YUGO NEWS

News bites from 2/24/93 to 4/15/93

WAR CRIMES

Dragan Mrdja, a chetnik military policeman, was accused of killing 250 men in a refugee convoy. (FBIS, 2/24/93)

Zeljko Arkan, commander of the Serb Volunteer Guard (a Belgrade based paramilitary unit), denied the claims of Milan Martic, Serb Krajina's Minister of Internal Affairs, that he had interfered in politics and been brutal towards local civilians. (FBIS, 2/24/93)

Arkan was also accused by Albanian radio of ethnic cleansing and ordering the execution of 3000 Muslims. (FBIS, 2/24/93)

Momsilo Grubac, Yugoslav Human Rights Minister, said that if the international tribunal tried war criminals in absentia, it would instead turn those criminals into martyrs. (FBIS, 2/24/93)

A Bosnian military court convicted two Serb soldiers of war crimes and sentenced them to death by firing squad for atrocities that included slitting the throats of POWs and raping Muslim women. The commander of the U.N. peacekeepers in Bosnia said the case should be turned over to an international tribunal. (WSJ, 3/31/93)

GREATER SERBIA

Zedrvako Zecovic, prime minister of Serb Krajina (RSK), told Vance and Owen that the RSK is "a state of Serbian people and not some province. [If] Yugoslavia is torn apart, divided into constituent units, why couldn't Croatia or Bosnia also be divided into constituent units?... Our only chance of survival is making the union of Serbian states... Yugoslavia was twice created in history, and should we fall into the same trap again, artificially making a state that, objectively viewed, cannot be preserved?" (FBIS, 2/24/93)

The last week of March, Radovan Karadzic, Bosnian Serb president, refused to sign the U.N. plan which would have required the Serbs to give up some conquered territory. (FBIS, 2/24/93)

Mile Pavljic, chairman of the Serb Krajina assembly rejected recognition of his country if it meant giving up ethnic Serbian regions in other countries. (FBIS, 2/24/93)

RELIEF OPERATIONS

Croatia is caring for 265,000 DP's, 403,000 refugees, 3700 orphans and 23,000 disabled persons. (FBIS, 1/29/93)

Yugoslav president Dobrica Cosic said that parachuting humanitarian supplies to eastern Bosnia was "a very risky undertaking" and feared "the possible consequences of such a decision" by the U.S. "A greater involvement of the U.N. would be far more to the point and far safer... further fanning of the conflict in former Yugoslavia might turn the whole of the Balkans into a battlefield." (FBIS, 2/24/93)

In an editorial titled "Humanitarian Delivery of War", a Yugoslav newspaper accused the Bosnians of wanting to sabotage aid efforts (so the U.S. would believe the Serbs had done it) to provoke the U.S. into armed intervention on behalf of Bosnia. (FBIS, 2/24/93)

5800 civilians are in camps in Batkovic, Janja, Banja Luka and Nova Topola, with 1200 more in Sipovo. (FBIS, 2/24/93)

Gen. Radko Mladic, commander of the Bosnian Serb army, believes that humanitarian aid will be delivered, but added that the Serbs will not tolerate delivery of military aid. (FBIS, 2/24/93)

On 4/9 the Serbs caught a U.N. relief truck loaded with ammunition. (FBIS, 2/25/93)

Bajina Basta, with a pre-war population of 10,000, has 75000 refugees and is getting @100 more each day. (FBIS, 2/25/93)

Muslim leaders blocked the evacuation of civilians from Srebrenica, apparently fearing it would benefit Serb forces. (WSJ, 4/5/93)

This is interesting. I know if I were the C.O., I would want the civilians out of my way. Three reasons why: 1) They get in the way, making operations difficult; 2) the possibility of unintentional human rights violations; 3) because they compete with the military for indigenous resources. So, why would their own military consider the lack of Muslim civilians to be an aid to the enemy? (Wall St. Journal, 4/5/93)

DICTIONARY

fotelje: position of authority
kvisko: figurehead
Vitaly Churkin, special envoy of Russian president Boris Yeltsin, has been meeting with high ranking Serb leaders: Radovan Karadzic, president of Serbian Bosnia; Dobrica Kosic, president of the FRY; and Radioje Kontic, prime minister of the FRY. Churkin also addressed the assembly of the Serb Republic, assuring them that the U.N. resolution excluded reprisals against the Serbs.

The Serbs brought war crimes charges against 52 Croats and Muslims. Extensive coverage was given to stories of Muslim sexual atrocities in both the Bosnian Serb and Yugoslav press.

Goran Hadzic, president of the RSK, sent a letter to the U.N. saying U.N. resolution 815 (passed a few days earlier) was a violation of the U.N. charter. The letter stated that the resolution treats the RSK as an integral part of Croatia, while the RSK was, like Croatia, formed after the breakup of Yugoslavia.

In Slavonia (eastern Croatia), at the Djeletovci oil field, 20Km from Vinkovci, the Serbs are pumping approximately 400 metric tons of oil a day. Interestingly enough, the area appears to be under the protection of an UN-flagged Russian battalion. Meanwhile the FRY complained to the U.N. that sanctions were denying it fuels necessary for humanitarian purposes.

Slovenia transferred control of its military from the president to the government and also authorized the Slovene military to use "international activity in ensuring national defense."

Vojislav Seselj, chairman of the Serb Radical Party, called on the leaders of Serbian Bosnia and Serb Krajina to form a single Serb state.

Leaders of Montenegro's political parties are sharply divided on relations towards Serbia: Rade Bojovic, deputy chairman of the Montenegrin Socialist Party, believes the differences between Serbian and Montenegrin policies are considerable and that "radical solutions" are possible in the future. He claims the FRY spends 70% of its budget on the military. Bojovic added that the Montenegrin leadership will either have to persuade the Serbs to pursue a sensible policy or proclaim sovereignty for Montenegro: "Montenegro must not be Karadzic, Milosevic or Cosic hostages." (Those are the leaders of the three Serb countries). Meanwhile, Predag Bulatovic, a leader of the Democratic Party of Socialists, and Novak Kilibarada, leader of the People's Party of Montenegro, sided with the Serbs. Bulatovic said the Serbs in Bosnia are truly committed to peace, while Kilibarada said the Bosnian Serb assembly "stayed on the path of freedom-loving history" by rejecting the Vance-Owen peace plan.

The Serbs have begun shutting down opposition newspapers in Kosovo.

---(Sat, 4/3/93)---

100-150 people staged a peace rally in Belgrade in front of the federal parliament building.

---(Mon, 4/5/93)---

Karadzic compared the fate of the Serbs to that of the Jews, or Czechoslovakia, in 1938. "All the mighty powers of the world are against us. Only God is with us. Our brothers in Yugoslavia, the Serbian Krajina, our friends the Russians, Greeks, Romanians, Bulgarians, and other Orthodox peoples."

BG Milan Gvero, deputy commander of the Main Staff of the Armed Forces of the Serb Republic, said that the Serb nation was "forced to wage war. This means that we cannot accept the breakup of the Serb nation, in the territorial and
New Croat Cabinet:
Prime Minister ....................................... Nikica Valentic
Deputy PM's ........................................ Mate Granic, Vladimir Seks, Borisav Skegro
Defense ................................................ Gojko Susak
Internal Affairs ...................................... Ivan Jarnjak
Foreign Affairs ...................................... Zdenko Skrabalo
Finance ............................................... Zoran Jasic
Construction & Environmental Protection .... Zlatko Tomcic
Industry, Shipbuilding & Energy ............... Ivan Cermak
Culture & Education ................................ Vesna Girardi-Jurkic
Agriculture & Forestry .............................. Ivan Tarnaj
Shipping, Transport & Communications ...... Ivica Mudrinic
Justice & Administration ........................ Ivica Crnic
Labor & Social Welfare ............................. Josip Juras
Tourism & Trade ................................... Niko Bulic
Health .................................................. Juraj Njarvo
Science ............................................... Branko Jeren

On 1/22/93 the Peruca Dam, which supplied power to the Krajina was blown up.

The RSK reports it has 700,000 hectares of arable land for crops, 10,000 hectares of vineyards, 6,000 hectares of orchards and 350,000 hectares of pasture. 40,000 hectares were sown with wheat and 4000 with other crops, (down from 55,000 hectares in previous years).

The general staff of the army of Serb Krajina called for all people of Orthodox countries to join the Serb cause.

Pamphlets, urging an Albanian uprising, are being distributed in Kosovo.

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---(Tue, 4/6/93)---

Srebrenica's population of 60,000 includes 30,000 refugees from Konjevic Polje, Cerska and other villages.

A joint meeting of the assemblies of the Serb Republic and the RSK, voted to cooperate in all areas of sociopolitical, economic, cultural, athletic and military affairs. Meanwhile the major trade unions of the Serb Republic and the RSK are merging.

Slovenia signed a series of agreements with the EC. The trade agreement is based on preferential, non-reciprocal treatment for the majority of Slovenia's industrial products (excluding 39 unnamed "sensitive" items). In addition the EC will be giving Slovenia $185 million in economic credits over the next five years.

BIG BIG BIG!!! ---> The Chief of Staff of the Yugoslav Army, Gen. Panic has visited Baghdad. It is important to note that the Yugoslavs supplied much of the long range artillery the Iraqis used in the Gulf War. Because of that aid, Iraq owes between $700 million and $2 billion to the FRY. Note also that the FRY has been working on several medium and long-range missile systems. Reportedly the Iraqis will pay off part of the debt by sharing "sensitive" missile "technology" with the FRY. (Oh, this story was reported before it happened.)
The Greek prime minister Konstandinos Mitsotakis met with FRY president Cosic in Belgrade. He was also due to meet with Serb president Milosevic.

A dozen Montenegrin citizens were kidnapped off a train between Belgrade and Bar. Surviving passengers claimed it was Serbian chetniks.

The U.N. studied a proposal to ban shipment of supplies through Yugoslavia and along the Danube. The plan would also freeze foreign assets of Yugoslavia.

---(Fri, 4/9/93)---

The World Court ordered Yugoslavia to stop Serbian acts of genocide against Muslims.

The Serbs caught a U.N. relief truck trying to smuggle ammo into Srebrenica.

---(Mon, 4/12/93)---

The U.N. began enforcing the "no fly zone" over Bosnia.

The last week has carried numerous reports of bank failures, corruption by the Serb minister of trade and the prime minister of Montenegro, and blackmarket trading. Such does not lead to a stable economy. So, Yugoslavia devalued its dinar against Western currencies, reflecting inflation that is running 240% a month. The exchange rate was set at 48,000 dinars to the U.S. dollar. The dinar has become practically worthless due to unfettered printing of notes to finance the Serbian war in Croatia and Bosnia.

4/10/93

The U.S. agreed to postpone the U.N. vote on sanctions against Serbia until after Boris Yeltsin's 4/25 referendum in Russia.