

Russia rejects U.N. Serbia's Kosovo report

by UPI

MOSCOW - Russia disparaged a report, which was to be given to the U.N. Security Council, regarding a U.N. mission to Serbia's mainly ethnic-Albanian Kosovo province. Alexander Botsan-Kharchenko, Russian Foreign Ministry's envoy specializing in the Balkans, said the U.N. mission report didn't reflect the true situation in Kosovo, the Russian news agency Interfax reported Wednesday. Botsan-Kharchenko, former Moscow's envoy who helped mediate talks on the future status of Kosovo, said Russia didn't like the U.N. report and claimed it presented a biased picture of the situation in the province. The U.N. Security Council has it one its agenda to discuss the U.N. mission report on Kosovo. Formally still Serbia's province, Kosovo has been U.N.-governed since 1999, when NATO troops were deployed to contain ethnic Albanian-Serb conflicts. After Serb-ethnic Albanian talks failed to yield any result, the Serbian government in Belgrade, supported by Moscow, has opposed a plan by the European Union to send a 1,800-person security mission to Kosovo to replace the U.N. administration in coming months. Kosovo Albanian leaders plan to declare in coming weeks unilateral independence from Serbia, while Belgrade make every effort to keep Kosovo as integral part of Serbia.

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