

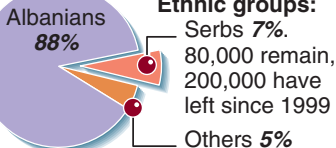
Kosovo independence plan

A proposal by UN negotiator Martti Ahtisaari would remove the majority Albanian province from Serbian sovereignty and set it on the road to independence, but ensure significant autonomy for Serbs living there. Serbia insists it must retain sovereignty



KOSOVO Pop: 1.9m (2002)

Ethnic groups:



KEY POINTS OF UN PLAN

- ▶ Kosovo to have right to enter into international agreements and apply for membership of international organisations and institutions such as UN, IMF and World Bank
- ▶ Kosovo to take on share of both economic assets and debts that once belonged to Serbia
- ▶ Plan urges Pristina to establish good relations with Serbia and other neighbouring states, and permit right to "dual-citizenship"

▶ Protection zones set up around Serb Orthodox religious sites

▶ Minority Serb areas to have broad control over local policing, and right to certain direct links with Belgrade. Serbia could finance Serb areas

▶ Kosovo to be under supervision of EU mission with powers to scrap laws and dismiss local officials

If Russia does not veto, UN resolution endorsing final agreement could come by mid-2007, freeing individual states to recognise Europe's newest country