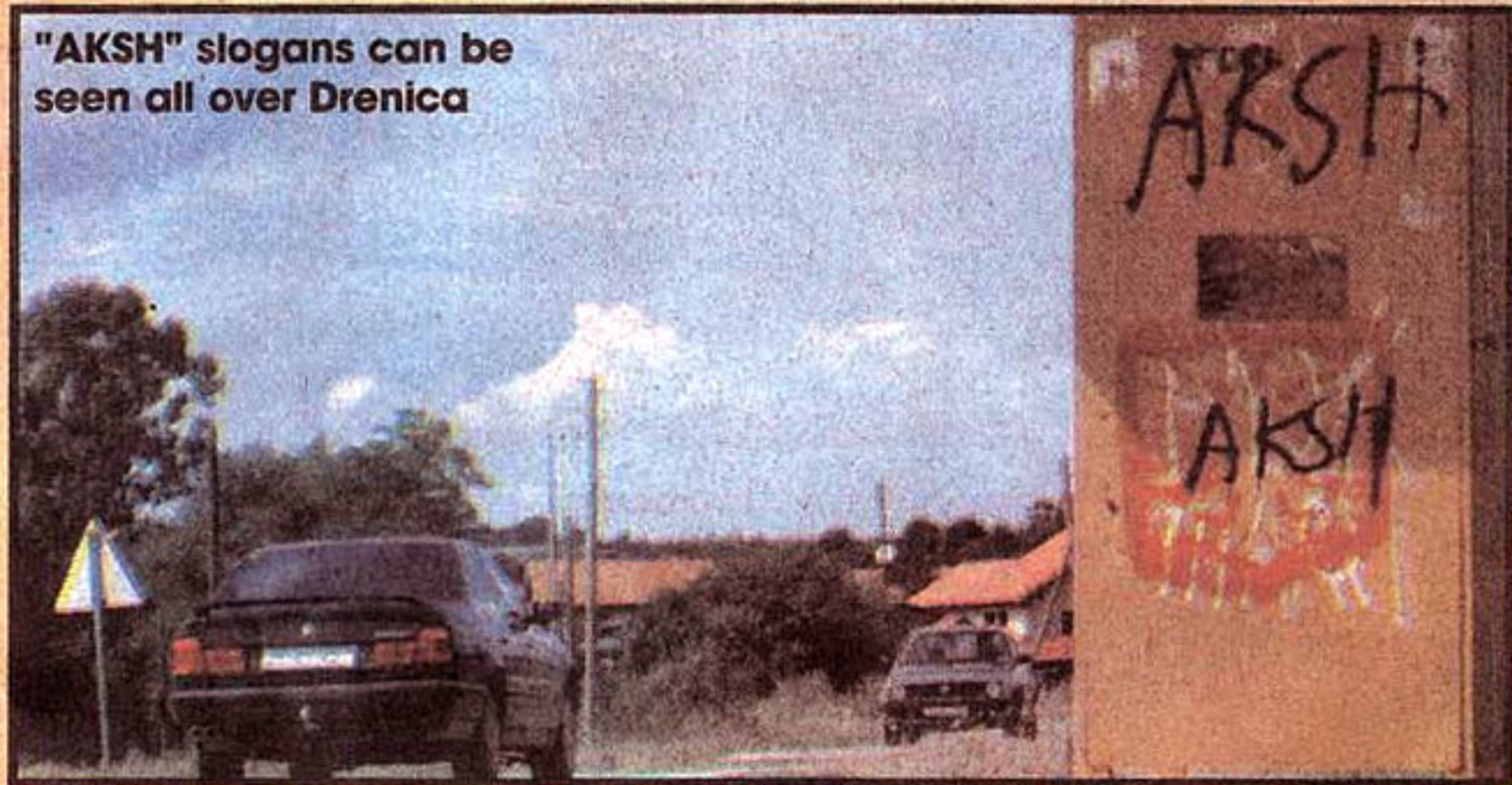


Villages of Skënderaj patrolled by unknown night-watch

Drenica "Check Points"

The police admit that Albanian National Army (ANA) operates in Drenica. KFOR says it does not have any information on existence of this army and disregards it mockingly.

"AKSH" slogans can be seen all over Drenica



By ASIM LANI
Prishtina, August 25 - Fighters who fight for the creation of a Greater Albania, a group for political pressure, or masked robbers who terrify citizens during the night? This enigma has been roaming for some time now the region of Drenica, the birthplace of KLA, the army that fought the Serb troops for liberation of the country. Armed and masked persons took positions in some villages of Skënderaj. Sometimes they also rob citizens driving at night in their area. "Bad Creek", "Beqir Meha's grave" ... are some of the points where this enigmatic well armed army operates. The citizens reduced their movements at night; this applies especially to parts considered as bases of these persons, while the police has increased its controls at

night. These patrols vanish by night leaving behind on the walls the slogan "ANA" which can be also seen at the centre of the town of Skënderaj. Also the grave of legendary commander of KLA, Adem Jashari, is covered with wreaths brought by this army. The citizens do not know who wrote the slogans which seem to be

written by the same hand. Meanwhile, the police from Skënderaj have received information that armed groups operate in Drenica. KFOR laughs at this. The officials of NATO troops, responsible for the security in Kosova deny the existence of any other army in the country, except KFOR. They said, "There is no ANA." Head of National Front

for Albanian Unification (NFAU), Gafurr Adili says that ANA operates not only in Drenica, but in all countries where there are Albanians. "I am saying to the international and local public opinion that wherever Albanian is spoken the NFAU and its political-military structures operate," he said during an earlier interview for "Lajm". The police in Skënderaj said that they had revealed some elements which prove the presence of ANA. During some raids in the villages of Skënderaj, some documents, emblems and insignia of this army have been confiscated. "There is a group of persons who identify themselves with the Albanian National Army," said deputy commander of the police in Skënderaj, Zenel Gjinovci. He admits that they found some evidence proving the presence of this organization. According to him, a person was held in detention for a long time and then he was released to continue in house arrest. "We are investigating these cases. Now police has increased patrolling," said he. KFOR has no information if this army really operates in Kosova. "We do not know anything about any presence of ANA in Kosova," said for "Lajm" KFOR spokesperson, Charles de Kersabiec. Meanwhile, Daut Dauti, the Government spokesperson, refused to comment for "Lajm" anything regarding the presence of this army, which he does not consider as presenting any danger for the Government of Kosova. While KFOR laughs at it and the Government of Kosova considers the organization as harm-



Zenel Gjinovci, deputy police commander: We have received information that such an army exists in Drenica

less, a family from Skenderaj was faced with an armed group. Ten days ago, family V. from a village near Skenderaj witnessed the presence of these persons. Driving in their car, this family (identity not given for security reasons) was coming back from Resnik village, after they visited some of their relatives, around midnight. When they arrived near the place called "Beqir Meha's grave," near Kopiliq village, two masked persons, wearing dark clothes came out in front of them. "They were armed when they stopped us. They were holding masks," says H.V. "They ordered us to stay still, while one of them, came nearer to the window. He had an automatic rifle and was wearing body armor, full of bullets. They identified us and then told us to leave," said H. who immediately went to the police station to report the case. This act frightened family members inside the car. "It was a horror, when two guys pointed their guns toward us," says he.



An ANA soldier.

ANA is officially a terrorist organization

During April 2003, when ANA took on the responsibility for blowing up one bridge in Zveçan, in North of Kosova, former chief of UNMIK, Michael Steiner, declared ANA a terrorist organization, by incriminating its propaganda too.