

## PREFACE

It is now twenty years since the Dayton Peace Agreement (formally known as the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina) was signed on 14 December at the Paris Peace Conference to mark the cessation of hostilities that tore that country apart between 1992 and 1995. The Peace Agreement, reinforced by United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1031, outlined a key role for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in overseeing the military framework needed to establish security in the region. The resulting NATO-led Implementation Force (IFOR) was the Alliance's first major crisis response operation, providing a multinational peacekeeping force of 60,000 troops that was deployed on 20 December 1995 for a one-year mission to provide military support for the civilian aspects of the Agreement. IFOR was subsequently transformed into the Stabilisation Force (SFOR) which continued until 2005 under the NATO framework.


To commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Dayton Peace Agreement, the NATO Archives presents this special publication of publicly disclosed NATO documents that offer a unique opportunity to look back at the developments in the wake of the Agreement that ultimately led to NATO's first-ever ground mission. For the first time, correspondence exchanged at the highest political levels concerning IFOR and the events in Bosnia is now available to the public. This correspondence, consisting of a series of letters between NATO Secretary General Javier Solana and United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, includes the never-before released monthly reports of IFOR's mission that were mandated by article 25 of UNSCR 1031.

Also included in this special publication are two collections of public documents that offer a contemporaneous chronicle of IFOR. First is a collection of the NATO-issued press releases and statements related to the establishment and operation of the IFOR mission, organized chronologically as a public timeline of NATO's involvement with the situation in Bosnia. The second set of documents reprints the first and last issues of THE IFOR INFORMER, the command information newspaper for ground level troops participating in the IFOR mission. Published in Naples at HQ AFSOUTH on a biweekly basis, this newspaper offered a range of stories that presented a broader record of the mission beyond its operational levels. Available in both English and French editions, THE IFOR INFORMER provides a fascinating snapshot into the Alliance's efforts to foster a sense of community within its first international peacekeeping force.

I hope the documents collected in this book offer renewed reflection upon an important moment in NATO's history. The Dayton Peace Agreement helped usher a new era for the Alliance as new partnerships and peacekeeping became central to NATO's transition into a post-Cold War environment. All of the documents in this book will soon be made available on the Internet through the NATO Archives Online tool (<http://archives.nato.int>). In the meantime, I welcome you to enjoy their presentation in this 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition.



Ineke Deserno  
NATO Archivist



Excerpt from NATO AT A GLANCE:  
A Factual Survey of Issues  
and Challenges Facing the Alliance  
at the End of the 1990s  
(NATO Office of Information  
and Press, 1996), 41-51

## INTRODUCTION

### NATO'S ROLE IN PEACEKEEPING IN THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

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The political basis for the Alliance's role in the former Yugoslavia was established at the Ministerial Meeting of the North Atlantic Council in Oslo, in June 1992, when NATO Foreign Ministers announced their readiness to support, on a case by case basis, in accordance with their own procedures, peacekeeping activities under the responsibility of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) – subsequently renamed the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). This included making available Alliance resources and expertise for peacekeeping operations.

In December 1992, the Alliance also stated its readiness to support peacekeeping operations under the authority of the UN Security Council, which has the primary responsibility for international peace and security. NATO Foreign Ministers reviewed peacekeeping and sanctions enforcement measures already being undertaken by NATO countries, individually and as an Alliance, to support the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions relating to the conflict in the former Yugoslavia. They indicated that the Alliance was ready to respond positively to further initiatives that the UN Secretary General might take in seeking Alliance assistance in this field.

Since 1992, the Alliance has taken several key decisions, leading to operations by NATO naval forces, in conjunction with the WEU, to monitor and subsequently enforce the UN embargo in the Adriatic; and by NATO air forces, first to monitor and then to enforce, the UN no-fly zone over Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Alliance also provided close air support to the UN Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and authorised air strikes to relieve the strangulation of Sarajevo and other threat-

ened Safe Areas. Decisive action by the Alliance in support of the UN in the former Yugoslavia, together with a determined diplomatic effort, broke the siege of Sarajevo and made a negotiated solution to the conflict possible in autumn 1995. With the signature of the Bosnian Peace Agreement in December 1995, deployment of the NATO-led Implementation Force began. Its mission is to implement the military aspects of the Peace Agreement. Additional information on the operations leading up to the signature of the Peace Agreement is provided below.

### *Maritime Operations*

NATO ships belonging to the Alliance's Standing Naval Force Mediterranean, assisted by NATO Maritime Patrol Aircraft (MPA), began monitoring operations in the Adriatic in July 1992. These operations were undertaken in support of the UN arms embargo against all republics of the former Yugoslavia (UN Security Council Resolution 713) and the sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) (UNSCR 757).

In November 1992, as an extension of the maritime monitoring operations, NATO and WEU forces in the Adriatic began enforcement operations in support of UN sanctions. Operations were then no longer restricted to registering possible violators and included stopping, inspecting and diverting ships when required.

At a joint session of the North Atlantic Council and the Council of the Western European Union on 8 June 1993, the combined NATO/WEU concept of operations was approved. This operation, named *Sharp Guard*, includes a single command and control arrangement under the authority of the Councils of both organisations. Operational control of the combined NATO/WEU Task Force was delegated, through NATO's Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR), to the Commander Allied Naval Forces Southern Europe (COMNAV-SOUTH).



Since November 1992, more than 63,000 ships have been challenged and, when necessary, diverted and inspected. After the UN Security Council strengthened the embargo against Serbia and Montenegro with Resolution 820 in April 1993, no ship has been able to break the embargo and six ships have been caught while attempting to do so.

Following the initialling of the Bosnian Peace Agreement on 21 November 1995, NATO and the WEU have adapted *Operation Sharp Guard* in accordance with the UN Security Council Resolutions suspending economic sanctions (UNSCR 1022) and phasing out the arms embargo, subject to certain conditions (UNSCR 1021). In accordance with UNSCR 1022, NATO and the WEU stopped enforcing the economic sanctions, although this enforcement can be reinstated if the Parties do not meet the conditions specified by the UN. The arms embargo will be lifted gradually, beginning on 14 March 1996 (90 days after signature of the Peace Agreement), and the enforcement will be discontinued in a phased manner, in accordance with UNSCR 1021.

### *Air Operations*

NATO Airborne Early Warning and Control System (AWACS) aircraft began monitoring operations in October 1992, in support of UNSCR 781, which established a no-fly zone over Bosnia-Herzegovina. Data on possible violations of the no-fly zone was passed to the appropriate UN authorities on a regular basis.

On 31 March 1993, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 816 authorising enforcement of the no-fly zone over Bosnia-Herzegovina and extending the ban to cover flights by all fixed-wing and rotary-wing aircraft except those authorised by UNPROFOR. In the event of further violations, it authorised UN member states to take all necessary measures to ensure compliance.

A NATO enforcement operation, called *Deny Flight*, began on 12 April 1993. It initially involved some 50 fighter and reconnaissance aircraft (later increased to more than 200) from various Alliance nations, flying from airbases in Italy and from aircraft carriers in the Adriatic. By December 1995, almost 100,000 sorties had been flown by fighter and supporting aircraft.

On 28 February 1994, four warplanes violating the no-fly zone over Bosnia-Herzegovina were shot down by NATO aircraft. This was the first military engagement ever undertaken by the Alliance.

In June 1993, NATO Foreign Ministers decided to offer protective air power for the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in the performance of its overall mandate. In July, NATO aircraft began flying training missions for providing such close air support (CAS). On 10 and 11 April 1994, following a request from the UN Force Command, NATO aircraft provided Close Air Support to protect UN personnel in Gorazde, a UN-designated Safe Area in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

At the January 1994 Brussels Summit, Alliance leaders reaffirmed their readiness to carry out air strikes in order to prevent the strangulation of Sarajevo, the Safe Areas and other threatened areas in Bosnia-Herzegovina and on 9 February 1994, the North Atlantic Council took further steps to implement this decision.

Further decisions were taken on 22 April 1994 in response to a request by the UN Secretary General, to support the UN in its efforts to end the siege of Gorazde and to protect other Safe Areas. The Council declared that specified military assets and installations would be subject to air strikes if any Bosnian Serb heavy weapons remained within a 20-kilometre Exclusion Zone around the centre of Gorazde. Regarding other UN-designated Safe Areas (Bihac, Srebrenica, Tuzla and Zepa), the Council

authorised air strikes if these areas were attacked by heavy weapons from any range. These other Safe Areas could also become Exclusion Zones if, in the common judgement of the NATO and UN Military Commanders, there was a concentration or movement of heavy weapons within a radius of 20 kilometres around them.

On 5 August 1994, NATO aircraft attacked a target within the Sarajevo Exclusion Zone at the request of UNPROFOR. The air strikes were ordered following agreement between NATO and UNPROFOR, after weapons were seized by Bosnian Serbs from a weapons collection site near Sarajevo.

On 22 September 1994, following a Bosnian Serb attack on a UNPROFOR vehicle near Sarajevo, NATO aircraft carried out an air strike against a Bosnian Serb tank, again at the request of UNPROFOR.

On 21 November 1994, NATO aircraft attacked the Udbina airfield in Serb-held Croatia in response to recent attacks launched from that airfield against targets in the Bihac area of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

After attacks on two NATO aircraft launched from a surface-to-air missile site south of Otoka, in north-west Bosnia-Herzegovina, an air strike was conducted against this site by NATO aircraft on 23 November 1994.

Following a deterioration of the situation in former Yugoslavia, including violations of the Exclusion Zones and the shelling of Safe Areas, air strikes were again carried out on 25 and 26 May 1995, targeting Bosnian Serb ammunition depots in Pale, Bosnia-Herzegovina. During this period, some 370 UN peacekeepers in Bosnia were taken hostage and subsequently used as

human shields at potential targets in a bid to prevent further air strikes. NATO Foreign Ministers, meeting in Noordwijk, the Netherlands, on 30 May, condemned the escalation of violence in Bosnia and the hostile acts against UN personnel by the Bosnian Serbs. By 18 June, the UN hostages had been released and remaining peacekeeping forces which had been isolated at weapons collection sites around Sarajevo were withdrawn from these sites.

On 11 July, the UN called for NATO close air support to protect UN peacekeepers threatened by Bosnian Serb forces advancing on the UN-declared Safe Area of Srebrenica in Bosnia-Herzegovina. NATO aircraft attacked targets as identified by, and under the control of, the UN. Despite NATO's air support, the Safe Area of Srebrenica fell to Bosnian Serb forces which soon overran the nearby Safe Area of Zepa as well.

Following the international meeting on Bosnia-Herzegovina held in London on 21 July 1995, the North Atlantic Council approved, on 25 July, the necessary planning aimed at deterring an attack on the Safe Area of Gorazde, while ensuring that NATO air power would be used in a timely and effective way if this Safe Area was threatened or attacked. The Council, on 1 August, took similar decisions aimed at deterring attacks on the Safe Areas of Sarajevo, Bihac and Tuzla.

Deny Flight's mandate was terminated on 20 December 1995, with the transfer of authority from the UN to NATO as stipulated in the UN Security Council Resolution of 15 December. This provided for the creation of the NATO-led Implementation Force in Bosnia, following the Peace Agreement signed on 14 December. NATO will continue to control the airspace over Bosnia-Herzegovina, as part of its peace implementation mission *Joint Endeavour*.

### *Operation Deliberate Force*

On 30 August 1995, NATO aircraft, operating within the provisions agreed between NATO and the UN for *Operation Deny Flight*, commenced a series of attacks on Bosnian Serb military targets in Bosnia. The air operations were initiated after UN military commanders concluded, beyond any reasonable doubt, that a mortar attack in Sarajevo two days earlier came from Bosnian Serb positions. The operations were jointly decided by the Commander in Chief, Allied Forces Southern Europe (CINCSOUTH) and the Force Commander, UN Peace Forces, under UN Security Council Resolution 836 and in accordance with the North Atlantic Council's decisions of 25 July and 1 August 1995, which were endorsed by the UN Secretary General. The common objectives of NATO and the UN were to reduce the threat to the Sarajevo Safe Area and to deter further attacks there or on any other Safe Area; the withdrawal of Bosnian Serb heavy weapons from the total Exclusion Zone around Sarajevo; and complete freedom of movement for UN forces and personnel and non-governmental organisations, and unrestricted use of Sarajevo Airport.

On 20 September 1995, CINCSOUTH and the UN Peace Force Commander concluded that the Bosnian Serbs had complied with the conditions set down in a letter of 3 September by the UNPF Commander and therefore air strikes were discontinued. However, they stressed that any attack on Sarajevo or any other Safe Area, or other non-compliance with the provisions of the Sarajevo Exclusion Zone, freedom of movement or the functioning of the Airport would be subject to investigation and resumption of air strike operations.

Following the conclusion of *Operation Deliberate Force*, NATO conducted two additional air operations under *Operation Deny Flight*. On 4 October 1995, NATO aircraft fired three missiles at Bosnian Serb radar sites after anti-aircraft radar had locked onto

Alliance aircraft. On 9 October NATO aircraft attacked a Bosnian Serb army Command and Control bunker, near Tuzla, in response to a request for air support from UN Peace Forces, which had come under artillery shelling from Bosnian Serb guns for a second consecutive day.

### *Contingency Planning*

Throughout this period, NATO conducted contingency planning for a range of options to support UN activities relating to the crisis. Contingency plans were provided to the UN for enforcement of the no-fly zone over Bosnia-Herzegovina; the establishment of relief zones and safe havens for civilians in Bosnia; and ways to prevent the spread of the conflict to Kosovo and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Possible contingency arrangements for the protection of humanitarian assistance, monitoring of heavy weapons, and protection of UN forces on the ground, were also made available to the UN.

In mid-1994, due to the degradation of the situation on the ground, NATO military authorities were tasked to undertake contingency planning to assist the UN forces in withdrawing from Bosnia-Herzegovina and/or Croatia, if that became unavoidable. Plans for a NATO-led operation to support the withdrawal of UN forces were provisionally approved by the North Atlantic Council in June 1995. At the time, the Alliance stressed its hope that its planning and preparations would serve to underpin the continued UN presence in the former Yugoslavia.

As prospects for peace in Bosnia improved in autumn 1995, following *Operation Deliberate Force*, the Alliance reaffirmed its readiness to help implement a peace plan and stepped up its contingency planning to do so. With the initialling of a peace agreement in Dayton, Ohio (USA) between the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia and the Federal

Republic of Serbia on 21 November, preparations were expedited for a NATO-led Implementation Force (IFOR) to implement the military aspects of the peace agreement.

### *Operation Joint Endeavour*

On 5 December 1995, the NATO Council, meeting at the level of Foreign and Defence Ministers, endorsed the military planning for the NATO-led Implementation Force (IFOR), stating that *Operation Joint Endeavour* would attest to NATO's capacity to fulfil its new missions of crisis management and peacekeeping, in addition to its core functions as a defensive alliance.

An advance enabling force of 2600 NATO troops began arriving in Bosnia and Croatia on 2 December to prepare for the full deployment to Bosnia of the Implementation Force. Following the signing of the Bosnian Peace Agreement in Paris on 14 December 1995, and on the basis of the UN Security Council's Resolution 1031 of 15 December, the North Atlantic Council approved the Operational Plan (OPLAN) and, on 16 December, activated the deployment of the main body of 60,000 IFOR troops.

The IFOR's mission is to ensure compliance with the Agreement by all Parties and to implement its military aspects. NATO will not impose a settlement on the Parties, but will take the necessary action to ensure compliance. As spelled out in UNSCR 1031, IFOR is operating under Chapter VII (peace enforcement) of the UN Charter.

The Implementation Force has a unified command and is NATO-led, under the political direction and control of the Alliance's North Atlantic Council, as stipulated by the Peace Agreement (Annex 1A). Overall military authority is in the hands of NATO's Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR), General George Joulwan. General Joulwan has des-

ignated Admiral Leighton Smith (NATO's Commander in Chief Southern Command) as Commander in Theatre. Admiral Smith is based in Sarajevo.

The IFOR is operating under NATO rules of engagement which provide for the clear and robust use of force if necessary.

The IFOR is building partly upon elements of the UN Peace Forces already in place. These forces have come under NATO command and control following a transfer of authority on 20 December 1995 and the termination of UNPROFOR's mandate.

Preparations for the IFOR have been undertaken in coordination with non-NATO countries and other international organisations which will be involved in the implementation of the Peace Agreement. NATO Ministers have welcomed the wide range of offers from Partnership for Peace and other nations outside the Alliance, to participate in and support the operation. Thus, in addition to troop contributions from all NATO nations with armed forces, a significant number of non-NATO nations are participating in the IFOR.<sup>(1)</sup>

Non-NATO forces are being incorporated into the unified command structure alongside NATO forces, under the command of the IFOR Commander and his multinational divisional commanders.

Russia's participation in the Implementation Force, which is subject to special arrangements agreed between NATO and Russia, is very important for the mission's success. It is a further significant step in the evolving NATO-Russia cooperative relationship.

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(1)As of February 1996, non-NATO participating nations included Austria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Sweden and Ukraine – all of which are Partnership for Peace countries – plus, Egypt, Jordan, Malaysia and Morocco.



IFOR is implementing the military aspects of the Bosnian Peace Agreement in an unbiased and even-handed way. The operation will be of a limited duration of approximately 12 months.

### *Conclusion*

Since 1992, when NATO ships first began monitoring the UN embargo in the Adriatic, the Alliance has taken an increasingly active and decisive role in the former Yugoslavia. NATO's involvement has furthered its three objectives of supporting the peace process, helping to protect the UN-designated 'Safe Areas', and preventing a spillover of the conflict to neighbouring countries. NATO's presence in the air and its preparations to support a possible UN withdrawal allowed UN forces to remain on the ground and to carry out their important tasks. At the same time, NATO's *Operation Deliberate Force* helped to convince the parties to the conflict that their differences were best settled at the negotiating table rather than on the battlefield.

The NATO-led operation in Bosnia, *Joint Endeavour*, is NATO's first-ever ground force operation, its first-ever deployment "out of area", and its first-ever joint operation with NATO's Partnership for Peace partners and other non-NATO countries. It demonstrates that the Alliance has adapted its forces and policies to the requirements of the post-Cold War world, while continuing to provide collective security and defence for all Allies. It is tangible proof that, in addition to carrying out the core functions of defence of the Alliance, its military forces have the flexibility to be used outside the NATO area, for operations under the authority of the UN Security Council and with clear political objectives defining the military tasks. NATO's own military capabilities and its adaptability to include forces of non-NATO countries are decisive factors in the Alliance's role in implementing the Bosnian Peace Agreement. This operation shows that the Alliance remains vital, relevant and prepared to deal with the new, multifaceted security risks facing Europe with the end of the Cold War.



Sergio Balanzino  
Acting Secretary General  
NATO



Javier Solana  
Secretary General  
NATO

Boutros Boutros-Ghali  
Secretary-General  
United Nations

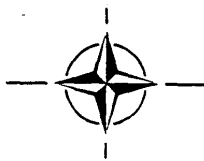


## THE CORRESPONDANCE BETWEEN THE SECRETARIES GENERAL OF NATO AND THE UNITED NATIONS

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ORGANISATION DU TRAITE  
DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD



NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY  
ORGANIZATION

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL DELEGUE  
DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL

BOULEVARD LEOPOLD III  
B-1110 BRUXELLES

SG/95/811

23rd November 1995

Dear Secretary-General,

The North Atlantic Council (NAC) yesterday discussed the peace agreement initialed in Dayton, Ohio and welcomed this very positive development.

With a view to NATO's involvement in implementing the military aspects of the peace agreement, we need to expedite our coordination activities, building on the close working relationship established at all levels over the past year.

Of specific concern at this time are the transition arrangements that need to be put in place urgently between our two organisations, especially as far as NATO's use of available assets and support facilities in theatre are concerned. In this regard we welcome the establishment in Zagreb of a UN Peace Force Steering Committee on Transition of Responsibility in the Former Yugoslavia, and intend to work closely with it. I am writing to Mr Annan, as your Special Envoy to NATO, on this subject.

I would like to take this opportunity to request your continued support in ensuring that we maintain the close cooperation between our two organisations in the crucial period ahead. We must work together urgently to ensure that everything is in place to allow a smooth transition from the UN Peace Forces to a NATO-led Implementation Force. I look forward to rapid progress in this work.

Yours sincerely,

Sergio Balanzino  
Acting Secretary General

His Excellency  
Dr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali  
Secretary-General  
United Nations  
New York 10017  
USA

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ORGANISATION DU TRAITE  
DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD



NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY  
ORGANIZATION

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL DELEGUE  
DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL

BOULEVARD LEOPOLD III  
B-1110 BRUXELLES

SG/95/834

30th November 1995

Dear Secretary-General,

In the light of the peace agreement initialled in Dayton last week and bearing in mind its impending signature in Paris, the North Atlantic Council today authorized the deployment of theatre enabling forces into Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

These forces consist primarily of headquarters communications and logistics elements involving around 2,6000 NATO personnel. Their early deployment is required to prepare for the rapid and efficient arrival of the main body of a NATO-led Implementation Force following signature of the peace agreement and adoption of a UN Security Council resolution.

The enabling forces will operate under NATO command and with NATO rules of engagement that have been coordinated with the UN Peace Forces. The enabling forces will be deployed under status of forces agreements with Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia signed by the two governments in Dayton and endorsed in the case of the Bosnia-Herzegovina agreement in side letters from the Republic of Croatia, the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republika Srpska. I attach letters of invitation from the two governments which you may wish to make available to the UN Security Council.

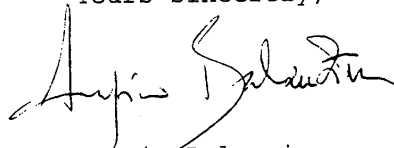
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His Excellency  
Dr Boutros Boutros-Ghali  
Secretary General  
United Nations  
New York

- 2 -

We will continue to keep you and Mr. Annan closely informed as the Alliance prepares to implement the military aspects of the peace agreement.

Yours sincerely,



Sergio Balanzino  
Acting Secretary General

cc: Mr Kofi Annan  
Special Representative of the  
Secretary-General for the former  
Yugoslavia

ORGANISATION DU TRAITE  
DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD



NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY  
ORGANIZATION

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL  
SECRETARY GENERAL

BOULEVARD LEOPOLD III  
B-1110 BRUXELLES

SG/95/881

16th December 1995

Dear Secretary-General,

Following signature in Paris of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1033, I wish to inform you that the North Atlantic Council has today directed SACEUR to commence Operation JOINT ENDEAVOUR and begin deploying a NATO-led Implementation Force into Bosnia. The IFOR will be made up of forces from both NATO and non-NATO countries operating under NATO Rules of Engagement. As of today, we have invited 16 non-NATO nations to participate in the force. We will be making appropriate arrangements to report to the UN Security Council on IFOR operations in accordance with Resolution 1033.

Also, in accordance with Resolution 1033, the North Atlantic Council has decided to terminate NATO's Operation DENY FLIGHT and transfer the associated forces to Operation JOINT ENDEAVOUR as required. Close Air Support will remain available to UNCRO through Operation JOINT ENDEAVOUR under the authority of UN Security Council Resolutions 981 and 1025 and, after January 15th, 1996, the international forces implementing the Basic Agreement on the Region of Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Srem on the basis, if necessary, of an appropriate UNSCR.

NATO will cooperate actively with the work of the International Criminal Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia within the context of the IFOR mission. Having regard to UN Security Council Resolutions 827 and 1033 and Annex 1-A of the General

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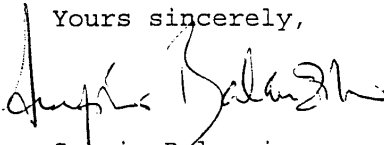
His Excellency  
Dr Boutros Boutros-Ghali  
Secretary-General  
United Nations  
New York 10017  
USA

16th December 1995

Framework Agreement, the North Atlantic Council has agreed that IFOR should detain any persons indicted by the Tribunal who come into contact with IFOR in its execution of assigned tasks in order to assure the transfer of these persons to the Tribunal. This policy will apply in Bosnia-Herzegovina and we are considering its applicability in Croatia.

In closing, allow me to reiterate my comments at the London Peace Implementation Conference: the United Nations has played a major role in helping to create the precondition for a peace settlement, which is now the task of the international community to bring to fruition. I thank you and your Special Representative, Mr Kofi Annan, for your remarkable efforts.

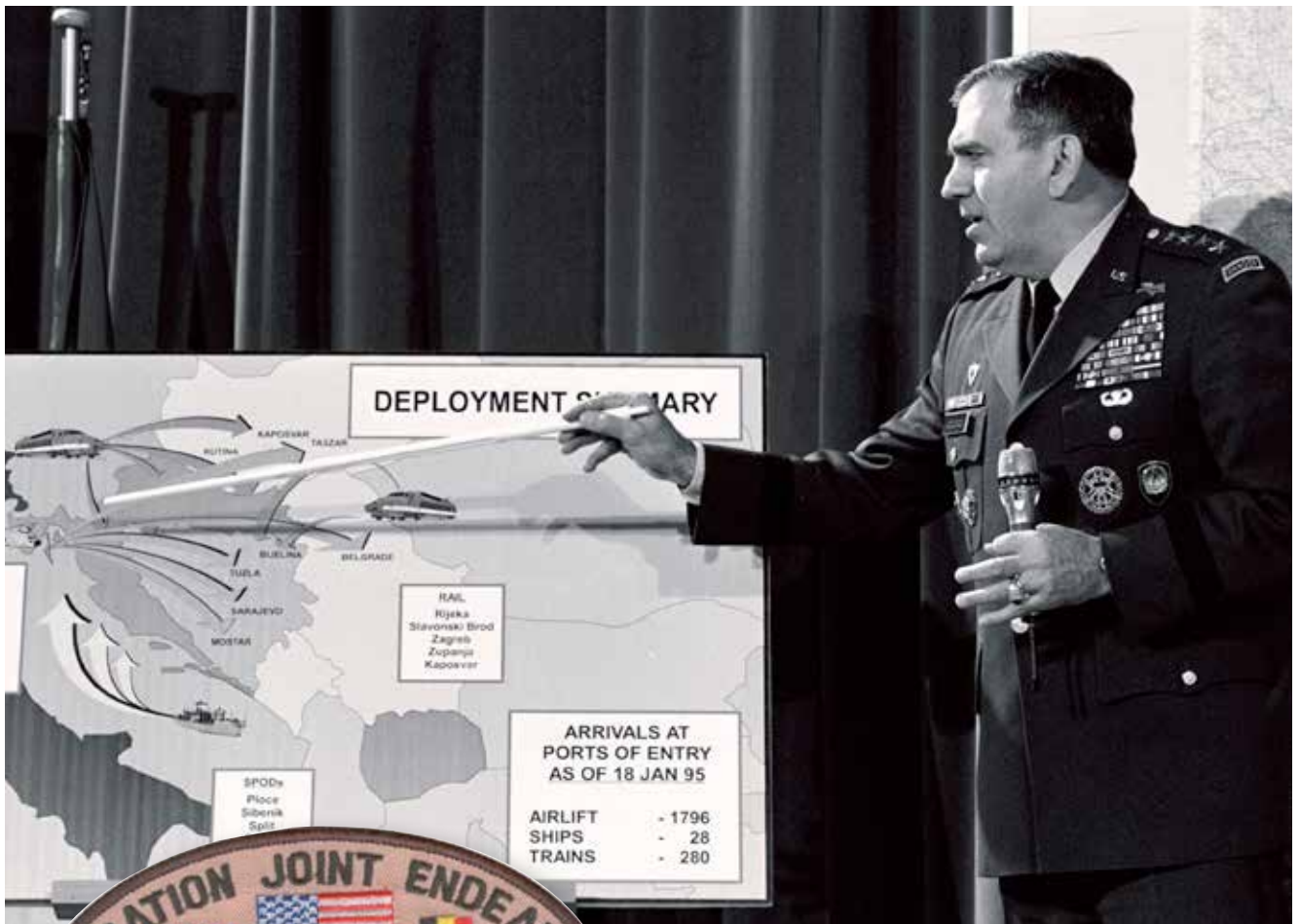
Yours sincerely,



Sergio Balanzino  
Acting Secretary General

cc: Mr Kofi Annan  
Special Representative of the Secretary-General





General George Joulwan  
Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR)



Flight Badge for Operation Joint Endeavour

ORGANISATION DU TRAITE  
DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD



NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY  
ORGANIZATION

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL  
SECRETARY GENERAL

BOULEVARD LEOPOLD III  
B-1110 BRUXELLES

SG/95/914

22 December 1995

Dear Secretary General,

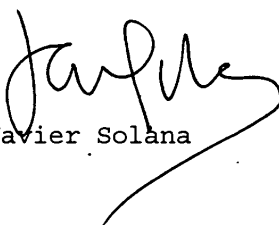
In Ambassador Balanzino's letter of 16th December, he informed you that the North Atlantic Council had directed SACEUR to commence Operation JOINT ENDEAVOUR and begin deploying a NATO-led Implementation Force (IFOR) into Bosnia. This decision followed signature in Paris of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1031. He further informed you that we would be making appropriate arrangements to report to the UN Security Council on IFOR operations in accordance with that resolution.

I now attach the first such report. The information in it is accurate up to 12.00 hours on 21st December. I would appreciate your making this report available to the UN Security Council. I intend to submit subsequent reports at monthly intervals in accordance with UNSCR 1031.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank you, your Special Representative Mr Annan, and UNPF Commander, LtGen Janvier for the tremendous assistance in ensuring that the transition from UNPROFOR to IFOR was a success. I also wish to pay tribute, on behalf of the Alliance, to the UN peacekeepers whose efforts and sacrifices helped to lay the basis for the Bosnian Peace Agreement.

As I already told you on the phone, I very much look forward to working with you to continue the close and important cooperation which has been established between our two Organizations.

Yours sincerely,



Javier Solana

His Excellency  
Dr Boutros Boutros-Ghali  
Secretary General  
United Nations  
New York

## Report to the UN Security Council on IFOR Operations

### NATO Planning

1. Following the initialling in Dayton on 21st November of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Annexes thereto (collectively "the Peace Agreement"), the North Atlantic Council (NAC) on 1st December provisionally approved a plan developed by the Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR) - Operation JOINT ENDEAVOUR - to implement the military aspects of the Peace Agreement. NATO Foreign and Defence Ministers endorsed the military planning at a special meeting at NATO Headquarters on 5th December.

2. SACEUR's plan for IFOR focuses on ensuring compliance by all parties with provisions of Annex 1-A of the Peace Agreement. This includes in particular cessation of hostilities and withdrawal of forces to their respective territories and the establishment of Zones of Separation. In addition, within the limits of IFOR's capabilities and principal tasks, the Force is to be prepared to consider requests to provide assistance to other organizations involved in implementing the civilian tasks associated with the Peace Agreement and to help create secure conditions for them to conduct these tasks.

3. SACEUR has overall authority for Operation JOINT ENDEAVOUR and has designated the Commander-in-Chief Southern Europe (CINCSOUTH) as the commander in Theatre of IFOR. Direction and political control of the operation is provided by the NAC in accordance with the Annex 1-A of the peace agreement. A Political Adviser has been appointed in theatre to Commander IFOR. IFOR is to carry out its mission even-handedly, and the cooperation of the parties to the Peace Agreement is assumed.

### Establishment of the Implementation Force

4. On 1st December, in the light of the Peace Agreement initialled in Dayton the previous week and its impending signature in Paris, the NAC authorized SACEUR to deploy Theatre Enabling Forces into Croatia and into Bosnia and Herzegovina. These forces consisted primarily of headquarters, communications and logistics elements, involving around 2400 NATO personnel. Their early deployment was required to prepare for the rapid and efficient arrival of the main body of IFOR following signature of the Peace Agreement and adoption of a UN Security Council resolution. The Enabling Forces were deployed in close coordination with the UN Peace Force and under Status of Forces Agreements (SOFA) with Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia signed by the two governments in Dayton and subsequently by NATO authorities.

5. Following the signature of the Peace Agreement in Paris on 14th December and the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1031 on 15th December, the NAC on 16th December provided its final approval to SACEUR's plan for Operation JOINT ENDEAVOUR and

authorized him to deploy the IFOR main body forces. The NAC also approved the necessary rules of engagement to provide the IFOR with the authority to accomplish its mission and protect itself and friendly forces, while complying with the international legal principles of proportionality, the minimum use of force and the requirement to minimise the potential for collateral damage.

6. Immediately following the NAC decision on 16th December, deployment of the IFOR main body forces commenced. Despite some delays caused by bad weather, headquarters were established in Sarajevo for the IFOR and the ACE Rapid Reaction Corps and in Sarajevo, Gornji Vakuf and Tuzla for three multinational divisions. Transfer of authority from UNPROFOR to IFOR took place on 20th December, four days following initial deployment of the main body forces. The buildup of IFOR continues. It is anticipated that the bulk of the force will be deployed by the end of January.

7. NATO has worked closely with the UN Headquarters and the UNPF to provide for a smooth transition from UNPROFOR to IFOR. As of 21st December, the following units have transferred from UNPROFOR to the IFOR: all British and French elements of UNPF, the Spanish battalion, the Turkish battalion, the Dutch mortar company, the Belgian/Dutch transport company, the German field hospital and the Danish tank company. Other UNPF units will either transfer to IFOR at a later date or be withdrawn from theatre under the control of IFOR.

8. Operation DENY FLIGHT has been terminated and its associated forces transferred to Operation JOINT ENDEAVOUR. Operation JOINT ENDEAVOUR will control the airspace over Bosnia and Herzegovina in accordance with Annex 1-A of the Peace Agreement. It will also provide close air support to UNCRO under UN Security Council Resolutions 981 and 1025.

#### Participation by Non-NATO Countries

9. From early in the planning process, NATO briefed interested Partnership for Peace countries, other contributors to the UN Peace Force and other international organizations on NATO decisions and planning. On 5th December, the NAC agreed that the NATO Secretary General should issue written invitations to 14 countries to contribute forces to IFOR. These were Austria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Sweden, Ukraine and Pakistan. On 14th December, the NAC agreed that additional invitations should be extended to Egypt and Malaysia. Offers from other countries remain under consideration.

10. Non-NATO IFOR contributors have been incorporated into the planning process through an IFOR Coordination Centre at SHAPE and meetings of an Ad Hoc Planning Coordination Group at NATO Headquarters. Liaison is also being established at the IFOR Headquarters. Their involvement in planning and the command structure is to be complemented by consultations at the political

level. To this end, the NAC is prepared to meet with representatives of non-NATO IFOR contributors as necessary in order to allow those countries to associate themselves with major NAC decisions. The NAC had its first meeting with non-NATO IFOR contributors on 15th December. This provided an opportunity for those countries to express their political views on Operation JOINT ENDEAVOUR and to associate themselves with it.

11. Special arrangements are being developed for the participation of Russian forces in IFOR. This is in keeping with the Alliance's developing relationship with Russia, as well as the important role that the Russian Federation will play in implementing the Peace Agreement.

#### Cooperation and Compliance by the Parties

12. As of 21st December, all Parties to the Peace Agreement have cooperated with the deployment of the IFOR, in accordance with their commitments. In addition, the Parties have demonstrated compliance with provisions of the Peace Agreement. This includes the shutting down of all early warning, air defence, and fire control radars within 72 hours of entry into force of Annex 1-A, and the starting of withdrawal of forces from the Agreed Cease-Fire Zone of Separation. The next major deadline in the Peace Agreement is for the Parties, by 27th December, to transfer and vacate selected positions along the Agreed Cease-Fire Line in Sarajevo according to instructions to be issued by the IFOR Commander.

13. The Joint Military Commissions established by the Peace Agreement have been activated. The first meeting took place at the level of the IFOR Commander on 21st December. In accordance with the Peace Agreement, no persons indicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia will be permitted to participate in the commissions.

#### Cooperation with Other Organizations and the High Representative

14. In accordance with the Peace Agreement and UN Security Council Resolution 1031, the mission of IFOR is limited in function and in time. The Alliance looks to other organizations to carry out the civilian tasks defined in the Peace Agreement and necessary to ensure a lasting peace. NATO's Acting Secretary General attended the London Peace Implementation Conference on 8th-9th December and the Petersberg Conference on an arms control regime hosted by the German Government on 18th December. NATO will participate in the Peace Implementation Council established by the London Conference and will also be prepared to participate in meetings of its Steering Board when appropriate.

15. As stated in paragraph 2, the IFOR is prepared, within the limits of its capabilities and principal tasks, to consider requests to provide assistance to other organizations involved in implementing the civilian tasks associated with the Peace Agreement. Integral to IFOR is a civil-military cooperation

structure designed to ensure effective cooperation between IFOR commanders at various levels and the numerous UN and other agencies in theatre. Early and close liaison has been established with the UNHCR in particular.

16. NATO strongly supports the work of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and will cooperate actively with the Tribunal within the context of the IFOR mission. Having regard to UN Security Council Resolutions 827 and 1031 and Annex 1-A of the Peace Agreement, the NAC has agreed that IFOR should detain persons indicted by the Tribunal who come into contact with IFOR in the execution of its assigned tasks in order to assure the transfer of these persons to the Tribunal.

17. Close liaison is being established between the IFOR Commander and Mr. Carl Bildt, the High Representative who has been designated to monitor the implementation of the Peace Agreement and mobilize and, as appropriate, give guidance to and coordinate the activities of the civilian organisations and agencies involved. The Secretary General of NATO Mr. Javier Solana, met Mr. Bildt on 19th December 1995. Mr Bildt has also been invited to meet the NAC in January.



ORGANISATION DU TRAITE  
DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD



NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY  
ORGANIZATION

LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL  
SECRETARY GENERAL

BOULEVARD LEOPOLD III  
B-1110 BRUXELLES

SG/96/134

23rd January 1996

Dear Secretary-General,

In accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1031, I attach the second report on IFOR operations. The information contained within this report is accurate as of 18th January 1996. I would appreciate your making this report available to the UN Security Council.

You will appreciate that the timing of this second report precluded a full summary of the degree to which the Parties have complied with the relevant terms of the military annex to the Dayton Accord as required of them by D+30 (19th January 1996). For this reason, I would like to use this opportunity to convey to you the current assessment of the state of compliance by SACEUR, General Joulwan.

General Joulwan reports that the spirit of cooperation between IFOR and the Parties continues and that substantial progress has been made in meeting the compliance terms. Overall the cease-fire is holding firm and the number of ill-disciplined firing incidents continues to reduce. Most importantly, the Parties have complied with the requirement to withdraw their forces from the zones of separation, despite some local problems of shortages of fuel and mechanical difficulties. Great strides have been taken towards the clearance of mines but the sheer scale of the task, compounded by inclement weather and a lack of equipment have conspired to make the deadline for full compliance impracticable. Concern remains over the apparent scorched earth policies being implemented by all sides, over the number of foreign forces remaining in theatre and over the issue of prisoner release which is the only act of deliberate non-compliance. This latter issue affects all the Parties, but it is one over which IFOR does not have enforcement authority.

.../...

His Excellency  
Dr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali  
Secretary-General  
United Nations  
New York  
USA


23rd January 1996

Turning to the civil side of implementation, the mission and compliance issues are, in many ways, far more demanding than those on the military side. However, now that the High Representative is firmly established in theatre and is building his organization to influence the civil side of the peace mission, I am encouraged about the future success of the overall task. For our part, IFOR's overarching aim is to foster a security environment under which the civil organizations can do their important work effectively.

In summary, Operation Joint Endeavour has started well and we see prospects for long-term success in the implementation of the military aspects of the Peace Agreement. Our actions have remained even-handed and this has had a significant impact on the acceptance of IFOR by the Parties and their cooperation with our forces throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina.

I am also sending a copy of this report to the High Representative, Mr Carl Bildt.

Yours sincerely,



Javier Solana



## Second Report to the UN Security Council on IFOR Operations

This report covers the period between the last report, dated 22nd December 1995 and 18th January 1996.

### Deployment of the Implementation Force (IFOR)

1. Transfer of Authority from UNPROFOR to IFOR took place on 20th December (D Day), four days following initial deployment of the lead elements of the main body forces. Since then the buildup of IFOR has continued apace. As of today, 18th January, over 50% of the ground component of IFOR, numbering over 35,000 troops, have deployed and the complete planned Force should be fully deployed by D+90. The Headquarters of the ACE Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC), as the Land Force Command, all three Multinational Divisional (MND) Headquarters and that of the Commander for Support have been established. The three MNDs have extensive presence in their Areas of Responsibility. In addition, significant maritime and air assets are also committed to IFOR.

2. The Force deployment is progressing well, despite severe weather. IFOR is being rapidly deployed using land, sea and air assets. A number of IFOR transit agreements have been necessary over and through Austria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia, Slovenia, the Former Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and Switzerland. There has been extensive cooperation in this effort. Both the NATO and national movement coordination and control agencies have achieved a very substantial lift capability, which has included over 1800 flights, 280 trains and 28 ship movements. In addition, bridging the SAVA RIVER in order to establish the necessary Lines of Communication from the North has been a major achievement.

3. The media coverage of both the deployment and operations has been extensive and generally supportive and positive to IFOR. An information campaign has been successfully started to disseminate information and local news by radio, the locally produced IFOR newspaper, 'Herald of Peace' and the wide distribution of information posters.

### Participation by Non-NATO Countries

4. Fifteen of the sixteen NATO countries are contributing forces to IFOR and Iceland is contributing medical personnel. In addition, the NATO Secretary General has issued written invitations to 16 non-NATO countries to contribute forces to IFOR. These are Austria, the Czech Republic, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malaysia, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Sweden and the Ukraine. Participation agreements have been concluded with Austria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Lithuania, Malaysia, Poland, Sweden and Ukraine. Of these, the Swedish forces were the first to have

been transferred to the authority of IFOR, a Russian brigade is being deployed as part of MND(N) under special command arrangements and the Slovakian forces are being transferred to UN command under UNTAES. Discussions are also underway concerning possible force contributions from Bulgaria, Bangladesh, Morocco and Jordan. Those units that were formerly part of UNPROFOR are either transferring to IFOR at a later date or will be withdrawn from theatre under the control of IFOR.

5. Non-NATO IFOR contributors are incorporated into the operation through an IFOR Coordination Centre at SHAPE and liaison arrangements at various levels of IFOR. At NATO Headquarters they receive daily written reports and briefings on the conduct of the operation. Regular political consultation takes place at the level of the North Atlantic Council (NAC) and at deputy level. A second NAC meeting with non-NATO IFOR contributors was held on 15th January.

#### Risk Assessment

6. The major risks to IFOR troops are those of the millions of mines that are scattered throughout Bosnia and undisciplined elements of the Parties. Sniping and shooting incidents have occurred, including against IFOR aircraft, ground troops and civilians. Although these acts are assessed as coming from individuals or small uncontrolled groups, they remain a threat to IFOR operations and the public at large. It has been emphasised that IFOR commanders have both the right and responsibility, consistent with their rules of engagement, to ensure the safety of their forces and, where possible the public and that incidents such as these will be impartially dealt with in a firm manner. There also remains the continued risk from foreign troops within Bosnia and Herzegovina and IFOR has continued throughout the period to insist that they are withdrawn by 13th January.

7. To date IFOR has suffered a small number of casualties due to incidents with mines, road accidents and from small arms fire. The numbers of such incidents have been relatively low and reflect the excellent planning, preparation and training that has taken place. However, IFOR will continue to take all possible measures to prevent any injury or loss of life among its forces.

#### Cooperation and Compliance by the Parties

8. So far, all Parties to the Peace Agreement have continued to cooperate with the deployment of IFOR and there has been positive action in achieving the compliance conditions. Meetings between the Parties and Commander IFOR have focused on undisciplined firings, prisoner exchange and freedom of movement, as well as the situations in Sarajevo and Mostar. However, the Parties have so far demonstrated compliance with the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement and they have generally refrained from offensive actions. In addition:

- IFOR has witnessed the transfer and vacation of selected positions along the Agreed Cease-Fire Line in Sarajevo by the deadline of 27th December and in accordance with the instructions of the IFOR Commander.
- IFOR has also seen indications that all Parties have been withdrawing from the confrontation lines and in the zones of separation in all three MND areas of responsibility. Any stand-off confrontations between the Parties have so far been successfully defused by the IFOR, but there is some evidence of attempts to camouflage heavy weapons left behind. Compliance is required by 19th January.
- IFOR has seen movement out of the areas to be transferred, although these actions are being marred by the destruction of property being left behind. Compliance is required by 3rd February.
- The provision of minefield records and the initiation of voluntary actions to remove or destroy mines continues. The weather and lack of technical support for these actions is likely to delay full compliance by 19th January and some of the records are proving to be inaccurate.
- More recently, IFOR has seen the provision of lists of prisoners of war (POW) being provided to the ICRC and the first exchange of some POWs for transfer to the ICRC. However, the ICRC plan for POW release has not been fully realized, due to concerns, raised by one of the Parties, as to the completeness of the lists exchanged and the lack of accountability for other missing persons.
- There are indications that foreign forces have been withdrawing from Bosnia and Herzegovina and that armed civilian groups will be disarmed and disbanded. But it remains difficult to assess whether full compliance had been achieved by 13th and will be achieved by 19th January, respectively. This is considered a serious matter and the situation will continue to be assessed.

9. There have been some restrictions on freedom of movement (FOM). In the case of civilians, these have been investigated and, especially in the case of the kidnapping incident within Sarajevo, FOM has been restored. However, there remains significant ignorance at the lower command levels of the former warring factions and this has, on occasions, presented IFOR with some tense negotiations in enforcing their own FOM.

10. The Joint Military Commission (JMC) has become well established and their meetings occur frequently. It is the major instrument to set the conditions and to clarify matters for accomplishing the military tasks of the Peace Agreement, for ensuring that information on the Peace Agreement is disseminated down to the lower levels and for emphasising that IFOR presence is not a pre-condition for compliance. The JMCs are attended by all Parties on the proviso that, in accordance with the Peace Agreement, no persons indicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia will be permitted to participate. Emphasis has been placed on resolving problems at the lowest level, which has resulted in several additional regional meetings, and to allowing Parties to report on progress. A recent agenda item has been the high level of charges that are being placed on the IFOR for the provision of accommodation services, utilities and deployment transport facilities.

#### Cooperation with Other Organizations and the High Representative

11. As stated in the first report, the mission of IFOR is limited in function and in time, in accordance with the Peace Agreement and UN Security Council Resolution 1031. The Alliance looks to other organizations to carry out the civilian tasks defined in the Peace Agreement and necessary to ensure a lasting peace. The importance of establishing very soon a robust civil organization has been underlined by the recent allegations of kidnapping and theft in the Sarajevo suburbs and the confrontation in Mostar. These situations serve to emphasise that the civil aspects of implementation are the key to the long-term success in Bosnia. However, through our Civil Military Cooperation (CIMIC) operations IFOR has established an effective mechanism to coordinate activities with the many International, Non Governmental and other civilian organizations contributing to the reconstruction of Bosnia and Herzegovina. IFOR will assist, to the extent possible within its mandate and available resources, the civilian part of the implementation process. Full coordination is being established between the IFOR Commander and Mr. Carl Bildt, the High Representative and his staff.

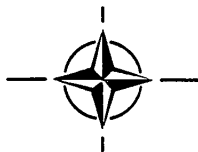
12. The High Representative conducted the first of the bi-weekly meetings of the Joint Civil Commission (JCC) with the Serb and Moslem communities, International Organizations and IFOR, on 12th January. Mr. Bildt was invited to meet the NAC on 17th January where he acknowledged the efficient deployment of IFOR and the adequacy of the Peace Agreement structures, outlined the important civilian tasks ahead and emphasised that reconciliation between all the Parties was the key to a stable and lasting peace.

Visit of the NATO Secretary General

13. The Secretary General of NATO, Mr. Javier Solana, visited the theatre on 11th and 12th January 1996. The visit proved very successful and the Secretary General was able to meet with the leaders of all the Parties, with the High Representative, Mr. Carl Bildt and with the IFOR Commanders.

14. The general impressions of the visit were given to both the NATO and Non-NATO IFOR contributors at their meeting on 15th January. These impressions focussed on the current success and stabilizing effect of the IFOR deployment, the tensions that remain in both Sarajevo and Mostar and that the most important efforts of the High Representative in building inter-communal reconciliation and grass-roots level cooperation had begun with determination.

ORGANISATION DU TRAITÉ  
DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD



NORTH ATLANTIC  
TREATY ORGANIZATION

LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL  
SECRETARY GENERAL

BOULEVARD LÉOPOLD III  
B-1110 BRUXELLES

SG/96/304

26th February 1996

Dear Secretary-General, *Dear Boutros,*

In accordance with the provisions of UN Security Council Resolution 1031, I have pleasure in transmitting to you the third report on the operation of the Implementation Force (IFOR) in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

I wish to assure you that the North Atlantic Council remains committed to playing its full part in securing a lasting and durable peace. I myself visited Mostar on 12th February 1996 and publicly expressed my support for the European Union's Administrator. I have also remained in close personal contact with the High Representative, Mr Carl Bildt, to whom I am copying this letter. IFOR's mission continues in close cooperation with him.

It is also essential for IFOR to be able to conduct a full dialogue with the parties. I welcome the undertakings given in this regard at the Rome Summit last week, and the fact that the Bosnian Serbs have now reestablished dialogue with IFOR at all military levels.

I am writing to you separately with respect to paragraph 2 of UN Security Council Resolution 1022.

Yours sincerely,

Javier Solana

His Excellency  
Dr Boutros Boutros-Ghali  
Secretary-General  
United Nations  
New York 10017  
USA

Third Report to the UN Security Council  
on IFOR Operations

This report covers the period between the last report, dated 23rd January 1996, and 22nd February 1996.

Deployment of the Implementation Force (IFOR)

1. IFOR is now firmly established and fully capable of executing its tasks under the Peace Agreement for Bosnia and Herzegovina. With the deployment of all NATO forces by 18th February, the three Multi-national Divisions (MND) are well established in their respective Areas of Responsibility. This will be further consolidated as further forces from the non-NATO contributors transfer under IFOR control. IFOR forces continue to monitor compliance with the military aspects of the Peace Agreement by means which include by marking the Inter Entity Boundary Line (IEBL), patrolling in the Zone of Separation (ZOS) along the Agreed Cease Fire Line (ACFL) and in the Areas of Transfer (AOT), and monitoring mine clearance in those areas.

2. IFOR air assets have supported the safe movement of forces into theatre. These air assets will continue to provide a robust capability to secure the air space, defend and support IFOR ground forces and monitor compliance. The maritime assets currently deployed both in support of IFOR and for Operation SHARP GUARD also continue to provide surveillance, a presence to seaward of the coast and, embarked, the theatre reserve. In addition, maritime mine clearance assets provide a continuous survey of the routes leading to ports used by IFOR and have successfully cleared a number of obsolete mines from World War I and II.

3. The media coverage of IFOR operations remains extensive and generally supportive. The locally produced IFOR newspaper, 'Herald of Peace', is now on its sixth edition and IFOR radio broadcasts from four IFOR transmitters. There has also been a concerted effort to distribute handbills and posters to explain the terms of the peace agreement and to expand mine safety and awareness.

4. The deployment of IFOR has been greatly facilitated by the excellent cooperation of the UN Peace Forces during the period of transition following the termination of the UNPROFOR mandate.

Participation by Non-NATO Countries

5. Since the last report Austria, Czech Republic, Finland, Hungary, Lithuania, Malaysia, Poland and Ukraine have joined Sweden in transferring their forces under IFOR control and the Russian force has deployed with MND(North) under separate command



- 2 -

arrangements. Jordan and Morocco have been formally invited to contribute forces, and discussions continue with Albania, Bangladesh, and Bulgaria.

#### Risk Assessment

6. The direct risks to IFOR troops remain those of rogue or extremist elements and the continued, albeit reducing risk posed by residual foreign forces. Occasional sniping and shooting incidents have also continued and are assessed as coming mainly from disaffected elements of the Parties. IFOR continues to adopt self-protective measures for the security of its personnel.

7. Apart from these direct risks, the very large number of mines that are scattered throughout Bosnia pose the most significant danger to IFOR personnel and others. A number of incidents have already caused casualties to IFOR and local people and, notwithstanding the efforts of the Parties to mark and clear the minefields, the problem remains very great. The inaccuracy of the information on known minefields, the quantity of mines, poor weather and the lack of proper mine marking and clearing equipment has significantly impaired the Parties' ability to comply on this issue.

#### Cooperation and Compliance by the Parties

8. The latest deadline in the Peace Agreement, D+45, has passed. In summary, the current IFOR compliance assessment is as follows:

- The general cease fire continues to hold and the Parties remain generally in compliance with the Cessation of Hostilities. The incidents of sniper firing have diminished, although the risk remains.
- As required by the Peace Agreement, by D+45 the Parties had withdrawn their forces from the AOT.
- On 16th February a number of undeclared anti aircraft guns were confiscated within the ACFL ZOS of the MND(North) area of responsibility. IFOR has since determined that all heavy weapons have been declared or removed from within 10 kms of the ACFL ZOS. On occasions, IFOR was denied access to weapon storage sites, but subsequently was allowed access. While overall compliance is good, we are concerned about these apparent attempts to test IFOR's resolve.
- Although there have been positive indications of the

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- 3 -

voluntary removal of foreign forces, some remain. Cooperation with the civil authorities to expedite this requirement is continuing. It is however considered that full compliance has yet to be achieved. On 15th February, IFOR detained 11 persons and significant quantities of arms, explosives and bomb manufacturing equipment. Three of these detainees were foreign nationals but, as one carried diplomatic status he was released immediately. The remaining 10 were handed over to the Bosnian Ministry of the Interior and the two other foreign nationals have since been released. It has since been reported that all three foreign nationals have left the country.

- All Parties appear still to be holding Prisoners of War (POW). It is to be hoped that continued political pressure will be brought to bear on the Parties to ensure compliance with the provisions of the Peace Agreement on the release of POW.
- Restrictions on the freedom of movement for refugees and displaced persons are occurring more frequently and include civilian police check points, some of which appear to have been extorting money for right of passage. Although IFOR monitors and reports on such incidents, the relevant civil authorities should impose their control over these restrictions as soon as possible.
- IFOR's freedom of movement has also been impaired on occasions in the pursuance of their monitoring functions. This has resulted in a number of dangerous stand-off incidents. It has been made clear that restrictions on IFOR's freedom of movement will not be tolerated.
- There is mounting concern over the apparent re-badging of military personnel as police and their deployment into contentious areas. IFOR intends to continue monitoring this.

9. The Joint Military Commission (JMC) has continued to develop its role of providing a regular, joint and transparent forum for resolving disputes and building confidence. These meetings between the Parties and IFOR Commanders have focussed on sniping by disaffected elements, weapons holdings and storage, prisoner exchange, freedom of movement and ZOS withdrawal plans as well as the transitional situation in Sarajevo and Mostar, which remains of serious concern.

10. IFOR will continue to execute its mission in an

-3-

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- 4 -

evenhanded manner. Cooperation with Bosnian Serb authorities was, however, set back following the detention by the Bosnian Government of suspected Bosnian Serb war criminals at the beginning of February. This resulted in a curtailment of Bosnian Serb cooperation with IFOR, including participation in the JMC. This issue was addressed with the Presidents of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) during the Summit meeting in Rome on 17th-18th February.

Cooperation with International Organizations and the High Representative

11. IFOR continues to cooperate closely with the High Representative and there is IFOR representation on most of the joint civil commissions. Close cooperation has also been established, both through direct contacts and the civil/ military cooperation (CIMIC) process, with international organizations including the OSCE, the UNHCR, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and the International Police Task Force (IPTF). IFOR will continue to assist the High Representative and the international organizations as far as its principal tasks, as defined in the Peace Agreement, and available resources allow. In particular, the establishment of the IPTF is critical to the process of stability and IFOR therefore hopes that the full complement of police officers required by the IPTF will be deployed shortly.

12. IFOR continues to support the efforts of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) to bring persons indicted by the Tribunal to justice. ICTY has expressed its satisfaction with the assistance received from IFOR. Practical arrangements are in hand with the ICTY concerning the arrangements for IFOR to detain any persons indicted by the ICTY who come into contact with IFOR in its execution of assigned tasks in order to assure the transfer of these persons to the ICTY. The Prosecutor of the ICTY, Justice Goldstone has met the NATO Secretary General and SACEUR to review this and to discuss logistic support to ICTY. Concerning the latter, IFOR will support the discharge of the Tribunal's mandate in Bosnia and Herzegovina to the extent of its capabilities, taking account of its assigned tasks and resources. IFOR has also undertaken to carry out air reconnaissance of suspected mass grave sites and to report all suspicious activities detected near such sites by IFOR patrols carrying out their duty. IFOR responded positively to a ICTY request to assist in the secure transfer of two individuals from Sarajevo to The Hague on 12th February for further investigation by the Tribunal.

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22 March 1996  
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DECLASSIFIED - PUBLICLY DISCLOSED - PDN(2015)0014 - DÉCLASSIFIÉ - MIS EN LECTURE PUBLIQUE

To: Permanent Representatives  
From: Secretary General  
Subject: Fourth Report to the UN Security Council on IFOR Operations

Please find attached a letter I have written to the UN Secretary General forwarding the fourth report to the UN Security Council on IFOR operations.

(Signed) Javier Solana

N A T O   R E S T R I C T E DFourth Report to the UN Security Council  
on IFOR Operations

This report covers the period between the last report, dated 26th February 1996, and 22nd March 1996.

Deployment of the Implementation Force (IFOR)

1. The deployment of the NATO element of the multinational implementation force (IFOR) is complete. IFOR comprises approximately 49,000 personnel from all the NATO nations and 6,500 from non-NATO contributors. It will be further strengthened as forces from other non-NATO contributors transfer under IFOR control. IFOR is fully capable of carrying out its primary task of implementing the military aspects of the Peace Agreement. This includes monitoring of compliance by the Parties with their obligations under Annex 1-A, including respect for the new Zone of Separation (ZOS) established along the Inter Entity Boundary Line (IEBL) at D+90 (19th March). In addition, IFOR is helping to ensure overall freedom of movement, by providing a secure environment for the work of the various organizations involved in implementing the civil aspects of the Peace Agreement, and to assist those organizations, on a case by case basis, from available resources without detriment to IFOR's primary mission.

2. IFOR air assets continue to provide a robust capability to secure the air space, defend and support IFOR ground forces and monitor compliance. They also provide a capability for close air support to the UN Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium (UNTAES). The maritime assets currently deployed both in support of IFOR and for Operation SHARP GUARD continue to provide surveillance, a presence to seaward of the coast and, embarked, the theatre reserve.

3. Force contributions from twelve non-NATO countries are now operational in theatre and it is expected that troops from two additional non-NATO countries will be in theatre and operational next month. Offers from other non-NATO countries are still pending. It is expected that a total of around 10,000 troops will be provided by non-NATO IFOR contributors.

Risk Assessment

4. Rogue or extremist elements and the continued risk posed by foreign forces remain of concern to IFOR. Occasional sniping and shooting incidents, although declining, have also continued although these are assessed as stemming mainly from disaffected elements of the Parties. IFOR's robust capabilities and Rules of Engagement enable it to defend itself effectively

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-2-

and to provide protection for others involved in implementing the Peace Agreement.

5. The very large number of mines that are scattered throughout Bosnia remain the most significant danger to IFOR personnel and others. Incidents continue to cause casualties to IFOR and local people and, notwithstanding the efforts of the Parties to mark and clear the minefields, *under IFOR supervision*, the problem remains very great. The inaccuracy of the information on known minefields, the quantity of mines, poor weather until now and the lack of proper mine marking and clearing equipment have significantly impaired the clearance of mines by the Parties. *The threat posed by mines to the civilian population is likely to increase as improving weather leads to more movement of the population.*

Cooperation and Compliance by the Parties

6. At a meeting with Contact Group countries in Geneva on 17th and 18th March, all Parties reaffirmed their commitment to the terms of the Peace Agreement. Progress on compliance with Annex 1-A of the Peace Agreement has been generally evident across the board and the Parties are continuing to work towards meeting their responsibilities. In particular:

- The cease fire continues to hold and the Parties remain generally in compliance with the Cessation of Hostilities.
- All Parties have been generally in compliance with the requirements in the Zones of Separation (ZOS) and Areas of Transfer (AOT), including the new ZOS established along the IEHL at D+90 (19th March). Verification of compliance with the new ZOS continues, particularly as the removal of some forces from the new ZOS within Sarajevo occurred only as the deadline passed following a demonstration of IFOR resolve. Minor violations of the ZOS by all Parties have continued to occur. These generally involve small groups of soldiers patrolling and sometimes manning positions within the ZOS. When challenged by IFOR they have complied and left the area.
- IFOR has required air defence systems to be secured in designated sites by D+90. While there has been major movement to achieve this, it is assessed that full compliance has yet to be achieved.

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-3-

- The Peace Agreement requires the withdrawal of all foreign forces, whether advisors, trainers, volunteers or freedom fighters. Full compliance has not been achieved and the continued presence of foreign forces in contravention of the Peace Agreement is a continuing cause for serious concern.
- All Parties are still holding Prisoners of War in violation of the Peace Agreement. Following the negotiations in Geneva, it is imperative that the final release of prisoners by all Parties be now achieved.
- Restrictions on the freedom of movement for civilians, refugees and displaced persons continue to cause concern. This has been particularly so along the Inter Entity Boundary Line (IEBL), where undeclared control points have been established by the Parties. Elsewhere, restrictions are frequently caused more by fear than by physical obstruction. IFOR has warned all Parties that only police functions supervised by the IPTF will be permitted and that IFOR will require unauthorised checkpoints along the IEBL to be dismantled.
- In some areas, especially within Sarajevo, the introduction and ethnic balance of some police forces have been raising tension and risking confrontation.
- Although the phased transition of the Sarajevo suburbs to Federation control, due by D+90, has been achieved on time, the looting, arson and beatings which accompanied it, have been a cause for considerable concern and could have serious repercussions in other areas. IFOR has worked closely with the High Representative, the IPTF, the Federation Police and local leaders in trying to maintain control and calm within these areas. This has included the heavy patrolling of affected areas and the protection of fire fighters and of essential installations.

7. IFOR will continue to execute its mission in an evenhanded manner. Following the Rome Summit on 17th and 18th February, contact has been restored with all Parties and the Joint Military Commission and its supporting structure of Military Commissions are now operating effectively. Meetings between the Parties and IFOR Commanders continue to focus on the

N A T O   R E S T R I C T E D

N A T O   R E S T R I C T E D

-4-

military aspects of compliance and to provide a forum within which to address such current issues as Sarajevo and freedom of movement.

Cooperation with the High Representative and International Organizations

8. *Recognizing that the civil aspects of the Peace Agreement are crucial to its success*, IFOR is assisting the High Representative and the international organizations involved in implementing the civil aspects of the Peace Agreement as far as its principal tasks, as defined in the Peace Agreement, and available resources allow. The IFOR civil/military cooperation (CIMIC) process involves close liaison and cooperation with international organizations in Bosnia-Herzegovina including the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). IFOR is already engaged in *supporting a number of reconstruction projects, mainly in areas of importance for the conduct of IFOR's mission*. It is also in close contact with the staff of the High Representative and OSCE representatives about how best it can provide support to the elections required by the Peace Agreement. General support to all civil agencies includes the exchange of information and security advice and, in emergency, the provision of medical and repair facilities, fuel, accommodation and food, based on retrospective repayment arrangements.

9. Specific support is being provided, where possible, to the High Representative and his staff, including assistance with transportation, logistics, communications, security and administration. Media communications facilities have also been offered to the High Representative to enhance his ability to communicate with the population. *IFOR is represented on and helping to extend the High Representative's Joint Civil Commission (JCC) structure throughout the country.*

10. IFOR continues to support, to the extent possible, the efforts of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) to bring persons indicted by the Tribunal to justice. A recent example is the transport and escort protection given to the ICTY team investigating a mass grave site in the Prijedor Obstina area. IFOR is also undertaking air reconnaissance and area ground surveillance of suspected mass grave sites and will report any tampering which it detects to ICTY.

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N A T O   R E S T R I C T E D

-5-

11. IFOR is supporting the International Police Task Force (IPTF) by providing quick reaction forces and other forms of assistance. As mentioned in the last report, it is essential, in the interest of ensuring stability, for the IPTF to reach full strength as soon as possible.

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44

N A T O   R E S T R I C T E D

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-5-



ORGANISATION DU TRAITÉ  
DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD



NORTH ATLANTIC  
TREATY ORGANIZATION

LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL  
SECRETARY GENERAL

BOULEVARD LÉOPOLD III  
B-1110 BRUXELLES

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SG/96/518

23rd April 1996

Dear Secretary-General

*Dear friend*

In accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1031, I attach the fifth report on IFOR operations. I would appreciate your making this report available to the UN Security Council.

On 18th April (D+120) we passed a major milestone in the implementation of Annex 1-A of the Peace Agreement for Bosnia and Herzegovina. In general I am satisfied with the cooperation and compliance of the Parties in implementing the military aspects of the Peace Agreement to date, although, as you will note from the report, their efforts to come into compliance with the D+120 requirements have been affected by practical difficulties. The cantonment and demobilization of forces by all Parties are expected to proceed, and IFOR will continue actively to monitor progress towards compliance in this area.

Regrettably, tensions continue, as evidenced by the two civil confrontations over this past weekend. Such tensions may grow more acute as the thousands of refugees and displaced persons begin their repatriation. IFOR's success remains closely linked to the success of the civilian mission, particularly concerning the elections and economic


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His Excellency  
Dr Boutros Boutros-Ghali  
Secretary-General  
United Nations  
New York 10017  
USA

23rd April 1996

reconstruction. Within its capabilities, and as far as its principal tasks allow, I can assure you that IFOR will continue to maintain the closest possible cooperation with civilian agencies, and particularly the Office of the High Representative, to ensure a successful conclusion to the remaining eight months of our mandate.

Yours sincerely,



Javier Solana

Fifth Report to the UN Security Council  
on IFOR Operations

IFOR Operations

1. The multinational implementation force (IFOR) now comprises approximately 55,000 personnel in theatre, from all the NATO nations and from 16 non-NATO contributors. Offers from further non-NATO countries are still pending. IFOR air assets continue to provide sufficient capability to secure the air space, defend and support IFOR ground forces and monitor compliance. IFOR maritime assets also remain deployed in support of IFOR.

2. IFOR continues to carry out its primary task of implementing the military aspects of the Peace Agreement by monitoring, and where necessary ensuring, compliance by the Parties with their obligations under Annex 1-A. IFOR forces have been heavily engaged in ground and aerial surveillance of the Inter-Entity Boundary Line and the Zone of Separation, including the destruction of bunkers; monitoring of de-mining; the movement of air defence and heavy weapons to agreed barracks/cantonment sites, and country-wide patrolling, including the removal of illegal checkpoints in order to ensure freedom of movement also for the civilian population. In addition, IFOR continues to assist a range of civil organizations, on a case by case basis, from available resources without detriment to its primary mission.

3. IFOR's robust capabilities and Rules of Engagement enable it to defend itself effectively and to provide protection for others involved in implementing the Peace Agreement. By far the greatest risk to IFOR as well as other personnel remains the very large number of mines that are scattered throughout Bosnia. Incidents continue to cause casualties among IFOR personnel and local people.

Cooperation and Compliance by the Parties

4. IFOR will continue to execute its mission in an evenhanded manner. There continues to be reasonable adherence to Annex 1-A of the Peace Agreement by all Parties, but efforts to come into compliance with the requirements specified for D+120 (18th April) for cantonment and demobilization appear to be limited by practical considerations. The overall assessment is that:

- The cease fire continues to hold and the Parties remain generally in compliance with the Cessation of Hostilities.
- Generally all Parties have been in compliance with the Zone of Separation around the Inter-Entity

Boundary Line. Local violations by all Parties have continued to occur, although such violations have decreased in number since the last report.

- All Parties are moving heavy weapons and forces to agreed cantonment areas and are pursuing the demobilization of forces required at D+120. However, compliance has proved to be difficult within this timescale as the scale and complexity of this task has exceeded the military organizational capabilities of the Parties. IFOR is actively monitoring progress towards compliance and is inspecting designated cantonment sites with effect from D+121 (19th April). Air defence systems, which were to have been secured in designated sites by D+90 (19th March), are now subject to confiscation when discovered outside agreed cantonments.
- It remains unclear whether full compliance has been achieved on the removal of foreign forces. Although the Parties have undertaken to reach compliance with Article III of Annex-1A of the Peace Agreement, it is likely that a small number of foreign forces remain in contravention of the Peace Agreement. IFOR will continue to insist on full compliance as soon as possible.
- Thanks to the efforts of the High Representative, a major release by all Parties of prisoners of war took place during the beginning of April. Each of the Parties continues to hold a number of prisoners although in many cases they have provided dossiers on these individuals to the International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia (ICTY) for possible investigation as war criminals. IFOR is actively cooperating with the International Committee for the Red Cross to establish accurate records.
- Restrictions on the freedom of movement for civilians, refugees and displaced persons continue to cause concern. Illegal check points, discovered by IFOR, are immediately removed by IFOR forces and the International Police Task Force.

5. The Joint Military Commission and its supporting structure of Military Commissions are operating effectively. In particular, the Inter-Entity Boundary Line (IEBL) Subcommittee has made progress in helping the Parties negotiate adjustments to the IEBL.

#### Cooperation with the High Representative and International Organizations

6. The civil aspects of the Peace Agreement remain crucial to its success and IFOR has continued to assist the High Representative and the international organizations

involved in civil implementation, as far as its principal tasks, as defined in the Peace Agreement, and available resources allow. IFOR is already engaged in supporting a number of reconstruction projects, including route upgrading; bridging and maintenance; recommissioning and reconnecting vital utility plants; refurbishment of schools, medical facilities and other community amenities and the assistance with specialized transportation of materials. IFOR continues to provide security and logistical support to ICTY teams investigating possible mass grave sites, such as one examined near Srebrenica earlier this month. IFOR and Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe planners are also continuing to cooperate in examining the potential support to be provided by IFOR for elections.

**ORGANISATION DU TRAITÉ  
DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD**



**NORTH ATLANTIC  
TREATY ORGANIZATION**

LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL  
SECRETARY GENERAL

BOULEVARD LÉOPOLD III  
B-1110 BRUXELLES

SG/96/635

22nd May 1996

Dear Secretary-General,

In accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1031, I attach the sixth report on IFOR operations. I would appreciate your making this report available to the UN Security Council.

We have now entered a new phase of the IFOR mission, following the D+120 (18th April) timeline, and IFOR will continue to concentrate on the maintenance of a secure environment within which other organizations can take forward the civil aspects of the Peace Agreement. While I remain concerned that there are a number of outstanding compliance issues, we continue to see a willingness by all the Parties to cooperate with IFOR and to implement the Peace Agreement's military annex.

I have recently visited Banja Luka to see one of the IFOR multi-national divisions. During the visit, I was able to meet with the local political leadership and express support for those who seek to implement the Peace Agreement and its vision of a single multi-ethnic country, two entities peacefully co-existing and elections that are free and fair. In addition, I visited Belgrade and pursued with President Milosevic the pressing importance of continued compliance by the Parties with the provisions of the Peace Agreement, including those related to indicted war criminals. While IFOR will do its part on the ground, it is also essential that the international community do its part by applying maximum political pressure on the Parties to ensure that they help to create the conditions for peace to endure.

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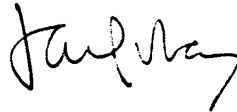
His Excellency  
Dr Boutros Boutros-Ghali  
Secretary-General  
United Nations  
New York 10017  
USA

22nd May 1996

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I very much welcome the close cooperation between IFOR and the Office of the High Representative and the various UN agencies operating in theatre. Together they play a crucial part in the implementation of the Peace Agreement.

Yours sincerely,



Javier Solana

Sixth Report to the UN Security Council  
on IFOR Operations

IFOR Operations

1. The multinational implementation force (IFOR) comprises approximately 54,200 personnel deployed in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia, from all the NATO nations and from 16 non-NATO contributors. Offers from four additional non-NATO countries are pending. IFOR air assets continue to provide the capability required to secure the air space, defend and support IFOR ground forces, provide support to civilian agencies within mission capabilities, and to monitor compliance. IFOR maritime assets also remain deployed in support of IFOR.

2. IFOR has now entered a new phase of Operation JOINT ENDEAVOUR with the passing of the D+120 (18th April) timeline in the military annex to the Peace Agreement. In order to provide a secure and stable environment during which the civil aspects of the Peace Agreement will become increasingly important, IFOR retains its primary task of implementing the military aspects of the Peace Agreement by monitoring, and where necessary ensuring, compliance by the Parties with their obligations under Annex 1-A. During this period, IFOR forces have been concentrating on the demobilization and the cantonment of air defence systems, heavy weapons and forces from all the Parties. It continues to maintain a secure environment by patrolling and surveillance in order to provide overall freedom of movement for IFOR, civilian agencies and non-governmental organizations, as well as the civilian population, including refugees and displaced persons, especially in predicted areas of potential civil disturbance. Ground and aerial surveillance of the Inter-Entity Boundary Line and the Zone of Separation has been maintained as has the continued destruction of bunkers and monitoring of de-mining operations. IFOR also continues to assist a range of civil organizations, on a case by case basis, from available resources without detriment to its primary mission.

3. IFOR maintains its robust capabilities and Rules of Engagement. These are essential for it to be able to defend itself effectively, display resolve in carrying out its mission and provide area security for others involved in implementing the Peace Agreement. Although some inter-entity tensions have been witnessed by IFOR personnel in recent weeks, the greatest risk to IFOR and others remains the very large number of mines that



-2-

are scattered throughout Bosnia, including ones recently laid by the civilian population to protect their property. Unfortunately, incidents continue to cause casualties among IFOR personnel and local people.

4. As United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia (UNTAES) forces prepare for operations in Eastern Slavonia, arrangements for the provision of close air support (CAS) have been developed UNTAES and IFOR.

Cooperation and Compliance by the Parties

5. IFOR will continue to execute its mission in an evenhanded manner. The process of withdrawal of forces and weapon systems to cantonment sites by all the Parties, in accordance with Annex 1-A of the Peace Agreement, still continues after D+120 (18th April), but this has been hampered by organizational shortcomings. The overall assessment is that:

- The cease fire continues to hold and the Parties remain generally in compliance with the Cessation of Hostilities.
- Although there has been an increase in the number of armed civilians being detained by IFOR in the Zone of Separation (ZOS), and both bunker construction activity and the appearance of illegal check points continue, all Parties have been generally in compliance with the ZOS and the Inter-Entity Boundary Line (IEBL). However, there have been a number of reported civil disturbances at crossing points, as displaced persons attempt to visit family, graves or previous homes. Some incidents have caused fatalities. On the other hand, many crossings of the IEBL have taken place without incident and on many occasions tension has been defused effectively by the joint action of IFOR and the civilian agencies. IFOR, the Office of the High Representative, UNHCR and the International Police Task Force have recently agreed a common policy to reduce the risk of civil disturbances resulting from visits across the IEBL, which threaten peace and public order. The risk, however, remains of further incidents of this kind

53

-3-

over the coming weeks. In this regard the role of the local police remains essential.

- All Parties continue to move heavy weapons and forces to agreed cantonment areas and to demobilize forces as was required at D+120 (18th April). It is assessed that the majority of declared heavy and air defence weapons are already in cantonments, but experience has shown that there are numerous discrepancies between declared and actual numbers of weapons, due either to deception or inefficiency in staffing and communications. The discovery of undeclared air defence weapons will result in their confiscation or destruction by IFOR, as it carries out its verification mission. IFOR is continuing to monitor the movement of heavy weapons to approved cantonment sites. Undeclared heavy weapons, discovered by IFOR, or those stored in cantonment sites not approved by IFOR, are being moved to approved sites.
- The situation regarding the true scale of demobilization of forces suggests that none of the Parties are in full compliance with the D+120 (18th April) requirements. While there is continued evidence of demobilization proceeding, this has been limited by the need to approve cantonments and the Parties' organizational and logistic capabilities. The lack of suitable alternative employment for demobilized personnel remains a resultant concern.
- There has been a substantial reduction in the presence of foreign forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina. We believe that there are still isolated individuals physically present in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and IFOR continues to monitor the situation.
- There has been some further release of prisoners during the period of this report. However, the International Committee of the Red Cross has confirmed that all the Parties continue to hold a number of prisoners. Dossiers for only a few have been provided to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), for possible investigation as war

-4-

criminals.

6. The Joint Military Commission and its supporting structure of Military Commissions are operating efficiently. The Inter-Entity Boundary Line (IEBL) Subcommittee met on 8th May and made some progress in adjusting the IEBL, for which revised mapping will be produced. However, disagreements remain in the Posavina, Dobrinja, South Herzegovina and Jajce areas.

7. On 29th April, the North Atlantic Council, following a meeting with the non-NATO IFOR contributors, issued a declaration urging all the Parties to honour their commitments, under the Peace Agreement and to cooperate fully with IFOR.

Cooperation with the High Representative and International Organizations

8. The civil aspects of the Peace Agreement remain crucial to its success and IFOR will continue to build on the good cooperation that has so far been established with the High Representative's Office and the many and various civilian agencies. It continues to provide as much support to these civilian agencies as its principal tasks and available resources allow.

9. Currently, IFOR is involved in over 300 civil projects, including road, rail and bridge repair and construction and the rebuilding of schools, hospitals and public utilities. It is actively working with the UNHCR in its planning for the repatriation of refugees and displaced persons; with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in the fields of arms control, confidence building measures and the provision of appropriate support for the elections and with the International Police Task Force in its task of rebuilding law and order. IFOR continues to provide security and logistic support to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), as well as aerial surveillance of mass grave sites to which the ICTY has given priority status.

55

N A T O   R E S T R I C T E DSeventh Report to the UN Security Council  
on IFOR OperationsIFOR Operations

1. The multinational implementation force (IFOR) comprises approximately 54,000 personnel deployed in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia, from all the NATO nations and from 16 non-NATO contributors. The most recent enhancement was provided by Egypt, whose contribution was transferred to IFOR control on 25th May. Offers from four additional non-NATO nations are pending. IFOR air assets continue to provide the capability required to secure the air space, defend and support IFOR ground forces, provide support to civilian agencies within mission capabilities, and to monitor compliance. IFOR maritime assets also remain deployed in support of IFOR.

2. During the reporting period IFOR has continued to carry out its primary task of implementing the military aspects of the Peace Agreement with its efforts focused mainly on the inspection and verification of barracks/cantonments and air defence weapons storage sites. IFOR continues to ensure a secure environment in which civil organizations can operate, and, subject to fulfilment of its primary military mission, is now providing increased support to the implementation of the civilian aspects of the Peace Agreement. Ground and aerial patrols of the Inter-Entity Boundary Line (IEBL) and the Zone of Separation (ZOS) have been maintained, as has the monitoring of de-mining operations. As the Freedom of Movement (FOM) issue is paramount to the success of all civilian activities in theatre, IFOR is patrolling more widely throughout Bosnia-Herzegovina to assist in facilitating civilian FOM throughout the country.

3. IFOR maintains the robust capabilities and Rules of Engagement, which enable it to defend itself effectively and to provide protection for others involved in implementing the Peace Agreement. Over the past month there have been restrictions of movement which have increased tension on some parts of the IEBL and which have resulted in orchestrated demonstrations and IEBL crossings. Militarily, the situation has been stable. Mines remain the greatest risk to IFOR and

N A T O   R E S T R I C T E D

N A T O   R E S T R I C T E D

-2-

others. Incidents continue to cause casualties among IFOR personnel and local people, and underline the importance of increasing mine clearance and minefield marking activities. The in-theatre Mine Action Centre in Sarajevo was handed over from IFOR to the UN on 20th May. It is intended that the Centre will control and direct all mine-clearing operations throughout the country.

4. Close liaison and coordinated planning has been maintained between IFOR and the United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia (UNTAES). The Operational Plan ( OPLAN ) to provide Close Air Support to UNTAES when required is in place and coordination and cooperation with UNTAES in the development of an Emergency Withdrawal OPLAN is also underway.

Cooperation and Compliance by the Parties

5. Since D+120 (18th April), IFOR has monitored significant progress in the cantonment of the forces and heavy weapons of the former warring factions, or their demobilization. By D+180 (17th June) there was general compliance with the requirement to move declared heavy weapons to authorised storage sites. Similarly, over the past month, significant progress has been registered in the withdrawal of air defence (AD) systems. However, all sides continue to try to gain local tactical advantage and IFOR continues to find weapons not declared or outside authorized storage sites. Following D+180, any heavy weapons found outside authorized cantonment sites will be confiscated and destroyed. Demobilisation will continue after D+180 and is not expected to be completed until approximately D+270.

6. There may be a few individuals whose continued presence constitutes a lack of compliance with the Foreign Forces provisions of the Dayton Agreement, and IFOR continues to monitor the situation. Some prisoners are also still being held.

Cooperation with the High Representative, the OSCE and other International Organizations

7. IFOR remains committed to assisting the successful completion of civilian implementation tasks contained in the Peace Agreement and its Annexes and it will continue to build on the good cooperation established with the Office of the High Representative and the many civil agencies. Over the past

N A T O   R E S T R I C T E D

-2-

N A T O   R E S T R I C T E D

-3-

month, IFOR support to the Office of the High Representative has included staff support and liaison, and communications and transportation support.

8. IFOR will provide all possible support, within its capabilities and without prejudice to its primary tasks, to the OSCE's election preparations, and will give priority to election support over support for other civilian tasks, especially during election day. IFOR's main contribution to the election process will be the creation of a secure environment through the provision of area security, the continued patrolling and opening of roads, and the concentration of IFOR forces, where necessary, at potential confrontation points. In addition, IFOR will continue to work closely with the OSCE in providing other forms of support, such as planning, logistics, transportation and communication support. In doing so, IFOR will maintain an even-handed approach, and will not provide direct support for political candidates.

9. IFOR continues to support the UN International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), by carrying out extensive aerial and ground surveillance of alleged mass grave sites to which the ICTY has given priority status and by providing security and logistical support to ICTY teams investigating these sites. Recent examples are support to the investigations in Central Bosnia-Herzegovina and near Srebrenica. IFOR also provides other transport and logistical support for the ICTY's responsibilities in respect of indicted war criminals. On 13th June, two persons indicted for war crimes and handed over from the Bosnian Government to the ICTY were transported from Sarajevo to the Hague, at the request of the ICTY.

10. To date, IFOR has undertaken 2970 civil action projects, including over 300 civil construction projects, 925 medical assistance projects, 931 instances of humanitarian aid distribution and is currently involved in over 600 additional projects.

Future Force Levels and Capabilities

11. Given the magnitude of the tasks ahead, IFOR will be maintained at approximately its current force levels until after the elections, and will retain its overall capability until December, when its mandate comes to an end.

N A T O   R E S T R I C T E D

-3-



ORGANISATION DU TRAITÉ  
DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD



NORTH ATLANTIC  
TREATY ORGANIZATION

LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL  
SECRETARY GENERAL

Javier Solana Madariaga

SG/96/834

25 July 1996

Dear Secretary-General,

In accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1031, I attach the eighth report on IFOR operations. I would appreciate your making this report available to the UN Security Council.

During the last month, IFOR has placed increased emphasis on support to the OSCE in preparation for the Bosnian elections on 14th September. It was particularly valuable that Richard Holbrooke was able last week to achieve the immediate and permanent withdrawal of Karadzic from all political activities. This removes an important obstacle to the holding of free and fair elections, but we will need to remain vigilant to ensure that the agreement is fully implemented.

I remain content that IFOR continues to provide a secure environment in which the civilian agencies can continue their work to implement the Peace Agreement. However, I am concerned about recent threats directed against the UN International Police Task Force. Please be assured that IFOR remains prepared to ensure a secure environment and will not tolerate any deliberate attacks on UN or other personnel engaged in implementing the Peace Agreement.

Yours sincerely,

Javier Solana

His Excellency  
Dr Boutros Boutros-Ghali  
Secretary-General  
United Nations  
New York 10017  
USA

Eighth Report to the UN Security Council  
on IFOR Operations

IFOR Operations

1. The multinational implementation force (IFOR) comprises approximately 53,000 personnel deployed in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia, from all the NATO nations and from 16 non-NATO contributors. Offers from four additional non-NATO nations are pending. IFOR air assets continue to provide the capability required to secure the air space, defend and support IFOR ground forces, provide support to civilian agencies within mission capabilities, and to monitor compliance. Although a Memorandum of Agreement with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) on the establishment of a 'restricted operating zone' to allow for IFOR close air support training flights has still not yet been signed, operational plans to provide close air support to the UN Transitional Authority in East Slavonia (UNTAES) remain in-place. IFOR maritime assets also remain deployed in support of IFOR.

2. During the reporting period, IFOR has continued to carry out its primary task of implementing the military aspects of the Peace Agreement, with efforts focussed on the inspection and verification of barracks/cantonments and air defence weapons storage sites. Ground and aerial patrols of the Inter-Entity Boundary Line (IEBL) and the Zone of Separation (ZOS) have been maintained, as has the monitoring of de-mining operations. In addition, IFOR has developed plans with UNTAES to support an emergency withdrawal of the UNTAES force.

3. Mines continue to pose the greatest risk to IFOR and others. In addition, there have been some recent threats directed against IFOR and the UN International Police Task Force (IPTF), however, IFOR maintains the robust capabilities and Rules of Engagement which enable it to defend itself effectively and to provide protection for others involved in implementing the Peace Agreement.

4. Within its capabilities and subject to the fulfilment of its primary military mission, IFOR has increased its support to the implementation of the civilian aspects of the Peace Agreement. The basis for this support is the maintenance of a secure environment in which the civil organizations can operate. Civilian Freedom of Movement (FOM) remains paramount to the success of all civilian activities in theatre, and thus is a key focus for the way ahead. To facilitate civilian FOM, IFOR has extended its patrolling throughout Bosnia-Herzegovina; it has also made substantial progress in opening up the country by making or supporting large-scale improvements to infrastructure



such as roads, bridges and railroads; and it is working closely with the Office of the High Representative (OHR), the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the IPTF to implement the procedures agreed with the Parties in Geneva on 13th May on IEBL crossings. This work will continue, together with efforts to open airports to commercial traffic. Fundamental to civilian FOM, however, is the requirement for the Parties themselves to comply with the provisions of the Peace Agreement, and over the past month there has been a number of incidents of restriction of movement which have led to increased tension in some areas.

#### Cooperation and Compliance by the Parties

5. Considerable progress has been registered in the cantonment of the forces and heavy weapons of the former warring factions over the past month. The overall trend is deemed positive, although IFOR has continued to discover undeclared weapons (mostly small arms), which have been disposed of, as necessary, in line with COMIFOR's stated policy post D+180 (17th June). Demobilization continues, albeit at a slow rate, resulting largely from poor internal organisation and lack of opportunity in the civil job market. The demobilization process is not therefore expected to be completed until approximately mid-September.

6. Organised Foreign Forces have been withdrawn from Bosnia and Herzegovina, although a limited number of individuals remain. These are not assessed as posing a threat to IFOR or the peace process, but IFOR will continue to monitor this situation. According to the Office of the High Representative, all prisoners of war, for whom the UN International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) have determined that there is insufficient evidence to warrant further detention, have been released. However, there is substantial evidence indicating that the Parties continue to detain prisoners who have not been registered by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

7. Negotiations with the Parties on a package of changes to the Inter Entity Boundary Line (IEBL) have been successfully completed and these were followed by a signing ceremony in Sarajevo. However, the IEHL discussions have been unsuccessful in resolving the extremely tense situation in the Sarajevo suburb of Dobrinja.

#### Cooperation with the High Representative, the OSCE, and other International Organisations

8. IFOR remains committed to assisting the successful completion of civilian implementation tasks contained in the

-3-

Peace Agreement and its Annexes, and will continue to build upon the good cooperation established with the Office of the High Representative and the many civil agencies.

9. Working closely with the European Union Administration, IFOR successfully provided security and other support to the recent elections in Mostar. In preparation for the September elections, IFOR is now strengthening its support for the OSCE and is already fully assisting in the implementation of the election process. This close co-operation, will enable IFOR to respond quickly to further OSCE requests for assistance as and when necessary.

10. Under guidance from the NAC, IFOR has begun to share information with OSCE Personal Representative General Vigleik Eide in support of his broader effort to implement the Agreement on sub-regional arms control, which was concluded in Florence on June 14. In particular, IFOR is sharing all reliable data it obtains on weapons holdings inside Bosnia and Herzegovina in order to encourage the credible implementation of this important agreement.

11. IFOR continues to support the ICTY, in particular by carrying out extensive aerial and ground surveillance of alleged mass grave sites to which ICTY has given priority status. IFOR also continues to provide security and logistical support to ICTY teams investigating these sites. The most recent example is the support given by IFOR to the ICTY investigations of alleged mass grave sites in the Srebrenica area, which started on 7th July. IFOR also considers that its extended patrolling to facilitate FOM has significantly restricted the mobility of indicted war criminals.

#### Force Reshaping

12. IFOR is currently being reshaped with forces that are better suited for the tasks facing it during the remainder of its mission. For example, with an increase and extension of patrolling throughout the theatre in order to promote Freedom of Movement in the run up to the elections, mobile units better suited to this task are replacing heavier, armoured units. This reshaping will not significantly affect overall force levels, and IFOR will be maintained at approximately its current force levels until after the elections. It will retain its overall capability until December, when its mandate comes to an end.

-3-

**ORGANISATION DU TRAITÉ  
DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD**



**NORTH ATLANTIC  
TREATY ORGANIZATION**

LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL  
SECRETARY GENERAL

Javier Solana Madariaga

SG/96/896

22 August 1996

Dear Secretary-General,

In accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1031, I attach the ninth report on IFOR operations. I would appreciate your making this report available to the UN Security Council.

We are fast approaching the most sensitive part of the implementation of the Peace Accord, the elections in mid September. It was for this reason that I visited Bosnia and Herzegovina, with the SACEUR, a few days ago. We wanted to inform ourselves at first hand in this critical period leading up to the elections. This is now the time for Bosnia and Herzegovina to consolidate the peace that IFOR has brought. Elections must take place on time and it is now up to the Parties to do their part to ensure that they are free and fair.

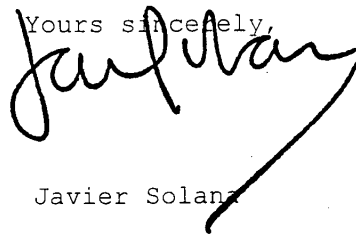
Notwithstanding the reaffirmation that we received from all the Parties during our visit of their commitment to comply with the Peace Accord and to help ensure a free and fair election environment, we still have concerns as to the continued incidents of harassment and intimidation and the obstruction to freedom of movement and freedom to return to homes of origin. Moreover, we still see continued tension within the Federation, although the agreement to abolish Herzog-Bosna is welcome news. Lastly, there have been some worrying indications of an intention to restrict IFOR inspection access and thus violate compliance requirements. There is no doubt, however, that IFOR's reaction in standing firm has helped overcome this problem, notably in the incident at Han Pijesak mentioned in paragraph 6 of the report.

.../...

Dr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali  
Secretary General  
United Nations  
NY 10017  
USA

- 2 -

In this last report before the elections, let me assure you that IFOR will continue to provide general security and substantial logistic support, especially to the OSCE and the IPTF. But the attitude of the Parties will remain crucial to preventing civil disturbances and voter harassment.

Yours sincerely,  
  
Javier Solana

Ninth Report to the UN Security Council  
on IFOR Operations

IFOR Operations

1. The multinational implementation force (IFOR) comprises approximately 53,000 personnel deployed in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia, from all the NATO nations and from 16 non-NATO contributors. Currently IFOR is being restructured with forces that are more appropriate for the tasks required of it during the remainder of its mission. Mobile units, better suited to the increasing task of patrolling, are replacing some of the original, heavier armoured units. Overall, the current force levels will be maintained until after the elections in September and IFOR's overall capability will be retained until December, when its mandate comes to an end. Preparations are underway to streamline the IFOR command structure in preparation for the completion of its mission at the end of the year.

2. IFOR air assets continue to provide the capability required to secure the air space, defend and support IFOR ground forces, provide support to civilian agencies within mission capabilities, and to monitor compliance. Since the last report, a Memorandum of Agreement with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) on the establishment of a 'restricted operating zone' to allow for IFOR close air support training flights, has been signed. As a result, IFOR has initiated regular, coordinated close air support training missions over Eastern Slavonia, to exercise plans to provide close air support, if required, to the UN Transitional Authority in East Slavonia (UNTAES). IFOR maritime assets also remain deployed in support of IFOR.

3. Throughout the reporting period, IFOR has continued to carry out its primary task of implementing the military aspects of the Peace Agreement, including the inspection and verification of barracks/cantonments and air defence weapons storage sites. IFOR has also continued to carry out such secondary tasks as supporting the UN International Police Task Force (IPTF) in their operations to ensure civilian Freedom of Movement. Ground and aerial patrols of the Inter-Entity Boundary Line (IEBL) and the Zone of Separation (ZOS) have been maintained, as has the monitoring of de-mining operations. Plans to support an emergency withdrawal of the UNTAES force remain in place.

4. Mines still pose the greatest risk to IFOR and others. In addition, occasional threats have been directed against IFOR and the IPTF, and recently some incidents have occurred, but IFOR maintains and has used its robust

-2-

capabilities and Rules of Engagement to enable it to defend itself and the IPTF effectively and to provide protection for others involved in implementing the Peace Agreement. A recent adaptation to the IFOR Operations Plan has further enhanced the basis for close cooperation and security coverage between IFOR and the IPTF.

5. Progress continues to be made in opening up the country by the improvement of the country's infrastructure, such as the repair of roads, bridges and railroads, together with efforts to open airports to commercial traffic. After being closed for four years, Sarajevo International Airport has reopened to civilian air traffic from 15th August. Supported by an appropriate information campaign, patrolling continues throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina in order to enhance freedom of movement and to remove obstacles, where these are found. However, while the number of illegal checkpoints is low, civilian freedom of movement is limited and the Parties themselves have still to create a climate of public confidence in which people can move freely and return to their homes of origin.

#### Cooperation and Compliance by the Parties

6. Progress continues with demobilization and most of the forces and heavy weapons of the former warring factions have been placed in cantonments. While the overall trend remains positive, there were a series of incidents during the reporting period which raised concern about full compliance with the military aspects of the Peace Agreement. IFOR continues to discover undeclared weapons and ordnance and these are being disposed of, as necessary, in line with COMIFOR's stated policy. IFOR was also denied access to an RSK facility at Han Pijesak. This was resolved through intervention with Republika Srpska political authorities, but not before the publicised IFOR preparations under Operation FEAR NAUGHT had been implemented. IFOR will continue to carry out inspections of the military facilities of all Parties at times, and under conditions, of its own choosing, in accordance with the provisions of the Peace Agreement. IFOR's role in ensuring that all Parties adhere to the military obligations contained in the Peace Agreement remains a priority task.

7. While the creation of UNHCR bus routes over the IEBL has met with some success, an area of great concern remains that of civilian FOM and, especially, freedom of return of displaced persons and refugees. All Parties continue to place obstacles to these freedoms by the construction of

unauthorized checkpoints and the use of intimidation to expel minorities.

8. Organised Foreign Forces have been withdrawn from Bosnia and Herzegovina, although a limited number of individuals still remain. Separately, it appears that all prisoners of war, for whom the UN International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) have determined that there is insufficient evidence to warrant further detention, have been released, but there does remain substantial evidence indicating that the Parties continue to detain prisoners who have not been registered by the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC).

Cooperation with the High Representative, the OSCE, and other International Organisations

9. Within its capabilities and subject to the fulfilment of its primary military mission, IFOR continues to develop its support to the implementation of the civilian aspects of the Peace Agreement, including the maintenance of a secure environment in which civil organizations can operate. IFOR is currently providing priority support to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in preparing the elections on 14th September, particularly in such areas as planning, logistics and communications. IFOR will also work closely with the OSCE, IPTF and the Parties to provide a secure environment for the elections, including through the concentration of forces at potential points of confrontation. IFOR is also working with the OHR and OSCE to determine how it can best contribute to the establishment of common institutions following the elections.

10. IFOR continues to work closely with the UNHCR in its efforts to promote the repatriation of refugees and return of displaced persons. For returns to majority areas, IFOR is cooperating with the UNHCR, who is focussing on its 23 target areas. For returns to minority areas, IFOR is supporting UNHCR and the UN IPTF in facilitating movement of groups across the IEBL, and supporting as required the UNHCR inter-entity bus service.

11. IFOR continues to share information with OSCE Personal Representative General Vigleik Eide in support of his work on the implementation of the Agreement on sub-regional arms control. In particular, IFOR is sharing all reliable data it obtains on weapons holdings inside Bosnia and Herzegovina in order to encourage the effective implementation of this agreement.

-4-

12. IFOR continues to support the ICTY, in particular by carrying out extensive aerial and ground surveillance of alleged mass grave sites to which ICTY has given priority status. IFOR also continues to provide security and logistical support to ICTY teams investigating alleged mass grave sites in the Srebrenica area.



**ORGANISATION DU TRAITÉ  
DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD**



**NORTH ATLANTIC  
TREATY ORGANIZATION**

**LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL  
SECRETARY GENERAL**

**Javier Solana Madariaga**

SG/96/985

23 September 1996

Dear Secretary General,

In accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1031, I attach the tenth report on IFOR operations. I would appreciate your making this report available to the UN Security Council.

With the peaceful conduct of the Bosnian elections on 14th September, we have now passed a crucial milestone in the implementation of the Peace Agreement. The successful holding of those elections was due in no small measure to the close cooperation between IFOR and the OSCE, the Office of the High Representative and the International Police Task Force, and I think that we can be justly proud of that cooperation. It will now be for the successful candidates and for the Parties themselves to build on the election outcome and to work to establish the common institutions which their country needs. IFOR will assist in this endeavour and is also prepared in principle to support the OSCE in the preparations for, and organization of, the municipal elections in Bosnia, provided that these take place before the end of IFOR's mandate in December.

At the same time IFOR's primary military mission continues. There are indications that the post-election situation will be tense, with the possibility of violence from disaffected voters, and the consequent risk of reaction and counter-reaction. IFOR will stand ready to counter any threats, and will also continue to monitor compliance issues. High priority will continue to be given to fostering greater freedom of movement, which is still sadly lacking, particularly the freedom for individuals to resettle in their former homes.

IFOR is now three quarters of the way through its one-year mandate, and the recently agreed new command structure which will shortly deploy to the theatre will help us prepare for the execution of the last phase of IFOR's mission. Let me assure you, however, that IFOR's overall capability will be retained until December, and that IFOR will continue to work to build upon the successes achieved to date.

Yours sincerely,

Javier Solana

His Excellency  
Dr Boutros Boutros-Ghali  
Secretary General  
United Nations

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## Tenth Report to the UN Security Council on IFOR Operations

### IFOR Operations

1. The multinational implementation force (IFOR) currently comprises approximately 53,000 personnel deployed in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia from all the NATO nations and - with the deployment of an Albanian unit on 9th September - 17 non-NATO troop contributors. The Force has been slightly restructured through the replacement of some heavier armour and artillery units with more mobile units and military police better suited to the needs of increased patrolling - of particular importance during the election period. IFOR's overall capability will be retained until December, when the IFOR mandate comes to an end.

2. In line with previously-announced decisions to streamline the IFOR command structure and to be prepared for the execution of the last phase of IFOR's mission, the North Atlantic Council, on 18th September, authorized the deployment into Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia of a new Headquarters based on HQ LANDCENT to replace Headquarters AFSOUTH and Headquarters Allied Rapid Reaction Force. The non-NATO IFOR troop contributing nations have been closely associated with the development of the planning for this new IFOR command and control structure.

3. IFOR air assets continue to provide the capability required to secure the air space, defend and support IFOR ground forces, provide support to civilian agencies within mission capabilities and monitor compliance. IFOR maritime assets also remain deployed in support of the Operation.

4. IFOR continues to fulfil its primary task of implementing the military aspects of the Peace Agreement. IFOR has maintained a continuous programme to patrol and inspect cantonment sites. Unauthorized weapons are confiscated and destroyed. Subject to the fulfilment of this primary task, IFOR's principal focus, throughout the reporting period, has been on the provision of support to the OSCE-sponsored elections, which took place in Bosnia on 14th September. This topic is covered in greater detail below.

5. Continuing support has been provided to the UN Transitional Authority in Eastern Slavonia (UNTAES) throughout the reporting period, and IFOR has maintained its regular, coordinated close air support training missions over Eastern Slavonia, to exercise plans to provide close air support, if necessary.

### Cooperation and Compliance by the Parties

6. The Parties remain in general compliance with the military aspects of the Peace Agreement. The movement and storage of air defence and heavy weapons by the Parties is complete and as a result the overall security posture within Bosnia and Herzegovina has been enhanced.

-2-

7. During the reporting period, however, there have been several well-publicized instances of non-compliance, such as the Han Pijesak incident, when IFOR was denied access to a VRS site (described in last month's Report) and the discovery, on 2nd August, of 250 tons of VRS mixed ammunitions at an unauthorized site at Margetici (near Pale). This discovery resulted in Operation VOLCANO, when IFOR troops destroyed the Margetici ammunition over a 6-day period (from 18th-23rd August). Following the Margetici discovery, the VRS declared 16 other unauthorized sites, containing about 3000 tons of ammunitions in total; the VRS was ordered to relocate ammunitions from these sites to sites authorized by IFOR. This relocation was completed without incident on 10th September.

8. In another violation of the Peace Agreement, BiH military personnel were discovered in the Zone of Separation (ZOS) in Sarajevo. Following intervention by IFOR, the personnel were withdrawn from the ZOS by 28th August. It is now judged that all Parties are in compliance with the requirement to withdraw forces from the IEBL ZOS.

9. Apart from these major occurrences, the majority of incidents of non-compliance over the reporting period have involved the confiscation of small arms. IFOR will continue to demonstrate firmness and even-handedness, and to ensure that all Parties adhere to the military obligations contained in the Peace Agreement.

10. Civilian Freedom of Movement (FOM) continues to give rise for concern, and there have been difficulties caused by the inevitable increase in tension leading up to the 14th September elections, with deliberate ethnic engineering resulting in harassment and the eviction of minorities, especially displaced persons and refugees attempting to return home.

#### Cooperation with the High Representative, the OSCE, and other International Organizations

11. IFOR's close cooperation with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Office of the High Representative (OHR) and the International Police Task Force (IPTF) has continued throughout the reporting period and proved crucial in the organization of the elections. Within its capabilities, and subject to the fulfilment of its primary military mission, IFOR accorded priority support to the OSCE in preparing for and conducting the 14th September elections. In addition to providing a secure environment for the elections, IFOR support was provided in the areas of planning, logistics, and communications. In the first two areas, considerable support was provided, notably in the identification, mapping and security check of over 4600 polling stations, in the delivery and subsequent collection of election materials and ballot papers, in the distribution of absentee ballot papers and in the deployment and transportation of supervisors and observers. On 14th September IFOR operated a Joint Emergency Response Centre with the OSCE and provided and maintained an extensive communications network. The elections were conducted peacefully with no major disturbances or violence.

-2-

-3-

12. IFOR continues to work closely with the UNHCR in its efforts to promote the repatriation of refugees and the return of displaced persons, including by contributing, as and where possible, to the improvement of conditions in the UNHCR's twenty-three target areas. IFOR will also continue to give high priority to fostering greater civilian freedom of movement.

13. IFOR continues to share information with the Personal Representatives of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office in support of work on the implementation of the Agreement on sub-regional arms control. COMIFOR has notified each Party that he is sharing with the Personal Representatives information compiled by IFOR on the weapons holdings of the Parties. This information should contribute to the implementation of Annex I of the Peace Agreement.

14. IFOR continues to support the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) through carrying out aerial and ground surveillance of alleged mass grave sites to which ICTY has given priority status; and to provide security and logistical support to ICTY teams investigating alleged mass grave sites in the Srebrenica area.

15. Consideration has been given to requests from the High Representative for assistance following the 14th September elections. Based on Mr Bildt's request it has been agreed in principle that IFOR will support the OSCE in the preparation and conduct of the postponed municipal elections, provided that these are held before the end of IFOR's mandate. The implications of the deferral of these elections on IFOR force levels and drawdown are now being reviewed. In addition, IFOR is prepared to assist in the establishment of common institutions created as a result of the 14th September elections. The support and level of assistance will be determined in theatre on a case-by-case basis, considering IFOR's principal tasks, available resources and the impending drawdown. Consideration is also being given to means of possible support in setting up the Presidency's Standing Committee on Military Matters.

16. As IFOR begins to draw down in numbers and capability, the support it currently provides to implementing the civil aspects of the Peace Agreement will also diminish. The transfer of IFOR support functions to other international organizations and to Bosnian state and local authorities will need to be worked out in detail in theatre.

-3-

ORGANISATION DU TRAITÉ  
DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD



NORTH ATLANTIC  
TREATY ORGANIZATION

LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL  
SECRETARY GENERAL

BOULEVARD LÉOPOLD III  
B-1110 BRUXELLES

SG/96/1092

24 October 1996

Dear Secretary General, *Dear Genl.*

In accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1031, I attach the eleventh report on IFOR operations. I would appreciate your making this report available to the UN Security Council.

There have been some signs of progress in the implementation of the Peace Agreement in Bosnia over the period following the elections there on 14th September. However, distrust and tensions between all Parties remain, as demonstrated by the difficulties in establishing the common institutions and by the confrontations which have taken place in various villages in the Zone of Separation, with refugees returning to take possession of their former homes. Clearly, the international community still faces many challenges in its efforts to bring lasting peace to the region. IFOR will continue to work closely with the Office of the High Representative and the other civil organizations in meeting this challenge. At the same time, IFOR will continue to fulfil its primary mission of ensuring compliance with the military aspects of the Peace Agreement.

As you will be aware, the OSCE announced on 22nd October the decision to defer the municipal elections in Bosnia until 1997. The implications of this decision for IFOR's drawdown are currently under review by the NATO Military Authorities. I should, however, like to assure you that its overall capability will be retained until December, when its mandate comes to an end. Options for supporting a secure environment necessary for the consolidation of the peace in Bosnia after 1996 are currently under study.

Yours sincerely,

*Javier Solana*  
Javier Solana

Encl.

His Excellency  
Dr Boutros Boutros-Ghali  
Secretary General  
United Nations  
New York  
USA

Eleventh Report to the UN Security Council on IFOR OperationsIFOR Operations

1. The multinational implementation force (IFOR) currently comprises approximately 53,000 personnel deployed in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia from all the NATO nations and 17 non-NATO troop contributors. As authorized by the North Atlantic Council on 18th September, in order to prepare for the execution of the last phase of IFOR's mission, a new Headquarters, based on HQ LANDCENT, began deployment into Bosnia and Herzegovina on 1st October, to replace Headquarters AFSOUTH and Headquarters Allied Rapid Reaction Force. IFOR's overall capability will be retained until December, when the IFOR mandate comes to an end.

2. IFOR air assets continue to provide the capability required to secure the air space, defend and support IFOR ground forces, provide support to civilian agencies within mission capabilities, and monitor compliance with the Peace Agreement. IFOR maritime assets also remain deployed in support of the operation. On 2nd October, however, following the termination of sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and in accordance with the decisions taken by the North Atlantic Council and by the Council of the Western European Union, the order was given to terminate Operation SHARP GUARD.

3. IFOR has continued to fulfil its primary task of implementing the military tasks of the Peace Agreement, and maintains a continuous programme to patrol and inspect cantonment sites and to confiscate and destroy unauthorized weapons. Subject to the fulfilment of this primary task, IFOR has continued to provide support to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and to the other civilian organizations in the wake of the 14th September national elections.

4. Continuing support has been provided to the UN Transitional Authority in Eastern Slavonia (UNTAES) throughout the reporting period, with IFOR maintaining its regular, coordinated close air support training missions over Eastern Slavonia.

Cooperation and Compliance by the Parties

5. The Parties remain in general compliance with the military aspects of the Peace Agreement. The movement and storage of air defence and heavy weapons by the Parties is complete, and the majority of incidents of non-compliance over the reporting period have involved the confiscation of small arms.

6. In the month following the national elections, it is clear that divisions in the country still run deep, as evidenced by the Bosnian Serb boycott of the new multi-ethnic parliament on 5th October and the raising of the "Herceg/Bosna"/Croat flag at a bridge-opening ceremony in Mostar on 4th October. Civilian Freedom of Movement (FOM) and Freedom of Return (FOR) continue to give rise for concern, with instances of ethnic harassment between all three factions. During the reporting period there have been confrontations in Jusici and other villages in the Zone



of Separation around Zvornik, between Bosnian Serbs and Bosniac refugees, some of whom were armed, attempting to resettle in their former homes. The Office of the High representative (OHR) and the International Police Task Force (IPTF), with IFOR support, have now established procedures for the peaceful, phased and orderly return of displaced persons and refugees to their homes in the Zone of Separation, based on the relevant provision of Annexes I A and 7 of the Peace Agreement.

7. In an effort to improve FOM and FOR, the North Atlantic Council, on 9th October, encouraged nations to address the feasibility of donating to the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina their temporary, installed bridges. In addition, as a contribution towards improving reconciliation in the country, consideration is being given to the holding of confidence-building courses at the NATO (SHAPE) School in Oberammergau for selected military personnel from the forces of all parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Within the limits of its primary mission, IFOR will also actively continue its work with the Human Rights Coordination Centre in Sarajevo to improve the human rights monitoring system.

Cooperation with the High Representative, the OSCE and other International Organizations

8. IFOR's close cooperation with the OSCE, the OHR, and the IPTF proved crucial in ensuring the peaceful conduct of the Bosnian national elections in September. This cooperation will continue.

9. IFOR will continue to work with the OSCE in accordance with the provisions of the Article IV Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control. To that end, and in an effort to assist the OSCE in its identification of overall reduction requirements, IFOR will continue to share relevant information with the OSCE on a regular basis. Subject to the judgements of the commanders on the ground and within the limits of its primary mission, assigned principal tasks and available resources, IFOR will also consider requests for support to the OSCE in such fields as: the provision of engineering assets in theatre to support the construction of arms reduction sites, and the transport of heavy weapons to those sites. IFOR will also be ready to consider other requests by the OSCE for assistance with Article IV implementation.

10. IFOR will continue to provide assistance to the OHR in its efforts to develop the common institutions of the Presidency, Parliamentary Assembly, Council of Ministers, Constitutional Court, Central Bank and the supporting constitutional framework. The provision of experts, of transport and communications support, and of support for short-term rehabilitation and construction projects will continue.

11. In Mostar, the IFOR presence was increased to deter potential disturbances during the transfer of police responsibilities from the WEU to the IPTF-monitored Federation Police Force, beginning on 15th October.

12. IFOR continues to support the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) through carrying out aerial and ground surveillance of alleged mass grave sites to

which ICTY has given priority status. IFOR will continue to provide security and logistical support to ICTY teams investigating alleged mass grave sites in Bosnia-Herzegovina, as occurred from early July until the end of September in support of ICTY teams carrying out exhumations at several mass grave sites in the Srebrenica area.



ORGANISATION DU TRAITÉ  
DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD



NORTH ATLANTIC  
TREATY ORGANIZATION

LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL  
SECRETARY GENERAL

Javier Solana Madariaga

SG/96/1194

22 November 1996

Dear Secretary General, *Dear Boutros*

In accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1031, I attach the twelfth report on IFOR operations. I would appreciate your making this report available to the UN Security Council.

Sadly, over the past month, we have witnessed several dangerous incidents arising from the return of refugees across the Inter-Entity Boundary Line into areas in and near the Zone of Separation. Agreed procedures were not followed, weapons were reintroduced into the Zone of Separation, and violence resulted. Whilst IFOR has taken firm action to defuse these incidents and prevent further ones, military measures are no substitute for a longer-term political strategy to bring about cooperation and reconciliation. The international community must continue to bring pressure to bear on the members of the Bosnian Presidency to translate into concrete agreements the political commitments they have entered into, most recently at the Paris Conference.

As we prepare for the end of IFOR's mission, I should like to assure you that the force's overall capability will be retained through December 20, and that it will continue to carry out its responsibilities until that time. In the meantime, NATO is actively considering, in close cooperation with the non-NATO contributors to IFOR, how it can best contribute to consolidating the peace beyond 1996.

Yours sincerely,

*J Solana*  
Javier Solana

His Excellency  
Dr Boutros Boutros-Ghali  
Secretary General  
United Nations  
USA

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IFOR RESTRICTED

-1-

Twelfth Report to the UN Security Council on IFOR OperationsIFOR Operations

1. The multi-national implementation force (IFOR) currently comprises approximately 51 000 personnel deployed in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia from all the NATO nations and from 17 non-NATO troop contributors. With IFOR now in the last phase of its mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, personnel numbers are decreasing as nations begin to transfer their forces out of the theatre. IFOR's overall capability will, however, be retained until December, when its mandate comes to an end.

2. The deployment of HQ LANDCENT into Bosnia and Herzegovina, which began on 1st October, is now complete. On 7th November, General Crouch succeeded Admiral Lopez as COMIFOR. The Transfer of Authority (TOA) from HQ ARRC to the new IFOR HQ took place on 20th November.

3. IFOR air assets continue to provide the capability required to secure the air space, defend and support IFOR ground forces, provide support to civilian agencies within mission capabilities, and monitor compliance with the Peace Agreement. IFOR maritime assets also remain deployed in support of the Operation.

4. IFOR continues to fulfill its primary mission to implement the military tasks of the Peace Agreement. During the reporting period, IFOR troops have continued to inspect cantonment sites and have confiscated and destroyed weapons. Patrolling has been increased in order to counter the risks arising from increased tension in and around the Zone of Separation (ZOS) and the Inter-Entity Boundary Line (IEBL) caused by the return of refugees to their former homes (paragraphs 7.8 and 9 below refer). Subject to the fulfilment of this primary mission, IFOR has continued to provide support to the Office of the High Representative (OHR) and to the other civilian organizations in theatre, including through the provision of security for the joint Presidency meetings.

5. IFOR has continued to provide support to the UN Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia (UNTAES) throughout the reporting period, through regular, coordinated close air support training missions over Eastern Slavonia.

Cooperation and Compliance by the Parties

6. The Parties remain in general compliance with the military aspects of the Peace Agreement. The movement and storage of air defence and heavy weapons is complete, and the majority of incidents of non-compliance over the reporting period have been minor, involving the confiscation of small arms and explosives.

IFOR RESTRICTED

-1-

IFOR RESTRICTED

-2-

7. During the reporting period, however, there has been an escalation in the number of incidents relating to civilian Freedom of Movement (FOM) and Freedom of Return (FOR). With respect to FOM, there have been continued restrictions in the Stolac and Mostar area. The bus service established between Prijedor and Sanski Most has been stopped, with no plans for its resumption in the near future. Tension also continued to run high in the Maglaj area. During the first two weeks of November, IFOR and the United Nations International Police Task Force (IPTF) dismantled five illegal civilian checkpoints.

8. With respect to FOR, houses belonging to every ethnic group have been destroyed - by bulldozer, arson or explosion - in villages near the ZOS in an attempt to prevent refugees from returning. On 11th November, in the most serious incident to date, several hundred Bosniacs, many of whom were armed, crossed the IEHL at Celic, south of Brcko, to occupy the small village of Grajevi on the Serb side of the ZOS. Following an ultimatum from the Bosnian Serb military authorities for the Bosniacs to leave, negotiations took place between IFOR and the Bosnian Serbs. However, on 12th November, there was an exchange of gunfire between Bosnian Serbs and Bosniacs which resulted in at least one death and several wounded, from both sides. IFOR troops cordoned off the area and succeeded in quelling the disturbance and in restoring calm, although the situation remained tense. There is clear evidence that some of the Bosniac refugees were armed, and that Bosniac army personnel were involved. On the Bosnian Serb side, there were also violations of the weapons ban in the ZOS. Thus, on 14th November, IFOR and the IPTF confiscated approximately 4000 weapons from a Bosniac army storage site and a number of small arms from a Bosnian Serb police station at Koraj. IFOR has now set up a temporary Restricted Operating Zone (ROZ) around Celic, within which all long-barrelled weapons and military personnel have been prohibited.

9. On 12th November, IFOR, the OHR, the IPTF and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) protested to the joint Presidency and to the President of the Federation and the Republika Srpska that the Koraj/Celic incident was a serious violation both of the provisions of the Peace Agreement and of the procedure established for return and reconstruction in the ZOS. This Procedure has now been suspended for the entire ZOS, and the International Commission will neither receive nor process any new or old applications for return. IFOR continues to urge all Parties to take steps to prevent further such incidents.

10. No Party is yet judged to be in compliance as far as mine clearing is concerned. It is estimated that only 11% of the total number of mine fields in Bosnia have been cleared, and there have been minimal efforts made in this respect. IFOR has therefore imposed selective bans on training activities and movements on units from all three Parties until adequate demining operations are undertaken.

11. On 12th November, President Plavsic of the Republika Srpska informed IFOR that Maj. Gen. Colic had been sworn in as the new Chief of the General Staff of the RS

IFOR RESTRICTED

-2-

IFOR RESTRICTED

-3-

Army. She further requested that all international agencies conduct all military and related business with him. IFOR is complying with this request in close concert with the OHR.

Cooperation with International Organizations

12. IFOR's close cooperation with the international civil organizations in Bosnia continues. At the end of October, IFOR and the IPTF, together with the local authorities, set up Operation COMET, aimed at preventing the destruction of property in the ZOS and apprehending offenders. In addition, IFOR support has been provided to the IPTF in Mostar in monitoring the local police force and in helping to ensure the disbandment of unauthorized civilian armed groups.

13. Support has continued to be provided to the OHR in its efforts to develop the common institutions and the supporting constitutional framework. The provision of experts, transport and communications support, and support for short-term rehabilitation and construction projects will continue.

14. IFOR continues to support the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in its responsibilities with regard to the implementation of the Article II Confidence-and-Security-Building-Measures Agreement and the Article IV Sub-Regional Arms Control Agreement. IFOR continues to share relevant information on weapons holding with the OSCE on a regular basis.

IFOR RESTRICTED

-3-

**ORGANISATION DU TRAITÉ  
DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD**



**NORTH ATLANTIC  
TREATY ORGANIZATION**

**LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL  
SECRETARY GENERAL**

**Javier Solana Madariaga**

SG/96/1304

23 December 1996

Dear Secretary-General,

In accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1031, I attach the thirteenth and final report on IFOR operations. I would appreciate your making this report available to the UN Security Council.

On 20th December 1996 the IFOR mandate came to an end. In this, my last monthly report on IFOR operations, I think it appropriate to take the opportunity briefly to review the achievements of the last year, and to look ahead to some of the challenges facing the new Stabilization Force (SFOR) authorised by Security Council Resolution 1088.

IFOR's deployment to Bosnia, following the signature of the Peace Agreement and under the authority of UNSC Resolution 1031, marked NATO's first-ever operation out-of-area and its first-ever with non-NATO countries. Both Partnership for Peace (PFP) nations, including Russia, and others played a major part in ensuring its success. IFOR deployed for Operation JOINT ENDEAVOUR over a very short period in the middle of winter. The efficiency with which this took place is a tribute to the commitment and efficiency of all concerned. Sixteen NATO and eighteen non-NATO nations contributed over 60,000 troops and facilities. In the air, more than 300 aircraft were assigned from 11 NATO nations, and over 29,700 sorties were flown. At sea, some 20 ships from 11 NATO nations were routinely involved on a day-to-day basis in the joint NATO/WEU embargo enforcement operation. In addition, there were at any one time up to 10 ships from 5 NATO nations involved in mine counter-measures operations.

../..

His Excellency  
Dr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali  
Secretary-General  
United Nations  
New York 10017  
U.S.A.

Throughout its mandate, IFOR's primary responsibility was to implement the military aspects of the Peace Agreement. With great success, it monitored the cessation of hostilities, ensured the withdrawal from the Zone of Separation of forces and weapons belonging to the former warring factions, and ensured compliance with the requirement to store aircraft, air defence and heavy weapons in IFOR-approved cantonments. In total, IFOR monitored 805 sites throughout Bosnia.

IFOR also contributed substantially to encouraging freedom of movement thanks to its many civil engineering projects. Approximately 2,500 km of roads were opened up, including 64 bridge projects that are planned, operational or underway. In addition, IFOR helped to re-establish Bosnia's railways with the result that, since 13th September, Bosnia has been linked to the rest of Europe by rail. Air operations were restored at a number of airports, and, on the local level, IFOR supported bus lines organized by the UNHCR. Despite these achievements, however, freedom of movement and particularly freedom of return are still being severely hampered by widespread reluctance of each ethnic group to accept the return of refugees belonging to another ethnic group. There have been many cases of forced expulsions and the destruction of homes. Mines also continue to pose a major impediment to achieving greater freedom of movement, and are a great danger to all, whether military or civilian. It is crucial, therefore, that demining takes place as rapidly as possible.

Much assistance was also provided by IFOR to the many international civil agencies and organizations operating within Bosnia. Continuous and close support was provided, in particular, to the Office of the High Representative (OHR), the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), the UN International Police Task Force (IPTF) and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), most notably during the preparation and peaceful conduct of the national and regional elections in September and in the implementation of the Article II confidence and security building measures and the Article IV sub-regional arms control.

IFOR broke the cycle of Spring offensives by the warring parties, and played a major part in bringing peace, albeit a fragile one, to Bosnia and Herzegovina. Our gratitude must go to the troops on the ground, to their commanders and to all the nations who have generously contributed to Operation JOINT ENDEAVOUR. Their success over the past year has not been without cost. In the course of the Operation, IFOR suffered a total of 265 casualties, of which 52 were fatal. I am sure that you join me in extending the deepest sympathy to the families of those who have died and to those wounded in the cause of peace. It is a tribute to the professionalism and discipline of the Force that so few casualties were caused by military action.


The conferences in Paris and London on 14th November and 4th and 5th December charted the way forward in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The next stage is to build upon the achievements of the past year: to consolidate peace; to encourage reconciliation and economic, political and social regeneration; and to take the steps needed to restore a multi-ethnic Bosnia and Herzegovina to economic health and prosperity and to enable it to take its rightful place in the region and in Europe. This will require a sustained effort in the civil field on the part of the international community and of the leaders and people of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

SFOR will be approximately half the size of IFOR. In building on IFOR's achievements, it will concentrate on helping to ensure stability and security during the 18 months of its mission. It will contribute to creating a secure environment that will enable responsibility for maintaining peace to be transferred from military enforcement to political and civil control, with the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina themselves assuming increasing responsibility for the maintenance of peace. A major milestone in consolidating the peace in 1997 will be the conduct of the municipal elections. SFOR will be ready to support these elections within the limits of its mandate and reduced resources. It will also provide selective support, within its more limited capabilities, to civilian agencies.

Much has been achieved in the past year, but much remains to be done. SFOR will implement its mandate as professionally as IFOR and will play its full part in helping to bring lasting peace to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In submitting this final report on IFOR, I should like to take the opportunity of expressing my personal thanks to you for your personal commitment to our shared cause of peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Yours sincerely,



Javier Solana

Attachment



-1-

### Thirteenth Report to the UN Security Council on IFOR Operations

#### IFOR Operations

1. During December, which was the last month of operation of the multi-national implementation force (IFOR), the force comprised approximately 40,000 personnel deployed in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia. Contributions came from all the NATO countries and, with Bulgaria joining IFOR on 13th December, from 18 non-NATO countries. With the IFOR mandate coming to an end on 20th December, the number of personnel decreased over the last month of the mandate, as nations continued to transfer their forces out of the theatre. However, IFOR continued to maintain a mission-capable force until the end of its mandate.

2. IFOR air assets continued to provide the capability required to secure the air space, defend and support IFOR ground forces, provide support to civilian agencies within mission capabilities, and monitor compliance with the Peace Agreement. IFOR maritime assets also remained deployed in support of the Operation.

3. IFOR continued to fulfill its primary mission to implement the military tasks of the Peace Agreement. IFOR troops continued to inspect cantonment sites, to confiscate and destroy weapons, and to increase patrolling where necessary in order to counter the risks arising from increased tension in and around the Zone of Separation (ZOS) and the Inter-Entity Boundary Line (IEBL). Subject to the fulfilment of this primary mission, IFOR continued to provide support to the Office of the High Representative (OHR) and to the other civilian organizations in theatre.

4. IFOR continued to provide support to the UN Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia (UNTAES) through regular, coordinated close air support training missions over Eastern Slavonia.

#### Cooperation and Compliance by the Parties

5. The Parties have remained in general overall compliance with the military aspects of the Peace Agreement. However, unauthorized weapons continued to be confiscated, partly as a result of the joint inspections of police stations which were carried out by IFOR and the UN International Police Task Force (IPTF) over the past month. These inspections resulted in the confiscation and destruction of a large number of unauthorized weapons, mainly small arms and ammunition, although numerous mines and light mortars were also discovered. In addition, over the past month, during weapons storage site inspections, discrepancies in inventories were found and various types of undeclared weapons, again mainly small arms, were confiscated, together with ammunition.

-1-



6. With respect to the continued presence of unauthorized individuals in the ZOS, IFOR increased patrolling in and around the ZOS. As a result, IFOR registered only one ZOS violation, during the first two weeks of December, involving 3 unarmed ABiH soldiers.

7. Freedom of Movement (FOM) and Freedom of Return (FOR) continued to give rise for concern, and there was increased tension in the city of Mostar over the reporting period, with Bosnian Croats, mainly criminal gangs, but including elements from the Bosnian Croat Army, evicting a number of Bosniacs from their homes. IFOR warned the Bosnian Croats of the consequences of continuing such evictions. Only 3 illegal checkpoints have been registered over recent weeks; but the population still enjoys very little FOM, as was emphasised during the recent Peace Implementation Council meeting in London. Indeed, IFOR suspects all Parties of continuing to use mobile, fast-moving checkpoints in order to hinder FOM.

8. Minefields continue to pose a very great problem in the theatre. Mine-clearing is one of the major obstacles to economic reconstruction and to FOM and FOR; in the period since the 3rd October, when COMARRC linked minefield lifting with the right to train and move, only 43 minefields have been lifted. It is unlikely now, given the weather, that mine-clearing operations will resume before next Spring. It is currently estimated that only 10-11% of the known minefields have been cleared.

#### Cooperation with International Organizations

9. IFOR's close cooperation with the international civil organizations in Bosnia continued over the reporting period, with support being provided to the Office of the High Representative (OHR) in its efforts to develop the common institutions and the supporting constitutional framework.

10. As reported above, IFOR continued to cooperate with the IPTF, most recently during the latter's inspection of civilian police stations. IFOR support was also provided to the IPTF in Mostar in monitoring the local police force there.

#### Transition from IFOR to the Stabilization Force (SFOR)

11. Following the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1088 on 12th December, and following consultation with the Non-NATO contributors, the North Atlantic Council approved the Operations Plan (OPLAN) for Operation JOINT GUARD on 16th December 1996. NATO Defence Ministers subsequently authorized SACEUR to send the Activation Order (ACTORD) activating SFOR on 20th December. Transfer of Authority from IFOR to SFOR took place on that date.



11 July 1995

As violence increased, the flow of Bosnian Muslim and Bosnian Croat refugees soon became uncontrollable.

Refugees – Reuters Pictures



The Army of Republika Srpska targeted civilians during the Siege of Sarajevo, which started in spring 1992.

"I never believed war was going to come here. And then one day they started, somebody just pressed a button and they started." Maja Marjanović, AAFES supervisor.



Young boys play in the ruins of Sarajevo.





In August 1995, to compel an end to Serb-led violence, UN peacekeepers requested NATO airstrikes. This operation was a key factor in bringing the parties to the negotiating table at Dayton and ending the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

A US F-15 fighter jet takes off for Bosnia and Herzegovina from the NATO base in Aviano, Italy.



14 December 1995

Signature of the Dayton Peace Agreement in Paris, in the presence of Slobodan Milošević, Alija Izetbegović, Franjo Tuđman, Felipe Gonzalez, Bill Clinton, Jacques Chirac, Helmut Kohl, John Major and Viktor Chernomyrdin.



Six days after the signing of the Dayton Peace Agreement, NATO deployed a UN-mandated Implementation Force (IFOR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina, relieving the UN peacekeeping force in place since 1992.

IFOR consisted of 50,000 troops provided by NATO member countries and 10,000 troops provided by non-NATO contributors.



**20 December 1995**

The UN Commander for the former Yugoslavia, French General Bernard Janvier (R), shakes hands with US Admiral Leighton W. Smith (L) during the official ceremony for the handover of UN duties to NATO, as UN Special Representative Kofi Annan (C) watches.

Reuters Pictures



**21 December 1995**

An American soldier has an IFOR armband put on his uniform after arriving at Sarajevo airport.

Reuters Pictures





The US Army's 1st Armored Division rolls into Bosnia and Herzegovina. The pontoon bridge erected over the Sava River allowed IFOR troops to cross from Croatia into Bosnia and Herzegovina.

It took just three hours for US Army boats to push and pull the pontoon sections across the river, which had swollen to a record width of more than 320 metres.



The NATO countries participating in IFOR were Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States.



Non-NATO contributing countries were Albania, Austria, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, Hungary, Jordan, Latvia, Lithuania, Malaysia, Morocco, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Sweden and Ukraine.

Romanian troops.



Operation Joint Endeavour brought together NATO and non-NATO countries in an unprecedented coalition for peace involving 36 states.

A Ukrainian soldier providing security outside the city of Tuzla.



With some 1,600 troops, Russia contributed the largest non-NATO contingent to the NATO-led peacekeeping operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Russian Colonel Aleksandr Lentsov (R), commander of Russian troops in Bosnia and Herzegovina, discusses deployment plans with US Major John Bushyhead at the Russian base in eastern Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Reuters Pictures – 15 January 1996



Map of Bosnia and Herzegovina showing the entity boundary line and IFOR divisional boundaries.





26 December 1995  
French NATO soldiers disarm an anti-tank mine in the district of Stup, a front-line area of Sarajevo.  
Reuters Pictures



19 January 1996  
The Supreme Allied Commander Europe, General George Joulwan, points to a map of Bosnia and Herzegovina as he briefs journalists at NATO Headquarters in Brussels on the progress of the peace implementation programme. Just 30 days into the operation, all the targets had been met.  
Reuters Pictures



IFOR's main mission was to provide the military forces needed to implement the peace agreement in Bosnia and Herzegovina, prevent the conflict from spreading, support the efforts of the international community and the United Nations, end the humanitarian crisis, and help create the right conditions for restructuring the country.

An elderly woman jokes with an Italian soldier as she walks by an IFOR checkpoint.





The IFOR mission also attached particular importance to reconstruction.

British Royal Engineers build permanent bridges clear of the water, on good foundations, to re-open the route to heavy traffic.



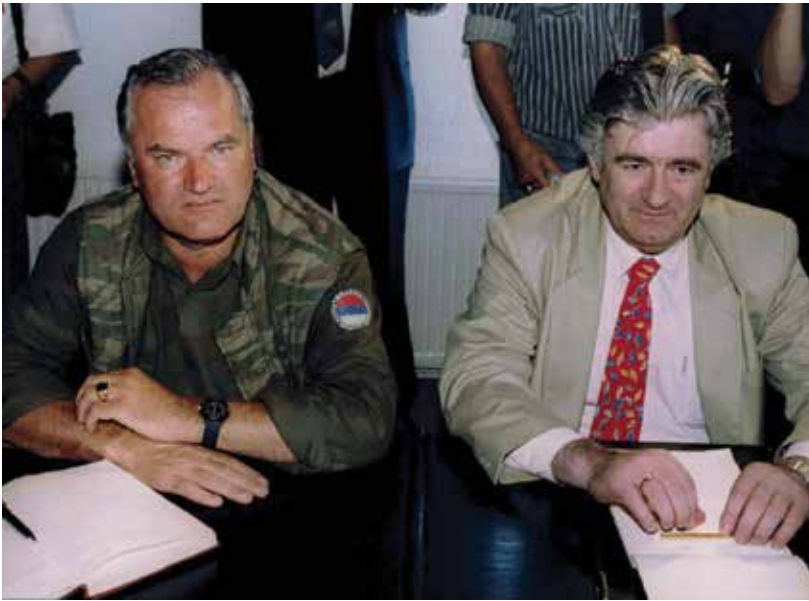
Often, construction teams would uncover mass graves bearing witness to the violence that had been perpetrated.

A forensic specialist sits at the top of a mass grave.

"The individuals are attired in civilian clothing, many of them have wires around their wrists."

William Haglund, forensic consultant





On 11 July 1996, the UN International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia issued international arrest warrants against Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadžić (R) and his military commander Ratko Mladić (L), on charges of genocide and war crimes. Reuters Pictures



As the situation evolved, IFOR was replaced by a new Stabilisation Force (SFOR) on 20 December 1996.

A US Army sergeant prepares to change the Implementation Force acronym, IFOR, to the Stabilisation Force acronym, SFOR. SFOR was made up of approximately 30,000 personnel.



## THE PRESS RELEASES 1995-1996







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**PRESS RELEASE (95)55**

**27 May 1995**

**COMMUNIQUE FOLLOWING THE MEETING OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL  
ON THE SITUATION IN THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA**

The Alliance, with the full solidarity of its members, condemns in the strongest terms the outrageous behaviour of the Bosnian Serbs.

The Alliance condemns the killing and detention of UN peacekeepers and the making of unacceptable threats against the lives of those who are being held hostage. It salutes the courage and dedication of all UN peacekeepers in the former Yugoslavia whose mission is humanitarian and to support the search for peace. Holding peacekeepers hostage is a violation of international principles and of all norms of civilized behaviour. NATO demands that the Bosnian Serbs release these UN peacekeepers immediately, and supports every effort of the UN to ensure their safety and bring about their release.

The Alliance also condemns the barbaric shelling of the UN-designated safe areas, in particular the attacks on Tuzla, which has led to the slaughter of a large number of innocent civilians. We demand that the Bosnian Serbs stop these attacks on the safe areas and comply with the UNPROFOR ultimatum to remove all heavy weapons from the Sarajevo exclusion zone or place them under effective UN control. The Alliance remains ready to respond to requests from the United Nations for further action in support of these objectives.

The Alliance calls upon the parties to the conflict to de-escalate the military confrontation and to seek solutions through diplomacy rather than war. The Alliance supports the continued presence of the UN Peace Forces, with their safety assured and a strengthened ability to carry out a clear mandate. The Council has requested the NATO Military Authorities to examine additional means the Alliance could adopt to support UN Peace Forces in the conduct of their mission.

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**PRESS RELEASE (95)73**

**30 August 1995**

**STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF NATO**

NATO aircraft, operating within the provisions of Operation Deny Flight today (30 August 1995) just after 00:00 GMT (02:00 local) commenced attacks on Bosnian Serb military targets in Bosnia. The air operations were initiated after the UN military commanders concluded, beyond any reasonable doubt, that Monday's brutal mortar attack in Sarajevo came from Bosnian Serb positions. The NATO operation is ongoing and details will be provided as soon as possible.

The operations were jointly decided by the Commander in Chief, Allied Forces Southern Europe and the Force Commander, UN Peace Forces under UN Security Council Resolution 836 and in accordance with the North Atlantic Council's decisions of 25 July and 1 August, which were endorsed by the UN Secretary General.

Our objective is to reduce the threat to the Sarajevo Safe Area and to deter further attacks there or on any other Safe Area. We hope that this operation will also demonstrate to the Bosnian Serbs the futility of further military actions and convince all parties of the determination of the Alliance to implement its decisions.

We call upon all parties to exercise restraint. No one should seek military benefit from our action.

NATO remains strongly committed to the continued efforts of the international community, including those of the Contact Group, to bring peace to the former Yugoslavia through the diplomatic process. It is my fervent hope that our decisive response to Monday's mortar attack will contribute to attaining a peaceful settlement.



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**PRESS RELEASE (95)76**

**2 September 1995**

**STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL  
FOLLOWING COUNCIL MEETING - 2 SEPTEMBER 1995**

The Council took note of a report by the NATO military commanders on Operation "Deliberate Force".

The reply of General Mladic is not sufficient and does not constitute a basis for terminating air strikes.

We expect the Bosnian Serbs to comply with the conditions of the United Nations and in particular:

- no Bosnian Serb attacks on Sarajevo or other Safe Areas;
- Bosnian Serb withdrawal of heavy weapons from the 20 km total exclusion zone around Sarajevo without delay;
- complete freedom of movement for UN forces and personnel and NGOs and unrestricted use of Sarajevo airport.

The NATO military commanders are authorized to resume air strikes at any moment in conformity with the Council's decisions of 25th July and 1st August.

The NATO military commanders are pursuing for a brief period the suspension of air strikes in order to determine if the conditions of the United Nations have begun to be implemented by the Bosnian Serbs. This period will be determined by joint agreement of the UN and NATO military commanders.

Assuming Bosnian Serb compliance, Bosnian Government forces are expected to show restraint and not take advantage of the situation in and around Sarajevo.

NATO air operations continue over Bosnia-Herzegovina and NATO aircraft will react immediately to any attack or display of hostile intent against them by Bosnian Serbs.





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**PRESS RELEASE (95)79**

**5 September 1995**

**STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF NATO**

NATO aircraft operating within the provisions of Operation "Deliberate Force", today (05 September 1995), at 13.08 LOCAL, resumed attacks on Bosnian-Serb military targets in Bosnia. The air operations were reinitiated after UN and NATO military commanders concluded that the Bosnian Serbs had failed to demonstrate their intent to comply with United Nations demands to remove military threats against Sarajevo.

The initial strikes, which began 30 August, were temporarily suspended 01 September to permit meetings between UN and Bosnian Serb officials. On 03 September, the North Atlantic Council, taking note of a report by the NATO military commanders on Operation "Deliberate Force", stated that the Bosnian-Serb reply to UN demands was not a sufficient basis for the termination of air strikes, and set out specific conditions.

Since 03 September, the Force Commander, UN Peace Forces and the Commander-in-Chief, Allied Forces Southern Europe have conducted an extensive joint assessment to determine if the Bosnian-Serbs had begun to implement the UN conditions. While some movement of Bosnian-Serb military equipment was observed overnight 04 September, the NATO and UN commanders agreed that the movements were not significant, and therefore judged that the Bosnian-Serbs have failed to comply.

The consequences of such a failure have been repeatedly made clear by the North Atlantic Council and the United Nations, and communicated directly to the Bosnian-Serbs by the UN Peace Force Commander. Accordingly, NATO aircraft were directed to recommence the Operation "Deliberate Force" air strike campaign.

Our objective remains attaining the compliance of the Bosnian Serbs to cease attacks on Sarajevo or other Safe Areas; the withdrawal of Bosnian Serb heavy weapons from the total exclusion zone around Sarajevo, without delay; complete freedom of movement for UN forces and personnel and NGOs and unrestricted use of Sarajevo airport.

We hope that this operation will make clear to the Bosnian Serbs the futility of further military actions and convince all parties of the determination of the Alliance to implement its decisions.

We call again upon all parties to exercise restraint. No one should seek military benefit from our action.

NATO remains strongly committed to the continued efforts of the international community, including those of the Contact Group, to bring peace to the former Yugoslavia through the diplomatic process. I regret that we again must resort to the use of military force to obtain compliance of the Bosnian Serbs. No one can doubt our resolve to see this matter through.

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**PRESS RELEASE (95)85**

**14 September 1995**

**JOINT STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
AND THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC  
TREATY ORGANIZATION**

We have been following with deep concern the intensification of military activities by the Bosnian parties in recent weeks, particularly in the Western parts of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina. We are also disturbed by reports of the exodus of large numbers of civilians from the affected areas. We call upon all the parties to cease immediately all offensive military activities and hostile acts in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina. As the United Nations Security Council and the North Atlantic Council have repeatedly emphasised, there can be no military solution to the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina. We affirm our full support to the ongoing efforts to find a political solution which would bring lasting peace throughout the region.

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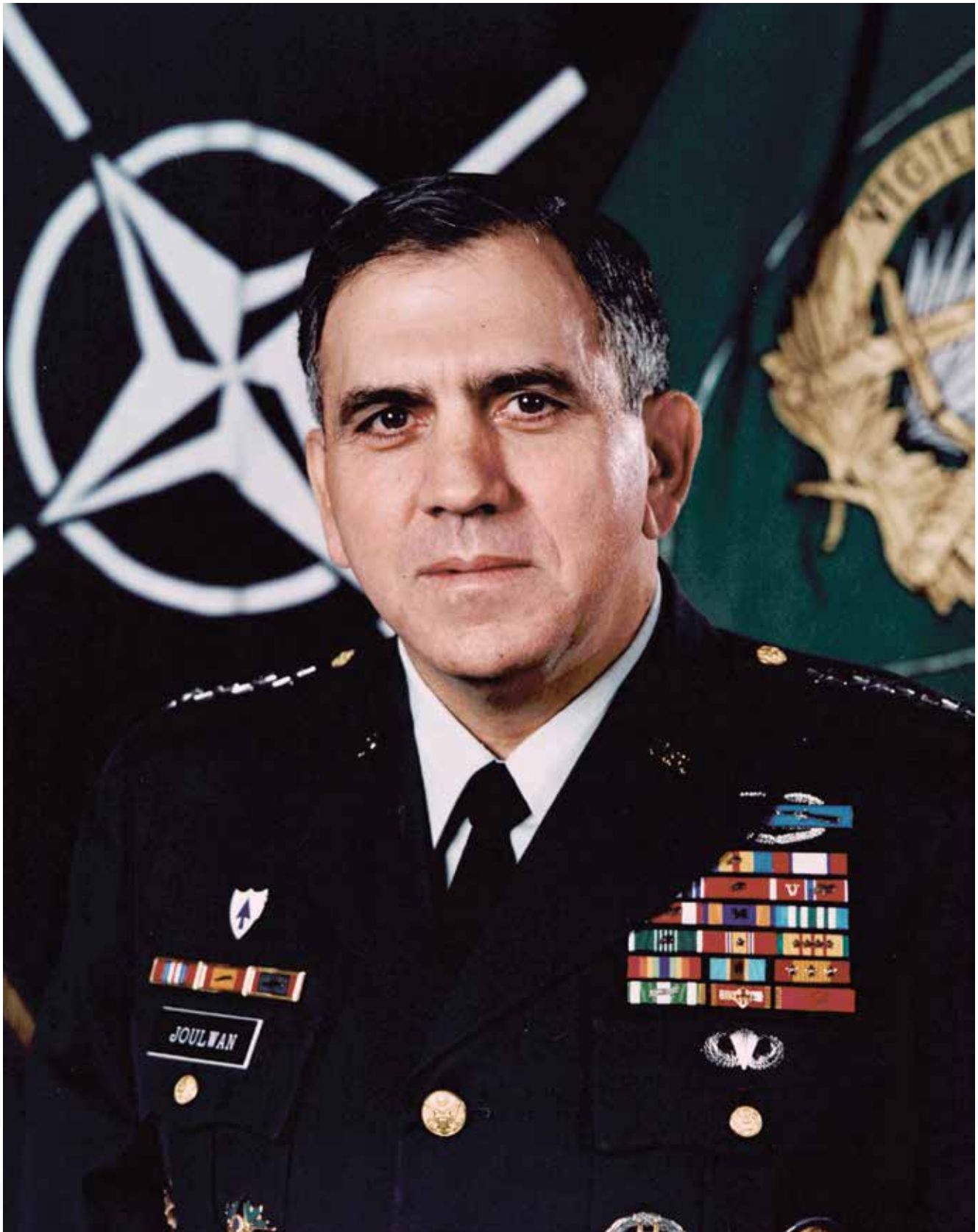
**COMMUNIQUE DE PRESSE (95)85**

**14 septembre 1995**

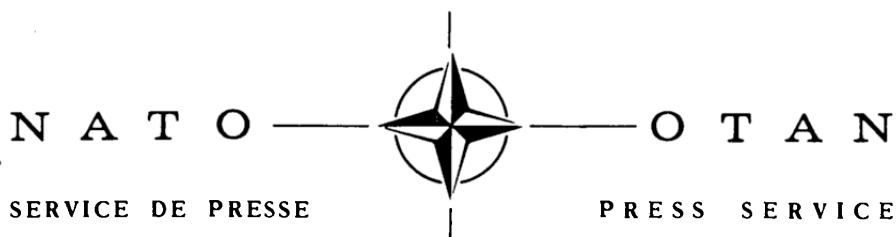
**DECLARATION CONJOINTE DU SECRETAIRE GENERAL  
DES NATIONS UNIES ET DU SECRETAIRE GENERAL  
DE L'ORGANISATION DU TRAITE DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD**

Nous avons suivi avec une profonde inquiétude l'intensification, ces dernières semaines, des activités militaires des parties bosniaques, notamment dans l'ouest de la République de Bosnie-Herzégovine. Nous sommes vivement préoccupés également par les rapports faisant état de l'exode d'un grand nombre de civils fuyant les zones touchées. Nous appelons toutes les parties à cesser immédiatement toute activité militaire offensive et tout acte hostile en République de Bosnie-Herzégovine. Comme l'ont souligné maintes fois le Conseil de sécurité des Nations Unies et le Conseil de l'Atlantique Nord, il ne peut y avoir de solution militaire au conflit en Bosnie-Herzégovine. Nous affirmons notre plein soutien aux efforts entrepris pour trouver une solution politique de nature à apporter une paix durable dans toute la région.

***Les informations sur l'OTAN sont également disponibles sur le réseau  
INTERNET : "NATODOC@HQ.NATO.INT".***



Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR)  
General George Joulwan



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**PRESS RELEASE (95)126**

1 December 1995

**DEPLOYMENT OF THEATRE ENABLING FORCES**

In the light of the peace agreement initialled in Dayton last week and bearing in mind its impending signature in Paris, Council today decided to authorize SACEUR to deploy theatre enabling forces into Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

These forces consist primarily of headquarters communications and logistics elements involving around 2,600 NATO personnel. Their early deployment is required to prepare for the rapid and efficient arrival of the main body of IFOR following signature of the peace agreement and adoption of a UN Security Council resolution.

The enabling forces will operate under NATO command and with NATO rules of engagement. The enabling forces will be deployed in close coordination with the UN Peace Force and under status of forces agreements with Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia signed by the two governments in Dayton.

This decision demonstrates NATO's preparedness to implement the military aspects of the peace agreement once it is signed and to help create the conditions for a lasting peace in former Yugoslavia.

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SACEUR George Joulwan (left) and NATO Secretary General Javier Solana (center) greeted by President Tudjman of Croatia



Press conference presided by NATO Secretary General Javier Solana (centre), Commander IFOR Leighton Smith (2nd left) and SACEUR George Joulwan (1st left).





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**PRESS RELEASE (96)5**

**9 January 1996**

**SECRETARY GENERAL OF NATO TO VISIT IFOR**  
**11-12 JANUARY 1996**

The Secretary General of NATO, Dr. Javier Solana, will pay a visit to Zagreb, Sarajevo and Belgrade to meet with political and military leaders of the respective countries and organizations. The visit will last from Thursday, 11 January, till Friday, 12 January.

During his visit, the Secretary General will meet with President Tudjman of Croatia, President Izetbegovic of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, President Milosevic of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and President Zubak of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. He will also meet with the commanders and forces of the NATO-led Implementation Force charged with implementing the peace agreement for the former Yugoslavia, as well as with Mr. Carl Bildt, the High Representative responsible for coordinating the civilian aspects.

The Secretary General will give a press conference together with General Joulwan and COMIFOR in the early afternoon of Friday, 12 January, in Sarajevo. More details on this can be obtained from the Coalition Press Information Centre in Sarajevo, tel: int'l-387-71-447 612/613/606, fax: int'l-387-71-447 604.

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**PRESS RELEASE (96)11**

13 January 1996

**SECRETARY GENERAL OF NATO, MR. JAVIER SOLANA,  
BRIEFED PRESIDENT CLINTON**

Upon the return from his visit to Zagreb, Sarajevo and Belgrade, the Secretary General of NATO, Mr. Javier Solana, spoke by telephone to President Clinton. He briefed the President on the results of his trip and in particular on the good progress that IFOR is making in implementing the military aspects of the Peace Agreement. He informed the President that the prospects for compliance as IFOR moves towards the "D+30"-deadline for the separation of forces were encouraging.

On the eve of the President's departure for his own visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Secretary General also informed President Clinton of the outcome of his talks with political leaders in the region.

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**COMMUNIQUE DE PRESSE(96)11**

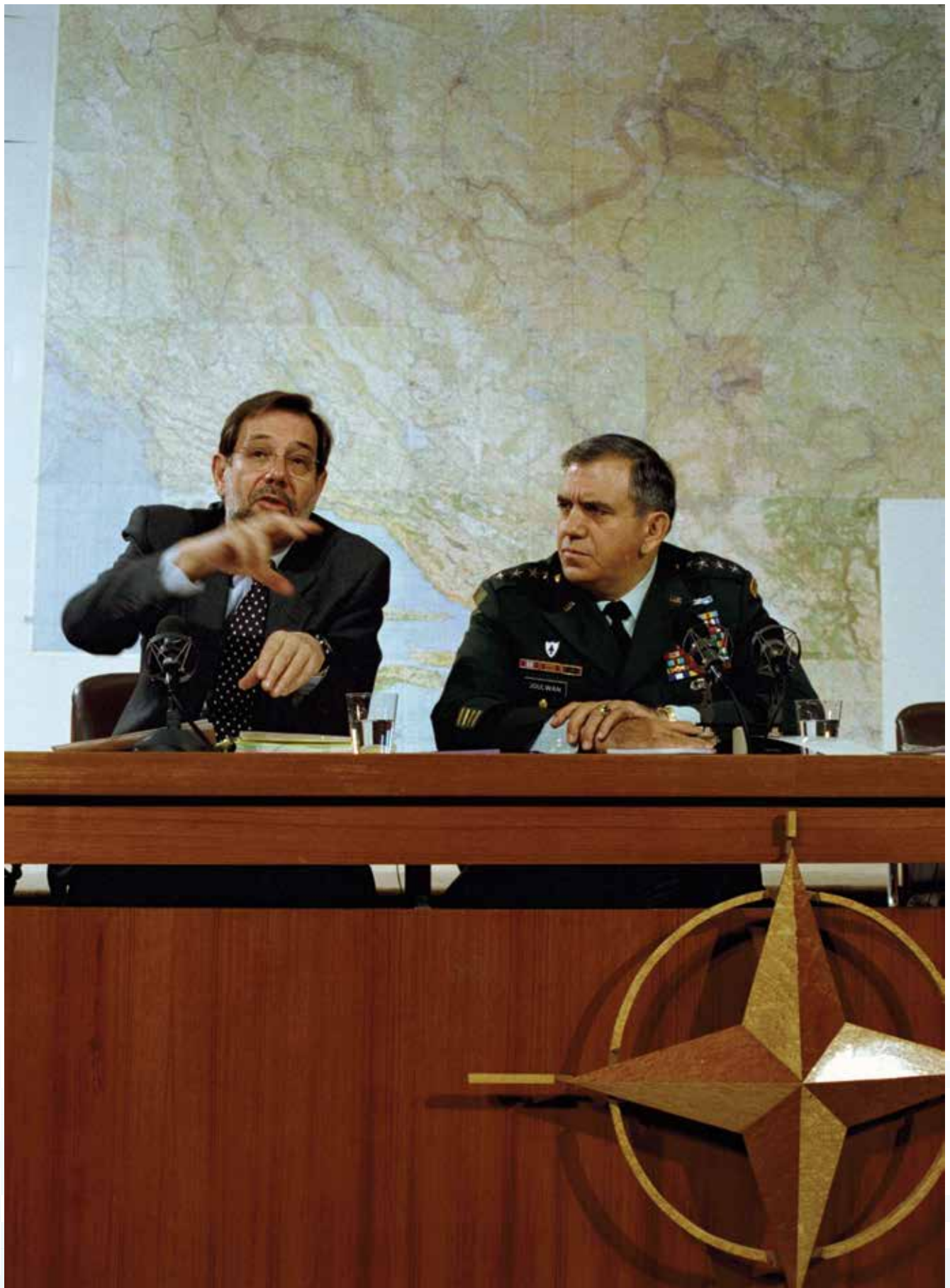
13 janvier 1996

**COMPTE RENDU DU SECRETAIRE GENERAL DE L'OTAN, M. JAVIER SOLANA,  
AU PRESIDENT CLINTON**

De retour après sa visite à Zagreb, à Sarajevo et à Belgrade, le Secrétaire général de l'OTAN, M. Javier SOLANA, s'est entretenu par téléphone avec le président Clinton. Il a fait part au Président des résultats de son voyage, et notamment de la bonne progression des activités de mise en oeuvre par l'IFOR des aspects militaires de l'accord de paix. Il a fait savoir au Président que les perspectives de voir le plan respecté alors que l'IFOR se rapproche de l'échéance des 30 jours fixée pour la séparation des forces sont encourageantes.

A la veille du départ du président Clinton pour la visite que celui-ci va effectuer en Bosnie-Herzégovine, le Secrétaire général a également informé le Président des résultats de ses entretiens avec les dirigeants politiques de la région.

Les informations sur l'OTAN sont également disponibles sur le réseau Internet :  
"NATODOC@HQ.NATO.INT".







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PRESS RELEASE (96)18

31 January 1996

PRESS CONFERENCE BY SECRETARY GENERAL JAVIER SOLANA AND  
SACEUR GEORGE IOULWAN

NATO Secretary General Javier Solana will hold a joint press conference with the Supreme Allied Commander for Europe, General George Joulwan, on the occasion of the "D+45 deadline" in Bosnia and Herzegovina. D+45 is a milestone for the peace efforts in Bosnia and Herzegovina, marking the 45th day after the Transfer of Authority to NATO's Peace Implementation Force (IFOR).

The press conference will take place on:

3 February 1996 at approximately 13.30  
at the Hilton Park Hotel, Munich

after the morning session of the Munich Conference on Security Policy (in the Ballroom).

*Information on NATO is also available on E-Mail:  
"NATODOC@HQ.NATO.INT"*

COMMUNIQUE DE PRESSE (96)18

31 janvier 1996

CONFERENCE DE PRESSE DU SECRETAIRE GENERAL  
DE L'OTAN, M. JAVIER SOLANA, ET DU  
SACEUR, LE GENERAL GEORGE IOULWAN

Le Secrétaire général de l'OTAN, M. Javier Solana, donnera une conférence de presse conjointement avec le Commandant suprême des forces alliées en Europe, le général George Joulwan, à l'occasion du franchissement de la "date limite J+45" en Bosnie-Herzégovine. Cette date constitue une étape dans les efforts de paix déployés en Bosnie-Herzégovine, marquant le 45e jour écoulé depuis le transfert d'autorité à la Force OTAN de mise en oeuvre des accords de paix (IFOR).

La conférence de presse aura lieu :

le 3 février 1996 à environ 13h30  
à l'hôtel Hilton Park, Munich

après la séance du matin de la Conférence de Munich sur la politique en matière de sécurité, à l'hôtel Hilton Park (salle de danse).

*Les informations sur l'OTAN sont également disponibles sur le réseau  
INTERNET : "NATODOC@HQ.NATO.INT".*



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**PRESS RELEASE (96)20**

**28 January 1996**

**STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF NATO**

The Secretary-General of NATO, Mr Javier Solana, has been informed about two tragic incidents which happened today in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The first was a road accident in which a Swedish Armoured Personnel Carrier (APC) slid off the road 10 kms northeast of Doboj and overturned, killing one soldier and seriously injuring another.

The second incident happened about 20 kms south of Titovdrvar, when a British APC struck a mine. The Headquarters of the Multi-National Division Southwest in Gornji Vakuf confirmed this but said that the vehicle could not yet be reached by IFOR due to the difficult flying conditions and the hazard of unmarked minefields. Unfortunately, it must be presumed that the three British soldiers in the vehicle have not survived the explosion.

The Secretary-General has expressed his sadness at these very regrettable incidents. He again underlined the braveness of the soldiers serving with IFOR and supporting the international effort to bring peace to the former Yugoslavia.

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**PRESS RELEASE (96)24**

**9 February 1996**

**SECRETARY GENERAL OF NATO TO VISIT IFOR  
AND MOSTAR 12 FEBRUARY 1996**

The Secretary General of NATO, Dr. Javier Solana, will pay a visit to Mostar on 12 February, 1996. He will be accompanied by SACEUR, General George Joulwan.

During his visit the Secretary General will meet Mr. Hans Koschnick, the EU Administrator of Mostar, as well as local Mayors. He will also meet with the Spanish and French Commanders and forces of the NATO-led Implementation Force tasked with implementing the peace agreement for the former Yugoslavia.

**PRESS ADVISORY**  
**(not for publication)**

There will be a photo opportunity at Mostar airport at **11:30** and a joint press conference together with General Joulwan and Mr. Koschnick at the Hotel Ero at **14:10**.

***NATO Information is also available on E-Mail via  
the following address: "NATODOC@HQ.NATO.INT".***

**COMMUNIQUE DE PRESSE (96)24**

**9 février 1996**

**LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL DE L'OTAN SE RENDRA A MOSTAR ET RENCONTRERA  
DES ELEMENTS DE L'IFOR LE 12 FEVRIER 1996**

Le Secrétaire général de l'OTAN, M. Javier Solana, se rendra à Mostar le 12 février 1996. Il sera accompagné du SACEUR, le Général George Joulwan.

Au cours de sa visite, le Secrétaire général aura des entretiens avec M. Hans Koschnick, l'Administrateur de l'Union européenne pour Mostar et avec les maires de la ville. Il rencontrera aussi les Commandants français et espagnol ainsi que des éléments de la Force chargée, sous la conduite de l'OTAN, de la mise en oeuvre de l'accord de paix dans l'ex-Yougoslavie.

**NOTE AUX MEDIAS**  
**(hors publication)**

Une prise de vues est prévue à l'aéroport de Mostar, à **11h30**, et une conférence de presse conjointe avec le Général Joulwan et M. Koschnick se tiendra à l'hôtel Ero à **14h10**.

***Les informations sur l'OTAN sont également disponibles  
sur le réseau INTERNET : "NATODOC@HG.NATO.INT".***

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**PRESS RELEASE (96)25**

**12 February 1996**

**STATEMENT BY SECRETARY GENERAL OF NATO**

At the request of the International War Crimes Tribunal (ICTY), NATO has directed IFOR to make available a C-130 aircraft in order to transport two Bosnian Serb officers, Gen. Djukic and Colonel Krsmanovic, from Sarajevo to the Netherlands for further investigation by the Tribunal. The Bosnian authorities have given their approval for the release of these two officers into the hands of the Tribunal following initial investigations by Tribunal officials as to alleged war crimes. Before departing Sarajevo, both officers were given a medical examination.

The operation carried out this evening was a multinational one involving several nations participating in the IFOR. It is a further indication of NATO's active support for the work of the International War Crimes Tribunal and its readiness, within its capabilities, to assist the Tribunal in carrying out its tasks.

***NATO Information is also available on E-Mail via  
the following address: "NATODOC@HQ.NATO.INT".***

**COMMUNIQUE DE PRESSE (96)25**

**12 février 1996**

**DECLARATION DU SECRETAIRE GENERAL DE L'OTAN**

A la demande du Tribunal pénal international (TPI), l'OTAN a chargé l'IFOR de mettre à disposition un avion C-130 pour transporter deux officiers serbes de Bosnie, le général Djukic et le colonel Krsmanovic, de Sarajevo aux Pays-Bas, pour complément d'enquête par le Tribunal. Les autorités bosniaques ont donné leur accord à la remise au Tribunal de ces deux officiers à la suite d'investigations préliminaires menées par des responsables du TPI au sujet de crimes de guerre dont ceux-ci se seraient rendus coupables. Avant de quitter Sarajevo, les deux officiers ont subi un examen médical.

L'opération exécutée ce soir était une opération multinationale à laquelle ont pris part plusieurs pays participant à l'IFOR. Elle constitue une nouvelle indication du soutien actif de l'OTAN aux travaux du Tribunal pénal international et de sa volonté d'aider, dans les limites de ses capacités, le Tribunal à s'acquitter de ses tâches.

***Les informations sur l'OTAN sont également disponibles  
sur le Réseau internet : "NATODOC@HQ.NATO.INT".***



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**PRESS RELEASE (96)26**

**14 February 1996**

**IFOR ASSISTANCE TO THE INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL**

The North Atlantic Council today reaffirmed its strong support for the work of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in Bosnia-Herzegovina, as the Council had decided on 16th December 1995 at the outset of IFOR's operation.

IFOR's main contribution is to provide a secure environment, in which other organisations - such as the ICTY - can carry out their mission unimpeded.

Our policy remains that IFOR will detain and transfer to the ICTY persons indicted for war crimes by the Tribunal when it comes into contact with such persons in carrying out their duties. The ICTY is providing HQ IFOR with all available information on the persons indicted for war crimes and this information is being distributed to IFOR personnel.

IFOR will also provide logistical support to the ICTY case by case on requests to the extent that IFOR's primary duties and available resources permit. As an illustration of such support, NATO responded positively to an ICTY request to assist in the secure transport of two persons detained as suspects and potential witnesses from Sarajevo to The Hague on 12th February for further investigation by the Tribunal.

NATO Military Authorities and the ICTY are continuing to refine the arrangements for IFOR's cooperation with the Tribunal. Given the confidentiality of the ICTY's work, IFOR and the Tribunal will not release information on Tribunal requests to IFOR to assist in specific cases.

The IFOR commanders will do their utmost within their capabilities to assist the ICTY in its work.

***NATO Information is also available on E-Mail via the following address:  
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**PRESS RELEASE (96)33**

**6 March 1996**

**NATO AMBASSADORS VISIT SARAJEVO  
ON 8 MARCH 1996**

The Deputy Secretary General of the North Atlantic Alliance, Ambassador Sergio Balanzino, and Permanent Representatives (Ambassadors representing their countries within the North Atlantic Council) will visit Sarajevo on 8 March, 1996. They will be accompanied by the Chairman of the Military Committee, General Klaus Naumann and General George A. Joulwan, Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR).

The Ambassadors will meet with the Vice President of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr. Ejup Ganic, and the UN High Representative, Mr. Carl Bildt. They will also receive briefings on the military situation by Admiral Smith (COMIFOR) and Lt.Gen. Walker (COMARRC), on the civilian perspectives by Mr. Carl Bildt, on the civilian military interface by Brig. General Matthews and on engineering aspects by Brig. General Moore Bick.

**MEDIA ADVISORY  
(Not for publication)**

A photo opportunity is foreseen at 12:25 hours at ARRC HQ and a press opportunity at 15:40 hours at the Presidency Building.

The programme may be subject to change. For further information, please contact the NATO Press Service in Brussels (tel: int'l-32-2-707 50 41), SHAPE Public Information in Mons (tel: int'l-32-65-444119), or the IFOR Chief of Public Information in Sarajevo, (tel: int'l-387-71-61 61 68).

***NATO Information is also available on E-Mail via the following address:  
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PRESS RELEASE(96)36

12 March 1996

SITUATION IN SARAJEVO

NATO and the IFOR commanders are deeply concerned by the recent increase in arson, beatings and other criminal actions in the suburbs of Sarajevo being transferred to Federation control under the terms of the Peace Agreement.

IFOR has been working closely with the High Representative, the International Police Task Force and local leaders to prevent further such occurrences and to restore calm and order.

Today, pursuant to a discussion with the Secretary General, SACEUR directed Admiral Smith to continue full support of the IPTF and Federation Police in their efforts to provide effective law enforcement in affected areas around Sarajevo. Admiral Smith has assured SACEUR that measures have been put in place, to include substantially increasing the IFOR presence in those areas, and providing security for fire brigades.

We condemn those who have encouraged the mass exodus of Serbian people from Sarajevo and call on all parties to respect human rights and to allow civilians to remain in or return to their homes.

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**PRESS RELEASE (96)49**

**4 April 1996**

**Statement by the Secretary General of NATO.**  
**Javier Solana**

On behalf of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, I wish to extend my deepest condolences to the American people and especially to the families of those who perished on the US aircraft which crashed yesterday near Dubrovnik.

U.S. Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown was a personal friend of mine. I had enormous respect both for his abilities and his passionate commitment to open trade among nations as a pathway to peace among nations. He contributed greatly to strengthening the transatlantic link between Europe and North America, and indeed worked tirelessly to promote closer ties and understanding among peoples throughout the world. Ron Brown was a symbol of promise not only to Americans, but to people everywhere. He was a man of peace whose tragic loss will be felt by all who knew and admired him.

It is especially poignant that Secretary Brown and the business executives travelling with him perished on a mission of peace. They were seeking to reinforce the multifaceted efforts the international community is undertaking to help the people of Bosnia emerge from their long nightmare of war and rebuild their shattered lives and economy. Their accidental deaths in the service of peace only underline the absolute necessity for the Bosnian people to match the international community's commitment with their own commitment to achieve true national reconciliation. Such is the only basis for a lasting peace, which NATO and IFOR will continue vigorously to pursue.

***NATO Information is also available on E-Mail via the following address:  
"NATODOC@HQ.NATO.INT".***

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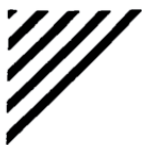
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**PRESS RELEASE (96)54**

**16 April 1996**

**SPECIAL ARMS CONTROL COURSE AT NATO SCHOOL**

From 16 to 26 April 1996, arms control inspectors-to-be from the five Parties to the Dayton Agreement will assemble at the NATO School (SHAPE) at Oberammergau, Germany where they will jointly attend a course on implementation of the detailed arms control agreements concluded - or still being negotiated - to support the Bosnia peace process. These agreements draw fully on the major arms control processes already established in Europe, the Vienna Document and the CFE Treaty. Given NATO's experience from implementation of the existing provisions, the course is organised by NATO on behalf of the OSCE. Seasoned CFE inspectors from NATO and Partner countries will share their experiences with the course participants, and also guide them through two inspection exercises in the field.

The OSCE Chairman-in-Office's Special Advisor on Arms Control, Ambassador Dr. Istvan Gyarmati, will open the course. Ambassador Dr. Gyarmati negotiated one of the agreements which is central to the course, and is in charge of arms control implementation in the former Yugoslavia overall. The course will be closed by Ambassador Vigleik Eide, who is the OSCE negotiator for the arms limitation agreement among the Parties which is still under negotiation.

For further information, please contact: Col. Jörg Bahr, Deputy Commandant, NATO School, (Int'l +) 49 8822 60551.

***NATO Information is also available on E-Mail via the following address:  
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117

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**PRESS RELEASE (96)60**

**29 April 1996**

**NAC DECLARATION ON IFOR's ROLE  
IN THE TRANSITION TO PEACE**

1. Four months since signature of the Peace Agreement for Bosnia and Herzegovina, the NATO-led Implementation Force (IFOR) has completed one third of its year-long mandate to implement the provisions of the agreement's military annex. During these four months, IFOR has brought a secure environment to Bosnia and Herzegovina. Fighting has stopped and forces are separated. We have now entered a new and critical phase in the transition to peace.

2. To succeed in the transition to peace, the Parties to the Peace Agreement must lend their own vigorous support and honour their commitments in their entirety. To that end we expect the Parties to cooperate fully with IFOR and:

- to keep their forces out of the Zone of Separation along the Inter-Entity Boundary Line and to complete quickly the movement of air defence weapons, heavy weapons and other forces to sites designated by the IFOR Commander and to demobilize those forces which cannot be accommodated there;
- to allow the free and safe movement of civilians, including refugees and displaced persons, throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina; unauthorized checkpoints will not be tolerated;
- to honour their commitments to expel all foreign forces, release all prisoners of war and adhere to the agreements reached at the meeting in Rome on 18th February on the detention of suspected war criminals;
- to fulfill their confidence- and security-building commitments and to reach agreement on measures for sub-regional arms control, as required by the Peace Agreement;
- to participate in all meetings of the Joint Military Commission and its subordinate commissions;



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**PRESS RELEASE (96)93**

**13 June 1996**

**NATO AIRLIFTS PERSONS INDICTED FOR WAR CRIMES TO THE HAGUE**

On 13 June 1996, a NATO military aircraft has transported two persons indicted for war crimes from Sarajevo to The Hague. This transfer was carried out at the request of the Tribunal on the basis of the Memorandum of Understanding signed on 9th May between NATO and the Tribunal.

The two indicted persons, Hazim Delic and Ensad Landzo, had been taken into custody by the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina. IFOR provided general ground security and transportation for their transfer from their location of detention to Sarajevo airport.

The bringing to justice of those accused of war crimes in Bosnia and Herzegovina is an integral part of the peace process. This action, together with IFOR's ongoing support for two mass grave investigations, is a further demonstration of NATO's willingness to assist the Tribunal in its work of investigating war crimes and apprehending those indicted for perpetrating them.

*NATO Information is also available on E-Mail via the following address:  
"NATODOC@HQ.NATO.INT".*

**COMMUNIQUE DE PRESSE (96)93**

**13 juin 1996**

**L'OTAN ASSURE LE TRANSFERT AERIEN DE PERSONNES  
ACCUSEES DE CRIMES DE GUERRE VERS LA HAYE**

Le 13 juin 1996, un avion militaire de l'OTAN a assuré le transport, de Sarajevo à La Haye, de deux personnes accusées de crimes de guerre. Ce transfert s'est effectué, à la demande du Tribunal pénal international pour l'ex-Yougoslavie, sur la base du Mémorandum d'entente signé le 9 mai entre l'OTAN et cette juridiction.

Les deux personnes accusées, Hazim Delic et Ensad Landzo, étaient détenues par les autorités de Bosnie-Herzégovine. L'IFOR a pris les mesures requises pour assurer la protection générale au sol de ces deux personnes et leur transfert entre leur lieu de détention et l'aéroport de Sarajevo.

La remise à la justice des personnes accusées de crimes de guerre en Bosnie-Herzégovine fait partie intégrante du processus de paix. Cette mesure, ainsi que l'assistance fournie par l'IFOR dans le cadre d'enquêtes en rapport avec la découverte de deux charniers, apportent une nouvelle preuve de la volonté de l'OTAN d'aider le Tribunal dans sa mission d'enquête sur les crimes de guerre et l'arrestation des personnes accusées de les avoir commis.

*Les informations sur l'OTAN sont également disponibles  
sur le réseau Internet : "NATODOC@HQ.NATO.INT".*



NATO Secretary General Javier Solana delivers speech to mark completion of Admiral Leighton W. Smith's tenure as Commander IFOR.

Admiral Leighton W. Smith, Commander IFOR and Commander Allied Forces Southern Region





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PRESS RELEASE (96)108

11 July 1996

JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE BY  
NATO SECRETARY GENERAL, SACEUR AND COMIFOR

The Secretary General of NATO, Dr. Javier Solana, the Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR), General George A. Joulwan and the Commander of IFOR, Admiral Leighton W. Smith, will give a joint Press Conference

on Wednesday, 17 July 1996 at 13.10  
at NATO HQ, Joseph Luns Press Theatre

marking the completion of Admiral Smith's tenure as Commander Allied Forces Southern Region and COMIFOR, as well as providing a current assessment of IFOR's mission.

*NATO Information is also available on E-Mail via the following address:  
"NATODOC@HQ.NATO.INT".*

COMMUNIQUE DE PRESSE (96)108

11 juillet 1996

CONFERENCE DE PRESSE DU  
SECRETAIRE GENERAL, SACEUR ET COMIFOR

Le Secrétaire général de l'OTAN, M. Javier Solana, donnera une conférence de presse conjointement avec le Commandant suprême des forces alliées en Europe, le général George A. Joulwan, et le Commandant de l'IFOR, l'Amiral Leighton W. Smith

le mercredi 17 juillet 1996 à 13h10  
au Siège de l'OTAN, Salle de presse Joseph Luns

à l'occasion des adieux de l'Amiral Smith, Commandant des forces alliées du sud Europe et COMIFOR. En même temps, ils feront un exposé sur le déroulement de la mission IFOR.

*Les informations sur l'OTAN sont également disponibles sur le réseau  
INTERNET: "NATODOC@HQ.NATO.INT".*





Bosnian/Serbian checkpoint in Sarajevo manned by Italian troops.





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**PRESS RELEASE (96)111**

**8th August 1996**

**SECRETARY GENERAL OF NATO TO VISIT SARAIEVO**

The Secretary General of NATO, Dr. Javier Solana, will visit Sarajevo on 12th August 1996 to underscore NATO's support for the September elections and to discuss with IFOR Commanders and leaders of the Parties the preparations for these elections and their ongoing efforts to implement the Peace Accord. He will be accompanied by General George A. Joulwan, Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR).

The Secretary General and SACEUR will be welcomed by COMIFOR, Admiral Joseph Lopez. They will meet with leaders of the Parties, the Deputy High Representative Mr. Michael Steiner, the OSCE Mission Chief Ambassador Robert Frowick and with representatives of civilian agencies working to implement the Peace Accord.

123

**PRESS ADVISORY**

During the visit, there will be two media opportunities:

12:30 Sarajevo, Presidency News conference

17:00 Sarajevo, Airport Press Opportunity

The programme may be subject to change. For further information, please contact the NATO Press and Media Service in Brussels (tel: int'l 1-32-2-707 50 41).

**NATO information is also available on E-mail via  
the following address: "NATODOC@HQ.NATO.INT"**

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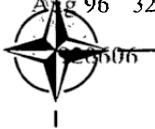




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**PRESS RELEASE (96)112**

**9 August 1996**

**SECRETARY GENERAL MEETS WITH US SECRETARY OF STATE**

NATO Secretary General Dr. Javier Solana will meet with US Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Brussels on Tuesday, 13th August 1996.

The meeting will take place the day after Secretary General Solana's trip to Sarajevo and the day before Secretary Christopher hosts a meeting of the Bosnian, Croatian and Serbian presidents in Geneva. It will provide an important opportunity to discuss the next steps for ensuring successful elections in Bosnia and for maintaining progress on the full range of NATO's current priorities.

The Secretary General and Secretary Christopher will hold a Joint Press Conference at NATO Headquarters at about 14.30 (time to be confirmed).

*NATO Information is also available on E-Mail via the following address:  
"NATODOC@HQ.NATO.INT".*

**COMMUNIQUE DE PRESSE (96)112**

**9 août 1996**

**PROCHAINE RENCONTRE ENTRE LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL  
ET LE SECRETAIRE D'ETAT AMERICAIN**

Le Secrétaire général de l'OTAN, M. Javier Solana, s'entretiendra avec le Secrétaire d'Etat américain, M. Warren Christopher, à Bruxelles, le mardi 13 août 1996.

Cette rencontre interviendra au lendemain de la visite que doit effectuer le Secrétaire général à Sarajevo, et à la veille des entretiens que M. Christopher aura à Genève, à son invitation, avec les présidents bosniaque, croate et serbe. Elle constituera une occasion importante d'examiner les prochaines mesures à prendre en vue de garantir le succès des élections en Bosnie et de maintenir la dynamique de l'ensemble des objectifs prioritaires de l'OTAN.

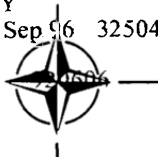
Le Secrétaire général et le Secrétaire d'Etat américain tiendront une conférence de presse coniointe au siège de l'OTAN aux environs de 14 heures 30 (heure à confirmer).

***Les informations sur l'OTAN sont également disponibles sur le réseau  
INTERNET : "NATODOC@HQ.NATO.INT"***

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**PRESS RELEASE (96) 128**

16th September 1996

**Statement by the Secretary General on the**

**Bosnian Elections**

- I am very pleased with the overall conduct of the elections on Saturday.
- I am very proud of the extensive support provided by IFOR, from distributing ballot boxes to transporting the supervisors and observers.
- IFOR's main contribution was in ensuring that the elections took place peacefully, without major incidents or disturbances.
- We now await the report by the OSCE on the election results.
- Once the results of the elections are known, I urge the newly elected officials to work together in the establishment of the new common institutions for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

**NATO Information is also available on E-Mail via the following  
address:**

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**PRESS RELEASE (96)153**

6 November 1996

**NATO SECRETARY GENERAL TO VISIT SARAJEVO**

**INFORMATION**

The NATO Secretary General, Dr. Javier Solana, will visit Sarajevo on 7 November 1996 to attend the Transfer of Authority Ceremony for the Implementation Force (IFOR) from Admiral T. Joseph Lopez to General William W. Crouch. The Secretary General will be accompanied by General George A. Joulwan, Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR). He is also scheduled to meet the three members of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

**PRESS ADVISORY**

During the visit, there will be four media opportunities:

- 11:00 - Arrival, Sarajevo airport (photo opportunity only)
- 13:00 - Transfer of Authority Ceremony (photo opportunity only)
- 14:05 - Meeting with Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina (photo opportunity)
- 15:10 - Press conference

The programme may be subject to change.

NATO Information is also available on E-Mail via the following address: "NATODOC@HQ.NATO.INT".



Family portrait Ministerial meeting of the North Atlantic Council, 10 December 1996.





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PRESS COMMUNIQUE M-NAC-2 (96)166

For immediate release  
10th December 1996

STATEMENT ON BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Issued at the Ministerial Meeting of the North Atlantic Council  
held at NATO Headquarters, Brussels on 10th December 1996

Substantial progress has been achieved in Bosnia and Herzegovina since the Peace Agreement was negotiated in Dayton and signed in Paris one year ago. Peace has begun to take root after four years of tragic conflict and suffering. Soldiers have been demobilised, national and regional elections have been held, common institutions are being established, barriers to free movement have begun to be dismantled and reconstruction is underway. However, much remains to be accomplished to bring an enduring peace after the years of war. This will require the full commitment of all the leaders of Bosnia and Herzegovina and its two entities.

We express our deepest thanks to the NATO-led Implementation Force (IFOR) for the successful implementation of the military aspects of the Peace Agreement. IFOR has brought together 33 NATO and non-NATO countries in an unprecedented coalition for peace which has stabilised the country, and created the conditions for political and economic reconstruction. We pay tribute to the professionalism, dedication and bravery of all IFOR personnel and express deep sympathy to the families of those who have lost their lives and to those who have been injured in the cause of peace.

IFOR's mandate expires on 20th December 1996. Its mission has been accomplished, but an international military presence is still required to provide the stability necessary for consolidating the peace. NATO is therefore prepared to organise and lead a Stabilisation Force (SFOR) to take the place of IFOR authorised by a UN Security Council Resolution under Chapter VII of the UN Charter. SFOR will contribute to a secure environment necessary for the consolidation and stabilisation of peace by deterring or, if necessary, halting a resumption of hostilities. It will also provide time for political reconciliation and economic reconstruction to gain momentum. While the new force will be about half the size of IFOR, and its mission will be more limited, it will retain the same unity of command, robust rules of engagement, enforcement authority and status of forces that has made IFOR a success. SFOR, like IFOR, will carry out its tasks firmly, but evenhandedly. SFOR will also stand ready to provide emergency support to UNTAES in Eastern Slavonia, where UN forces are making a substantial contribution to the restoration of peace in the area.

NATO is planning for an 18-month mission for SFOR, to be reviewed at 6 and 12 months, with a view to progressively reducing the force's presence to a deterrent posture and eventually withdrawal. Preparations for the deployment of SFOR are well underway, and today we have endorsed the operational planning which will be finally approved by the Council in Permanent Session when the UN Security Council has provided the necessary authorisation.

NATO's preparations for SFOR have been conducted in close cooperation with Russia and the other non-NATO countries now contributing forces to IFOR. We are pleased that all 17 of these countries, and other new contributors, are willing to be part of SFOR. Our cooperation in Bosnia has enhanced the relations between the Allies, Russia and our other Partners and has moved Europe towards a new stage of security cooperation.

SFOR will contribute to consolidating the peace, but emphasis of international efforts must continue to move increasingly to the civilian aspects of the Peace Agreement. We pay tribute to the accomplishments of the High Representative and all the organisations involved in civilian implementation. Their future role will be essential. SFOR will, like IFOR, closely cooperate and coordinate with the High Representative and the major international organisations and agencies. It will, within capabilities, provide selective support on a case-by-case basis to assist in the fulfilment of their important tasks. It will also provide the security framework for the 1997 municipal elections and be prepared to provide other support, as appropriate, to the OSCE in the preparation and conduct of those elections. We fully endorse the guiding principles agreed in Paris for the two-year civilian consolidation plan and the action plan agreed in London for 1997.

The international community is committed to providing a wide range of assistance and advice. We reiterate that it is the responsibility of the people and leadership of Bosnia and Herzegovina and its neighbouring countries to promote reconciliation and the establishment of a lasting peace. We call on the parties to honour the Peace Agreement in full. We expect them to commit themselves wholeheartedly to seeking rapid progress in areas such as freedom of movement, the unhindered return of refugees and displaced persons, the restructuring and retraining of local police forces and full compliance with the arms control agreements. In this context, we strongly urge the parties fully and faithfully to implement the terms of the arms control agreements and to reduce their holdings to the agreed levels by 1 November 1997. We urge the parties to assist and cooperate fully with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in accordance with their undertakings in the Peace Agreement and to hand over to ICTY all persons indicted for war crimes. We expect the parties to cooperate fully with the International Police Task Force (IPTF).

Ensuring long-term peace and stability in former Yugoslavia will require democracy to grow and flourish not only in Bosnia and Herzegovina, but also in its neighbouring countries.

We strongly deplore the decision of the Serbian government to annul results of the November 17 municipal elections and call on the Serbian government to respect the democratic will of the people by reversing that decision. We are dismayed that the Serbian authorities have ignored the calls of the international community to respect internationally recognised democratic principles.

We commend the opposition for its adherence to non-violence and call upon the government to avoid any use of force against the peaceful protestors.



