## *Leading Development*

**FRY:**
*Analytic Perspective*

### Opposition Leading, Regime Scrambling

Both sides are claiming to have the advantage in yesterday's elections, but the high turnout and concerns expressed by regime officials suggest that the opposition is doing well and that stealing the election will be more difficult than anticipated. The federal election commission last night expelled opposition vote counters and refused to release any official figures for vote totals or turnout.

— Based on a preliminary count, the opposition claims Kostunica is beating Milosevic by a significant margin.

— Some proregime media claim Milosevic leads Kostunica by 44 to 41 percent, but others—possibly reflecting confusion in the regime—admit Kostunica is ahead.

### High Turnout, Widespread Irregularities

Preliminary opposition estimates indicate that about 75 percent of the electorate in Serbia voted, a sharp increase over the 60 percent that participated in the last nationwide elections in 1997. Opposition sources claimed turnout in Montenegro, where President Djukanovic had urged a boycott, was about 25 percent.

— UN officials said about 45,000 Serbs voted in Kosovo, about three-fourths of the local Serb electorate.

The opposition has accused Belgrade of numerous irregularities, including inaccurate voting lists, ballot stuffing, and the deployment of security forces to polling places to intimidate voters, according to media reports. There were no reported incidents of serious violence.

— Postelection demonstrations in Belgrade and other cities were small and peaceful. Some 10,000 to 20,000 protesters turned out in the capital.

— Bad weather, delays in the release of election results, and Serbian police efforts to disrupt opposition gatherings contributed to the light turnout in the streets.

**Montenegro Tense, but No Clashes (C NF)**

Both the Yugoslav Army and the Montenegrin Interior Ministry police (MUP) are maintaining high profiles in Podgorica, but both appear to be avoiding provocative behavior, according to press reports.

— Police were on nearly every street corner and around all Montenegrin Government facilities.

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# Senior Executive Intelligence Brief

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## Monday, 25 September 2000

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