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Preventing War in Macedonia: Pre-Emptive Diplomacy for the 21st Century

In 2001, in the aftermath of the war in Kosovo, the stability of the Balkans was once again threatened by flaring ethnic tensions in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. But civil war was averted. In this *Whitehall Paper*, Mark Laity gives the first detailed insider's account of the NATO-led international effort that prevented war in Macedonia. Writing from experience as Special Adviser to the NATO Secretary General and personal adviser to the Macedonian President, he offers a unique and incisive account of Operation Essential Harvest, and the actions that made it possible. This rare, and mostly overlooked, example of successful pre-emptive diplomacy has enduring lessons for conflict resolution and peacebuilding in the 21st Century.

About the Author

Mark Laity is the Chief Strategic Communications at SHAPE (Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe) which commands all NATO military operations. In 2001 he was sent to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia as personal adviser to the Macedonian President. When a NATO military force was later deployed he became Media Adviser to the NATO commander and civilian spokesman for Operation Essential Harvest.