

RACVIAC Newsletter

REGIONAL ARMS CONTROL VERIFICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION ASSISTANCE CENTRE

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7th MAG Meeting

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50 representatives from 19 countries met in Ljubljana, Slovenia, from Tuesday 8 to Thursday 10 April 2003, for the seventh meeting of the Multinational Advisory Group. (MAG). Also present at the meeting were Ambassador Vladimir DROBNJAK and Mr Stewart HENDERSON, the Chairman and Director of Working Table III of the Stability Pact, as well as first time observers from Canada, Spain and Moldova. The Meeting was chaired by the current Chairperson, Brigadier General Marjan GRABNAR, Head of the Verification Centre of the Republic of Slovenia.

Major topics discussed during the meeting were: ? RACVIAC's Medium Term Strategy - 2003 to 2006

- ? Financing of RACVIAC after 2003
- ? The Principles for Provision of Personnel to RACVIAC



The representatives of the countries discussed refocusing RACVIAC's activities. They envisage RACVIAC redirecting and steadily concentrating its activities towards providing a regional forum for even more comprehensive discussions on politico-military issues as a facilitator and stimulator of regional

co-operation in its sphere. Regarding Arms Control training, RACVIAC will continue facilitating and assisting countries in the region to fulfil their implementation commitments. This should be accomplished in co-operation and co-ordination with relevant international organizations and institutions in order to achieve synergetic results, to avoid duplication and to invest means economically.

The challenges ahead of RACVIAC are to ensure that the staff has the necessary capability and experience to undertake and tackle also the new focus of RACVIAC's future task, while sustaining the multinational structure of RACVIAC. Other challenges are intensifying regional ownership and securing a broader financial basis for 2004 and beyond, to put RACVIACs future activities on a solid basis.

A Press Conference was held on Thursday 10 April 2003. State Secretary Milan JAZBEC from the Slovenian Ministry of Defence, hosted a reception in the MOD on Thursday 10 April 2003. During the meeting it was confirmed that Brigadier General Suleyman CANPOLAT from Turkey would take over the Chair on completion of the next MAG Meeting in Zagreb, 22-24 September 2003.

Brigadier General LIPIC, Chief of Slovenian General Staff hosted dinner for the MAG Representatives on 9 April 2003.

7th Meeting of SP - Working Table III

The seventh meeting of the Working Table on Security Issues (Working Table III) took place in Cavtat on 26 May. The Chair, Ambassador Vladimir Drobnjak, opened the session.

During this meeting it was stated that the importance of the Sub-Table on Security and Defence is sometimes underestimated as the threat of interstate hostilities in the region is now extremely remote. However, traditional national security is only one element of the approach this Sub-table takes towards security and defence issues. Security Sector Reform, SALW, the continuing problems of antipersonnel land mines, military downsizing, fostering security dialogues, assisting civil-military cooperation, and

effective border security and management are all of considerable and continuing importance.

Participants recognized the improved security environment in the region, though many stressed the continued importance of this Sub-table for the overall work of the Stability Pact.

Brigadier General Johann PUCHER, the Director of RACVIAC informed representatives about RACVIAC's activities in 2002 and in the first half of 2003 according to the annual programme and stated that Canada, Spain, Norway and Moldova have received observer status in the Multinational Advisory Group (MAG).

RACVIAC and SEESAC sign Memorandum of Understanding

On 7 May 2003, RACVIAC and SEESAC (South Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons) formally signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two organisations. This event took place at the end of RACVIAC's Seminar on "SALW – A year after implementation of the Stability Pact's Plan, which took place from 5 – 8 May 2003. The uncontrolled proliferation and illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons (SALW) is a serious problem in South Eastern Europe. SALW proliferation has fuelled crime

PEOPLE IN RACVIAC

Lieutenant Colonel Istvan DOMJAN left the staff on 1 February 2003, and was replaced by Lieutenant Colonel Albert TAMAS. Albert joined us from the Hungarian Verification Agency and has brought with him a wealth of knowledge regarding all Arms Control matters. He is working in the Training and Verification Division as a Course Director. He is by trade an Air Defence Systems Engineer Officer.

On 20 July 2003, Major Vasilis KLIFOPOU-LOS will leave RACVIAC to return to Greece and to take up his new post SO Staff Officer in NATO Defense Command/G2/PLANS in Thessaloniki Vasilis joined RACVIAC in November 2000, and has worked as a Course Director in Training and Verification Division, mainly responsible for running the Dayton Courses. He will be missed. His successor, Major ILIOPOULOS, arrives later this month.

Training and Verification Division and RAC-VIAC also said farewell to Lieutenant Colonel Hristo PARUSHEV, who returned to Bulgaria in June. Hristo was responsible for the coordination and running of the Aerial Observation Courses, where his experience and knowledge of Open Skies was put to very good use. His successor is Lieutenant Colonel Nikolay VELICHKOV, who joined us from Operations department of Bulgaria's Arms Control Agency.

and insecurity, exacerbating conflict in the region and undermining post- conflict peace-building. Problems related to SALW are likely to pose a serious constraint to economic and social development in South Eastern Europe.

This MOU aims to establish effective co-operation between the two organisations, with a view to enhancing international efforts for reducing small arms and light weapons proliferation, and potential legislation imple mentation mechanisms for violence, including illegal trafficking of weapons. fields of co-The operation shall be: information exchange,



public awareness and promotion of dialogue, regional seminars, workshops and training, capacity building, and regional harmonization of legislation including arms export

The Memorandum of Understanding was signed by **Brigadier General Johann PUCHER**, Director RACVIAC and **Adrian WILKINSON**, Team Leader SEESAC.

SEESAC was launched on 8 May 2002 in Belgrade. SEESAC is a component of the Regional Implementation Plan on Combating the Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons formulated and adopted by the Stability Pact in November 2001, with the aims of stopping the flow and availability of SALW in the region, consolidating achievements so far and supporting the socio-economic conditions for peace and development in South East Europe.

RACVIAC Staff visit "Centre Stancic"

On 17 May 2003, 6 members of RACVIAC staff visited the STANCIC Centre for work therapy and rehabilitation, to make a small donation of fans to the Centre.

The STANCIC Centre, near Dugo Selo, was established in 1955 as a relocated department from the





biggest Croatian Psychiatric Hospital – Vrapce in Zagreb. The Centre accommodates 430 clients with the most severe forms of mental retardation and other associated disorders (e.g. cerebral palsy, epilepsy etc). The clients range from 8 to 68 years in age, although the majority of clients are adults.

The Centre employs 290 staff and offers to the moderate, gravely and deeply mentally retarded persons service of accommodation, residence, nourishment, nursing and health care, medical and psychosocial rehabilitation, an educational foundation, work therapy and organised spare time activities.

The whole institution consists of 10 residential units with 400 clients and two small homes with 16 clients. The centre offers the following services:

- 1. Education and Dwelling Culture
- 2. Work therapy and rehabilitation
- 3. Education and Elementary schooling in accordance with special needs programmes
- 4. Nursing and Health Care
- 5. Administrative service/account-keeping
- 6. Nourishment/technical service.

We are sure that RACVIAC will continue to find ways to support and assist this very worthwhile Centre.

German Guards stay at RACVIAC

As part of their annual political education, Officers and NCO's of the 6th Company Guards Battalion of the Deutsch Bundeswehr visited Croatia from 26 to 31 January 2003. RACVIAC and the Zagreb office of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation supported this visit. The aims of the visit were to enhance their knowledge of arms control matters, to learn about the special political, economical, and military problems of a transition country, and to get a deeper cultural insight into a foreign country.

Croatia was chosen, because it has close economical links with Germany and some 35 percent of the Croatian population have developed close links by working in Germany, living there as refugees during the War of Independence, or simply by learning the German language in Kindergarten and at school.



Visits to RACVIAC 2003

14 Jan — HE Ambassador Dennis SNIDER,

Canadian Ambassador to Croatia

- 14 16 Jan Delegation from NATO-School Oberammergau
- 5 Feb Mrs. Corinne BRUNON-MEUNIER
 (Head Directorate Defence Military Cooperation;FR/MFA) and Mr Hugues de
 PERETTI de la ROCCA (Coordinator for SEE;FR/MFA)
- 17 Feb Dr. Dieter OSE (Head of Academic Research Branch; NATO Defence College) and Mr. Cees COOPS (Research Adviser; NATO Defence College)
- 24 Feb Major General Tuši ZEHEDIN, Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Army of FYR of Macedonia
- 28 Feb Mrs. Jelena GRCIC POLIC, Assistant Minister of Defence (CROATIA)
- 12 Mar Lt Col J.H.SCHABERG, Defence Attache, Royal Netherlands Embassy Zagreb
 - Lt Col SCHULZ, Defence Attache, German Embassy Zagreb
- 13 Mar Mr Dennis BRENNAN, SEESAC
- 25 Mar Colonel Shay DUFFY, DCAF Geneva
- 28 Mar Croatian MOD presentation of SPECTRA Programme
- 11 Apr Colonel Mike SIMONE, DTRA
- 15 Apr Mr Mervyn HARVEY, MOD UK

During the visit the participants received briefings about the following subjects:

- · Tasks of RACVIAC,
- · Arms control treaties with special focus on Day ton Article IV,
- · Croatian Armed Forces and their deployment during the War of Independence,
- · Economical and Political Situation of Croatia.

English Conversation Course

The English Course concerning Arms Control Agreements terminology was the 4th in the series of RACVIAC's scheduled Language Training Courses. It was conducted from 3rd to 14th February 2003, at RACVIAC's facilities in Rakitje.

The main objective was to increase the students' self-confidence in the English language based on both general vocabulary and Arms Control Agreements terminology. An important feature of the Language Training Course is the opportunity to host participants from all interested countries and to foster a unique cooperative and friendly spirit among them.

The Course was held after the three previous language courses had been judged successful.

A total of 23 participants from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, FYR of Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro and Slovenia attended the course. The Course was conducted with the assistance of two Croatian University professors and two English language teachers from the Slovenian Military school for foreign languages.

DAYTON Art.IV – Arms Control Implementation Inspector/Escort Course

The T2 Training Course was the 1st joint Course with NATO School, Oberammergau on the DAYTON Art.IV. It was conducted from 24 February to 7 March 2003 in two phases: Theoretical phase (1st week) in Oberammergau/Germany at the NATO School SHAPE and the Practical phase (2nd week) in Croatia.

The aim of the course was to prepare individuals to perform duties as inspectors and/or escorts in accordance with the verification regime of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Annex 1B, Article II and IV.

Twenty-one participants attended the course (BA, HR, S&M, RACVIAC Staff), and another five participants in the role of assistants from OSCE mem-



ber-nations (BE, FR, IT, UK and US).

NATO School hosted nine lecturers from: Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, OSCE, OSCE/DSC, SHAPE and United States.



The Course was conducted in English with simultaneous interpretation into the Croatian language. The 1st phase (24 - 28 February) was a combination of lectures and syndicate work on the content of the DAYTON IV, CFE and VD99 Agreement and on the accomplishment of the mission planning. The 2nd

phase (3 - 7 March) was a training inspection on declared sites Jastrebarsko and Bjelovar, Croatia. During the 2nd week of the Training Course the class was divided in two teams who acted both as Inspection and Escort Teams, in two completely different locations. They planned and organized the whole mission's plan according to their duties (Inspectors/Escorts). Finally they accomplished the debriefing and the conclusion of the Training inspection.

Seminar on "The CFE Treaty: a glance from the SEE region perspective"

RACVIAC's Seminar 01/203, took place in Rakitje, from 17-21 February 2003. The aim of this seminar was to jointly analyse the role of CFE Treaty, with particular reference to the region, in increasing transparency and co-operation, and improving the level of stability in the subject area and examining the added value gained by possible accession to the adapted CFE Treaty.

Regarding further similar Arms Control activities in RACVIAC, the participants suggested to run seminars on the Adapted CFE for preparations of the countries in the region in order to accede to the Treaty, as soon as it has entered into force. Participants from the countries concerned, expressed positive intentions of their countries to accede to the Adapted CFE Treaty.

SALW - A year after implementation of the Stability Pact's Plan

RACVIAC held its second Seminar on SALW, from 4 to 7 May 2003. The seminar aimed to assess the progress and the recent implementation efforts of

the Stability
Pact Implementation
Plan, made so
far in the SEE
region and to
discuss ways
by which this
plan could be



implemented even more effectively.

11 countries (AL, BA, DE, FR, HR, MK, PO, S&M, SI, TR and UK) and 3 international organisations (SFOR, SEESAC and SECI Centre) took part. Ambassador Tihomir ILIEVSKI from MK, delivered a very informative keynote speech on "Requirements, obligations, and responsibilities derived from the OSCE Document on SALW, the Stability Pact Regional Implementation Plan and the UN Firearms Protocol for the countries in SEE".

Mr Adrian WILKINSON, Team Leader of

SEESAC lectured on "The relevance of the Stability Pact Implementation Plan for the region". Other lecturers were Mr Simon RYNN representative of SAF-ERWORLD, and Ms Kate JOSPH, one of the main OSCE's experts on SALW.

National Coordinators for SALW from AL, BA, HR, S&M each gave a short lecture on "Lessons learned and efforts made by the countries from the region a year after implementation of the SP Regional Implementation Plan".

Terrorism, a threat to stability in the region

RACVIAC Seminar 02/2003 - "Terrorism, a threat to stability in the region" took place from 30 March to 3 April 2003 and was carried out in Istanbul, Turkey.

Turkey, as a R A C V I A C member country, hosted the seminar with 46 partic ipants from 14 countries and 6 or ganizations. Turkish General Staff allocated the facilities of



Harbiye Officer Club to accommodate the participants and Military Museum as a seminar venue. Thanks to generous support of Turkish Airlines, RACVIAC was enabled to host a bigger number of participants than our premises would have permitted, without additional expenses. Hospitality given by Turkey was an excellent example of RACVIAC's regional ownership.

The aim of this seminar was to comprehend the basic problems of contemporary terrorism, especially in the region of South-Eastern Europe and to give a realistic base for shaping and developing the most effective strategy for its prevention and elimination.

The objectives of this seminar were as follows:

- 1. To share with participants information on :
 - · History of the terrorism ; Impact of the terrorism on a region ; · Lessons learned; · Relations between terrorist activities and illicit trafficking
- To examine the possible role of Civil society, Military and security forces, Governmental and non-governmental organisations, Arms Control and Disarmament agreements
- 3. To identify practical methods in coping with terrorism: How to better co-ordinate dedicated national structures; What kind of co-operation can be done; What kind of CSBMs can be created
- 4. To highlight the role of civil rights

Joint NATO Defence College/RACVIAC Seminar "Security and Defence Reform in Central and SE Europe

The International Research Seminar brought together participants from PfP countries, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia and Montenegro with NATO participants for an exchange of views on security issues. RACVIAC provided full support to NATO's organisation of the seminar.

The lecturers came from NATO countries, SEE countries and international organizations and institutions. The main subjects for lectures and discussions were the requirements for security sector reform, parliamentary oversight and the role of the media, main parameters in defence reform efforts, democratic control of armed forces and defence restructuring. Parallel workshops discussed defence capability aspects and the role of the media and the public opinion in more detail. A third session dealt with the subject "The Future for Multilateral Security Co-operation in Southeast Europe".

Over 70 Participants from the abovementioned countries and organizations attended this seminar that brought together leading experts and researchers for a frank and mutual beneficial exchange of views between military and civilian professionals.

Finally and perhaps even more important was the active participation from countries aspiring to enter the Euro-Atlantic security architecture. For them, discussing security and defence reform undoubtedly deepened knowledge about the Alliance, its partners and helped them on the road to further integration.

Organisation of a Visit to an Air Base

The Training Course T-3, titled "Organisation of a Visit to an Air Base", was this year's scheduled Training Course related to the Vienna Document 1999 (VD99). The Course was conducted from 15 to 17 April 2003 in two phases: the first, theoretical one in Rakitje and the second, practical part at the Air Base of Pula.



The aim of this Course was to provide partic ipants with a theoretical overview of the Chapter IV (Contacts) of the VD99 and to make a comprehensive

analysis at both theoretical and practical levels of the organisation of a visit to an Air Base. Due to the rotation of personnel in the Verification Units, it has been suggested that this Course be carried out at least once in a year.

Altogether fourteen participants attended the Course from: Albania, Austria, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, FYR of Macedonia, Serbia & Montenegro and Slovenia.

Lecturers came from Hungary and the United Kingdom to assist the Course in providing theoretical skills, while the staff personnel from the Air Base of Pula provided the practical demonstration of the entire process of the activity. The first phase included a comprehensive overview of the historical background of the CSBMs and particularly the Vienna Document and an analysis of the specific chapter IV of that. The second phase was a practical demonstration of the activity. The Croatian Ministry of Defence and its Verification Unit provided full support and assisted RAC-VIAC in the organizational phase.

The Impact of Disasters on the Security Environment in South Eastern Europe

RACVIAC held a seminar on "The Impact of Disasters on the Security Environment in South Eastern Europe (SEE) – Regional Efforts", in Rakitje between 10 - 12 March 2003. This activity was con-



ducted in co-operation with Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative (DPPI) of the Stability Pact for South-East Europe.

The aim of the seminar was to provide a forum for discussions regarding disaster management.

Participants from Al, BA, BL, GR, HR, HU MK, RO, SI, S&M, TR and OSCE took part in this seminar. Lectures were given by representatives from various international organisations (United Nations

"RACVIAC is one of our major success stories since it provides a superb and cost effective forum within the region for dialogue, cooperation and confidence building in South Eastern Europe"

Ambassador Vladimir Drobnjak, Chairman of the Sub-Table III of the Stability Pact, gave the Keynote speech. Development Programme, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent, Stability Pact-DPPI).

Participants suggested that RACVIAC should further explore activities with regard to disaster management with focus on CIV-MIL relations in SEE. They also made proposals regarding future initiatives. Together with UNDP it was agreed that RACVIAC's next seminar, which will take place from 8 to 9 July, should focus on use of military and civil defence assets in disaster relief (known as Oslo Guidelines).

Aerial Observation Course

RACVIAC's T-4 Course was an Aerial Observation Course based on the provisions of the Treaty on Open Skies (OS) organised in close cooperation with Verification Centres of Serbia and Montenegro, Romania and Germany as an advanced one for participants, who have already attended previous Aerial Observation Basic Course or have certain knowledge about the Treaty.

The Course was carried out from 1 to 7 June 2003 in Belgrade using the facilities of Air Force Command and Airbase Batajnica. The support from MOD and MFA



of Serbia and Montenegro in organising and implementing this activity was significant. The Course enjoyed the presence of the Deputy Defence Minister and other high representatives from MOD of S&M. The Deputy Minister officially announced that S&M will make all necessary steps to become State Party to the Treaty of Open Skies in the near future and results achieved through the Course would help towards this accession.

Sixteen participants from BA, HR, MK, S&M and SI attended the Course. Another ten sensors experts and photolab experts from S&M participated in the training in the photolab. RACVIAC hosted four



lecturers from the Verification Centres of Romania and Germany and twelve Romanian flight crew provided their expertise.

During the short theoretical phase of the Course the participants received presentations on OS Treaty basic requirements regarding mission planning and mission execution. During the practical phase participants were divided in two groups (two "Observing State Party" teams with their leaders) and they prepared two mission plans. The mission plans were those which participants brought with them with minor corrections made by the instructors. The mission plans were agreed between the "Observing State Parties" and the "Observed State Party". Following the

provisions of the Treaty a "Pre-flight Inspection" and two "Observation flights" were carried out using the Romanian observation aircraft.

By analysing the results of the observation flights and creating mission reports the practical part of the Course was finalised. Parallel with the main activities, training for sensors experts and photolab experts from S&M, was accomplished as well. The film from "Observation flights" was developed in the photolab of the "Observed Party" – S&M. The Course was concluded with discussions, evaluation of the events/ results and press conference. Interest of the media for the Course was significant.

Forthcoming Events

"The impact of disasters on the security environment in SEE – regional efforts" / Second Working Group Session 8-9 July, Croatia

Main Goals:

- to provide the participants with knowledge about OSLO Guidelines: the principles of use military assets, legal basis status of use military assets, key procedures and mechanisms, tasks of military assets, practical application of the Guidelines
- · to share experience of experts dealing with these topics

Target Audience: - Civilian and military decision makers from MoD and/or MFA and/or MoI of the SEE Countries (The Meeting will be conducted with the support from the Stability Pact DPPI, Military Civilian Defence Unit — MCDU)

Joint SEESAC/RACVIAC Seminar "Best practice in communication and awareness raising of specific Arms Control issues using SALW as a model" 27-30 July, Croatia

Main Goals: • to underline the role of the media in spreading knowledge and awareness regarding security issues for regional peace and security

• to determine the possible contribution and requirements of media on public awareness regarding SALW and other Arms Control issues in the SEE (communication strategies and media operations)

Target Audience: - Officials from public relations cells of MFA's, MoD's, MoI's, Office of Prime Ministers and relevant institutions, Academic experts, NGO's (including representatives from major religious societies) and journalists

Dayton Article IV Course (In Co- operation with NATO School Oberammergau)

15-26 September, Serbia & Montenegro

Main Goals:

- · to prepare designated individuals to plan and conduct activities as inspectors/escorts in accordance with the Protocol on Inspection, Dayton Agreement, Article IV, as well as to practice the activity with the presence of OSCE assistants
- to establish a common approach to the Agreement in order to ensure mutual confidence and transparency during the performance of their tasks

Target Audience: - Inspectors and escorts from Dayton Art. IV signatory states

"The impact of disasters on the security environment in SEE – regional efforts"/Third Working Group Session 5-7 October, Croatia

Main Goals: • to provide a forum for discussion to a certain number of representatives of the SEE countries

MOD and/or MFA and/or MOI, giving them the task to solve/indicate operational procedures

for joint operations in "neutral" fields like emergency relief;

Target Audience: - Representatives of MoD and/or MFA and/or MoI of the SEE Countries

REGIONAL ARMS CONTROL VERIFICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION ASSISTANCE CENTRE

RACVIAC was established in 2000 by Croatia and Germany with the aim of supporting Working Table III of the Stability Pact, mainly in the field of arms control - in its widest sense - and related security matters. There are now twenty nations involved in RACVIAC*, and military and civilian members from sixteen of the above nations staff this multinational body. RACVIAC epitomises the expression "Regional ownership" - it is located in the region, it includes personnel from all countries in the region who fill key positions on the staff, and it exists specifically for the countries in the region.

The overall direction of RACVIAC is determined by the Multinational Advisory Group, (MAG), made up of representatives from the 20 nations involved in RACVIAC. Canada, Spain, Norway and Moldova have received observer status in the Multinational Advisory Group (MAG).

At the 7th MAG meeting in Ljubljana in April, representatives from the 20 countries discussed refocusing RACVIAC's activities. RACVIAC will redirect and steadily concentrate its activities towards providing a regional forum for even more comprehensive discussions on politico-military issues. Future tasks will include contributing to transparency and cooperation in the region by encouraging exchange of information, views and ideas on, for example: Compliance with the OSCE's Code of Conduct, Reform of Armed Forces, Disaster and Border Management Issues.

Regarding Arms Control training, RACVIAC will continue to facilitate and assist the implementation requirements for the countries in the region and will extend training to arms control experts in the wider sense.

This should be accomplished in co-operation and co-ordination with relevant international organizations and institutions in order to achieve synergetic effects, to avoid duplications and to invest means economically.

In its Seminars and Training Courses, RAC-VIAC deals with all confidence and security building measures and related security sector reform and security policy issues, (Small Arms and Light Weapons, Code of Conduct, Democratic Control of Armed Forces etc), as well as the major arms control treaties and agreements, (Vienna Document 1999, Dayton Peace Accords, Aerial Observation/ Treaty on Open Skies, Treaty on Conventional Forces Europe).

RACVIAC is located in the Vitez Damir Martic Barracks, 10 km west of Zagreb, and has completely modern, fully equipped offices. Its facilities include a Seminar room capable of holding up to 40 partic i-pants, including simultaneous translation capabilities, as well as two large working group rooms and high standard accommodation for 45 personnel.

* (AL, AT, BA, BG, DE, DK, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU IT, MK, NL, RO, RU, SI, S & M, TR and US)



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