kosovar Albanian attack on a Serb police station.
- 28 November An Albanian SPS member was ambushed and killed in Kosovo.

British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, visited Bosnia.

DECEMBER 1997

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3 December

PIC Steering Board met in Paris.

First round of Serbian presidential elections.

9 – 10 December

Bonn PIC. The High Representative's intention to use his authority, and NATO's plans to consider a post-SFOR force, were welcomed. The FRY representative and Krajisnik walked out in protest at the reference to Kosovo.

13 December

Milutinovic and Krajisnik signed an agreement on dual FRY/BiH citizenship.

15 December

BiH House of Representatives failed to pass the citizenship law as demanded by the Bonn PIC when Bosniacs objected to the Milutinovic/Krajisnik agreement.

Croatian Parliament passed constitutional changes: Croatia could not join any Balkan union; there was no reference to Croatian citizenship; Bosniacs, Slovenes and Albanians not named as minorities; Parliament renamed.

16 December

The trial of 19 Albanians ended in Pristina. Seventeen were given a total of 196 years imprisonment.

18 December

Two Bosnian Croat ICTY indictees were detained by SFOR in Vitez. One was wounded while violently resisting detention.

President Clinton announced US troops would contribute to the post-SFOR force.

19 December

UNSCR 1144 extended the mandate for the UN Military in Bosnia Herzegovina (UNMiBH) mandate until 21 June 1998.

Charges against four Bosnian Croat ICTY indictees dropped due to insufficient evidence, one because he was confirmed dead.

UNSCR 1145 established a civilian police support group of 180 monitors in Eastern Slavonia for a single nine month period from 16 January 1998.

21 December

Second round of Serbian presidential elections held. The Serbian Electoral Commission subsequently announced Milutinovic's victory over Seselj.

27 December	The new RS Assembly met in Bijeljina but, because the speaker and deputy speaker had not been appointed, it was not formally convened.
29 December	The EU withdrew Autonomous Trade Measures (ATM) from FRY.
30 December	Thousands of students demonstrated in Pristina. Police used batons. There were 15 arrests and some injuries.
<div style="background-color: #002060; color: white; padding: 2px 10px; border-radius: 10px; display: inline-block; margin-bottom: 5px;">JANUARY 1998</div> *	
6 January	FRY Constitutional Court overruled Montenegrin Supreme Court decisions which had upheld the legality of amendments to the Montenegrin electoral register, made before the second round of 1997 presidential elections.
8 January	Contact Group met in Washington.
14 January	Pro-Bulatovic demonstrations provoked clashes with police in Podgorica. Over 40 were injured.
15 January	UNTAES handed over the administration of Eastern Slavonia to the Croatian authorities. Djukanovic was inaugurated President of Montenegro.
16 January	Serbs attacked OSCE and IPTF escorts and Bosniac delegates arriving for a council meeting in Srebrenica. RS Prime Ministerial mandator Mladen Ivanic handed back his mandate to RS President Plavsic.
17 January	Plavsic proposed Dodik as RS Prime Minister. The RS Assembly met in Bijeljina. SDS and SRS MPs walked out and in the early hours of 18 January, Dodik was voted in as Prime Minister.
21 January	In Podgorica, FRY Prime Minister, Radoje Kontic, brokered a six-point agreement between teams nominated by President Djukanovic and ex-President Bulatovic: Montenegrin parliamentary and local elections would be held by the end of May; in the meantime the existing composition of the FRY, Montenegrin and local parliaments would be respected. Following BiH failure to agree a currency coupon design, the High Representative imposed two designs.

22 January

ICTY indictee, Goran Jelusic, was detained by SFOR in connection with his role at Brcko camp.

Matesa signed a decree giving tenancy rights in Eastern Slavonia immediately back to pre-war residents. It became law on 27 January when it was published in the Official Gazette.

An Albanian home was attacked in Kosovo: two women were wounded, and a man was found dead elsewhere.

Bijeljina (RS) district court quashed 1997 convictions of the “Zvornik Seven” and referred the case for retrial.

26 January

Following BiH failure to agree a flag design, the High Representative presented three design choices.

The new RS Government dismissed directors of several large business enterprises.

President Plavsic signed a \$17 million credit agreement with the World Bank.

29 January

PIC Steering Board met in Brussels.

31 January

RS Assembly met in Banja Luka and agreed to move the Entity seat from Pale to Banja Luka.

FEBRUARY 1998

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1 – 4 February

British Secretary of State for International Development, Clare Short, visited Bosnia. Mr Lloyd visited FRY and Skopje for Sarajevo Refugee Return Conference.

5 February

The Montenegrin Parliament elected a multi-party government including seven opposition ministers.

6 February

Goran Vasic’s arrest by Sarajevo police, on a charge of murdering deputy Prime Minister Turajlic in 1993, led to Serb protests.

11 February

Montenegrin Public Prosecutor began criminal investigation into the role of Momir Bulatovic and his colleagues in inciting the 14 January demonstrations.

12 February	Croatian Government annulled its (22 January) Eastern Slavonia tenancy rights decree.
19 February	Bulatovic registered his new political party, the Socialist People's Party of Montenegro (SNPCG).
20 February	The NAC announced an agreement on an SFOR follow-on force. Some 100,000 trade unionists and opposition members demonstrated in Zagreb.
21 – 22 February	President Tudjman re-elected party leader at the fourth Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ) Congress.
24 February	Bosniac Serb indictee Simo Zaric surrendered.
25 February	Contact Group met in Moscow.
28 February	Beginning of Serb police action in Drenica, Kosovo, which over the next few days resulted in the deaths of more than 80 men, women and children.
MARCH 1998	* * * * *
2 March	Albanian demonstrations in Pristina were broken up with batons and tear gas.
3 March	Rugova announced a day of mourning for Drenica dead. Tens of thousands attended the funerals. A number of Albanian demonstrations were held in the coming days.
3 March	First JAT flight from Belgrade to Banja Luka
4 – 5 March	Mr Cook, visited Bosnia and Belgrade.
5 March	Erdemovic's sentence was halved to five years on appeal in The Hague.
9 March	Contact Group met in London to discuss Kosovo. It called on President Milosevic, within ten days, to withdraw special police and commit himself to meaningful dialogue without preconditions; to cooperate with the Contact Group on a number of issues including return of long term OSCE Missions to Kosovo, Sandzak and Vojvodina; to accept a new mission for OSCE representative Gonzalez with a mandate to address Kosovo; to implement the 1996 Education Agreement; and to cooperate with ICTY over Kosovo.
11 – 12 March	Mr Lloyd visited Belgrade and Skopje. President Tudjman's refusal to receive Mr Lloyd and the EU Troika in Zagreb prompted an EU statement on 13 March.

- 13 – 14 March The Western Balkans dominated talks at the EU ministerial meeting in Edinburgh.
- 15 March A Brcko arbitration decision reached: the IEBL was to remain unchanged pending further requests from either party, to be made between 15 November 1998 and 15 January 1999.
- Kosovo LDK elected a 15-person Presidency including Rugova's principal negotiators on the Education Agreement, Dr Fehmet Agani, and Hidayet Hyseni.
- 17 – 18 March Russian Foreign Minister, Yevgeniy Primakov, visited the FRY.
- 18 – 19 March German and French Foreign Ministers, Klaus Kinkel and Hubert Vedrine visited Zagreb and FRY.
- 18 March Serbian police fired on an Albanian demonstration in Pec, killing one.
- 19 – 20 March Serb demonstrations held in various Kosovo towns. There were clashes with Albanian demonstrators in Pristina.
- 19 March End of the Contact Group ten-day deadline.
- 20 March Contact Group met in Brussels.
- 22 March The Kosovar Albanians held elections.
- 23 March Signing of agreement on implementing the 1996 Kosovo Education Agreement.
- Serb demonstrations against the agreement were held in Pristina.
- Granic met EU Troika in London.
- 24 March The new Serbian Government was announced. The SRS gained 15 ministerial posts, including Seselj as deputy Prime Minister. JUL gained five posts.
- 25 March Contact Group met in Bonn. It issued a statement declaring some, but insufficient, progress made towards the 19 March deadlines. Progress was to be re-assessed in a few weeks.
- 26 March PIC Steering Board met in Brussels.
- 27 March OSCE chairman-in-office Bronislaw Geremek visited Belgrade and Pristina.

30 March

Croatian Government published “Procedures for the Return of Persons who have left the Republic”.

The Croatian and BiH Foreign Ministers signed an agreement in Zagreb establishing a bilateral council to include all three BiH Presidents.

31 March

UNSCR 1160 imposed an arms embargo on the FRY. The FRY dinar was officially devalued against the Deutschmark.

APRIL 1998

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2 April

President Milosevic wrote to the Serbian President, Prime Minister and parliamentary speaker proposing a referendum on foreign involvement in Kosovo.

5 – 7 April

President Djukanovic in London.

6 April

Contact Group met in London.

OSCE suspended Srebrenica municipal council. An international representative was to head a provisional council.

8 April

ICTY indictees Mladen Radic and Miroslav Kvočka were detained by SFOR.

11 April

A Bosnian Croat political delegation was in Zagreb for talks with President Tudjman.

13 April

A police station was attacked in Pristina.

14 April

EU/US/OSCE/UNHCR demarche made to Croatian Government on refugee return procedures.

15 April

Two elderly Serb returnees were murdered in Drvar.

16 April

The ICTY detained indictee Zoran Zigic who was in prison in Banja Luka for killing a fellow Serb.

The creation of a new LDK with Rexhep Qosja as chairman and Hidayet Hyseni as deputy was announced.

22 April

The Serbian army (VJ) involved in Kosovo Decani region.

23 April

Serbian referendum on foreign involvement in Kosovo took place. There was a 73.05 per cent turnout; 94.73 per cent voted against.

Shelling occurred in Kosovo. At least 19 Albanians were killed.

Bosnian Cardinal Vinko Puljic and Catholic worshippers were trapped in Derventa church for several hours by a crowd of Serbs.

24 April

The Mayor of Drvar, Mile Marceta, a Serb returnee, was injured as Croat rioters attempted to destroy returnee apartments.

26 April

Serbian deputy Prime Minister Ratko Markovic wrote to Rugova with a new offer of talks, which were subsequently rejected.

27 April

The Croatian Parliament adopted amended refugee return procedures which did not answer EU/US/OSCE/UNHCR concerns.

There was a GAC statement on Kosovo.

28 April

The Banja Luka refugee return conference was held.

29 April

The Contact Group met in Rome. It agreed Belgrade had failed to meet the Group's demands of 9 and 25 March; that Belgrade should issue an invitation to Gonzalez immediately; and that Belgrade and Pristina should agree a framework for dialogue and a stabilisation package including the return of OSCE Missions. If Belgrade complied, the Group would promote a staged path towards FRY's international reintegration. In the meantime, all except Russia agreed an immediate freeze of funds and a threat of an investment ban from 9 May if no progress was made. All members agreed there was a need to secure Kosovo/international frontiers.

30 April

The NAC stated that NATO was considering possible further measures to promote stability in the region of Kosovo.

The Montenegrin public prosecutor brought formal charges against former President Bulatovic for abuse of office.

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2 May

EU Foreign Ministers agreed to boycott the Croatian Refugee Return/Reconstruction Conference unless acceptable return procedures were in place.

3 May

Gojko Susak, Croatian Defence Minister, died.

6 May

NATO requested preliminary military advice on a range of Kosovo measures.

RS President Plavsic was temporarily detained at Vienna airport.

- 8 – 9 May Foreign and Finance Ministers of the Group of Eight (G8) met in London: Britain, America, France, Germany, Italy, EU Commission and Canada, but not Russia, agreed to implement the decision by the Contact Group to freeze funds held abroad by Serbian and FRY Governments and to stop new investments in Serbia.
- 9 – 13 May American special envoys Robert Gelbard and Richard Holbrooke visited Belgrade, Pristina and Bosnia.
- 9 May RS President Plavsic's SNS party launched a branch in Pale.
- 11 May Western European Union (WEU) Summit took place in Rhodes.
- 13 May UNSCR 1166 created a third ICTY chamber.
- 14 May The Croatian Government adopted "mandatory regulations" for administering 27 April refugee return procedures.
- 15 May President Milosevic and Rugova held a meeting, brokered by Mr Holbrooke, in Belgrade. Subsequent meetings between the two leaders' teams are to be held in Pristina.
- Results of FRY Government frequency competition were announced: only one out of 21 radio stations and two out of 17 television stations which are members of the independent Electronic Media Association (ANEM) were successful.
- 16 May During the G8 Summit in Birmingham, the Contact Group met and agreed the proposed investment ban on Serbia should not be put into effect. The next Contact Group meeting would review implementation of the freeze on funding on Serbia and FRY.
- Montenegrin Parliament withdrew mandates from six SNP deputies in the FRY Chamber of Republics on the grounds that they violated Montenegrin law by failing to act in line with republican interests. The mandate was also withdrawn from a former SDA deputy.
- 18 May There was a no-confidence vote in FRY Parliament against Prime Minister Radoje Kotic. The vote called for former Montenegrin President Bulatovic backed by JUL and SRS deputies.
- 19 May President Milosevic nominated Bulatovic for Prime Minister. The Montenegrin Parliament did not recognise the ousting of Kotic because the no confidence vote was passed using the votes of the Montenegrin deputies, whose mandates had been withdrawn on 16 May.

- 20 May FRY Parliament appointed Bulatovic Prime Minister, and he named his government.
- 21 May UNSCR 1168 increased the IPTF by 30 personnel.
- Bosniac caucus walked out of the RS Assembly when the RS constitution was not changed to allow for a Bosniac Assembly vice-president.
- 22 May First meeting in Pristina of the Serb/FRY and Albanian working group took place.
- President Djukanovic visited Moscow.
- 26 May Serbian Parliament passed a slightly amended version of the previously proposed Universities Bill. This prompted larger demonstrations in Belgrade and other towns. Three people were arrested and others were beaten in Belgrade.
- 28 May NATO Foreign Ministers met in Luxembourg: statements on Bosnia and Kosovo endorsed operational planning for SFOR post-June 1998 and decided to enhance PFP operations in Albania and Macedonia.
- BiH Council of Ministers agreed a Privatisation law: the baseline for ownership is 1991, and descendants of war victims inherit the right to take part in privatisation.
- ICTY indictee Milojica Kos detained by SFOR in Banja Luka.
- 31 May In the Montenegrin parliamentary elections there was a 76 per cent turnout (347,985 voters). Final results were announced on 12 June: "For a Better Life" coalition 42 seats (170,080 votes), SNP 29 seats (123,957 votes), Liberal Alliance 5 seats (21,812 votes), Democratic League for Montenegro (Albanian) 1 seat (5,245 votes), Democratic Union of Albanians 1 seat (3,529 votes).
- Municipal elections held in Montenegro.



Background Briefs are available on the FCO web site:
<http://www.fco.gov.uk/>