

## Underbilag a til bilag 1

## Ad svaret på spørgsmål 88

**HUMANITARIAN ISSUES  
WORKING GROUP**  
Geneva, 6 April 1999

Distr.  
RESTRICTED  
HIWG/99/2

2 April 1999

Original: ENGLISH

**The Kosovo emergency: Assistance and protection to those displaced by the crisis****I. INTRODUCTION**

1. The present document is intended to summarize the evolution of the emergency situation resulting from the crisis in Kosovo. It focuses on the capacity of the United Nations and its partners to respond to urgent humanitarian needs and seeks support for the international humanitarian relief effort. It should therefore be read in conjunction with the »United Nations Inter-Agency Donor Alert for the Urgent Needs related to the Kosovo Crisis in the Region,« which will be made available to HIWG participants in time for the meeting. The present document also makes recommendations to States regarding the reception and treatment of those fleeing the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

**II. THE HUMANITARIAN CONTEXT**

2. The recent crisis in the Serbian province of Kosovo has evolved from clashes between Serbian security forces and the »Kosovo Liberation Army« (KLA) in late February 1998. Low-level violence had led to the displacement of some 20,000 people by May 1998. Through the summer months of 1998, the clashes escalated rapidly and, by September, there were an estimated 175,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Kosovo, added to growing numbers of displaced persons and refugees in other parts of Serbia and in the Republic of Montenegro, and the flight of refugees into Albania. The former Yugoslav Re-

public of Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and neighbouring countries, as well as Member States of the European Union. Since early 1998, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has been coordinating the humanitarian relief efforts in Kosovo province of the United Nations system, notably WFP, WHO and UNICEF, and many nongovernmental partners. In this effort, it has cooperated closely with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's (OSCE) Kosovo Verification Mission (KVM), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC), as well as the Yugoslav Red Cross. These efforts saved many lives and alleviated the suffering of those displaced by the conflict. UNHCR and its partners provided protection and humanitarian assistance within an increasingly difficult security environment and drew attention to the need for a peaceful political solution which would eradicate the root causes of the unfolding humanitarian emergency.

3. The Holbrooke-Milosevic accord of 13 October 1998, followed by the agreements between the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the OSCE, on one hand, and NATO on the other, brought a temporary lull in the fighting. The deployment of the 1,300-member OSCE Kosovo Verification Mission and the withdrawal of Serbian/Yugoslav security forces instilled a measure of confidence that a cease-