

Yugoslavia releases U.N. workers

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia (AP) — Three U.N. employees who had been detained and held in Yugoslavia were released yesterday — two days after their disappearance raised questions about whether Yugoslavia was violating the terms of the Kosovo peace agreement.

U.N. spokesperson Susan Manuel said Andre Teles of Portugal, Gordon Cimiratic of Australia and Kosovo Serb Dejan Santic drove to a Danish army checkpoint last night and were en route to their base in the Kosovo city of Kosovska Mitrovica.

The men disappeared Monday while looking for a site for a communications-relay station in the mountains of northwestern Kosovo, about 15 miles from the province's border with the rest of Serbia.

The United Nations said they were taken to a Serbian town outside Kosovo by Yugoslavs — raising questions about why they were arrested and under whose authority, since Kosovo is under U.N. and NATO control.

Detention inside Kosovo by Yugoslav units would be a major violation of the June peace agreement that ended the 18-month Serb crackdown on ethnic Albanian separatists and the 78-day NATO bombing campaign against Yugoslavia.

Under the agreement, all Yugoslav forces were to leave Kosovo — a province of Serbia, the dominant republic in the Yugoslav federation — and turn the province over to the United Nations and a NATO-led peacekeeping force called KFOR.

Manuel said U.N. officials had not spoken with the three employees since the Danes reported their presence and the mission has no idea about the circumstances of their detention.

The latest incident occurred at a time of rising tensions between Kosovo's minority Serbs and NATO-led peacekeepers. Serbs accuse peacekeepers of failing to protect them against attacks from the ethnic Albanian majority.

Thousands of ethnic Albanians were killed by Serb forces during Yugoslav President Slobodan

Milosevic's 18-month crackdown. But after NATO bombing forced the Serb troops to withdraw, ethnic Albanians began attacking Serbs in revenge.

On Tuesday, unknown attackers fired two rocket-propelled grenades into a crowded Serb market in Kosovo Polje, killing three Serbs and injuring dozens. In response, Serbs have barricaded the main east-west highway across the province for the past two days.

Heavily armed British troops swarmed through Kosovo Polje yesterday in an effort to reassure Serbs. Troops prevented ethnic Albanians from approaching the barricade.

Eager to prevent a dangerous escalation of ethnic tension, chief U.N. administrator, Bernard Kouchner visited victims of the attack yesterday in a small clinic in Kosovo Polje.

Kouchner said the United Nations and NATO must do more to curb ethnic violence.

"This outrageous act against innocent civilians puts in danger all efforts at democracy in Kosovo," Kouchner said.

Mac attack



Matt Johnson (left), a senior management and information major, tests out the new Macintosh G4 computer during a practice in Rudder Tower.

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