The United Nations Transitional Administrations in Kosovo and East Timor: A First Analysis

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I. Introduction

The United Nations Security Council has entered new ground by placing Kosovo and East Timor under temporary United Nations administration. On 10 June 1999 the Security Council adopted Resolution 1244, authorizing the Secretary-General to establish "an international civil presence in order to provide an interim administration for Kosovo under which the people of Kosovo can enjoy substantial autonomy within the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia".1 Only a few months later, on 25 October 1999, the Security Council decided to establish a United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor, which would be endowed with the "overall responsibility for the administration of East Timor", including "all legislative and executive authority" and the administration of justice.2 Both, the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK)3 and the United Nations Transi-

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