28 September 94

NATO defense ministers agreed to threaten (but not necessarily execute) intensified air strikes against the Bosnia Serbs if they continue to violate UN 'safe haven' agreements. The UN still retains veto power over the employment of air strikes in Bosnia.

The agreement gives Clinton ammo to use in convincing Congress to hold off on its earlier demand to lift the Balkans arms embargo. The new Bosnian government position in support of continuing the embargo for six months works in Clinton's favor in Congress. (Izetbegovic fears that if the embargo were lifted, the Bosnian Serbs would launch a pre-emptive attack after the UN withdrew but before the new arms had worked their way through the pipeline.) Congress, frustrated by continued Bosnian Serb aggression, wants the embargo lifted so that the Bosnian Muslims can defend themselves on equal terms.

Under the law recently passed by Congress, and by Clinton's own agreement, the administration would seek a UN resolution lifting the arms embargo if no peace accord is reached by Oct. 15. But the UN Security Council would certainly defeat such a proposal. The law then requires Clinton to cut off US financial support for the arms embargo if the Bosnian Serbs have not accepted a peace agreement by Nov. 15.

The NATO allies, particularly those contributing to the UN peacekeeping force in Bosnia, oppose lifting the arms embargo, saying the move would increase the violence and endanger their soldiers.

"Clearly it's in the interest of everybody in [NATO] to find a way to retain alliance unity here and not have the United States going off in its own direction," a senior US official said. "To do that, the Clinton administration needs to have something it can go to Congress with. We can't fight something with nothing. We need to be able to go to Congress and say that we have agreed with our allies to take sterner measures."

Croatian President Tudjman, speaking before the UN General Assembly, said Croatia would cooperate "with other victims of Serbian aggression" to "bring about reintegration of occupied Croatian areas" (i.e., Krajina). The UN mandate for Croatia runs out on October 1st.

General Rose, UNPROFOR Commander for Bosnia, met Bosnian Serb leader Karadzic in Pale yesterday to discuss the security situation in Bosnia. General Rose wished to discover the nature of the recent Bosnian Serb threat to target all planes landing at the Sarajevo airport and also to determine whether the Serbs wished to cooperate with UNPROFOR. (I'm not making this up.)

29 September 94

Vojislav Seselj, Serbian ultranationalist leader, was jailed for 30 days on for spitting at the speaker of parliament. Seselj, once a staunch Milosevic ally, broke with the Serbian president over Bosnia, when Milosevic cut off military and financial aid to the Bosnian Serbs on August 4th. Seselj accused Milosevic of selling out his own kin and renouncing the goal of Greater Serbia. Milosevic has tightened his grip on power in war-weary Yugoslavia by marginalizing his ultranationalist rivals, such as Seselj, whose arrest appears to be a pretext to help Milosevic shed his image as one of the chief fomenters of the nearly 30-month war in Bosnia.

Austria became the first European country to support the US in lifting the UN arms embargo against Bosnia.

Two journalists, one a Croat, were released following a month's imprisonment in Vukovar. They captured by Serbian forces at the UN check point near Vinkovci a month ago and charged with illegal border crossing and espionage.

The bridge linking the Mostar airport with the right bank of the Neretva River was opened to vehicular traffic after an agreement by Croat and Muslim officials.

30 September 94

The UN is complying with a Bosnian Serb demand to seek three-day advance clearance for all vehicle movements. Serbs, intent on punishing peacekeepers, were ignoring the requests.

1 October 94

The Bosnian Serbs lifted their week-old blockade of UN aid vehicles.

In another Haitian-Bosnian tie (see column 1, page 3 of the Sept'94 issue of Yugo News), Judge Goldstone, the chief UN war crimes prosecutor for the former Yugoslavia, expressed grave concern over the granting of general amnesty to the coup leaders in Haiti. He does not believe the international community should promise human-rights violators freedom from prosecution.
simply to get them to lay down their arms. He said amnesty could create "an example of the wrong way to deal with these things."

The tribunal will bring its first charges towards the end of November and court proceedings should begin in March'95.

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**2 October 94**

Bosnian Serbs **blocked 7 UN convoys** a day after allowing the UN to send convoys of relief supplies to Bosnian Muslims.

↑ ✷ ⌛

Bosnian Serb artillery fire has been increasing south of Mostar. They appear to have their eyes on Potoci for a possible push down mountain slopes to cut the main supply route to central Bosnia before winter sets in. Potoci is the only place in the region where the Bosnian Serbs could employ armor.

↑ ✷ ⌛

A Canadian peacekeeper was **wounded** in central Bosnia when the UNPROFOR bus he was riding in was caught in an exchange of fire between Bosnian Serbs and government troops.

↑ ✷ ⌛

Hundreds of angry Bosnian Muslim **refugees rioted** after the UN tried to persuade them to return to their homes.

The rioters **trapped UN workers**, setting fire to their vehicles. The UN workers were forced to seek shelter with Polish peacekeepers, who fired warning shots in the air. Two refugees were wounded.

The unrest flared in the UN monitored no-man's land dividing rebel Serbs from Croatian government forces where 10,000 Muslim refugees from the Bihac region of Bosnia gathered six weeks ago. The UN believes the trouble arose because the refugees are still under the control of Abdic loyalists who are hostile to any return of refugees to areas controlled by their enemy, the Bosnian army Fifth Corp. "They are getting extremely politically charged information from Abdic radio on the threat from the

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**3 October 94**

Defense Secretary Perry wants the UN to endorse NATO's position on how to launch **air strikes**: immediately after a Bosnian Serb violation, without warning and against multiple targets. At stake is not only the credibility of NATO, which was embarrassed by the meager results of the six strikes to date, but also the safety of the pilots, who are endangered if they are forced to circle over targets awaiting orders to shoot.

↑ ✷ ⌛

Bosnian Serbs **blockaded 25 UN convoys** carrying aid or supplies for peacekeepers.

↑ ✷ ⌛

A Ukrainian AN-26 cargo aircraft which is believed to have been **smuggling arms** to Bosnian Muslims disappeared over Serb-held territory in Croatia. Krajina Serbs claimed they shot the plane down. The plan has been missing since August 1st.

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**5 October 94**

Croatian Foreign Minister Granic accused Slovenia of 'terrestrial pretensions against Croatia.' Croatia claims a recently passed Slovenian law treats four Croatian villages in northern Istria as part of Slovenia, although they are on the Croatian side of the border. Croatia might seek international arbitration.

↑ ✷ ⌛

A Russian Aeroflot airliner landed at the Belgrade airport, formally reopening its airport after a 28-month UN ban on international commercial flights to and from Yugoslavia. Croatia immediately claimed $9 million in damages from Yugoslavia for debts owed by its national airline and for equipment liberated by its soldiers.

The Sarajevo airport has been closed for 12 days. 85% of Sarajevo's aid passes through the airport. The UN will not be able to keep Sarajevo's 380,000 people fed and properly sheltered through a third winter of siege if the airport stops shut.

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**6 October 94**

The Bosnian Serbs withdrew threats to shoot down UN relief planes, allowing the UN to resume a vital airlift to Sarajevo. The Bosnian Serbs attached no conditions to the agreement.

↑ ✷ ☛

UN peacekeepers found the mutilated bodies of 16 Bosnian Serb soldiers and four medics after a battle southwest of Sarajevo. The commando raid occurred on Mount Bijeleksa. The Bosnian Serb's said they were considering a counterattack.

The annihilated Serb platoon had radioed the UN to report government troop movements, but the peacekeepers who investigated found nothing amiss and returned to base.

The UN forced 500 Bosnian government soldiers to leave the area, then destroyed a government bunker.

The UN later withdrew the mutilation claim. (A little too late as it's sure to inflame the Serbs.)

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**7 October 94**

The Bosnian Serbs again refused to permit a UN convoy carrying nearly 100 tons of food into Sarajevo. The last food convoy to reach the Bosnian capital arrived September 22nd, the day of the last NATO air strike.

↑ ✷ ☛

UN mediator Lord Owen accused Muslim and Croat black marketeers of supply the Bosnian Serbs.

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**8 October 94**

Sarajevo airport was closed, halting aid flights, after small arms fire hit two planes yesterday. Government troops were responsible for at least one of the attacks.
11 October 94

Turkish peacekeepers have lowered the religious barrier between themselves Bosnian Croats near Zenica: The Turks helped the Croats repair and restore the Catholic church that had been desecrated by mujahideen (Muslim volunteer fighters from the Middle East). There are several hundred mujahideen fighting in Bosnia.

Two mortar shells were fired at Sarajevo airport. The shells were fired from near Bosnian government forces.

12 October 94

Two airplanes at Sarajevo airport were hit with small-arms fire. The aircraft were able to land. Relief flights were suspended.

Croatian President Tudjman shook up his cabinet. Among those being replaced was the head of the national security office.

Croatia staged maneuvers in the Adriatic Sea. Besides naval ships, the maneuvers involved a dozen MiG fighters. The public display of force had two purposes: 1) reinforce Croatia's statements that the Croatian military could retake Serb-held Krajina if it wished and 2) reassure the population of the Dubrovnik and Konavle that the Croatian military can protect them from Serbs in nearby hills.

13 October 94

Crucial relief flights to Sarajevo resumed after they were suspended because of gunfire at planes.

In northern Bosnia, the Bosnian government army claimed to be closing in on Treslic, saying it could become the biggest Serb-held town to fall during the 30-month war.

Serbs were making "significant gains" 10 miles northeast of Sarajevo, gaining high ground near a strategic highway to the government-held town of Vares.

Intense mortar and artillery fire was exchanged near the government-held city of Mostar in southwest Bosnia. The Bosnian Serbs are trying to cut the main highway linking Mostar to the center of the country (i.e., Sarajevo). The mayor acknowledged the obvious, declaring a "state of war" to "protect civilians and material goods" and to "mobilize all our forces to help the 4th corps of the Bosnian army."

14 October 94

A Bosnian Serb was named as the subject of the first international war crimes investigation since the Nuremberg and Tokyo trials after World War Two. UN Prosecutor Goldstone plans to charge Dusan Tadic with killing, beating and torturing Croat and Moslem prisoners at the Omarska prison camp and two other camps in the Prijedor region of northwest Bosnia. Tadic had command authority in the camps. He also took part in ethnic cleansing operations.

15 October 94

Three UN convoys with 500 tons of food crossed Bosnian Serb areas and entered Sarajevo. Stocks were down to two or three days before the trucks arrived, carrying enough supplies for half a week. The convoys used a road between the Adriatic and Sarajevo that has been under attack by Bosnian Serbs for the last three days. (See the preceding paragraph).

Bosnia began issuing a new currency. The central bank said it would distribute 500 million new dinar banknotes that would replace various currencies used in different parts of government-held territory. The value of the new dinar will be fixed at 100 to one German mark; it will take 10,000 old dinars to get one new one.

The Bosnian Serbs set a deadline of October 20th for Bosnian government forces to retreat from the Mt. Igman highlands above Sarajevo or face a major counteroffensive. (Though the UN removed a government battalion from Igman last week, one battalion still remains on the mountain.)

16 October 94

Bosnian Serbs hijacked five WHO (World Health Organization) trucks full of medical supplies. Serbs armed with grenade launchers held up the trucks for five hours at a checkpoint outside Sarajevo before commandeering the supplies. The convoy was diverted to the Serb-held suburb of Ilidza and then to a nearby railway station at Blazuj where the trucks were unloaded before being allowed to return to Sarajevo. It is the first time medical supplies have been stolen from the UN.

Bosnian Serbs are continuing their advance toward strategic hilltops along the biggest battlefront in Bosnia. If they score further gains, taking 4,835-foot Mt. Dernak, the Serbs would dominate the vital north-south supply route for Tuzla and other north-central towns held by the Bosnian government. Bosnian army commanders also believe the Serbs will renew their assault on Gorazde.

Macedonia held its first national elections, in a race pitting the former Yugoslav republic's moderate President Gligorov against a nationalist challenger. Gligorov's three-party Alliance for Macedonia is expected to return to power, although no one is likely to get an outright majority. The alliance currently holds power as part of a coalition that includes the Albanian bloc.
17 October 94

The Bosnian Serbs have heavily shelled Bihac, which is protected by a Sarajevo-like exclusion zone, for several days. The UN and NATO have yet to respond.

18 October 94

Bosnian Serbs fired at UN convoy near Gorazde, killing a driver. British peacekeepers returned fire. Air cover was requested, but did not materialize, after a conversation between UN commander LTG Rose and GEN Mladic.

Quote

"There were some very strict measures undertaken by our commanding officer. Let us say they involved a very heavy armored patrol. The mujahdeen do not bother us any more."

(Turkish officer in Bosnia, after his troops were confronted by Muslim holy fighters.)

Source


* i.e., the 'Information Superhighway' popularized by VP Gore.

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**Operation Sharp Guard**

(NATO/WEU maritime enforcement of economic sanctions against the former Yugoslavia in the Adriatic Sea)

&

**Operation Deny Flight**

NATO enforcement of "no-fly zone" above Bosnia-Herzegovina

**Vessels Operating**

Belgium: 1 frigate
Canada: 1 frigate
Denmark: 1 frigate
France: 1 guided missile destroyer, 1 frigate
Germany: 2 frigates
Greece: 1 frigate
Italy: 2 frigates, 1 corvette
Netherlands: 1 guided missile destroyer, 3 frigates
Spain: 2 frigates
Turkey: 1 guided missile frigate
Britain: 1 guided missile destroyer, 1 frigate
USA: 1 Aegis guided missile cruiser, 1 destroyer (plus 1 Aegis guided missile cruiser, supporting but not assigned)

**Assigned Aircraft**

France: 10 fighters, 10 attack (plus 7 on recall), 6 recon, 1 tanker, 2 airborne early warning (plus 1 aircraft carrier, as available)
Netherlands: 6 fighters, 6 attack (plus 2 on recall), 4 recon. 1 antisubmarine
Portugal: 1 antisubmarine
Italy: 8 attack
Spain: 1 transport, 1 antisubmarine
Turkey: 8 fighters (plus 10 on recall)
Britain: 6 fighters, 8 attack (plus 3 on recall), 2 recon, 2 tankers (plus 1 aircraft carrier, as available)
USA: 20 fighter/attack, 20 attack, 3 command & control (plus 2 on recall), 10 tankers, 1 antisubmarine, 10 airborne early warning (plus 1 aircraft carrier as available)
NATO: 10 airborne early warning