



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:

"There will have to be some kind of American military presence here after December."

-- *Serb Mayor of Brcko, Miodrag Pajic, 6/24/96*

"We have to be careful about how we describe what our troops are there for. We have not asked our troops to go there to decide the political future of Bosnia."

-- *U.S. National Security Advisor Anthony Lake, 6/25/96*

"If no actions are undertaken right now against the indicted war criminals, it can be taken for granted that the elections will very quickly give way to developments diametrically opposed to those which they are expected to yield."

-- *OSCE Chairman, Flavio Cotti, 6/26/96*

"The Dayton Treaty says that the factions should turn over war criminals. It does not say that I-FOR should turn over war criminals...To put up roadblocks to prevent free movement of war criminals would defeat the whole purpose of promoting freedom of movement."

-- *Col. Gregory Fontenot, Armored Brigade Commander in Bosnia, 6/25/96*

"War is a great danger if the program goes on...It is open to question whether [equip and train] is the right road...The Serbs misused the Yugoslav People's Army to begin the war; the Muslims could do the same thing too."

-- *Vladimir Soljic, Defense Minister of the Muslim-Croat Federation, 6/20/96*

In Bosnia and the Balkans:

Radovan Karadzic reportedly turns over his presidential powers to his hardline deputy Mrs. Biljana Plavsic. Plavsic tells reporters that Karadzic will remain in office until the Bosnian national elections to be held on September 14. UN High Representative for Bosnia, Carl Bildt, says, "As of today, Mr. Karadzic cannot exercise any public functions or public powers as president. It is immediately illegal for any public official or institution to accept decisions by, or instructions from, Mr. Karadzic or persons acting on his behalf."

Western monitors say that elections in Mostar were carried out peacefully, under the supervision of 3,000 NATO troops and international police. The elections appear to have ratified the ethnic partition and have left many questioning the wisdom of holding nationwide elections in Bosnia in September. Croat nationalists bomb a cafe in Mostar to protest the elections for city council and assemblymen.

Serbian Prime Minister, Gojko Kljickovic, announces that Serb leader Radovan Karadzic will not run in September's Bosnia-wide elections, but Karadzic says that he will run for office unless the international community guarantees the continued

sovereignty of the Bosnian Serb Republic.

Serb rebels make demands for "special status" for the occupied Croatian region of Eastern Slavonia, and call for the extension of the United Nations mandate for the territory for one additional year.

In Pale, Karadzic says that his goal is to unify Serb-controlled parts of Bosnia with Yugoslavia. This would be a violation of the Dayton peace accord.

Armed Serb gangs reportedly terrorize Eastern Slavonia. Allegedly streets are filled with profiteers, hoodlums, demobilized forces and gangsters. The United Nations has failed to take control of Eastern Slavonia and it remains one of three Serbian-held enclaves in Croatia.

In Washington:

The White House certifies that Bosnia has removed most all "foreign forces" from its territory and will transfer \$70 million in American aid to be used to reconstruct the Bosnian state and \$360 million to modernize and train a Muslim-Croat force.

Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman General Shalikashvili says U.S. troops will arrest indicted war criminals Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic only if there is a "reasonable expectation of

success." He says, "My judgement today is those conditions do not exist." He further notes that "you do not want to set yourself up for something that you are not sure that you can be successful at, because there's a political cost to be carried."

Clinton Administration officials reportedly increase pressure on Bosnian Croats and Muslims to agree on a joint defense law. U.S. envoy John Kornblum travels to the Balkans to facilitate an agreement.

Chairman of the OSCE and Swiss Foreign Minister, Flavio Cotti, says that although conditions have not been met for free and fair elections, the vote should nevertheless go ahead in September, as scheduled. Cotti says that in his view none of these requirements have been fulfilled. His decision to certify the vote is, he says, based upon the possibility that a delay could heighten political uncertainty and political division.

In The Hague:

U.N. prosecutors accuse Radovan Karadic and General Ratko Mladic of orchestrating a massive and systemic campaign of genocide and "ethnic cleansing."

Evidence is displayed that Karadzic was aware of the Bosnian Serb policy of mass executions and attacks on civilian targets during the war. News reports claim that Karadzic's "ethnic cleansing" campaign continues in parts of the country despite the presence of NATO peacekeeping forces.

Two Bosnian Muslims plead not guilty to war crimes charges. Both deny responsibility for deaths, tortures, and rapes at the Celebici camp, near Konjic in central Bosnia in 1992.

The Hague War Crimes Tribunal withdraws charges against one of the 58 people that it indicted in the former Yugoslavia. Goran Lajic, 28, is free after 9 of 10 witnesses are unable to identify him from a photo line-up.

In Lyon:

Western diplomats say that the United States and its allies will push for a limited reimposition of sanctions on Serbia if President Slobodan Milosevic fails to remove Serb leader Radovan Karadic in the coming weeks.

At the G-7 Summit, President Clinton announces the establishment of the "Commission on the Missing" to be headed by former Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, to help trace the whereabouts of 12,000 people who have disappeared in the former Yugoslav republics. He also pledges \$15 million to assist the demining effort in Bosnia and \$5 million to establish a job training fund to assist Bosnian women.

In Bonn:

The German government says that it will accept a greater military role in the Bosnian peacekeeping mission if NATO decides to continue its presence after the mandate for the multinational force expires.

In New York:

The U.N. Security Council lifts its four and a half year embargo of heavy weapons against the former Yugoslav republics. The decision ends the last part of a weapons embargo imposed in September 1991 to curb fighting that erupted when Slovenia and Croatia broke with Yugoslavia and declared independence.

Compliance Watch:

Radovan Karadzic is reelected as the head of the Bosnian Serb Party by a vote of 353-0. His reelection to a public post violates the terms of the Dayton peace accord.

President Clinton certifies that the Bosnian government has complied with the requirement to remove all foreign forces from the country. He also certifies that intelligence cooperation between Bosnia and Iran intelligence has ceased.

United Nations Secretary General Boutros Boutros Ghali reports that Croatia's measures to permit the return of over 200,000 former Serb residents who fled the country during the war have been inadequate. To date, only 7,000 are reported to have received permission to return.

Bosnian Serbs drive 30 Muslims from their homes and expel them from the Banja Luka area.

In Banja Luka, two Bosnian Serb women seize two senior European diplomats at OSCE's offices and hold them hostage for more than 24 hours before freeing them.

Croat nationalists bomb a cafe in Mostar to protest the elections for city council and assemblymen.

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.