

Table 1: Refugee and Displaced Populations in South-East Europe and the South Caucasus in Late 1999¹²

COUNTRY	REFUGEES	RETURNED REFUGEES	DISPLACED PERSONS	RETURNED DISPLACED PERSONS	TOTAL
Armenia	296,200	10	-	-	296,210
Azerbaijan	221,600	-	569,600	-	791,200
Georgia	5,200	1,800	278,500	590	284,090
Total South Caucasus	522,000	1,010	848,100	590	1,371,500
Albania	3,900	-	-	-	3,900
FYROM*	21,200	-	-	-	21,200
Bosnia and Herzegovina	65,600	161,000	809,500	73,000	1,109,100
Croatia	28,400	35,500	52,400	63,600	179,900
Slovenia	4,400	-	-	-	4,400
Yugoslavia	500,700	755,500	234,900	168,900	1,660,000
Total SEE	624,200	952,000	1,096,800	305,500	2,978,500

Source of statistics: *Refugees and Others of Concern to UNHCR; 1999 Statistical Overview*, Geneva: UNHCR, July 2000, 132 pp., or at: <http://www.unhcr.ch>. * The fighting in FYROM during 2001 is estimated to have forced 81,000 Albanians to flee to Kosovo. These figures should be added to the data in the table. See "Demand grows for follow-on proposals," *Economist Intelligence Unit; Viewswire*, September 11, 2001: <http://www.viewswire.com>.

In both regions, the problems attending the return of these people to their homeland are similar and stem in part from matters of logistics and protection for the groups concerned. These problems are further increased by a delicate ethnic balance that changes quickly, given the numbers involved, and the risk of mass returns arousing or reviving tensions. Though these problems with returning refugees and displaced persons are similar from region to region, one notes a significant difference in proportions returning up to now. This is essentially due to the fact the conflicts in the Caucasus are unresolved.

1.2.3 Problems with democratization

In the countries of SEE, some kind of democracy seems to be emerging in the region with the relatively peaceful renewal of the traditional elites. In areas under international supervision – Bosnia (November 2000) and Kosovo (November 2001) – elections are being held without undue irregularities. Even the more authoritarian regimes have seen their leaders change peacefully. Croatia and Yugoslavia are now cooperating (to some extent) with the investigations of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and have begun transferring presumed criminals to its custody, even though this

¹² However these statistics are incomplete, since they do not take the refugee's origins into account, only their states of asylum. Though it is true that virtually all refugees enumerated come from a neighbouring country, which is an indicator of regional instability, those who have left the region are not included in this table. For example, in 1999 Germany had nearly one million refugees (975,500), many of them from SEE.