

YUGO NEWS



28 Sept 93

Renegade Muslims in **Bihac**, led by Fikat Abdic, declared independence from the central Bosnian government.

2 Oct 93

The peace plan leaves tens of thousands of Serbs, Croats and Muslims on the wrong side of the front lines. In addition, the UN estimates that perhaps 100,000 Serbs will have to move from the 20% of Serb-controlled territory that the Serbs have said they are prepared to cede.

Should the UN be involved in aiding and abetting the mass movement of people?

For example, Muslims in one village may not want to move but could be threatened by Serbs coming from areas ceded to the Muslims. If they help the Muslims to move, are the UN or NATO troops helping commit a **war crime**?

3 Oct 93

The combined huffing and puffing of the UN, the EC and NATO has failed to deter Bosnia's Serbs, Croats or sorely provoked Muslims from their murderous land-grabs. After all the talk, the **hypocrisy** of "internationalism" stood revealed, as the Security Council passed resolutions that governments did not have the will to honor.

The UN must do a lot more discriminating. With many more of its peacekeepers coming into harm's way, it needs to rethink the way it finances, organizes and commands its military operations. Where problems are pitched into its lap, the UN needs to remain as generous as possible in its humanitarian relief, but be a lot **tougher minded** about its military mission.

It is not the quantity of peacekeepers on the world's battlefields that will impress potential rulebreakers, but the effectiveness of the job they do. That means **saying "No"** to missions impossible. When the UN does intervene, it also means going in with the resources to succeed. Of the biggest jobs, deterring or rolling back aggression by one state against another is hard enough. When it comes to **civil wars**, the hardest job of all, the UN will often be obliged to wait for a peace that can be kept. A UN that intervenes to frequently or with too little effect will quickly lose the wherewithal to intervene at all.

4 Oct 93

Government troops battled fellow Muslims for the first time in the war as the Bosnian government sought to recapture the radio station in **Bihac**.

5 Oct 93

Muslim-Croat fighting moved closer to Sarajevo as **Kiseljak** became the latest hotspot.

✦ ✧ ✨
Intra-Muslim fighting continued in **Bihac**.

U.S. Policy?

For too long the U.S. has given the impression, as Henry Kissinger put it last week, that it had reversed Lord Palmerston's famous doctrine, behaving as if America had "no interests, only friends".

The **two buzzwords** of the emerging foreign policy are "engagement" and "enlargement".

"Engagement" is a rejection of the idea that, now the Soviet threat is gone, the United States can forget about the outside world. In a world of instant communications and interconnected economies, the administration argues, isolationism is not a serious option. And as the world's largest economy and greatest military power, America must not only be engaged, it must lead. *(Which it has failed to do since the end of the Gulf War).*

What should the goal of America's leadership be? Enter **"enlargement"**, meaning the spread of free-market democracy. This would be done in four ways: strength-

ening the rich democracies; fostering countries that are turning to democracy and the market; countering states hostile to those freedoms; and providing humanitarian relief where it can do the most good.

The administration has done little more than give itself an **ideological veneer** for old-fashioned national-interest calculations - and that what exactly constitutes America's national interests still needs to be spelled out.

7 Oct 93

Bosnian government troops have been defecting to the Muslim mutineers in Bihac.

*Note: The war started as a two-way war with Yugoslavia facing off against Slovenia, Croatia and Bosnia. Then it devolved into a three-way war between the Serbs, Croats and Bosnians. Now it is the Serbs against the Croats, against the Muslims, against fellow Bosnians. What we are witnessing here is the decomposition of a society into its most basic component parts. In other words, **tribal warfare**. There is no government in a tribal society. Foreign countries cannot effectively, formally interact with a "country" that for all intents and purposes does not exist. What results when a government tries to treat a tribe as a country can be plainly seen in Somalia. The danger of intervention in Bosnia should be clear ...*

8 Oct 93

Widespread fighting broke out in ex-Yugoslavia as peace talks broke down. Croats attacked Serbs in Krajina, and the Serbs attacked Sarajevo. In Bel-

grade, the government of Serbia barely survived a parliamentary vote of confidence.

Serbian Economy

When sanctions were introduced in 5/92, it was predicted that the Serb economy would "collapse" within three months. It buckled, but still eerily stands.

The truth is the costs of subsidizing military operations outside Serbia - plus huge **incompetence** - have done as much as sanctions to produce today's nightmare economy. Some Serbs have become extremely rich; most have become much poorer.

Much sanctions-busting is done via Bulgaria, Macedonia, Albania and Greece - enough in the first half of 1993 to cover 80% of the cost of Serbia's imports - but most large firms are working at **30% of capacity**.

Price controls and attempts to force producers to produce have led to empty shops. Items, such as fuel, that have escaped control remain available despite the embargo. Other groups, such as dairy farmers, with no incentive to produce, refuse to sell.

Lack of product coupled with the **uncontrolled printing of money** has led to too much money chasing too few goods. The result was an August **inflation rate of 1,880%**. At an annualized rate, that is 363 million millions (no, that's not a typo). October's inflation rate is expected to exceed 2,000%.

Hoarding is now rampant.

"I hope there are no power-cuts," said a Serb economist, "because all of Serbia's GNP is in its freezers."

11 Oct 93

Two relief convoys headed for besieged Muslim towns were held up by Serb authorities in **Banja Luka**.

12 Oct 93

Croatia threatened to **eject U.N. peacekeepers** after 11/30 if they continue to allow Serb forces to hold one-third of Croatia.

13 Oct 93

Serb forces pounded Bosnian front lines as the fighting around **Sarajevo** intensified.

✦ ✧ ✧
The U.N. airlift, at 467 days and counting, has now lasted longer than the Berlin airlift.

18 Oct 93

Since the peace talks broke down two weeks ago, there really hasn't been much change in Yugoslavia: The Serbs are still shelling Sarajevo and the Bosnians are still trying to wrest Bihac from their Muslim compatriots.

The U.S. warned Serbia - again - of possible NATO air strikes if they laid siege to **Sarajevo** again.

✦ ✧ ✧
The U.N. issued an interim report on **atrocities** in Yugoslavia, saying it hadn't yet concluded if rape had been used as a deliberate instrument of war. (See the "War Crimes Tribunal" item in the August edition of Yugo News).

20 Oct 93

By a 65-33 vote, the

Senate rejected a move to restrict the president's ability to put troops under United Nations command.

21 Oct 93

Milosevic, facing a no confidence vote sponsored by the Serbian Radical Party, dissolved Serbia's parliament. The SRP is headed by ultranationalist Vojislav Seselj. Rather than risk defeat, or consent to calls from his more democratic opponents for a coalition government, Milosevic chose a new election.

Milosevic intends to pack parliament with Socialists who will back him if and when the time comes for concessions to secure peace and the lifting of economic sanctions that are crippling Serbia. Elections are to be held the same day in Krajina, the breakaway Serb region of Croatia. There Milosevic hopes to reassert control over fractious politicians who fear that one of his concessions will be to force them into Croatia again.

† * C
The **U.S. Senate** backed down in its confrontation with the president over its demand that the president seek Congressional approval before deploying U.S. troops. A 99-1 vote approved the measure making it a non-binding resolution that requests, rather than demands, the approval.

26 Oct 93

One U.N. worker was killed, and nine were wounded, when they got caught in a **crossfire** between Croats and Muslims.

† * C
Croats also prevented the U.N. from entering a village

where Croats were supposed to have **massacred Muslims** last weekend.

27 Oct 93

The Bosnian government arrested 200 suspected army racketeers in Sarajevo.

28 Oct 93

The U.N. accused Bosnian Croats of **massacring Muslims** in Stupni Do. Every house in the town had been razed. U.N. troops investigating the incident had to run a gauntlet of gunfire and grenades.

1 Nov 93

The U.N. temporarily suspended **aid flights** to Sarajevo after the airport came under fire. The airlift is in its 486th day.

2 Nov 93

The Bosnians claimed that 19 Croat **POW's** they had killed were "trying to escape."

† * C
The U.N. is investigating itself over the allegation that it's personnel had frequented a Serb-run **brothel** 'staffed' by captive Muslim and Croat women.

3 Nov 93

The Serbs and Croats are holding have resumed peace talks, now in Norway.

4 Nov 93

Thousands of Croats fled the town of **Vares** in central Bosnia as Muslim troops prepared to seize it.

Sources

Wall Street Journal, USA Today, The Economist, FBIS Daily Reports