31 May 95

Fighting raged throughout Gorazde. The heaviest fighting was on the east bank of the Drina River. Several mortar shells landed near the British peacekeepers' base.

An Austrian jury acquitted Bosnian Serb Dusko Cvjetkovic of genocide, murder and torture of prisoners in Bosnia. (See the 29 May 95 item in the June'95 issue of Yugo News.)

The indictment was problematical since the very beginning because prosecution witnesses spoke of Cvjetkovic's alleged murders solely on the basis of rumors. Statements made by witnesses were often so contradictory that court room spectators roared with laughter. In direct confrontation, the witnesses did not recognize Cvjetkovic.

The defendant's lawyer demanded the immediate release of Cvjetkovic, who has been held in prison for over one year. The lawyer also filed a compensation claim. The prosecution filed an appeal.

Boutros-Ghali Proposes Changes in UNPROFOR

UN Secretary General Boutros-Ghali's sent a report to the Security Council, writing that peacekeepers should not use force and that UNPROFOR should be replaced by a multinational military force under the command of nations contributing troops. The second option is that manpower levels be reduced, with the regrouped peacekeepers guarding only the 'safe havens' and using force only in self-defense. The other options Boutros-Ghali presented were complete withdrawal and continuing as is.

Security Council debate over the mandate is likely to drag on for at least two weeks and neither the proposal to weaken the present arrangement nor the one to replace it with a multi-national military force is likely to be accepted. Bosnia's new Foreign Minister Sacerbey said that any weakening of the UN mandate would turn the peacekeepers into "truck drivers for humanitarian aid."

In a related matters, the UN and Britain are debating whether at least 5,000 of the 6,000 British troops offered this week should be under the direct command of Lieut. General Smith, the commander of UNPROFOR and a British officer. But the new British troops would push the present force, 22,750, over the 24,500 limit set by the Security Council. France also proposed that the UN station a quick reaction force in central Bosnia for rapid aerial deployment to hot spots in ex-Yugoslavia.

government police have been ordered to stop all UN vehicles and check the identity of their occupants.

Mohammed Sacirbey was appointed Bosnia's new foreign minister. Sacirbey, also a US citizen, is currently Bosnia's UN ambassador. Sacirbey takes the place of Irfan Ljubijankic who was killed when his helicopter was shot down near Bihac last month. (See the 28 May 95 item in the June'95 issue of Yugo News.)

Bosnian Serb artillery continued to pound Bosnian army positions near Gorazde. The fiercest battles occurred over former UN positions.

UN relief officials say the collapse of the mission in Bosnia has led to the worst food shortages in six months. UN relief convoys are not moving through Serb-held territory. Sarajevo is completely cut-off from outside aid: None has recently reached the airport, and what is on the tarmac cannot reach the city due to Serb road blocks. Sarajevo is also without clean water, electricity, or natural gas.

US envoy Robert Frasure reopened talks with Serbian President Milosevic in Belgrade, trying to persuade him to recognize Bosnia and further isolate the Bosnian Serbs. In exchange, Frasure was proposed financial aid and the suspension of most of the UN embargo against Yugoslavia. US Secretary of State Christopher urged to Milosevic to "take sides with the rest of the civilized world" and break ties with the Bosnian Serb leadership.

1 June 95

UN peacekeepers in Bosnia are "living in fear of their own stolen vehicles" because "every UNPROFOR vehicle could contain Bosnian Serbs in disguise, and so it has to be treated as a potential enemy."

The UN confirmed that at least one of the 36 captured UN armored vehicles had been used to penetrate government lines by Bosnian Serbs disguised as French peacekeepers. There have been other sightings of stolen armored vehicles in Sarajevo. Bosnian
support and advice.

Several Croatian political parties have formed a coalition to oppose President Tudjman. Representatives of the Croatian Democratic Party of Rights, the Croatian National Movement 'Free Croatia' and the Croatian Homeland Party comprise the Croatian National Bloc. The Bloc said its objectives are to annex to Croatia parts of Vojvodina (the northern province of the Yugoslav republic of Serbia) and the bay of Boka Kotorska (in the Yugoslav republic of Montenegro), and "the unification of Croatia and the republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina into one independent state."

2 June 95

Bosnian Serb President Karadzic, said that the hostage crisis in Bosnia "has to be solved by political means." He added that any attempt to liberate the UN POWs "would be a slaughter." Over 250 peacekeepers remain in Bosnian Serb hands after 120 were released late in the day. However, the Serbs also captured 18 new UN POWs. (Two French peacekeepers refused to go meekly and held off 20 Serbs.)

Bosnian Serb troops are now only 2 kilometers from the center of Gorazde. The Serbs continue to shell the town, whose population is swollen with refugees.

The defense ministers and armed forces chiefs of 14 western countries met in Paris to discuss a French proposal for a rapid reaction force to bolster beleaguered peacekeepers in Bosnia. The US is represented at the talks by Defense Secretary Perry and JCS Chairman General Shalikashvili.

US participation is unclear because Clinton said he would be "inclined" to send soldiers if the mission was strictly limited and temporary, but the Defense Department said the US would only offer equipment, logistical control of the RRFs, meaning he does not need permission from UN civilians to use the units. A Security Council vote is needed for implementation.

US Defense Secretary Perry said that the new UN rapid reaction force "is going to make a substantial difference." He said the US will offer material, weapons, strategic airlift, intelligence and planning support to the force.

The RRF will likely suffer from the same basic contradiction between peacekeeping and peacemaking that has bedeviled UNPROFOR. The men will wear their own national uniforms and camouflage gear, but they will be under the UN flag and subordinated to UN military structures. In theory, the RRF could help make UNPROFOR less vulnerable to hostage-taking and other attacks, but the question of its mission remains vague. Further confusion surrounds US policy, which promises support for the RRF and is aimed at appearing "robust" to

3 June 95

At an emergency meeting of 15 defense ministers in Paris, a decision was made to create two separate rapid reaction forces in Bosnia to protect UNPROFOR. Britain's 24th Airmobile Brigade will comprise the first; a composite brigade British, French and Dutch troops will comprise the second. The UNPROFOR commander will have operational

US Plane Shot Down

On June 2, a US F-16 on a NATO mission over northern Bosnia was shot down by a Bosnian Serb missile. It was the first American plane shot down during the Bosnian war. (If the pilot did not survive, it would also be the first American fatality.) It was the second NATO plane shot down during Operation Deny Flight. (A British Sea Harrier was downed in April, 1994; its pilot ejected safely.)

The F-16 was on a routine patrol, at about 20,000 feet, near Serb-held Banja Luka when it was hit by a Russian-made SA-6 missile. The jet crashed near Mrkonjic Grad, 40 miles south. The pilot of the other F-16 in the flight did not see the first pilot eject; his own plane was narrowly missed by a second missile.

There is no word on the fate of the first pilot, who is now the subject of an intense search. Search and rescue efforts launched by helicopters from the amphibious assault ship Kearsarge, in the Adriatic, were initially hampered by stormy weather and clouds, then curtailed by darkness. An confirmed report said the pilot had been captured by the Serbs, according to NATO CINCSOUTH Admiral Leighton Smith. (The downed pilot would normally be able to communicate with searchers by radio and electronic beacon.)

Clinton said little about the loss of the aircraft. Appearing briefly in the Rose Garden at mid-day, he said he was "very concerned" about the fate of the pilot. He made no mention of reprisals, but in such situations retaliatory air strikes on enemy anti-aircraft sites are usually carried out. However, retaliation might have to be postponed or eliminated altogether to avoid stalling the release of more UN POWs and reprisals against those still held.
Europeans while reassuring US voters that it is cautious and limited.

Bosnian Serb troops attacked a UN OP near Srebrenica. The Serbs were supported by a T-54. Dutch peacekeepers withdrew to another OP in an APC under heavy mortar and machine-gun fire.

Two other Dutch peacekeepers were wounded when their APC was shelled near Tuzla.

West of Tuzla, two Bosnian government corps are within two kilometers of hooking up in a pincer attack on Ozren mountain.

Gunfire erupted at a Serbian Radical Party rally in Gnjilane, Kosovo. The entire party leadership, including its chief Vojislav Seselj, were arrested. One person was wounded.

Seselj, an accused war criminal, served time in a Yugoslav prison in 1994 for several incidents of assault in the federal parliament.

Croatian and Bosnian Croat forces pressed hard around the Croatian Serb capital of Knin over the weekend, expanding from their center at Livno. The Croat goal is to cut the Grahovo road linking Knin with Banja Luka in Bosnian Serb territory.

5 June 95

Congress required that 10% of Greece's military aid from the US ($24 million) should be withheld pending a State Department report on Greek enforcement of UN sanctions against Serbia. Greece rejected the conditional portion of US aid, blaming the smuggling on countries that share a border with Serbia -- such as Albania, Bulgaria and Macedonia.

The State Department reports that Macedonia was the most common route for Greek goods to reach Serbia before Greece imposed its own blockade against Macedonia. Since then Greek petroleum products and equipment have been transshipped via Albania.

Greek Brinksmanship

The Greek Parliament ratified the Law of the Sea yesterday, drawing protests from Turkey as that country began a two week naval exercise. Turkey fears that the Aegean Sea will become a "Greek lake" now that Greece has signed the agreement, which permits Greece to extend its territorial waters. Turkey said the ratification was not yet a reason to go to war, but that the situation would be deeply serious if Greece actually claims the waters. Greece responded by calling the Turkish exercises provocative.

Greece currently claims six mile territorial limits, but can extend them to 12 now that it is a Law of the Sea member. Turkey, even though Greece has said that it will not extend its waters, is worried that extension would limit movement of Turkish vessels and infringe on Turkish mineral and fishing rights due to the fact that many Greek islands are near Turkey's coast. In cases like the Aegean, the Law of the Sea allows for narrow safe-passage zones, which would insure ships could pass to and from Turkey but would reduce international waters. Turkey has refused to sign the treaty, and has said that it would see Greek enforcement of the treaty as a hostile act.

The Turkish-Greek conflict over the Aegean is a long one, and they nearly fought a war over mineral exploration rights in 1987. Turkey and Greece held simultaneous naval exercises in the Aegean last November 16 when the Law of the Sea took effect.

Note: The problem here is, as it truly is in the various republics of ex-Yugoslavia, a matter of personal power. In this case, Papandreou, the president of Greece. He's been using nationalism as the screen to whip up public sentiment against Macedonia and Albania, and it would appear he has done the same now against Turkey. He's an old, sick man who won't last too many more years, but apparently doesn't want to allow himself to be succeeded by someone else. If he allows his power grabs to get in the way of common sense, it will have very serious consequences for the Balkan situation.

6 June 95

Three French journalists were wounded when their vehicle overturned after being shot at by Bosnian Serbs.

6 June 95

The Bosnian Serbs released 108 UN POWs; 149 are still held.

Croatian artillery in the Dinara mountains is now within range of the key supply road linking Knin with Bosnian Serb territory via Grahovo. The Croatian Serbs threatened to shell Croat cities in Dalmatia if Knin is shelled. (Yesterday Bosnian Serbs hit Mostar with heavy artillery.)

7 June 95

Three more UN POWs were released by the Bosnian Serbs; 53 are still held and 93 are surrounded.

Fighting for a strategic ridge south of the center of Sarajevo was heavy. Three people were killed and at least 19 injured.

US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Frasure and Serbian President Milosevic suspended talks.

8 June 95

The French army helicoptered an artillery battery onto Mt. Igman. The battery consists of six 120mm howitzers
American Pilot Rescued

On June 8, US forces rescued Captain Scott O'Grady, whose F-16C Fighting Falcon was shot down on June 2. O'Grady survived on rainwater and insects, moving by night and resting during the day, until he could make contact.

Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0208</td>
<td>Captain T.O. Hanford authenticates O'Grady distress call with &quot;old friend stories&quot;; both were assigned to the 510th Fighter Squadron, 31st Fighter Wing, Aviano A.B., Italy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0215</td>
<td>AC-130H Specter confirms the contact; an E-3 Sentry relays it. A full TRAP - Tactical Recovery of Aircraft and Personnel - is ordered. On the US Navy Wasp-class Amphibious Assault Ship USS Kearsarge (LHD 3) in the Adriatic Sea, about 50 Marines of the 24th MEU, Camp Lejeune, NC, are awakened and told to prepare.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0550</td>
<td>Rescue begins. The main force, from the USS Kearsage, consists of two AV-8B Harrier IIs, two AH-1W SeaCobras and two CH-53E Super Stallions. Over 40 aircraft were involved in air cover, jamming, refueling and other support operations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0607</td>
<td>EA-6B Prowlers and EF-111A Ravens begin electronic warfare operations in the area, concentrating on Bosnian Serb air-search radar and communications relays.</td>
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<tr>
<td>0613</td>
<td>Contact re-established with O'Grady.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0621</td>
<td>Croatia Serb radar in Knin (code-named &quot;Giraffe&quot;) begins scanning Bosnian skies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0644</td>
<td>CH-53Es land on an open hill near a yellow smoke flare. The ramp of one helicopter jams on a tree stump, while the Marines of the other form a defensive perimeter. O'Grady, emerges from the treeline moments later, helmet and flight jacket on, M9 pistol in hand - &quot;I'm ready to get the hell out of here&quot;. O'Grady is pulled through the cockpit opening of the CH-53E with the jammed ramp. Covered in a blanket, O'Grady begins devouring emergency rations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>0658</td>
<td>EA-6B recommends destruction of &quot;Giraffe&quot;. Permission denied, seen as unnecessary and a potentially dangerous action leading to escalation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0707</td>
<td>CH-53Es take evade shoulder-launched SAM rockets. One is hit by small arms fire. Ground fire is suppressed by door gunners and AH-1Ws. There are no casualties.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0730</td>
<td>Rescue force lands aboard the USS Kearsage.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Besides suffering from exhaustion and dehydration as well as hunger, O'Grady survived with his only injuries being small second degree burns on his hips and neck, probably from when he ejected. A senior Bosnian Serb military official said that Serbs were aware a rescue was underway, but chose not to intervene.
12 June 95

A Kenyan peacekeeper was killed when he tried to prevent the theft of his vehicle by Bosnian Serbs.

72 tons of flour sent last Wednesday from Belgrade to Zepa never arrived. Bosnian Serbs accused drivers of bringing motor oil to the Bosnian Government, then said that they found ammunition in the flour sacks, which the UN believes was planted by the Serbs.

After negotiations, the UN persuaded the Serbs to not arrest the drivers or seize vehicles. The flour was returned, with the amount stolen being deducted from planned allocations to Bosnian Serb civilians.

(UNHCR has resorted to a new method for getting wheat flour into Sarajevo. The flour is dropped west of Sarajevo and taken by Bosnian government trucks over Mount Igman to Hranica. From there, UN trucks cross the airport with the flour to the city.)

14 June 95

The massing of 15,000 - 20,000 Bosnian government troops continues in the Visoko area. The deployment has bolstered the front lines from just east of Vares, south along the Cemerska Mountains to lines east and south of Breza. A concentration of forces, including the 17th Krajiska Brigade, is forming just east of Buci, which overlooks Bosnian Serb positions on a hill south of Visoko. Bosnian Croats in Kiseljak to the west are joining the buildup.

It is the largest concentration of troops since the war began. Serbian forces have begun gathering in response. Sarajevo Mayor Kuposavic said that liberation is at hand. (It appears that the government wants to break the siege of Sarajevo and force open the main road leading into the capital.)

Canadian Mobile Force peacekeepers in Visoko were confined to their bases by the Bosnian army, which erected 22 roadblocks in the area.

Bosnian Prime Minister Silajdzic cut short a visit to the US, saying that his government was taking "countermeasures" to protect Sarajevo.

Greek Cyprus Base for Serb Sanctions Busting

The offshore banking system on the Mediterranean island of Cyprus is being used to violate UN sanctions imposed on ex-Yugoslavia, say Western diplomats, bankers and even some of those involved in the business.

About $50 million in Serbian funds was brought here in the months before Yugoslavia split up. Beogradsk Banka, which set up operations in Cyprus in 1988, is the offshore branch of Beobanka, Serbia's biggest bank. Two smaller Serbian banks, Karic Bank and Beogradnska Kreditna Banka, set up offshore branches here three years ago. (Several hundred million dollars was transferred out of Cyprus to banks in Europe after the UN sanctions were enforced on the island.

Senior Cypriot politicians and executives, including Tassos Papadopoulos, chairman of Parliament's foreign affairs committee, have used their businesses as fronts for Serbian companies seeking to break the sanctions. Cypriot officials point out, though, that the sanctions permit Serbs who do not have contact with the Belgrade government or its enterprises to do business with other countries, including those from which goods are known to be transported illegally to Serbia.

Many Serbian business executives and bankers here worked in state-owned enterprises or for the Belgrade government, but then set up offshore companies after the embargo. Many of the 500 Serbian companies on Cyprus are subsidiaries of large Yugoslav corporations or are run by close associates of Serbian President Milosevic. The Western officials cannot estimate what percentage of illegal Yugoslav trade is handled through Cyprus because the network of Serbian companies violating the embargo is worldwide.

The companies identified as having direct links to the Yugoslav government buy trucks, machinery, consumer goods and oil through front operations. The goods are shipped to countries that border Serbia and are then transported into Serbia. The trade managed from Cyprus to countries bordering Serbia is worth about $10 million a week.

"We do several million dollars' worth of business," in violation of the sanctions, said a Cypriot employee of a Serbian firm on Cyprus. "We buy many items, such as pharmaceutical products from Germany and Switzerland and use a bill of lading for another country near Serbia, usually Greece. It is very efficient, very easy and we don't worry about anyone interfering in our business."

The Greek Cypriots are seen as friendly to the Serbs because of their common Orthodox religion.

Turkey has shared control of the island since its 1974 invasion.

The Bosnian government placed all territory under its control on an "unprecedented special alert"; beefing up police patrols outside public buildings. The government also ordered stores closed and told people to stay home. Finally, the government closed the Mt. Igman road, the only one they control out of Sarajevo.

The Bosnian Serbs will hold onto at least 14 UN POWs despite President Karadzic's announcement that all would be freed. He said that "technical reasons" prevented the peacekeepers immediate release. The POWs are being held in scattered locations. (Either local warlords are refusing to give up their captives or Karadzic is deliberately holding onto the men as insurance against further NATO air strikes.)

Bosnian government troops stole 40 impounded weapons from UN 'safekeeping' in Sarajevo. Taken were four tanks, as well as mortars and howitzers.

The UN Security Council approved the RRF in a 13-0 vote on Resolution 998, with Russia and China abstaining. The question of financing has been postponed in view of uncertainties about whether the US will pay for part of the costs. The troops will wear national uniforms and not have white vehicles, but otherwise it seems that the RRF will be just an arm of UNPROFOR.

The Albanian who shot two US Marines during Exercise Sarex'95 in January was sentenced to one year in prison. (See the 27 January 95 item in the Feb'95 issue of Yugo News.) The man, who wounded the soldiers after a bar brawl, was convicted of illegal possession of arms. Charges of homicide were dropped after the court ruled he was mentally "irresponsible" when he fired the shots. The man claimed the Americans had molested his fiancee while he was celebrating his engagement with friends. He has a previous record of mental disorders.

Bosnian Federation Offensive to Relieve Sarajevo

At dawn, on June 15, the Bosnian army launched a major drive to break the Serb siege of Sarajevo. The move was rumored for days because of the buildup of government troops north of the capital, and Serbian and government liberation theft of their heavy weapons from UN storage depots.

Intense fighting is reported both to the north and south of Sarajevo, and Federation troops have moved up from the Mostar area. In central Bosnia, the Federation is attacking Telsic on the Doboj-Banja Luka road. A substantial force of Croatian army and HVO troops has also massed in Livno, heading slowly for the Croatian Serb capital of Knin.

Bosnian infantry, climbing Trebevic Mountain south of the city, cut the strategic road linking the Serb strongholds of Pale and Lukavica. Serbs denied it had been cut, but said it would not be used anyway. Bosnian forces pushed out from Sarajevo towards Vogošca, while troops near Visoko moved east from Breza and appeared to have cut the Serb-held part of the road to Olovo and Tuzla near Srednje. Fighting was reported in Serb held Hadzici, where Bosnian troops apparently advanced from Tarcin and Pazaric. Ilidža also had fighting nearby. Casualties, particularly north of Sarajevo, appeared to be high.

The mainly Muslim army is strong on manpower but lacks sufficient arms, especially heavy weapons. But it now appears that the Bosnian Croats are helping by bringing up their big guns against the Serbs. (A large amount of Croatian artillery is reported in Kiseljak.) The joint campaign could take up to 20 days and involve 3,000 casualties, with 50,000 Federation troops required to dislodge the 12,000 Serbs.

Bosnia's choice, in extremis, was stark: Surrender or fight. The Muslim decision, to the irritation of the Christian West, is to fight. (Bosnian leaders are certain that a tacit understanding was reached between the Serbs and the United Nations: Return peacekeeping hostages, and the starvation and murder of Sarajevo civilians will go on undeterred by future NATO air strikes.)

Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic, in a TV address hours before the offensive began, said supply routes would be reopened to "prevent further strangulation of the city." Foreign Minister Muhamed Sacirbey said the offensive was prompted by the UN's failure to enforce the heavy weapons exclusion zone. UN special envoy Akashi stated he is worried by the offensive. Bosnian Serb President Karadzic called the offensive "a last try to change the situation on the ground." Finally, a Bosnian army soldier said, "We are tired of dying for hillsides and mountains ... We want to fight now for something decisive."
Heavy fighting is also taking place just south of the city as government forces try to keep pressure on the Bosnian Serbs to stop them from mounting a counterattack.

The Bosnian army appears to be making gains, cutting key Bosnian Serb supply routes, and advancing around the town of Vaygaca, north of Sarajevo.

Five French peacekeepers were wounded in the fighting.

Yugoslav computers maintain the Bosnian Serb air defenses that shot down the US F-16 on June 2. Besides the supplies it already provides the Bosnian Serbs, Yugoslavia also pays many of the salaries.

**17 June 95**

The Bosnian offensive to relieve Sarajevo stalled after making slight headway for two days. An attack on the Lukavica-Pale road was halted, but Bosnian troops remain within firing range of the road. Pale was also shelled. There was heavy fighting in the Krupac area, but fighting near Veygac and Ilijas subsided. Fighting at Hadzici continues, but appears inconclusive.

The British 31st Armored Engineer Regiment began deploying in Split, Croatia. They will be part of the RRF.

**18 June 95**

The last 26 of UN POWs held by Bosnian Serbs were freed. In return the UN freed four Serbian POWs captured during the French counterattack on Vrbajna Bridge. (See the 26 May article in the June'95 issue of Yugo News.)

The UN struck a deal with the Serbs, as it also withdrew from nine OPs and weapon depots around Sarajevo, and suspended future air strikes. Operation Deny Flight will now be only for enforcing the 'no-fly zone'.

A Croatian Serb jet fired six rockets at Croatian positions near Veliki Traglav on Mount Dinara. A Kenyan peacekeeper was wounded. The jet was flying out the Udbina airbase, which was bombed by NATO last fall. (See the 21 November item in the December'94 issue of Yugo News.)

Seven civilians were killed and at least 10 wounded when a Bosnian Serb shell hit a group of people lining up to collect water in a Sarajevo suburb. (Sarajevo's power and water supplies have been cut off for several weeks.)

A Serbian guard shot a 10-year old Albanian near the Macedonian border, killing him. The boy had wandered into the courtyard of a Serb barracks, about 70 meters from his house, to round up stray sheep. The number of Albanians killed in Kosovo by Serbian security forces this year is 17. More than 100 have died since 1989.

**19 June 95**

Bosnian Serb troops regained control of the Lukavica-Pale road, which was cut by Bosnian army two days ago.

General Bernard Janvier, commander of UN forces in the Balkans, refused a request by US Admiral Leighton Smith to authorize NATO air strikes on the Banja Luka airport. Smith wanted to retaliate for the Serb violation of the 'no-fly zone' yesterday.

French peacekeepers, in an unusual display of fighting spirit, destroyed a Bosnian Serb tank with 90mm anti-tank rounds north of Sarajevo. The tank had fired 15 rounds at the French OP, destroying one AFV. One peacekeeper was wounded.

Bosnian President Izetbegovic said the Bosnian army would halt its offensive to relieve Sarajevo if the Serbs pull their heavy guns 20km back from the center of Sarajevo, allow the free flow of humanitarian aid, re-open the Sarajevo airport, and restore the city's gas, water and electricity supplies. Heavy government casualties may be responsible for the offer.

**20 June 95**

A Canadian UN camp was blockaded by Bosnian government troops with mines, antitank weapons and roadblocks. They threatened to shell anyone who attempted to escape. The mines were removed after three hours, but the more than 600 peacekeepers remain confined to barracks.

UNHCR got written permission from the Serbs to bring in 500 tons of food to Sarajevo, to be divided between Bosnians and Serbs. But the Bosnian army, citing security reasons, refused to allow the convoy through. (There has been intense fighting near Tarcin, as the Bosnian army has advanced toward Hadzici, southwest of Sarajevo, in recent days.)

It is unclear whether the Bosnian government is motivated entirely by security concerns in sealing the city or is so exasperated by the city's long encirclement that it has decided to push the situation to a crisis by whatever means possible -- including the blocking of aid convoys in hopes of provoking the United Nations to force open a corridor into the city.
21 June 95

Bosnian Serb troops escorted an aid convoy into Sarajevo. It was the first time the UN allowed Serbs, not peacekeepers, to escort a aid convoy. About 150 tons of flour arrived for Sarajevo, and 45 tons for Serb-held areas. A second convoy carrying 335 tons of flour, yeast and salt for government areas and 117 tons for the Serbs also was trying to come in under Serb escort.

The debate over whether the US will help support the new British and French-led UN Rapid Reaction Force dominated a NATO conference. Defense Secretary Perry and his British counterpart Malcolm Rifkind confronted congressional opponents of US funding for the expanded peacekeeping operation. (Remember, there is a difference between peacekeeping and peacemaking ...)

Perry warned of disastrous consequences if peacekeeping operations are not strengthened and UNPROFOR is forced to withdraw. Senator John McCain (R, AZ), a Medal of Honor awardee, said the Republican congress was reluctant to back the RRF because of "haunting" memories of other open-ended missions in Vietnam, Beirut and Somalia.

Clinton is exploring alternate ways of channeling support to the new force since congress is unwilling to put up the 31% share (aprx. $200 million) the US has been assessed.

The UN Sanctions Committee approved the export of Czech detonator fuses to Croatia. According to a Czech government report, the fuses will be exported for industrial purposes, without ruling out the possibility of their being used for military purposes.

Violating Albania's airspace, two Serbian military aircraft flew over the northern end of the country. Serbian military aircraft have repeatedly flown low over various residential areas in neighboring Kosovo recently.

Secretary of State Christopher told

Kosovar shadow state President Rugova the US will not allow the war in Bosnia to spread to Kosovo. Christopher also reiterated a warning issued to Serbia by US President Clinton earlier. Rugova is visiting the US.

22 June 95

France's first contribution to the RRF landed in Split, Croatia. The 490 troops are members of the Foreign Legion.

The Bosnian 3rd Corps are trying to cut-off western Serb-controlled Sarajevo suburbs of Vogosca and Ilijas from the rest. The 1st Corps has taken 200 square km (125 square miles) and 70 to 80 villages along high mountain ridges south of the capital, in addition to controlling 8 km the Sarajevo-Trnovo road and all the important lookout points on Mount Treskavica. If the Bosnian army takes the Sarajevo-Trnovo road, the Bosnian capital of Pale will be surrounded on three sides. It will also form the operational basis for a government attack to relieve Gorazde and other eastern Bosnian enclaves.

23 June 95

General Janvier, commander of UN forces in the Balkans, held two secret meetings with Bosnian Serb commander General Mladic during the recent UN POW crisis. The meetings were held June 4 in Zvornik and June 17 in Pale. Even while the UN and individual nations said peacekeepers' release must be unconditional, Janvier apparently secured their release and the security of food convoys to Sarajevo by promising no more NATO air strikes. (See the 18 June article in this issue.) General de Lapresle, commander of UNPROFOR commander Lt. General Smith was asked to attend, but refused.

The Bosnian army captured the strategic peak of Mount Vis, used by the Bosnian Serbs to launch artillery attacks on Tuzla.

The US will use its recently established facilities in Albania to launch a new unmanned aircraft, known as the Predator, to gather intelligence in the Balkans. The Predator is a new-generation aerial reconnaissance system that can take sharper pictures, stay airborne longer and evade detection. General Atomics Aeronautical Systems Inc. of San Diego makes the Predator. It is 27 feet long and has a wing span of 49 feet. It transmits imagery directly to a ground station that can, in turn, pass the information quickly to commanders in the field. The Predator has a range of about 500 miles and can stay in the air for up to 40 hours.

24 June 95

Nine civilians were killed and 30 wounded yesterday in Sarajevo by Bosnian Serb attacks.

Bosnian Government soldiers reportedly captured Golo Brdo yesterday, a strategic hill overlooking Sarajevo from the west. Bosnian Serbs denied the hill was taken.

Meanwhile, near Bihac, the government lost Vrnogor to rebel Muslim leader Abdic.

26 June 95

The EU agreed on a new five-point "action plan" for Bosnia which recognizes an ostensibly beefed-up role for the RRF. The plan calls for the immediate lifting of the siege of Sarajevo and the opening of a land corridor to the Adriatic. When queried as to how the latest plan, with its emphasis on diplomatic solutions, differs from previous efforts, French President Chirac stressed that this plan is buttressed by a new European resolve to avoid being compromised and humiliated.

In Sarajevo, bosnian Serb mortar attacks killed one Bosnian civilian and wounded eight others, including two French peacekeepers.

27 June 95

Bosnian Serb President Karadzic, responding to EU calls for a negotiated temporary four-month truce, rejected
the idea outright. "Temporary ceasefires ... have been misused by our enemies for regrouping and for the further obtaining of weapons," said Karadzic.

28 June 95

Today marks the 606th anniversary of the Serbs' most revered holiday: their final defeat at the hands of invading Ottoman Turks -- the Battle of Kosovo, in 1389. (See the "Victory With a Bitter Aftermath" article in the May '94 issue of Yugo News.)

NATO approved a provisional plan to cover the withdrawal of the UN as a last resort. The operation would involve 60,000 troops.

Greek Premier Papandreou attacked the EU for staging what he called an "orchestrated campaign" against his country. Papandreou had been isolated at the summit on two central issues of Greek foreign policy: Macedonia and Turkey. Papandreou singled out French President Chirac for his position on Macedonia, saying it is a "provocation for Greece and myself personally." Papandreou made it clear that Greece will not leave the EU, from which it will have received a total of $45 billion by the year 2000.

29 June 95

Clinton authorized $15 million in US support for the RRF, an amount that could rise to $95 million. Using money previously approved for peacekeeping operations from the DoD budget, costs could include $60 million in equipment, logistical, transport and intelligence support. The other $35 million would be in cash if needed, from a source to be determined.

Bosnian government troops attacked Bosnian Serb troops west of Sarajevo. Three Serb civilians were killed and five wounded. In retaliation, the Bosnian Serbs fired a modified SAM at Sarajevo's television center, killing five people, wounding 38 and destroying three floors of the building. Four other civilians were killed when another modified SAM hit an apartment building.

Two shells punched holes in the UN headquarters in Sarajevo tonight. Bosnian Serbs denied responsibility, but the UN insists they were Serb fired.

One French peacekeeper was killed and two were wounded when their armored vehicle hit an anti-tank mine.

Bosnian Croat leader Kresimir Zubak told the UN Commander for the former Yugoslavia, General Janvier that British and French soldiers in the RRF around Tomislavgrad could stay only 30 days because of unanswered questions about their mission. After that time, each new unit would need permission from Bosnian Croats and the Muslim-Croat federation.

30 June 95

Four civilians were killed and seven wounded when a shell hit a Sarajevo market. Thirteen other civilians were wounded in other attacks in the area.

Two USMSC roll-on/roll-off cargo ships left the US this week for Britain. The ships will transport British air mobile brigade equipment to support 4,000 RRF in Croatia. They will arrive in the Adriatic Sea in mid-July and are expected to unload at Split and Ploce, Croatia.

The Bosnian government said that it will no longer deal with UN Special Envoy Akashi. The Bosnians believe Akashi is conciliatory to the Bosnian Serbs. Hasan Muratovic, the Cabinet minister in charge of relations with the UN, said, "For us, he does not exist any more."

Three mortar shells landed within 75 meters of the UN headquarters compound in Sarajevo.

1 July 95

Bosnian Serb attacks on Sarajevo killed at least 7 and wounded more than 50. One person was killed and ten wounded near the Merkale market place by an exploding shell.

The German parliament voted 386 to 258, with 11 abstentions, to send German forces to Bosnia. Being sent are 1,500 soldiers, a squadron of Tornado ECR aircraft, C-160D transport aircraft and a field hospital. The 1,500 soldiers are security and support personnel, not combat troops. The vote followed a six hour debate with one side saying Germany's global credibility was at stake, and the other saying the deployment could escalate the war and raise the specter of Nazi militarism. The Tornados will be closest to actual combat, and their use would be the first time German forces have been in combat since World War II.

Exercise Uje Kristal 95, a joint US-Albanian engineering exercise began in Tirana, Albania. (The exercise will continue through September 16.)

US participants include active and reserve component engineers from the Army and Marine Corps. The Marines are also providing security for the exercise.

The engineers will train in vertical construction on a trauma hospital, focusing on sanitation and emergency operation infrastructure. The group will also construct two water wells with electrical pumps; install a manual water chlorinator; install hot water heaters in the emergency room, operating room, and ICU scrub rooms; and construct an emergency generator shed. Replacement of part of the internal sewage system, purification, and sanitation work is also planned.

2 July 95

The French artillery battery on Mt. Igman shelled Bosnian Serb anti-aircraft guns aimed at traffic on the Mt. Igman road. The Serbs retaliated by shelling the UN headquarters in Sarajevo.

Six UN personnel were wounded in this and other attacks today. Thirteen civilians were also wounded.

Bosnian government troops captured strategic high ground 2 1/2 miles
north of Sarajevo.

†††

In Bihac, the UN reported the first two hunger related deaths.

3 July 95

The UN’s Sarajevo airlift marked its 3rd anniversary. It is the longest airlift in history. The deliveries of food, medicine and supplies have kept the Bosnian capital alive during the Serbian siege, but the cargo flights have been virtually suspended for three months and supplies are running out -- placing even greater pressure on the road over Mt. Igman.

†††

The French artillery battery on Mt. Igman, in an effort to halt attacks on UN convoys using the only road into Sarajevo, fired on Bosnian Serb anti-aircraft guns for the second day in a row. The Bosnian Serbs fired at the convoys again, however. As a result, the UN has begun to include aid shipments on military resupply convoys crossing over the mountain.

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Quote

"We believe there must be a clearly-defined mission for the Rapid Reaction Force. And so far [we have not] received a clear articulation of exactly what that force would do -- except more of the same. The argument that somehow there will be a reinforcement of people who are trying to keep the peace in a place where there is no peace doesn't make a lot of sense ..."

*Senator John McCain, (R, AZ)*

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Sources

The Economist, InterNet, World Press Review, Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel, Soldiers, FBIS Daily Reports.

*Secondary sources include New York Times, Naval News Service, OMRI, AFP, Nova Borba, BBC, VOA, Der Spiegel, Washington Post, NTV, Tanjug, AP, Gazeta Shqiptare, Reuters, Kurir Nacional*

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Dictionary of Acronyms

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<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tr>
<td>OSCE</td>
<td>Organization for Security &amp; Cooperation in Europe</td>
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<tr>
<td>EBRD</td>
<td>European Bank for Reconstruction &amp; Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNPROFOR</td>
<td>UN Protective Force (peacekeepers Bosnia)</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNPREDEP</td>
<td>UN Preventive Deployment Force (peacekeepers in Macedonia)</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNCRD</td>
<td>UN Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia (peacekeepers)</td>
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<tr>
<td>BSA</td>
<td>Bosnian Serb Army</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HVO</td>
<td>Bosnian Croat militia</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNPA</td>
<td>UN Protected Area (UN patrolled areas in Croatia)</td>
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<tr>
<td>EU</td>
<td>European Union</td>
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<td>WEU</td>
<td>Western European Union</td>
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<td>JNA</td>
<td>Yugoslav Army</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECU</td>
<td>European Currency Unit (EU money)</td>
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<td>UNHCR</td>
<td>UN High Commissioner for Refugees</td>
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<td>International Monetary Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>RSK</td>
<td>Republic of Serb Krajina (the Croatian Serbs)</td>
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<tr>
<td>RRF</td>
<td>UNPROFOR's Rapid Reaction Force in Bosnia</td>
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