



# 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: 1-15 August 1996  
Vol. 1, Issue 20

## Quotes of the Week:

"...the pattern of either encouragement or tolerance of ethnic harassment...causes the country to continue to drift apart, in a development that is contrary to the declared aim of reestablishing a multiethnic society."

-- Carl Bildt, international mediator in charge of civilian affairs in Bosnia, in a report issued last month, 8/12/96

"It is obvious that some people are not ready for pluralism."

-- Stjepan Kljuić, a Croat who used to sit on the collective presidency under Izetbegovic, but now leads opposition to the Republican Party, 8/11/96

"In my mind, our mission was to come here and separate the factions—which we've done—let a free and fair election take place and, after that, we're gone....Of course, if something happens with the elections we'll be here until God-knows-when."

-- A U.S. soldier participating in the IFOR deployment, 8/11/96

"I know the peace agreement calls for free and fair democratic elections, but I must tell you that my own view is that the best we can hope for is a reasonably democratic electoral process."

-- Robert Frowick, head of the Bosnian mission of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), 8/10/96

"If the U.S. and Europe had helped us in a timely way back in 1992 and 1993, none of these bad elements would be here today."

-- A Syrian-Bosnian resident on the presence and threat of Islamic fighters in Bosnia-Herzegovina, 8/8/96

## In Bosnia and the Balkans:

Tensions heighten at all IFOR base camps when military officials receive a threat to bomb a base in the U.S. sector. The security level is increased to the highest state of alert.

Video cameramen who "were not Serbs" and "weren't registered press personnel" are stopped and film is confiscated outside a U.S. base camp after they are suspected of "surveying" the camp, says a DOD official.

The Presidents of Bosnia and Croatia agree to create the long-promised Muslim-Croat federation by August 31. The federation is expected to have an integrated military command.

Violence erupts near the town Maglij in Central Bosnia between Bosnian Muslims and Croats. The Croats were blocking a planned Muslim religious festival.

Serbian President Milosevic and Croatian President Tudjman reach an accord in Greece on an agreed framework for the resumption of regular bilateral relations between the two states.

Senior military and civilian officials representing NATO arrive and meet in Sarajevo with Bosnia's factional leaders to discuss next month's country-wide elections and compliance with provisions of the Dayton peace accord.

A court in western Bosnia indicts Fikret Abdic, a renegade Muslim leader now competing in Bosnia's September elections, on war crimes charges.

The U.S. begins its program of equipping and training Bosnia's fledgling Muslim-Croat army in Sarajevo.

Islamic warriors who refuse to leave Bosnia are engaging in a broad pattern of intimidation against the local population of Zenica, according to NATO officials and residents.

Reports from Bosnia claim that NATO troops will have a hands-on role in the Bosnian elections, including delivering ballots and securing ballot boxes. NATO officials deny that IFOR forces will have this civilian-oriented role.

After several days of intense negotiations, Croat and Muslim leaders finally recommit to abide by the results of Bosnia's pending elections and accept the formation of a new joint city council in Mostar.

**U.S.** military officials report that elements of U.S. armored battalions in the Balkans will return to their home bases in Germany in the coming weeks.

**B**osnian Muslim and Croat officials agree on a plan to dismantle the Croat mini-state known as Herzeg-Bosna.

**A** bomb badly damages a new bridge built by Romanian peacekeepers, which links the Serbian and Muslim-Croatian parts of Bosnia at Dobo.

**N**ATO troops are finally allowed to inspect a bunker in Han Pijesak, Eastern Bosnia, suspected of being the former headquarters of war criminal General Ratko Mladic, who remains free.

## In Washington:

**T**he U.S. Army evaluates its lessons learned about command, control, communication, and computer systems in Bosnia, and takes steps to address these issues.

**S**enior U.S. military officials criticize NATO's plan to make another change in command (in addition to the replacement of NATO Commander Admiral Leighton Smith by Admiral Joseph Lopez late last month) for the NATO mission in Bosnia in October.

**A** General Accounting Office report concludes that the year-long U.S. military mission in Bosnia will cost nearly \$3.5 billion, almost one-half billion dollars more than the Pentagon's estimate last April.

**T**he White House dismisses reports

made in *The London Times* that the U.S. has plans to seize Bosnian leader Radovan Karadzic in a commando raid.

**G**eneral Ronald Fogelman, Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force, hands down punishment to 16 officers for the air crash which killed U.S. Secretary of Commerce Ronald Brown on April 3rd.

**S**ecretary of State Warren Christopher departs for Brussels to meet with NATO officials and to discuss how to ensure free and fair elections in Bosnia.

## In New York:

**U.S.** officials express concern about charges that United Nations police in Bosnia may be involved in drug, gun, and contraband smuggling and call for the UN to investigate the allegations.

**T**he United Nations Security Council threatens Serbia and Croatia with economic sanctions for failing to surrender suspects indicted by the war crimes tribunal at the Hague.

**T**wo international human rights groups issue reports critical of Croatia's treatment of its Serb minority.

## In Brussels:

**S**ecretary of State Warren Christopher and NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana issue a strong warning to Bosnian Serbs that NATO will have a zero tolerance for hiding weapons, which is a breach of the Dayton accords.

## Compliance Watch:

In Dobo, a Serb-controlled city, NATO troops discover a Muslim man beaten severely and whose thumbs were cut off. The man dies before a doctor can arrive.

NATO plans to confiscate and destroy a 300-ton cache of mines, rockets, dynamite and small arms hidden by the Bosnian Serb police in violation of the Dayton peace accord.

United Nations officials report that a Muslim man died in Serb police custody, apparently from severe internal injuries sustained from a beating in Banja Luka.

Bosnian Serb troops refuse to allow inspectors from the NATO-led peace force access to a military site near Han Pijesak.

Bosnian Muslims and Croats exchange 13 prisoners of war who were to have been released by January 19<sup>th</sup>.

The Bosnian Serb Government says that it has banned exhumations of alleged mass graves on its territory until it is allowed reciprocal rights to open graves on Muslim and Croatian held territory within Bosnia.

Burning and looting reportedly continue in Krajina.

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.