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Kiro GLIGOROV
(Phonetic: GLEEGoroff)

MACEDONIA

President (since January 1991)

Addressed as: Mr. President



Kiro Gligorov, a respected elder statesman and reformer, has consistently worked to balance competing forces in his republic and throughout the Balkans. [redacted] describe him as a "wise old fox" who has impressed them with his sense of strategy and command of details. Gligorov is overseeing his republic's campaign to win international recognition. He has expressed extreme disappointment with the EC's decision to support Greek objections to the name

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"Macedonia." [redacted] have told [redacted] that, despite Macedonia's great economic need, Gligorov has refused a private offer by Greek officials of \$100 million in aid on the condition that the name be changed. The President has said that Greek demands are irrational and that Macedonia will never accept them, [redacted] He emphasizes that the republic has furnished enough proof that it has no territorial ambitions toward Greece or any other country. [redacted]

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Gligorov has attempted to maintain communication with other leaders of the former Yugoslavia but has rejected attempts by Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic to get him to form an association with the Serbian-dominated Yugoslav rump state. He mistrusts Milosevic and holds him and Croatian President Franjo Tudjman responsible for the Yugoslav crisis. [redacted] However, Gligorov is attracted to "Yugoslav" Prime Minister Milan Panic's plan for a Balkan economic union, (which Gligorov believes should encompass Greece and Turkey). In a late October 1992 meeting with Panic, Gligorov agreed that the "Yugoslav" and Macedonian governments should quickly move to adopt measures of mutual recognition. Gligorov has had a close relationship with Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic and has said that in the past they had been in frequent contact.

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Working to Maintain Democracy

The President has stated that he wants to remain in politics until democracy takes a firm hold—a goal that is threatened by continuing friction between the large ethnic Albanian minority and the ultranationalist Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization - Democratic Party of Macedonian National Unity (VMRO-DPMNU). Beginning with the wording of Macedonia's new Constitution, adopted in November 1991, Gligorov has tried to balance ethnic tensions by emphasizing the rights of individual citizens rather than those of nationalities. Most moderate ethnic Albanian leaders say that they have confidence in Gligorov—a leader of the Social Democratic Alliance (former Communists)—but they allege that the government is insensitive to Albanian concerns. Some of the more radical ethnic Albanian leaders have publicly stated that they would like to attach regions of Macedonia consisting mostly of Albanians to a new republic of Kosovo.

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LDA M 92-15275

Classified by: [redacted]
Declassify OADR
Derived From: Multiple



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The ethnic Albanian parties, along with social democrats and liberals, are represented in the current coalition government that was formed in August under Prime Minister Branko Crvenkovski (30), who is a relative political novice. We believe that Gligorov's moderating influence is an important factor in keeping this fragile grouping together. Gligorov is the republic's most popular politician, [Redacted]

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Gligorov's cautious approach throughout the Yugoslav crisis has extended to his treatment of VMRO-DPMNU, which is currently the largest single party in parliament. To thwart the radicals, he has worked vigorously to establish ties to Macedonia's neighbors; he has held talks with Bulgarian officials and has invited Albanian officials to visit Macedonia. The President has also sought political support from senior government officials in several other countries, including the United States, Britain, Belgium, France, and Turkey. [Redacted]

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Career and Personal Data

Gligorov was born on 3 May 1917; he is a native of Macedonia. He holds a degree from the Law Faculty of the University of Belgrade. He has spent most of his career in government service at the federal level. Between 1956 and 1969 he served successively as Federal Secretary for Finance and for general economic affairs and as Vice President of the Federal Executive Council (FEC), Yugoslavia's cabinet. Elected to the Presidium of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia (LCY) in 1969, he was a member of the policymaking Executive Bureau of that body until 1974, when he became President of the Federal Assembly. In 1978 Gligorov was abruptly dropped from his government and party position, although he remained a member of the LCY Central Committee until 1982. His political eclipse at that time was never explained, but many observers have speculated that he had somehow antagonized then President Josip Broz Tito. After Tito's death in 1980, Gligorov reemerged as an economic commentator. He became former Federal Premier Ante Markovic's chief economic adviser and as such was appointed in 1989 to the FEC's five-member Council of Economic Advisers, where he wrote Yugoslavia's economic reform program. [Redacted]

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Gligorov has visited the United States several times. He speaks French and English. Married, he has three children, one of whom is on the faculty of a university in Belgrade. [Redacted]

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6 November 1992

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