



Bosnia UPDATE

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

Lloyd Spence, Chairman

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Quotes of the Week:

"All those who committed crimes will be tried in the [Bosnian] Serb republic."

-- Radovan Karadzic, 1/25/96

"We will not go forward with the equipment and training unless [the Bosnians] are in compliance with the agreement."

-- Secretary of State Christopher, 1/22/96

"From our side, the order will be given to empty the prisons, and we've got it from both sides."

-- Momcilo Krajisnik, Bosnian Serb Assembly head, 1/26/96

"I think the American people need to know that the militaries of the former warring factions are complying and cooperating with what we are over there to do.... [T]he cooperation that we are seeing tells me that we are not going to see a force-on-force situation."

-- Admiral Leighton Smith, IFOR Commander, 1/29/96

"[W]e're not in the police business. We're [a] military force. We're not in the business of going out and arresting people."

-- Kenneth Bacon, DOD spokesman, 1/25/96

In Bosnia and the Balkans:

U.S. forces are placed on a high state of alert after intelligence reports suggest Muslim extremists may be planning terrorist acts against U.S. forces in Bosnia. A substantial increase in the activity of mujahedeen groups is reported. Sixty eight Islamic fighters are said to be in the Koprivna camp near Zenica, in the U.S. sector. In addition, an American citizen thought to be a political extremist and a "potential security threat" may be in Bosnia. The man is identified as Kevin Holt, a.k.a. Isa Abdullah Ali.

U.S. forces are fired upon for the first time while on a routine patrol in a Croat village in northeastern Bosnia. A military vehicle is struck by several bullets apparently fired by a drunken man.

Three British soldiers are killed when their vehicle strikes a land mine near Mrkonjic Grad, in northwest Bosnia. A Danish tank hits at least one land mine in northern Bosnia, wounding one soldier. One Swedish soldier is killed when his armored personnel carrier rolls off a road and into a river.

U.S. forces reportedly refuse helicopter transport to two

Scandinavian soldiers who are injured when their vehicle strikes a mine while patrolling in the U.S. sector.

Bosnian Croat and Muslim authorities fail to agree on the formation of new administrative districts that would lead to a reunification of the divided city of Mostar. European Union administrator Hans Koshnick plans to impose a settlement.

An accidental explosion at a NATO compound in Sarajevo kills two Portuguese soldiers and an Italian soldier. Seven other soldiers are injured in the blast, which was said to be caused by "some form of unexploded ordnance."

Hasan Muratovic is confirmed by the Bosnian National Assembly as the new Prime Minister of Bosnia, replacing Haris Silajdzic. The Muslim-Croat Federation in Bosnia chooses Kresimir Zubak, a Croat, as its President and Izudin Kapetanovic, a Muslim, as Prime Minister.

Approximately 1,000 Muslim women seeking information on relatives missing in Srebrenica storm the offices of the Red Cross in Tuzla, breaking windows, destroying office equipment, and forcing its closure.

The deployment of international police monitors to the Serb-held suburbs of Sarajevo is said to be lag-

ging far behind schedule. Only seven of an anticipated 400-500 police officers have arrived, causing anxiety among Bosnian Serb residents just prior to the deadline for withdrawal of Serb forces from those territories.

War Crimes Tribunal head Richard Goldstone travels to Belgrade to discuss investigations of mass graves with Serbian President Milosevic. Milosevic meets with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State John Shattuck and promises "full cooperation" with the war crimes investigators.

Croatian Foreign Minister Mate Granic says 20 suspected war criminals will be tried by Croatia and offers Croatia's cooperation in the work of the Tribunal.

In a letter to Admiral Leighton Smith, IFOR commander, Richard Goldstone asks IFOR to provide military escorts for War Crimes Tribunal investigators, station troops to guard suspected mass grave sites, and provide equipment for investigators to use. At a meeting with Goldstone in Sarajevo, Admiral Smith agrees to provide "area security" for investigators.

Some U.S. troops in Bosnia are said to be upset by a pamphlet prepared by the Army's V Corps that instructs them how to respond to media inquiries. One suggested response speaks of "pride in our leadership, from the President on down, and full trust in their decision."

In Washington:

Defense Secretary Perry says U.S. intelligence agencies will supply information "on a selective basis" to the War Crimes Tribunal that could

"provide leads to tell investigators where to go and what to look for."

The U.S. threatens to withhold financial and military aid to the Bosnian government unless all prisoners of war are released and all foreign forces are removed from Bosnian territory.

Defense Secretary Perry says DOD plans to pay for the Bosnia peace implementation operation through reprogramming, removal of "excess" funds from intelligence operations, and capitalizing on lower-than-expected inflation.

IFOR commander Admiral Leighton Smith briefs President Clinton at the White House on the situation in Bosnia. He states that the number of mass graves in Bosnia may number as high as 300.

According to a press report, a secret U.S. intelligence estimate concludes that the factions in Bosnia will continue to hold a "deep, mutual distrust" and will "attempt to divide and manipulate the international community in the way the [Dayton] accords are implemented."

In Vienna:

Bosnian Serbs, Muslims and Croats agree on a series of confidence-building measures, including provisions for the inspection of weapons and troops.

In Moscow:

NATO SACEUR, General George Joulwan, travels to Moscow for talks with Russian military officials on their country's participation in the Bosnian peace implementation effort.

Compliance Watch:

NATO airpower is used for the first time in a show of force as IFOR troops remove 30 Bosnian soldiers from a checkpoint in the zone of separation and confiscate their weapons. The checkpoint, deployed in violation of the peace agreement, is dismantled. According to a NATO spokesman, the number of weapons confiscated -- more than 300 -- is almost enough for a battalion.

All parties to the conflict report that they have released all remaining prisoners of war. A Red Cross official states that approximately 50 prisoners are still being held by Bosnian Croats for suspicion of war crimes.

Snipers open fire on French forces patrolling a Serb-controlled suburb of Sarajevo.

A U.S. soldier is "grazed in the neck" by a sniper's bullet while standing outside NATO's Rapid Reaction Corps headquarters in the Serb-held Sarajevo suburb of Ilidza.

Two British vehicles are fired upon and one British soldier is injured in two shooting incidents in the Serb-held Sarajevo suburb of Ilidza. NATO spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Mark Rayner says, "In the last six or seven days, there have been more incidents of this nature than before." NATO's Chief of Staff meets with the mayor of Ilidza to discuss the recent rash of attacks.

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.