



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: 16-30 September 1996
Vol. 1, Issue 23

Quotes of the Week:

"This was the most fraudulent election in Europe since the fall of the Berlin Wall. But with the Americans presiding and ramming it down everybody's throats, there is little you can do."

-- UN official, cited in *Washington Post*, 9/28/96

"I think it was a reasonably democratic process and a reasonably democratic result which reflects the will of the people."

-- Robert Frowick, OSCE head of mission, at a Sarjevo press conference, cited in *Washington Post*, 9/30/96

"Our commitment to Bosnia does not end with these elections."

-- President Clinton, cited in *Washington Times*, 9/17/96

"Without the Americans, there is not the possibility of having peace. That is the reality."

-- Simone Veil, member of International Commission on the Balkans, cited in *New York Daily News*, 9/25/96

"There is a need to go from an implementation force to a stabilization force."

-- General George Joulwan, NATO SACEUR, before a meeting of NATO Defense ministries in Norway, cited by *Associated Press*, 9/25/96

"There will not be a uniquely European force. This is well understood by the Americans."

-- Senior NATO diplomat, commenting on the prospect of U.S. participation in a follow-on peacekeeping force, cited by *Associated Press*, 9/25/96

In Bosnia and the Balkans:

A final counting of ballots shows current Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic as the top vote-getter, with Serb nationalist Momcilo Krajisnik winning the Serb seat and Kresimir Zubak, a Croat nationalist, rounding out the three-person rotating presidency. The strong victory of nationalist candidates has led to speculation that Bosnia will remain sharply divided among ethnic lines. The joint presidency is expected to begin in October.

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) reports that numerous ballot counting errors call into question the results of the election, although OSCE officials dismiss a report by the International Crisis Group monitoring the election that the number of votes cast exceeded the eligible electorate. The OSCE, reportedly under American pressure, overrules a recommendation by one of its subcommittees to conduct a recount, and certifies the results of the vote.

European sources say NATO has been working for months on plans for a follow-on "IFOR-2" military deployment in Bosnia, to include American troops, after the current IFOR mission ends in December.

French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette says U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has agreed to a plan calling for international involvement in Bosnia, including the deployment of a peacekeeping force, until the end of 1998. The State Department says Secretary Christopher "did not agree to anything."

The Croat and Serb victors in Bosnia's presidential elections meet in Pale amid speculation that they will seek to work together against the interests of the Muslim leadership. This is followed by a meeting in Sarajevo between all three presidential victors.

Austrian officials say that the Third World Relief Agency, an obscure organization in Vienna run by a former Sudanese diplomat, was responsible for funneling at least \$350 million from radical Islamic movements and Muslim governments to Bosnia. Western intelligence officials say at least half of the funds were used to purchase and smuggle arms illegally to the Bosnian army. The Clinton Administration reportedly was aware of this activity beginning in 1993, but took no action to stop it.

U.S. officials say they will work to maintain leverage on Serbia through the selected use of sanctions if the primary UN-imposed sanctions are lifted. Formal UN sanctions against Serbia are expected to be lifted in early October.

Exhumation of mass grave sites in Bosnia is suspended until next year due to the onset of deteriorating weather conditions.

In Washington:

Secretary of State Christopher says that U.S. forces in Bosnia will be able to leave after December, but that a "follow-on international presence" will be required in Bosnia after the current IFOR mission ends. He says the President will be "very open with the American people," but that U.S. participation in a follow-on force should not be decided "prematurely."

Secretary of Defense Perry states that the United States has not yet made any decision to participate in a follow-on peacekeeping force. He says, "I want to reserve all of my judgments," but notes that "we are prepared to consider participating if the NATO study showed that our involvement was necessary and appropriate."

During a hearing before the House National Security Committee, Deputy Secretary of Defense John White says, "As of today, we do not know whether there will be a follow-on force, and therefore we do not know what its mission would be." He also says that NATO is looking at four options, including a complete withdrawal; a continued "deterrence role"; the "provision of general security" against violent incidents; and extending the current IFOR mission.

House National Security Committee Chairman Floyd Spence states that "the administration is quietly preparing for the commitment of United States troops on the ground in Bosnia well beyond the December deadline, but does

not want to admit such a fundamental change in plans prior to the November election."

An independent panel, the International Commission on the Balkans, releases a report that concludes at least 2,000 U.S. troops will need to remain in Bosnia for up to two years in order to ensure peace.

Deputy Secretary of Defense White testifies that the costs of the Bosnia mission have increased to more than \$3.2 billion. He calls previous Administration estimates of \$1.5 billion too low, noting that initial projections were made "before we had detailed cost estimates from the military departments."

Reports indicate the Clinton Administration may seek to reprogram an additional \$100 million for the provision of arms and logistical support to Bosnia early next year.

In New York:

In a speech to the UN General Assembly, Bosnian President Izetbegovic says that peace in Bosnia will not take hold unless refugees are allowed to return to their homes. He also declares that, "the presence of the international military forces will be indispensable for a certain and limited period of time..."

In Brussels:

NATO Secretary General Javier Solano suggests an international peacekeeping force consisting of up to 50,000 troops from 30 countries -- including 15,000 U.S. troops -- will be necessary after the current NATO mission ends.

In Bergen:

NATO defense ministers meeting in Norway discuss options for a post-IFOR military force in Bosnia. A NATO study reviewing the options is expected to be completed in late October.

Compliance Watch:

IFOR troops confiscate illegal weapons from a group of Muslims in the zone of separation in the town of Jusici in northeast Bosnia. The Muslims were attempting to forcibly resettle refugees in the village.

IFOR spokesman Major Simon Haselock criticizes the Bosnian government for failing to remove Muslims from Jusici prior to the resettlement of eligible refugees there. He accuses the Bosnian government of "standing in the way of a future, peaceful resettlement for tens of thousands of refugees."

Small "military cells" of Islamic mujahedeen reportedly remain in towns throughout Bosnia. The United States has reportedly created a "Joint Commission on Foreign Forces" to deal with the situation.

Previous issues of the Update are archived on the world wide web site of the House National Security Committee at: <http://www.house.gov/nsc/bosnia.htm>. 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 Committee staff.