



# 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

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## Quotes of the Week:

"We see this is an outrageous coup and putsch against the Dayton peace process. [W]e do not recognize it."

-- Colum Murphy, spokesman for Carl Bildt, the top international civilian official in Bosnia, commenting on Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic's dismissal of Serb prime minister Rajko Kasagic, 5/16/96

"I was, frankly, nearly desperate with concern that they would not make it through a third winter. [I] felt it was worth an affirmative response."

-- Richard Holbrooke, former U.S. peace negotiator, commenting on how U.S. explored the possibility of supporting full-scale arms supplies through Croatia to Bosnia from Iran, despite a UN arms embargo, 5/22/96

"We will not work with Mr. Karadzic or General Ratko Mladic. They are indicted war criminals. They should be apprehended and brought to The Hague for prosecution by the International War Crimes Tribunal."

-- State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns, 5/20/96

"Without America we are not sure if we will have peace."

-- Mirza Hajric, senior Bosnian foreign ministry official, commenting on the U.S. withdraw, 5/18/96

"We will not participate in these elections unless the rules change. The danger of these elections, if they are not done correctly, is that they will verify ethnic cleansing. They will become a blueprint for how to ethnically expel people."

-- Ejup Ganic, Vice President of the Bosnian Government, 5/22/96

## In Bosnia and the Balkans:

Several western officials travel to Banja Luka in northwest Bosnia to offer support for Prime Minister Rajko Kasagic, ousted by indicted war criminal and Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic. The U.S. says it does not recognize the authority of Karadzic to dismiss Kasagic. Karadzic appoints Gojko Kljickovic as his new prime minister.

British and German officials anticipate withdrawing their troops when American forces depart Bosnia in December. British Ambassador to Bosnia Brian Hopkinson says the "Bosnian peace needs a strong U.S. presence to keep going. [I]f they go, we go...As long as U.S. is here, we will be here."

British Prime Minister John Major arrives in Banja Luka, in northwest Bosnia, to visit British troops participating in the IFOR mission.

Bosnian government officials threaten to withdraw from elections unless the "voting rules are drastically changed and NATO arrest[s] the most prominent Serbian war criminals."

Seven Muslim men surrender to

U.S. troops in Serb territory hoping for a safe return to Srebrenica in eastern Bosnia. U.S. troops release them to Serbian police because they are armed, in Serb territory and charged with atrocities. NATO defends its actions.

Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic tells U.S. envoy John Kornblum that Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic is no longer in power.

Bosnian Serb General Ratko Mladic makes a public appearance in Belgrade. Serbian police do not arrest him. The United States tells Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic that Serbia bears equal responsibility for arresting indicted war criminals.

## In Washington:

Press reports cite a draft National Intelligence Estimate as concluding that the Bosnian peace agreement will fail if indicted Bosnian Serb war criminals are not removed from power before the September elections. The draft NIE notes that allowing Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic to maintain their influence in Bosnia runs counter to the objectives of the Dayton agreement. "As long as Karadzic remains in power, we can't expect the elections to come out the way we want," says Michael Steiner, the

senior deputy to Carl Bildt, who is in charge of implementing civilian aspects of the peace agreement. The draft NIE also reportedly raises questions about other aspects of the civilian rebuilding effort in Bosnia, including the long-term viability of the Muslim-Croat Bosnian Federation.

Senator Arlen Specter, Chairman of the Senate Intelligence, says top administration officials covered up their knowledge of the Iranian arms flow through Croatia to Bosnia during the period of the arms embargo. Specter says Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott "did not tell [then-CIA Director R. James] Woolsey that there was a new U.S. policy." Specter also says Talbott told U.S. Ambassador to Croatia Peter Galbraith "that the Administration did not want the word to get out that the United States had given the Croatians 'a green or amber light' to proceed with arms shipments."

U.S. Ambassador to Croatia Peter Galbraith testifies that "it was the war, not the arms pipeline, that gave the Iranians the opportunity to fish in the troubled Balkan waters."

State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns says Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic is responsible for removing Bosnian Serb leader and indicted war criminal Radovan Karadzic and General Ratko Mladic from power.

The U.S. sends senior diplomat John Kornblum to Bosnia, Serbia and Croatia in an effort to limit the influence of Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, who plans to hold a referendum to show his support, prior to the planned September elections.

The U.S. Army announces its intent

to send additional nonlethal weapons to Bosnia, including 40mm multiple rubber ball rounds, personnel dyemarkers and foam baton rounds and sponge grenades.

Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott defends Administration action not to block Iranian arms being smuggled through Croatia into Bosnia in 1992. He says "we did not act to give a green light to Iranian arms coming into Bosnia. Iranian arms had been coming into Bosnia since 1992."

Military Professional Resources, Inc., a private U.S. firm, wins a contract to train the Bosnian army as part of the "arm and train" program. A European NATO official in Bosnia says, "The whole program makes us nervous. It's just more guns to watch, and there are enough of those here already."

President Clinton names Richard Sklar to be the senior U.S. official responsible for civilian reconstruction. This includes humanitarian assistance, economic revitalization, refugee resettlement, elections and a strengthening of public security.

## In The Hague:

A Croat soldier, Drazen Erdemovic, pleads guilty to murder at the War Crimes Tribunal.

Chief prosecutor at the UN war crimes tribunal, Mr. Richard Goldstone, says NATO troops must arrest indicted war criminal Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, to stabilize the region for the September elections and to justify the actions and jurisdiction of International War Crimes Tribunal.

## Compliance Watch:

Bosnian Serbs in Prijedor, in northwestern Bosnia, stone a busload of Muslim women as they attempt to enter Serb-held land to plant a tree of peace. Bosnian Serbs also attack a NATO patrol and an observation post outside Prijedor. NATO troops withdraw "to prevent further confrontation."

Senior Bosnian officials say they are removing nine "suspected" Iranian fighters and intelligence officers from Bosnia. The nine are on a State Department list and their presence is in violation of the peace agreement. The State Department estimates several dozen exist, but have settled into the local societies.

UN refugee officials say the Bosnian Serb policy of ethnic cleansing is continuing. UN refugee official Kris Janowski says "The hostility there is quite substantial, and it would be rather naive to assume that there will be any major returns by refugees and displaced persons to areas controlled by their former foes."

U.S. intelligence officials estimate dozens of foreign Islamic fighters are still in Bosnia. Intelligence reports say virtually all remaining fighters have burried themselves into local society and are awaiting the withdraw of NATO forces before they resume their activities.

Previous issues and additional background information on any of the items in this UPDATE may be obtained from Tom Donnelly (x65372), David Trachtenberg (x60532), Will Marsh (x56045) on the staff of the House National Security Committee.