1. SECURITY

Since two days there is quite, probably due to the weather conditions (cloudy and rainy). There are rumors for snipers in the buildings who are getting active at night. This is not confirmed by our team. But it is a fact that in the night in the hospital the staff put blankets on the windows in order not to have clear view. Also the doctors report wounded persons by snipers in the city.

The journalist are moving without restrictions with their cars in the broad area.

The directions towards Prizren and Pec seems passable without the need of special permissions.

The general feeling is a superficial slackness. From our side we follow a strict protocol of security.

2. POLITICAL SITUATION-GENERAL INFORMATION

In the direction that the team followed from Presevo to Pristina (~110Km) they saw a few brunt houses (approximately 20).

The villages are not deserted. There is a slow but normal activity. The team can not report with exact figures the number of the Albanian and Serbian in these areas, but it's certain that exists an important percentage of Albanians (it was noticed by the costumes etc.).

The picture of armed Serbian police moving around from one side and Albanian farm-workers from the other side going to their fields, was very characteristic.

The situation is complicated. There are signs of violence but also sings of coexistence. Also, in this direction-axes there are not signs of massive bombardments. In Pristina the ordinary life is normal and there are not basic deficiencies.

There is a complete partition between Albanians and Serbians (there are not mixed groups of people). Even though the feeling of coexistence of the two parts in the city exists.

The team met Resist Debre, who had just returned from Prizren and Pec and Victor Loupan, who is journalist of the French journal "Figaro". They mentioned that the situation on the axes of Pec and Prizren is completely different. The villages are burnt down, the refugees are moving but none of the refugees' convoys is being escorted by police or military. According to the above persons there are not indications of massive exterminations.

The murder of Agani -important Member of Republic Part- that can be related to the recent departure of Rougova and/or to the recent diplomatic activities, creates a severe sense.

In the discussion with Serbians you can get the feeling that they believe by certain that something will change soon but can not define what!

3. HEALTH SITUATION

Pristina hospital operates as peripheral hospital that practically covers the needs of entire Kossovo area till the borders of Albania. Odysseas mentioned that at the time they were in the hospital, admissions took place of heavily wounded persons coming from Kossovo-Albania borders. In this hospital urgent and war-surgical cases are treated. The surgical treatment (e.g. vascular and orthopedics surgery) is high level.
Almost all Albanians staff left the hospital, but according to Serbians they still coming back to get their basic salary.

The admissions has a periodical character. Since the beginning of the bombardments 800 surgical operations had took place, that means 20 operations per day. There is a preparation plan of the hospital for massive admission of wounded persons. It is reported that in the first days of bombardments they had until 80 surgical operations (minor, intermediate and severe surgical cases) per 24 hours.

The Surgical Unit of the hospital was organized in a way that 16 surgeries can be occurred in 16 operational theaters at the same time. In full function and preparation are Surgery Unit, Gynecological/OBSTetrician Unit and Pediatric Unit.

The bed-occupancy is estimated between 30-40% in the above units. It is mentioned that the 40% of the patients are Albanians (this was confirmed also by our team). It is a matter basically of children and women, but men also. Many doctors are staying in the hospital 24 hours. In general, there is not lack of Doctors and Nursing Staff.

The hospital does not have basic deficiencies and despite the electricity black-out's and water cuts, the basic needs are covered (generators exist). The essential problem is drug and medical supplies provision. This problem exists due to the difficulties of transportation (demolished bridges, convoy attacks) and also due to the damages of the chemical and pharmaceutical industrials.

The only humanitarian aid that has reached in Pristina has been delivered from Greece (government and NGOs such as European Perspective and MDM-Greece, that are financed by Greek Government). The Yugoslavian Red Cross is trying to monopolize the drug distribution, but this is under further investigation, because it seems it_s not either strict or clear.

4. PLAN OF ACTIONS

According to the schedule and the protocol of the secure transportation of our team, they left for Belgrade this morning at 08:00 p.m. (local time). The communication is under the plan we have settled and is very often.

In Belgrade they will stay for 3 days (9-10-11/5/99) in order to observe and explore the situation in this area also.

For contacts with journalists and media in general you will be informed by Shopia Ioannou/Press Officer. Our press line is stable: assessment of medical needs in Pristina and Belgrade and our effort to stabilize a safe and free access to these areas for provision of humanitarian aid to the affected populations.

As we have already mentioned in previous sitrep's, if you need further infos please contact MSF-Athens office. Next sitrep will be sent tomorrow afternoon.

Antypas Tzanetos
Project Responsible