

Serbia: Supervised autonomy for Kosovo

by UPI

BELGRADE, Serbia - The head of a U.N. mission said Belgrade suggested supervised autonomy as a solution to the political future of Serbia's ethnic-Albanian Kosovo province.

Belgian Ambassador to the United Nations Johan Verbeke told reporters in Belgrade Thursday that Serbian leaders advised him a U.N. plan giving Kosovo internationally supervised independence could be replaced with "supervised autonomy," Serbia's RTS radio-television said.

Verbeke said Serbian Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica gave him a written document to take to the U.N. Security Council for consideration before a decision is made.

After having talks in Belgrade, the U.N. mission is to travel to the Kosovo capital Pristina Friday to collect more information about the Serb-Albanian issue.

The Serbian government in Belgrade, representing 100,000 Serbs living in Kosovo, flatly rejects a U.N. plan on Kosovo's future independence from Serbia, while leaders of ethnic-Albanians who make up 90 percent of Kosovo's population of 1.8 million insist on independence.

Formally still Serbia's province, Kosovo has been the U.N. administered territory since 1999, when NATO protection troops were deployed to contain ethnic conflicts.

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