GENERAL INFORMATION

The situation is aggravating, to say the least. There is continued shelling of several villages in the Drenica-area and the south-west of Kosovo. There have been Serb attacks in Klina, Djakova, Decan, Srbica, Pec, ... . A huge build-up of Serb forces has been reported in Glogovac, along the Suhareka-Orahovac-road and other places, this also increasing the number of IDPs in the region. It has to be said that the Kosovo Liberation Army is moving too. New roads are hastily constructed by the local population, this facilitating the access/way-out both for the UCK and the IDPs. Many fear that this is just the beginning of it all...

The situation in Belgrade is tense too. A new university law (Serbian government will appoint all managing bodies at university and its schools) brought students and citizens to the streets and some of them were brutally beaten by the police. The current crisis with Montenegro only increases this tense situation.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

This has been another eventful week. All four departments have suffered from the fact that it becomes more and more difficult and even impossible to pass checkpoints strategic to our mission in Kosovo.

EMERGENCY TEAM

This week the team started consultations in 2 new places: Nekovac (26/5) and Likoshan (25/5). The fact that both the Nedakovic and the Komoran checkpoints were impossible to pass because of 'unsafe' (reason given at the checkpoint), the team had to use off-roads to get to Likoshan. All this is done in a legal way because at any time they can justify their destination to the police with the routing order they carry with them. The consultation-day in Nekovac is our busiest day so far: 404 consultations. On 27/5 and 28/5 other field-trips were foreseen, but the checkpoints could not be passed, this making it impossible to carry out our mission in the Drenica-area.

MEDICAL TEAM

Distributions were carried out in Hade (25/5), Podujevo (27/5) and Mitrovica (29/5) (all to Mother Theresa-ambulantas). On 25/5 we had planned a distribution in Glogovac and Srbica, but the Komoran-checkpoint could not be passed ('unsafe'), this blocking our normal drugsdistribution in a part of the Drenica-area. A convoy together with PSF (26/5) to Pec and Decan via Montenegro had to be canceled due to a very regretful lack of information from our headquarters in Brussels. This is truly a missed opportunity to bring drugs to the Mother Theresa-ambulantas of that particularly hard-hit part of Kosovo, PSF being our carte de
visites' since they had official structures to distribute to, this causing far less problems at the checkpoints. On 28/5 a distribution was foreseen to Djakova Mother Theresa ambulanta. After having spent several hours at the checkpoint and the police-station, it was announced that we could not distribute to Mother Theresa because of administrative problems and the distribution had to be made to the hospital of Djakova. Because the person in charge of the pharmacy was absent, it was decided to leave the goods at the collective center to a doctor who works both at the collective center and the hospital. He told us that the next day he would transfer everything to the hospital, for which we have no real guarantees.

VACCINATION TEAM

A training on cold chain management was carried out in the Health-house of Mitrovica. Further editing was done on the survey-report and a leaflet for mothers about vaccination is being prepared. Monitoring visits to Glogovac and Srbica had to be canceled because it was impossible to pass the Nedakovc checkpoint.

WATER AND SANITATION TEAM

Because of the unsafe situation one project is on stand-by, but the others are going smoothly.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT

Mattresses, identification cards (medical team) and a photocopier have been purchased. No real problems.

LOGISTICS DEPARTMENT

Problems have occurred with the order that will hopefully arrive next week. To my utter amazement, the order of oral and injectable drugs that was sent to Brussels almost 3 months ago, has even not been purchased in Brussels and will, because of that not reach us within a period of at least 3 more weeks.

MEETINGS, PRESS AND EMBASSIES

- UNHCR (Security meeting), WHO (Health coordination meeting), IRC (Insulin donation)
- Le Monde, BBC
- Austrian embassy (info about official health-staff in Kosovo)