

# YUGO NEWS



**4 Mar 94**

Bosnian Serbs sealed a **monetary union** with Serbia and Montenegro.

**5 Mar 94**

The **Muslim-Croat peace agreement** signed last month would create a central government responsible for defense, commerce and foreign affairs. A preliminary agreement was also signed that would link Muslim-Croat Bosnia with Croatia proper. The Muslims were told that if they refused to sign the deal the US would not intervene to stop the remains of Bosnia from being destroyed. For their part, the Croats knew that the price of failure was sanctions.



Visiting Moscow, Bosnian Serb leader Karadzic accepted a Russian plan to reopen Serb-besieged Tuzla airport. *(This is not the first time in the past month that the Serbs have done the Russian's bidding. The Road to Belgrade passes through Moscow ...)*

## A Lasting Peace?

Can recent events bring peace to Bosnia? There are **reasons for optimism**. One is that the Serbs are impressed by NATO's willingness to take military action, and by the Russians willingness, so far, to accept the results. Another is that the Serbs fear the potential strength of a renewed Muslim-Croat military alliance.

Yet, the Muslim-Croat deal is **flimsy**. Previous ones have foundered on three things: the difficulty of agreeing on who gets what territory, whether Sarajevo will be united or divided, and the independence of local commanders. This one could founder too because it contains no agreement on territory.

The Croats may be playing along with the confederation idea only while they have to; in other words, just put **Greater Croatia** on hold. Croatia made its support for compromise conditional on America's helping it recover the one third of its territory lost to the Serbs during fighting in 1991. Croatian President Tudjman is under pressure from hardliners suspicious of any dilution of the Greater Croatia ideal, and no priority is higher for him than recovering Serb-held Krajina. That means no settlement in Bosnia is likely to take hold unless the Krajina question is settled, too.

Bosnian Serb leader Karadzic said he would support an **interim period** of Croatian sovereignty over Serbs in Krajina if the Croats will support the right of Serbs in Bosnia to eventually choose to form their own state or to merge with Serbia. *(In other words, he is willing to sacrifice territory over which he does not exercise leadership in order to gain union for his own territory - a move not likely to inspire confidence in the already suspicious Krajina Serbs.)*

The parochial nature of the Bosnian conflict is one warning of **difficulties ahead**. At Zepce, in northern Bosnia, Serbs and Croats are allied against Muslims. In Bihac, Muslims cooperate with Serbs. In central Bosnia, Croats want to return to homes seized by Muslims; in Mostar, the roles are reversed. Meanwhile, Croat forces near the Muslim-held town of continue to back a Serb siege. And few local commanders are willing to forgive and forget.

**6 Mar 94**

The UN found 6 Serb 122mm howitzers just inside the Sarajevo exclusion zone. *(The guns were immediately*

*withdrawn, but it is obvious the Serbs will continue to test NATO's resolve.)*

**7 Mar 94**

Kresimir Zubak has taken over as the leader of the Bosnian Croats, following Mate Boban's resignation last month.

**8 Mar 94**

The UN deployed additional troops around Serb-besieged Tuzla airport in preparation for the pending airlift.



**9 Mar 94**

NATO suffered its first **air casualty** as a Spanish transport plane was hit by one of two missiles while flying over Krajina. The plane made an emergency landing on an island in the Adriatic Sea. U.S. personnel were among those aboard the plane.



The road into the Muslim sector of **Mostar** has been cleared of mines and joint checkpoints have been established between Bosnian Croats and the Spanish battalion responsible for UN peacekeeping in the region.



## 11 Mar 94

Serbs blocked a UN aid convoy to Maglaj.

⚡ ✖ Ⓒ

Serbs fired on French peacekeepers near Bihac. A NATO AC-130 Spectre was ordered into the area, but could not provide counterfire due to bad weather.

## 15 Mar 94

France chastised the UN for failing to order NATO air strikes against the Serbs who fired on French peacekeepers four days ago.

⚡ ✖ Ⓒ

500-600 US Army troops will soon be sent to Macedonia to replace 800 Scandinavian troops that are being shifted to Bosnia. 300 US troops are already in Macedonia.

⚡ ✖ Ⓒ

28,350 UN troops are currently in former Yugoslavia. 13,000 of those are in Bosnia. The largest contingent is from France - which has 3,000 troops each in Bosnia and Croatia. France has offered another 800 troops and Turkey an armored battalion.

## 16 Mar 94

The US is dispatching five anti-aircraft and antimortar radars to Jordanian peacekeepers in Bosnia.

⚡ ✖ Ⓒ

Gen. Cot was replaced as the UN-PROFOR commander in the Balkans by fellow Frenchman, LTG Bertrand de Lapresle.

⚡ ✖ Ⓒ

As of yesterday, **Operation Deny Flight** had logged 7900 "no fly zone" sorties, 7300 attack mission sorties and 6700 airborne early warning, recon and tanker flights.

## 17 Mar 94

Russian envoy Churkin arranged Serb-Croat peace talks for next week over the Krajina issue.

## 18 Mar 94

The Serbs and Muslims signed a UN-brokered agreement to allow civilian travel along certain roads in and around **Sarajevo**. Commercial traffic wasn't permitted, and permits would still be required to leave the city.

## 21 Mar 94

International financier George Soros will finance a \$4 million emergency aid package for **Macedonia** (of which \$1.5 million will be a personal gift) to help stave off the country's **economic collapse**.

Supply routes to Macedonia are being hampered by Greece's decision last month to close its borders with the former Yugoslav republic and to cut the landlocked nation's access to the Greek port of Salonika, the **gateway for 70%** of Macedonia's goods.

Greece imposed the blockade after Macedonia refused to give into a list of demands by Greece, including changing Macedonia's name. Greece says use of the name "Macedonia" implies territorial ambitions on the northern Greek province of the same name.

Macedonia's economy is being squeezed on another front. In addition to the Greek blockade, it has been hit by UN sanctions against neighboring Serbia, a major trading partner.

Macedonia estimates losses due to the embargo alone, amount to **\$80 million a month**.

⚡ ✖ Ⓒ

A UN relief convoy entered the Muslim city of **Maglaj**, which has been besieged by the Serbs since August '92, and has received no relief since last October.

## 22 Mar 94

UN peacekeepers in Bosnia ordered Serb forces to withdraw a group of 4 tanks and 22 mortars from the **Sarajevo exclusion zone**. The Serbs refused, claiming the weapons were outside the zone. They then surrounded the 200

Canadian peacekeepers with landmines. After a tense standoff, the Canadians were allowed to withdraw. Talks to resolve the dispute continued, but NATO warned the arms are subject to air strikes.

## 23 Mar 94

The first relief flight in over two years landed in **Tuzla**. UN relief convoys are also reaching the city with little trouble.

⚡ ✖ Ⓒ

The Serbs began pulling back their heavy weapons that had been found within the **Sarajevo exclusion zone**.

## 24 Mar 94

A **Sarajevo** bridge opened to civilians for the first time in two years, restoring a link between Muslim and Serb areas.

⚡ ✖ Ⓒ

Near Maglaj, **Serbs forces looted** 94 tons of relief supplies from a UN convoy. They forced the truck drivers to walk across a field the drivers had been told was mined.

## 25 Mar 94

Bosnian Serbs rejected a **US plan** for them to join with Muslims and Croats in a Bosnian federation, preferring instead to unite with Serbia.

## 26 Mar 94

Bosnian President **Izetbegovic** re-assumed leadership of Bosnia's Muslim political party, a move Bosnian radio said could lead to his being replaced, possibly by a Croat, as head of state.

## 28 Mar 94

Bosnia's cabinet approved the creation of a **Muslim-Croat federation**.

## 29 Mar 94

Bosnian Muslim and Croat leaders met to form an **interim government** and begin drafting a constitution.

⚡ ✖ Ⓒ

Despite last week's withdrawal, some **Serb artillery** remains within the Sarajevo exclusion zone.

---

### 30 Mar 94

Bosnia's cabinet approved the creation of a **Muslim-Croat federation**. The Muslim-led parliament delayed its approval after demanding the removal of a Croat hard-liner, accused of taking part in "ethnic cleansing" of Muslims, from the commission working on unification.

✦ ✖ C

Greece rejected a demand from the EU that it lift the **embargo** on Macedonia.

---

### 31 Mar 94

Croatia and rebel Serbs agreed on a **truce in Krajina**.

---

### 1 Apr 94

Yielding to US pressure, the UN cut the number of **additional troops** destined for Bosnia from 8500 to 3500. The US wasn't sure Congress would approve funds for additional troops.

*Note: This is funding for UN troops, not American troops operating under the UN.*

---

### 3 Apr 94

The Red Cross announced that it will evacuate thousands of Muslims and Croats from the Serb-besieged city of **Prijedor** in northwestern Bosnian. The decision is contrary to a long-standing policy of both the IRC and UNHCR to avoid mass evacuation of minority groups because doing so in effect assists Serb ethnic cleansing. It would also **set a precedent**, encouraging the Serbs to mount further attacks on Muslims and Croats (the current Serb offensive against the UN designated "safe area" of Gorazde is in its sixth day).

---

### 4 Apr 94

Secretary of Defense Perry said that the US would not use force to prevent Bosnian Serbs from **overrunning Gorazde** (effectively quashing any

chance the UN or NATO would react as it did in Sarajevo). Gorazde is besieged by 9600 Serb troops armed with several dozen tanks, 11 APC's, 42 howitzers, 120 mortars and several AA pieces.

---

### 5 Apr 94

Serb forces broke through the Muslim front lines in **Gorazde**, causing heavy casualties. The UN said it would dispatch additional observers to the area, with 1000 Ukrainians arriving in about a week.

✦ ✖ C

The Red Cross suspended plans to evacuate **Prijedor** after a Serb leader agreed to let only a dozen people leave.

---

### 6 Apr 94

Several thousand civilians fled villages near **Gorazde** as Serb tank and artillery columns closed to within two miles of the city's center. Chairman of the JCS Gen. Shalikashvili said NATO airpower would be ineffective in Gorazde.

---

### 7 Apr 94

Bosnian Serbs proposed talks on a broad truce with the Muslim-lead government, after stopping the UN commander in Bosnia from visiting **Gorazde**. Meanwhile, they continued their bombardment of the embattled city. Meanwhile, the Clinton administration said it was prepared to threaten Serbs with NATO air strikes to protect any Ukrainian peacekeepers dispatched to Gorazde.

*In other words, if peacekeepers are sent, and if they are attacked, then we'll be prepared to do something, maybe. The consequences to acts must be clear, enforceable and executed. Otherwise it's just bluffing. And a bluff that is called is more harmful than not doing anything because it causes the bluffer to never again being taken seriously. The bluffer is then forced into a downward spiral of ever more strident bluffing, until the bluffer is forced to lash out in a manner totally out of proportion to the original problem. This may not be Sara-*

*jevo, but it is the Serbs and they are testing us.*

---

### Sources

Wall Street Journal, New York Times, Milwaukee Journal, U.S. News & World Report, The Economist, FBIS Daily Reports.