



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 Period: 15-21 January 1996

Quotes of the Week:

"Serbs in Sarajevo will not accept Muslim rule...[and may] organize themselves and put up armed resistance..."

*--Momcilo Krajisnik, President of
Bosnian Serb Assembly, 1/10/96.*

"...all factions are not fully complying with the intent of the Dayton peace agreement."

*--Maj. Gen. William Nash,
Commander of U.S. forces in
Bosnia, 1/11/96.*

"No one here is [acting] in the spirit of the peace agreement."

*--Christopher Girod, International
Committee for the Red Cross,
1/19/96.*

"We are insisting on full compliance."

--Richard Holbrooke, 1/18/96.

"Security will be needed for grave investigations, and IFOR has a duty under Dayton to provide assistance to war crimes investigators."

*--John Shattuck, Asst. Sec. of State
for Human Rights, 1/21/96.*

"NATO is not -- I repeat, NATO is not going to provide specific security or, in other words, guarantee security, for teams investigating these grave sites."

*--Admiral Leighton Smith, IFOR
Commander, 1/21/96.*

"It would appear that the forces will voluntarily remove themselves from the zone of separation and the NATO forces will not be required to use force to make that happen."

--Secretary Perry, 1/17/96.

In Bosnia and the Balkans:

The deadline for reunification of Mostar is postponed as the city's separate Muslim and Croat police forces are unable to unite as planned.

Another mass grave site is uncovered in Krijevci, near Sanski Most, in northern Bosnia. The site is said to contain the remains of 20 Croats and Muslims burned alive in 1992.

Up to 70,000 Bosnian Serbs threaten to burn their homes and leave Sarajevo rather than live under Muslim rule. U.S. envoy Robert Gallucci meets with Bosnian Serb officials in an attempt to convince them to stay.

Bosnian and Serb military officials fail to show up for a meeting of the Joint Military Commission in Doboj. Major General William Nash, commander of U.S. forces in Bosnia, expresses his "disappointment and concern" over their refusal to attend.

Admiral Leighton Smith, IFOR commander, and General Michael Walker, IFOR ground forces commander, travel to Mostar to seek an end to fighting between

Croats and Muslims. Admiral Smith says NATO will establish a liaison office in the city to "maintain a dialogue" with the warring parties.

Bosnian Muslims and Croats agree to merge their military chain of commands into a single, integrated unit and to create a sole ministry of defense.

James Pardew, U.S. coordinator of the arm-and-train effort, meets with Serbian and Croatian officials to explain the plan and ease their concerns.

Six Swedish soldiers are injured by an antitank mine in the U.S. sector near Doboj, 15 miles northwest of Tuzla. A U.S. Army vehicle hits a mine south of the Sava river, but no injuries are reported.

General Joulwan, NATO SACEUR, says the IFOR deployment is "on track." Approximately 35,000 NATO troops are now deployed in Bosnia.

More than 200 Islamic mujahedeen reportedly remain in parts of Bosnia, including Zenica and Zavidovici, in the U.S. sector, and Tesanj, in the British sector. More than 150 Iranian Revolutionary Guards remain at a base camp in Fojnica, northwest of Sarajevo. The Bosnian government is said to have offered citizenship to the mujahedeen fighters if they take Bosnian spouses.

IFOR troops take control of several water, gas, and electrical stations in Sarajevo to protect against Bosnian Serb threats to destroy the areas of the city they plan to vacate.

U.N. officials say that four computers containing data on human rights violations in Croatia have been stolen in Zagreb.

Bosnian government forces burn and loot dozens of homes in north-central Bosnia as they withdraw from areas inside the zone of separation.

U.S. envoy Richard Holbrooke travels to Sarajevo to urge the Bosnian government to release all prisoners in compliance with the Dayton accord.

A U.S. Army sergeant dies of a heart attack, becoming the first American fatality of the Bosnian peace implementation mission.

Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights John Shattuck visits the site of alleged atrocities in the Bosnian Serb territory to assess security requirements for War Crimes Tribunal investigators.

Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic announces his resignation as a result of political infighting within the Bosnian government.

In Washington:

DOD says it will use intelligence assets to monitor a mining complex in northwest Bosnia that reportedly is being used by Bosnian Serb forces as a burial site for thousands

of war crimes victims.

Intelligence sources say the CIA is working with DOD to establish a covert presence in Bosnia that will keep track of opponents of the peace accord and provide liaison with Bosnian government intelligence operations. U.S. intelligence services are also said to be providing the Russians with secret intelligence on the situation in Bosnia, including analytical reports and satellite data.

Secretary Perry says NATO troops later this month will provide security for War Crimes Tribunal investigators and will guarantee freedom of movement for all civilians traveling through Bosnia. Perry says, "I don't consider that mission creep."

President Clinton signs an Executive Order creating an Armed Forces Service Medal for U.S. forces serving in "significant, noncombat military missions." All U.S. troops involved in the Bosnia mission will receive the new medal.

President Clinton returns from a brief trip to Bosnia, Croatia, Hungary, and Italy.

Secretary Perry says training of Bosnian Muslim soldiers by U.S. civilian contractors will begin in the next two months. The training will be carried out in Bosnia and possibly Turkey, with Islamic countries expected to pay most of the \$500 million bill for training and equipment.

In New York:

The U.N. Security Council authorizes a 5,000-troop force to oversee the demilitarization of Eastern Slavonia.

Compliance Watch:

Bosnian Serb forces detain 15 Croat soldiers seeking to transit through the Posavina corridor. Eleven are subsequently released following a U.S. protest.

In the most serious violation to date of the Dayton peace accord, Muslim and Croat forces exchange artillery fire in the Usora valley 35 miles west of Tuzla.

Thousands of Bosnian Muslim, Serb, and Croatian troops withdraw from the zone of separation prior to the January 19 deadline. NATO Secretary General Javier Solana declares, "The parties have demonstrated compliance with the cessation of hostilities agreement, and they have refrained from offensive actions."

A prisoner exchange between Bosnian Serbs and Muslims falls through when the Bosnian government refuses to participate without knowing the fate of some 25,000 missing people in Serb held territory. Some prisoners are released in parts of Bosnia, but the International Committee of the Red Cross declares the Bosnian government and Bosnian Serbs to be in violation of the peace agreement.

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.