



Bosnia UPDATE

A Summary of Developments Affecting the Balkans and the Deployment of U.S. Armed Forces by the Staff of the Committee on National Security.

Lloyd Spence, Chairman

Issue Week: 8-14 January 1996

Quotes of the Week:

"If we see anyone firing at our aircraft, they will be attacked, immediately. There will be no warning. They will be attacked."

-- Admiral Leighton Smith, 1/9/96

"I regret soon it is going to become too dangerous for someone. Fire will be returned and it is going to cost lives."

-- IFOR spokesman LTC Mark Rayner, 1/8/96

"There will be chaos and resistance if Sarajevo Serbs are not given more time to resettle."

-- Momcilo Krajisnik, President of Bosnian Serb Assembly, 1/8/96

"I think that's a completely unrealistic option."

-- Carl Bildt, High Representative for Bosnia, 1/8/96

"I quite clearly see that there is going to be a requirement [after IFOR leaves] for some sort of follow on organization."

-- Lieutenant General Michael Walker, IFOR ground troops commander, 1/7/96

In Bosnia and the Balkans:

A rocket-propelled grenade strikes a streetcar in Sarajevo, killing one person and injuring 19 others in the worst attack since the IFOR mission began. The grenade is said to have been launched from a Bosnian Serb position in Grbavica. French troops return fire. The Bosnian government says it expects "a swift and significant reaction" from NATO forces.

Several Bosnian Serb soldiers have been sighted wearing U.S. Army uniforms with the insignia of the First Armored Division. A spokesman for Secretary of Defense Perry says DOD is "clearly concerned" by this development. Bosnian Serb forces reportedly wore foreign uniforms to impersonate peacekeepers several times during the war.

Bosnian President Itzebegovic declares an amnesty for Bosnian Serb soldiers who remain in Sarajevo after the city and its suburbs are unified until government control. The amnesty does not apply to those who have committed war crimes.

IFOR Commander Admiral Leighton Smith met in Pale with Momcilo Krajisnik, President of the Bosnian Serb National Assembly.

NATO reports that the number of deployed IFOR troops in the former Yugoslavia now numbers 31,000 — more than half the total anticipated complement of 60,000.

Assistant Secretary of State Robert Gallucci meets with Croatian President Tudjman and senior Croatian officials in Zagreb to discuss ways of dealing with the increasing Muslim-Croat tensions and violence in Mostar.

Bosnian Serbs are reportedly dismantling and removing several factories in areas around Sarajevo, including a converted Volkswagen plant which had been turned into an arms factory.

NATO announces that it will establish regular foot patrols in the Serb-controlled Sarajevo suburbs of Iidza and Grbavica.

A French soldier is injured by a mine in Dobrinja. French patrol vehicles are fired upon in Gorbavaica and return fire. There are no injuries. A U.S. vehicle is damaged by a landmine near Tuzla, but there are no injuries to personnel.

British soldiers encounter small arms fire north of Sanski Most and retaliate by shooting at a bunker where the rounds are thought to have originated. No injuries reported

Two Apache helicopters are temporarily deployed to protect Sarajevo airport in response to repeated attacks on aircraft and a rash of shooting incidents.

A car carrying two British soldiers in central Bosnia is fired upon by men in another car. One British soldier returns fire, striking the attacker's vehicle.

Hans Koschnik, European Union (EU) administrator of Mostar, threatens to withdraw EU personnel and funding from that city if violence between Croats and Muslims does not cease. Muslim authorities in Mostar urge NATO to take control of the city from the EU.

The Sarajevo airlift, the longest humanitarian airlift in history, comes to an end with the final aid flight into Sarajevo. The three-and-a-half-year effort lasted more than twice as long as the Berlin airlift in the 1940s and recorded almost 13,000 flights.

In Moscow:

Russian paratroopers arrive in Tuzla. They are the first 150 out of 1,600 that will work alongside U.S. forces. Along with the troops on 11 Russian cargo planes were communications equipment, trucks and tents. All 1,600 troops are estimated to be in country within two weeks.

In New York:

The U.N. Security Council accuses Croatia of human rights abuses, including murdering Serbs in the Krajina region, blocking refugees

from returning home, and failing to hand over indicted war criminals to the War Crimes Tribunal.

The U.N. Security Council is considering the deployment of 5,000 U.N. troops to Eastern Slavonia in spite of calls for a larger deployment. Diplomats say this force will be augmented by military support from NATO.

In Washington:

President Clinton leaves for a fast and friendly visit with approximately 850 U.S. soldiers. He praises the men and women of the operation, emphasizing, "I came with a simple message: Your country is very proud of you."

In Brussels:

The High Representative for Bosnia, Carl Bildt, defends himself against reports that he has been slow in implementing the civilian rebuilding of Bosnia. He says funding has only been provided by the EU and that the U.S. Congress' dislike of U.N. institutions has led to practical problems that are impeding his efforts.

In The Hague:

The War Crimes Tribunal says it will require nearly \$41 million — an increase of 44 percent over last year — to carry out its mission of investigating and prosecuting those responsible for war crimes.

Compliance Watch:

The Bosnian government reportedly delays completion of preparations for a prisoner exchange until more than 5,000 persons missing in Srebrenica are accounted for.

A Greek C-130 transport plane observes small arms fire as it prepares to land at Sarajevo airport. The aircraft is not hit but diverts to Tuzla as a precautionary measure. A U.S. C-130 returns to Zagreb when tracer fire is seen around the Sarajevo airport.

A French jet is struck by small arms fire while trying to land at Sarajevo.

Houses are set on fire by Bosnian Serb forces in Poljine, north of Sarajevo.

In a letter to Carl Bildt, Bosnian Serb Assembly leader Momcilo Krajsnik demands a delay in the transfer of Serb-held suburbs to government control until September 15. He warns that if the delay is not granted, a mass exodus of Serbs will take place, accompanied by "chaos, incidents, and material damage."

Croat forces fire several grenades into a Bosnian army camp in Mostar.

Additional background information on any of the items in this UPDATE may be obtained from Tom Donnelly (x65372) or David Trachtenberg (x60532) on the staff of the House National Security Committee.