The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland has been the member state of the North Atlan1c Treaty Organiza1on (NATO) since 1949. Like many countries, the United Kingdom had been heavily afflicted by the two World Wars and faced mul1ple challenges in 1945. The United Kingdom had joined to North Atlan1c Treaty Organiza1on because it would allow the United Kingdom to maintain a significant share of military power within the NATO, along with the protec1on of its interests in Europe and also, mainly in the early stage of the Cold War, to preserve its strategic interests in the Middle East. Besides; for the last seven years, the United Kingdom has been the second highest contributor to NATO by spending 60.400.000.000$ on defence.

The United Kingdom demonstrated the same pattern as all the institutions and the other countries in this study when it came to the evaluation of the actors involved in the crisis and its view of the crisis itself. There was a striking similarity in the formulations used in condemning the violence and in the Albanian extremists being seen as the guilty party. The motives attributed to the extremists were the same as well – the wish to make the conflict more violent in order to bring about a revision of the borders. The UK, like the other countries, expressed support for the Macedonian Government while at the same time urging it to exercise restraint in its military response to the outbursts of violence and underlining the importance of reforms in favour of the Albanian community. Also like the other countries, the UK supported the Covic Plan for the Presevo Valley, seeing it as providing an opportunity for the Albanian community in the region to have confidence in their future within the FRY. The United Kingdom, like the other two EU countries, cited the total support within the international community for the policy pursued. On many occasions it stressed the efforts of the EU and NATO as well as the UN and the personal efforts of the individuals involved. The United Kingdom, like the other countries, maintained contacts directly with the Macedonian president, the prime minister and the two consecutive foreign ministers. These contacts took the form of visits by British officials to the area and visits by Macedonian ministers to the UK, or telephone calls. As in the case of the other countries, there were different reasons for these contacts. Some were to express support and discuss the particular problems of the situation. On other occasions British ministers were visiting their own units. Before the Kosovo crisis the United Kingdom had already established a defence relationship with Macedonia, providing assistance through the Ministry of Defence’s Outreach Programme for Central and Eastern Europe, including visits, courses and other activities. For 2001 the UK was providing assistance on matters such as defence planning, peacekeeping operations, civil–military relations, border control, logistics support and military law. A British army brigadier had been attached to the Macedonian Government as defence adviser since July 2000. In early 2001 two staff officers were deployed to Skopje to support him, and an additional ten-man team travelled to Macedonia to see what further assistance the UK could offer.242 Like France, during the critical period in late March 2001 the UK supplied reconnaissance drones for KFOR to support its work of monitoring the border between Kosovo and Macedonia.243 A major British contribution was its leadership of Essential Harvest and its contribution of the bulk of the forces (1900 out of 4500), the British brigade commander for this mission serving under the Danish commander for Macedonia.244 The United Kingdom had taken on this task because none of the other European NATO countries had the rapid reaction capabilities needed: British light infantry could be flown in to Macedonia in 48 hours, which a British official reportedly stated was the reason why NATO had asked the UK.245 Nor did other countries have the specialists that were required. Among the 1900 soldiers, the UK was expected to send 820 specialists such as bomb disposal experts, reconnaissance troops, engineers, logisticians and medics.246 The UK’s effort in Essential Harvest was a major one in terms of its resources. In late September, as Essential Harvest was nearing its end, according to the press the British armed forces were overstretched. A British official was reported as saying that the UK would only supply a few hundred to the Amber Fox mission, and it was now up to other countries to take the role the UK had had.