28 July 95

The HVO captured Bosansko Grahovo and Glamoc, severing a supply route linking Bosnian and Croatian Serbs. Thousands of Serb civilians fled the area.

The immediate effect will likely be to take pressure off the Bosnian army in Bihac, but as the Croatian forces press on, they could be aiming to recapture territory occupied by Croatian Serbs. Croatian forces are five miles from Knin, capital of the Croatian Serbs in the Krajina Region. Croatian forces have also been massing southwest of Karlovac, on the northern rim of Krajina, in preparation for a second front.

Both Croatia and the Croatian Serbs are preventing UNPROFOR from redeploying along the potential lines of confrontation.

29 July 95

Croatian forces continued pressing their attack into Krajina. The Croats shelled Cetina, near Knin.

31 July 95

A UN helicopter was attacked by Bosnian Serbs. UN commander General Smith, a passenger, was flying to a meeting with Bosnian Serb commander General Mladic.

Croatian forces are consolidating their gains in Bosnia after taking the Serb towns of Glamoc and Grahavo on Friday. The Croatian army and HVO shelled the outskirts of Knin after snaking through the mountains across the Bosnian border just nine miles away.

1 August 95

Croatia attacked Serb villages along the border with Bosnia, closed main roads and broadcast radio messages to Serbs saying that they should overthrow their government. Croatia also warned the Croatian Serbs to give up or be attacked. Serbs continued to flee toward Knin or toward Drvar in Bosnia. The situation is bleak in Krajina and the Serb population demoralized. Croatian troops are also closing in on Donji Vakuf on the road to Jajce.

The Croatian Serbs retaliated by attacking Croat-held Gospic with rockets; Serb aircraft also strafed Croatian forces near Strmica.

† † †

"Small numbers" of Croatian Serb troops began to withdraw from Bihac but that at least 1,000 remain.

† † †

Russian officially protested the recent attacks by Croatian forces in western Bosnia. Russia warned Croatian President Tudjman that the Croatian offensive "could lead to an escalation of hostilities."

† † †

Croatian General Ante Gotovina was promoted to colonel-general by
President Tudjman for his capture of Grahovo and Glamoc on July 28.

A French marine anti-sniper unit in Sarajevo reported that until mid-June Bosnian government snipers deliberately shot at their own civilians.

The marines tracked bullet trajectories to the former Parliament building. On June 8, the marines set a trap, placing an APC near buildings used by Bosnian Serb snipers, while other APCs were hidden on either side of the Parliament building. For the next week, there were times when firing was only heard from the Parliament building. The next three days, the marines put an APC in the field of fire from the Parliament building, and firing stopped. When it was moved, firing started again. Using recently delivered optics, the marines found the Bosnian sniper.

The marines then notified the Bosnian army that their sniper was about to be killed by French snipers. The government claimed ignorance, but the firing immediately stopped.

The Red Cross has registered only 20 Muslim POWs since the fall of Srebrenica and Zepa, despite reports that thousands of men are still missing.

NATO expanded its airpower commitment to all remaining "safe areas" in Bosnia. Only Gorazde was covered under the previous commitment. Under the new decision, preparations for launching of an attack against Bihac, Gorazde, Sarajevo, or Tuzla could be grounds for air strikes.

By 298 to 128, the US House of Representatives voted to end the arms embargo against Bosnia. The bill is identical to the Senate approved bill, so it will go to Clinton, who has said he will veto it. Clinton has ten days after receiving the bill, not including next Sunday, to veto it.

2 August 95

US Ambassador Galbraith's appeal against an outbreak of hostilities is probably just a formality and does not reflect a change in the Western attitude towards Krajina. The feeling in many Western capitals is that the Croatian Serbs deserve whatever they get following their invasion of the Bihac pocket.

Germany's first troops arrived in Split, Croatia, where they will set up a field hospital.

3 August 95

Croatian Serb Prime Minister Babic agreed to Croatian government conditions to avoid war in Krajina. Croatia is "considering the agreement." US Ambassador to Croatia Galbraith brokered the Croatian Serb acceptance.

The UN estimates that Croatia has completed its mobilization. The

100,000 men must be sent into action soon or will have to be demobilized for economic reasons. The Croatian troops are massing 70 km south of Zagreb.

Meanwhile, the Croats shelled Drvar, while the Croatian Serbs hit Gospic and Otocac with rockets.

Bosnian Serb commander General Mladic made it clear that Bosnian Serb forces would stay out of the battle for Krajina. Mladic is an ally of Serbian President Milosevic, who is in turn an opponent of Bosnian Serb President Karadzic. Many Croatian Serbs believe that Milosevic and his followers have decided to abandon the Croatian Serbs, except for those in the prosperous eastern Slavonia, which many expect Serbia to annex formally. Rumors are also rife of a deal between Zagreb and Belgrade to this effect.

Croatian Serb jets fired on two UN helicopters, but returned to base after being warned by NATO that they were violating the 'no-fly' zone.

An aid convoy destined for Bihac was stopped by the rebel Muslims of Fikret Abdic. Abdic set unacceptable terms for its release, said UNHCR. The last convoy reached Bihac on July 11.

4 August 95

Two US jets attacked a SAM site near Serb-held Knin after the site's radar

Croatia Liberates Krajina

On August 4, Croatia launched a massive attack on Serb-held Krajina.

At 3:00 a.m., the Croatian authorities informed the UN that military action was imminent; at 4:00 a.m., the peacekeepers went on "red alert"; and one hour later, the Croatian offensive began. Croatia claimed Canadian peacekeepers revealed the attack to the Serbs by using open communications channels. The point was moot as Croatian forces nonetheless made very rapid progress, penetrating the Serb lines in 30 spots.

Croatian armored columns entered Krajina region along five main axes: two from the north, two from the west and one from the south. The thrust from the south, starting from the Adriatic coastal city of Split, and one from the west, near Gospic, were the most successful. The attack from Split was divided into two columns. One drove into Serb territory through the strategic crossroads of Drnis; the other drove up the strategic road north of Sinj. The attack from Gospic moved quickly east along the M-6 highway.

-- Continued on Page 3 --
The Croatian air force paved the way by destroying a Serb corps HQ, a brigade HQ and the Celavac radio/TV station. The Croatian army pushed the Serbs out of Dubica, across the Una River into Bosanska Dubica, cut the Bosanska Gradiska-Kostajnica communications link and advanced towards the Bosnian border. Hundreds of Croats shells fell on Serb-occupied Knin, Slunj, Gracac, Petrinja, Glina and Udbina with its major air base. The Serbs in return shelled Sibenik, Sisak, Karlovac, Gospic, Ogulin, Otocac, Sunja, Novska, Topusko and Dubrovnik. By nightfall the Croats had also recaptured Plaski, Licki Osik, Medak and Vrhovin.

UNCRO was not immune to the Croat assault: a Danish peacekeeper was killed by a Croat tank; two Polish peacekeepers were wounded by Croat artillery; and a Czech OP was strafed by Croat jets. The UN lost 16 OPs and 98 POWs to the Croats.

Croatian President Tudjman promised the Serbs "fair treatment" (that probably being the very reason thousands of civilians immediately lit out for Bosnia.)

Early on the morning of the August 5, the Croats recaptured Petrinja and Obrovac. The later capture of Pljecevic and Zitnic cut off Knin, which fell to the Croats at 9:00 a.m. -- only 30 hours after the offensive began. The seizure of Knin came as a stunning blow to the formidable armed but outnumbered Serb forces, which offered a surprisingly light defense of their capital.

By the afternoon, Croatian forces had captured Gracac, a major Serb command and control center. One column headed south to join Croatian forces already occupying Knin, the other continued north along Krajina's main highway, M-13, toward the Udbina airfield (which the Croatian Serb air force had already abandoned for the safety of Banja Luka, Bosnia).

The Croatian army also liberated Lovinac, Ljubova, Vrlika, Kijevo, Drnis, Sveti Rok and Benkovak (Krajina's second largest city). The recapture of Primisje, near Slunj opened the way for a Croatian advance on Slunj, a Croat territory adjacent to the Bosnian territories of Bihac and Serb-occupied Cazin and Muslim rebel-held Velika Kladusa.

Meanwhile the Bosnian 5th Corps, commanded by General Atif Dudakovic, struck out of the Bihac pocket, quickly capturing Trzacke Rastele, near Cazin. The rebel Muslims of Fikret Abdic withdrew towards their stronghold of Velika Kladusa. By 3:00 p.m., the Croatian army had linked up with the 5th Corps, thus achieving one of the offensive's primary goals of relieving Bihac. Krajina was cut in two. (The Croatian role in saving Bihac, a UN 'safe area' was probably the reason the US was reluctant to criticize Croatia for launching the operation.)

By the end of the day the Croats had seized 80% of their objectives. Croatia estimated 4-7 more days are needed to complete operations in Krajina.

By Sunday morning, the Serb 21st "Kordun" Corps had been destroyed and the 15th "Lika" and 39th Corps surrounded.

That afternoon, Croatian President Tudjman lead a victory entourage of Croatian military and political VIPs through Knin, where he greeted members of the 4th and 7th Brigades which had captured the city.

Mopping up operations continued throughout the day as the Croats recaptured Glina, Petrinja, Obrovac, Plaski, Licki Osik, Vrhovine, Korenica, Otric, Brvno, Hrvatska Kostajnica and the Plitvice National Park. At 6:00 p.m. the Croatian Ministry of Defense announced that "Krajina no longer exists." With the exception of a Croatian Serb tank company in eastern Krajina, Croatia reported no further resistance.
locked on to them. The aircraft returned safely to their carrier, the USS Theodore Roosevelt, in the Adriatic Sea.

Clinton approved the release of $17 million in DoD funding to support the Rapid Reaction Force.

5 August 95

Bosnian Serb President Karadzic relieved General Mladic and personally assumed supreme command of the Bosnian Serb forces. The demotion of Mladic to Karadzic's "advisor" is obvious punishment for today's loss of Knin. Mladic called the move illegal, saying he would remain commander "as long as the Bosnian Serb people and combatants want me to."

The Croatian offensive was condemned by EU envoy Bildt. He compared Croatian President Tudjman with Croatian Serb President Martic, who has been charged with international war crimes. Croatia sent a formal letter of protest to Bildt, writing that if Croatia did not receive a formal apology, the consequences would be "serious."

6 August 95

Over 150,000 Serb refugees are fleeing the Croatian attack on Krajina. About 80,000 refugees had reached western parts of the Bosnian Serb territory, another 20,000 are traveling along the Sava River valley towards Bijeljina; and roughly 50,000 have sought refuge in Drvar. It is the largest movement of civilians during the four year old conflict.

The Bosnian Serb power struggle continued as 18 generals backed military commander General Mladic's fight against President Karadzic. (The generals signed a declaration of loyalty to Mladic in Banja Luka.) The two internationally wanted war criminals have a history of differences over power and tactics, but rarely has their feud become so public. It was dragged into the open at a session of the Bosnian Serb parliament, which backed Karadzic, saying that the military must yield to civilian control.

Britain began deploying three helicopter squadrons -- two tank destroyers and one transport -- to Ploce, Croatia. They will be used to protect aid convoys UN observers in Bosnia.

7 August 95

In eastern Slavonia -- the only bit of Croatian territory still in Serb hands -- Serbs declared a war alert and exchanged artillery salvos with the Croats.

Yugoslavia began fortifying its defenses along the Croatian border as an armored column headed north from Belgrade. It has also ordered the partial mobilization of specialized and elite units.

Any attempt by Croatia to recapture the oil-rich region could draw the Yugoslav army, controlled by Serbian President Milosevic, into the fighting in Croatia.

Croatia lost 118 soldiers killed and 620 wounded during Operation Storm.

Three peacekeepers were killed, and eight wounded, during the Croatian

Krajina -- the Aftermath

International reaction to the attack was nearly unanimous: The UN Security Council, UN Special Envoy Akashi, the EU, Russia, France, Italy and Spain all condemned the attack. Czech President Havel -- despite the deaths of two of his peacekeepers -- supported the attack. The US merely regretted that Croatia chose to resolve the Krajina issue by military rather than political means. (Thus demonstrating American ignorance of Clausewitz's dictum that war is an extension of politics.)

One of the casualties of Operation Storm was the myth of Serbian military invincibility, effectively embarrassing experts who predicted that only armies in the hundreds of thousands could dislodge them.

The full ramifications for Bosnia of the Croatian conquest are very complex. Once Croatian President Tudjman rides most of his country of Serb rebels, his need to cultivate his alliance with Bosnia's Muslim-led government may decline. In its stead will be the temptation to annex Croat-held territory in Bosnia, a policy the Croatian president has pursued before (as recently as Spring '94).

A Bosnian government official said "there will be two obvious powers in former Yugoslavia - Serbia and Croatia. Western leaders crave stability in the Balkans. If they can achieve that goal working through Tudjman and Milosevic at the expense of Bosnia they'll try to do it, no question."

Those two may agree to a partition of Bosnia by this fall. "Bosnia is landlocked, surrounded by Croats and Serbs. That tells you something about the way this thing could end," said a UN official. "You're going to see an influx of angry, militant Serbs who might think that fighting against the Muslims in Bosnia is their last stand. Krajina Serb soldiers will give the Bosnian Serb army extra manpower, which they desperately need. The civilians will populate villages from which Muslims have been driven, making it harder for the map to be changed by negotiation."
attack on Krajina. The UN lost 65 posts to the Croats, forcing the retreat of 315 peacekeepers. More than 60 peacekeepers (both Czechs and Kenyans) are missing. The Croats used peacekeepers and captured Serbs alike as human shields and mine sweepers.

Serb air strikes hit Nova Gradiska and the petrochemical plant in Kutina, central Croatia. The strikes flew out of Bajna Luka.

Croatian aircraft bombed Croatian Serb refugees near Bravsko.

Croatian Serb refugees looted stores in Bosnian Serb-held Petrovac to protest the lack Bosnian Serb military assistance during the Croatian attack on Krajina.

Several hundred demonstrators in Belgrade protested the loss of Krajina by breaking windows at the German and US embassies before being routed by local police.

8 August 95

Croatian Serbs fleeing Krajina were stopped at Dvor by Croatian tanks. The Croats demanded that the Serbs surrender their weapons before crossing into Bosnia. The Serbs refused, firing at the Croats from among the refugees. The Croats returned fire. Casualties are unknown. Red Cross officials cannot reach the area to estimate casualties because they have been stolen by Croatian soldiers.

Bosnian Serb President Karadzic accused Serbian President Milosevic of being a traitor for turning his back on Krajina.

9 August 95

The Bosnian Serbs have reportedly set up a court martial in Banja Luka to try Croatian Serbs for leaving the Knin and Benkovac battlefields. Twenty soldiers may have already been sentenced.

US Ambassador to Croatia Galbraith, "read the riot act" to Croatian officials, including President Tudjman. Galbraith said that Croatia's failure to protect Croatian Serbs as they fled could affect Croatian/US relations. Earlier in the day, more than 200 Croatian Serbs were stoned and beaten while nearby police did nothing. Galbraith rode on a tractor later in the day with one refugee convoy in solidarity and to let Croatia and the refugees know that the international community is watching.

Thier mission now mute, UNCR will begin withdrawing from most of Croatia in a few days. The only contingent to remain will be in Serb-held eastern Slavonia.

10 August 95

In Topusko, 5,000 Croatian Serb soldiers surrendered to Croatian troops.

Bosnian 5th Corps soldiers killed five elderly and handicapped Croatian Serbs after pulling them from a school in Dvor.

The US said it has photographs of what appears to be a mass grave outside Srebrenica. Eyewitness accounts by Bosnian Muslims have been bolstered by the pictures, from U-2Rs and reconnaissance satellites. One set shows a soccer stadium about five miles north of Srebrenica with hundreds or thousands of Muslim men and boys. Another taken several days later shows an empty stadium and freshly dug earth, consistent with the appearance of other known mass graves. Some 4,000 are unaccounted for in the fall of Srebrenica, and the newly discovered graves could hold hundreds of victims.

In Belgrade, 10,000 people demonstrated in Belgrade's central square in support of the Croatian Serbs, blaming Serb President Milosevic for the loss of Krajina. The crowd, which received blessings from the Serbian Orthodox Church, shouted anti-Milosevic slogans, but no violence was reported.

Bosnia and Turkey signed a military cooperation agreement providing for collaboration in training, technology and medicine. The agreement is similar to other agreements by Turkey with Albania, Macedonia and Bulgaria.

11 August 95

Bosnian and Croatian forces are mobilizing in southern and western Bosnia. The number of troops gathering near Serb-held Donji Vakuf is unknown. The recapture of Donji Vakuf would put the Bosnian army within striking distance of Jajce, just to the north. Croatian forces are also gathering near the Adriatic port of Croat-held Dubrovnik.

Fikret Abdic, the rebel Bosnian Muslim leader, fled into Croatia last week and is now under house arrest in Zagreb. His 30,000 followers are camped on a three mile stretch of road near Kolaric with little food and only river water to drink. Croation is refusing to let aid get through to them; the Dutch branch of Doctors Without Borders sent three trucks of baby food and medical supplies to them...
this week but were blocked by Croatian police. A UNHCR convoy of bread, water and ration was barred by the Croatian Army tonight.

The Bosnian government still has not requested Abdic’s extradition. (Bosnia considers Abdic a traitor, implying that he would face treason charges, and maybe even execution, if handed over by Croatia.)

Clinton vetoed the bill that would nominally have ended the arms embargo against Bosnia.

Croatian Serb refugees arriving in Serb-held Banja Luka, Bosnia, are forcing the remaining Croat and Muslim population out of their homes. Other refugees are being resettled in Kosovo.

12 August 95

The Bosnian army launched an offensive to capture Donji Vakuf, involving thousands of troops.

Bosnian Serb artillery fired on Dubrovnik, damaging the airport. Croatian artillery provided counter-battery fire on Bosnian Serbs in the coastal mountains.

A Serb mortar fired at French positions on Mt. Igman. French artillery retaliated with 15 rounds, silencing the Serb gun.

13 August 95

Over 1000 artillery shells fell near Bugojno, as the Bosnian army continued its offensive to capture Donji Vakuf.

The Bosnian 7th Corps is advancing eastward toward Bosanska Krupa and Prijedor. Other units are moving with Croatian artillery support northward towards Donji Vakuf. The goal of the Bosnian offensive appears to be to improve road transportation links for an attack on Jajce. If Jajce falls, the Bosniaks would position to attack Banja Luka in a pincer movement from Jajce and Prijedor.

The morale of the Serbs is particularly low after a series of crushing defeats, while the mainly Muslim forces include men fighting to retake their homes.

14 August 95

Two Predator UAVs (unmanned aerial vehicles) deployed by the US from Gjader, Albania, for surveillance of Bosnia have crashed recently. One crashed due to engine problems, while the circumstances of the other crash are unknown.

Yugoslavia reshuffled its diplomatic deck as Vladislav Jovanovic was appointed UN Ambassador. Milan Mutavnic was appointed to take Jovanic’s place as Foreign Minister. Mutavnic was ambassador to Greece, a Serb ally.

15 August 95

The Bosnian Serbs continued shelling Dubrovnik from Trebinje. Croatia has reinforced Dubrovnik with 3000 troops. Yugoslav troops are massing at Herceg Novi, Montenegro, just across the border. Trebinje controls the water supply for towns on both sides of the border.

16 August 95

The car of Spanish Foreign Minister Solana was hit by several bullets while traveling from the Sarajevo airport to the city center. It is unknown if the bullets were Muslim or Serbian.

17 August 95

Bosnian Croat troops captured Drvar. The Serbs suffered heavy losses, supposedly including the elite Podrinjska Brigade. The retreating Serbs left behind large quantities of arms and ammunition, including long-range artillery.
Spanish Foreign Minister Solana, chairman of the EU Council of Ministers, reiterated his organization's support for envoy Carl Bildt, its chief negotiator in ex-Yugoslavia. (The Bosnian government refuses to meet with Bildt, saying the peace process is "dead". Croatia declared Bildt persona non grata after he criticized Operation Storm.)

Pristina, Kosovo, is suffering an epidemic of hemorrhagic fever. The tick- and mouse-borne disease has infected up to 79 people.

18 August 95

Over 4,000 Croatian troops, with armor, have now assembled in the Dubrovnik region for an apparent assault on Trebinje. The goal is to take the heights over the medieval town and end the Serb shelling of the region.

Dubrovnik's art treasures are being boarded up for safekeeping.

There has been a major shakeup in the command structure of the Bosnian army, particularly at the corps level, announced President Izetbegovic.

Note: This is very curious. Considering the recent successes of the Bosnian army, the shakeup must be due to political reasons -- perhaps in connection with Izetbegovic's quarrel with Prime Minister Siladzic.

The UN will remove all peacekeepers except for a skeleton force from Gorazde by mid-September. The 90 Ukrainians left today and the British will probably follow. Malaysia (wisely) rejected an request to send 10 men to Gorazde, saying that a tiny force is likely to be taken hostage.

Talks between France and Bosnia on how eight 155 mm guns were to be used concluded. France sent them to improve security on the Mt. Igman road, but until talks ended, they could not be deployed. They should be in place by next week.

19 August 95

The Croatian Army has moved heavy weapons and over 10,000 troops into Dubrovnik, and an attack on Bosnian Serb positions in Trebinje is expected soon.

Three US diplomats were killed while driving on a mountain road to Sarajevo when their vehicle slid down a ravine into a minefield and exploded.

Killed were Special Envoy to the former Yugoslavia Robert C. Frasure, 53; Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for European and NATO Affairs Joseph Kruzel, 50; and Colonel S. Nelson Drew, USAF, an National Security Council aide. The three had spent three days discussing a new peace proposal with the Presidents of Croatia and the Yugoslav Federation, and were headed to a meeting with Bosnian President Izetbegovic.

The group was traveling in French Army APCs on the Mt. Igman road. One French soldier was also killed; five US and French personnel were also wounded.

At the request of the UN, Hungary shut off natural gas pipeline to Sarajevo. The Bosnian government had complained that it had not received any gas through the pipeline since May. Bosnian Serbs, who hold the territory through which the pipeline passes, apparently diverted the gas to their own use.

22 August 95

Bosnian mortar attacks prompted a Serb retaliation which killed 6 and wounded 38 in Sarajevo. The Bosnian army fired 14 mortar rounds, after which the Bosnian Serbs warned that further firing would result in the shelling of Sarajevo. When 12 more rounds were fired, the Serbs fired back. Six of the wounded were Egyptian peacekeepers.

Bosnian Serb President Karadzic floated a two-part "peace offer" to Croatia.

He said that the Croats should evacuate the area around Trebinje in return for a "peace accord." He also suggested that a 1993 text could be implemented, which gave Croatia a tiny bit of the heights overlooking Dubrovnik and from which the Serbs have shelled the medieval town, in exchange for granting the Serbs 30 kilometers of the Prevlaka peninsula down to Popovici. (Prevlaka is Croatian territory with a UN presence, but it controls access to the strategic Bay of Kotor in Montenegro.)

Karadzic warned the Croats that "if Croatia does not accept either proposal, fighting will continue until we have liberated all Serb territory."

23 August 95

A new four-man group was appointed to continue the work of the three diplomats killed near Sarajevo on Saturday. The four are Roberts Owen, currently US representative to the "contact
24 August 95

UN Secretary General Boutros-Ghali said that only two battalions of peacekeepers, and no more than 2,500 personnel, will remain in Croatia. There are 13,000 peacekeepers in Croatia, although the Security Council has ordered it reduced to 8,750 by November 15. The remaining peacekeepers will be stationed in Slavonia, the Yugoslav-occupied portion of Croatia.

Hungary strengthened its defenses along its border with Eastern Slavonia, where Croat-Serb tensions are "visibly mounting," according to a Hungarian border guard. Five border guard units have been brought in from other areas of Hungary to patrol the 66-kilometer section of border.

25 August 95

British peacekeepers began leaving Gorazde. Before the Brits could depart, they had to repel an attack believed to have been made by Bosnian government troops. (Two of the attacking dead were government uniforms, but Serb troops are known to have worn stolen uniforms, particularly those of the UN). There were no British casualties.

Note: If the attack was made by government troops it would be an attempt to prevent the demining of Gorazde's defenses by the UN -- though UN peacekeepers have done little to prevent previous Serb attacks

The Bosnian Serbs said Bosnia used poison gas in a brief mortar attack against Sizje, near Doboj, Bosnia. There have been previous reports of chlorine gas use in the conflict.

26 August 95

In Kasindol, a Sarajevo suburb, a Serb hospital was shelled by Bosnian government artillery. Four patients and two workers were critically injured. The building suffered extensive damage.

The UN hopes today's EU-brokered ceasefire in Eastern Slavonia will allow it to establish a buffer zone between the warring sides. Croatian President Tudjman said he is determined to reunite the last Serb-held territory in his country with the rest of Croatia within months. Croatia
could easily retake the region, but the complication is that an assault on it would formally draw Yugoslavia into the war.

The first group of British peacekeepers to leave Gorazde arrived in Split, Croatia. Another 90 Brits left the town today.

Croatian President Franjo Tudjman, together with his government ministers and 600 guests, took a ten-hour "freedom train" ride from Zagreb to Karlovac, Gospic, Knin and Split. It was the first time in over four years that the key rail route to Dalmatia has been open. Tudjman used the occasion to reiterate his intention of reintegrating eastern Slavonia.

27 August 95

Croatia is still refusing to let UN-sheltered Serbs leave Knin, the former Croatian Serb capital. There are 786 Serbs in the UN compound. Croatia wants to vet the Serbs for war criminals before giving them free passage to Serbia.

Three Yugoslav soldiers shot and killed an ethnic Albanian near Djakovica, Kosovo. The soldiers insulted and beat up the locals before opening fire on them. It was the 11th killing to date of an ethnic Albanian by Yugoslav soldiers or policemen.

29 August 95

In Gorazde, British peacekeepers completed their withdrawal ahead of schedule, leaving behind only two military observers and a political analyst.

Ethnic Turks in Macedonia rejected an attempt by the Ministry of Education and Culture to include Turkish children in Macedonian-language schools. Turkish children have been taught in their native tongue since Macedonia's independence three years ago.'

Note: The same situation was the source of the riot at the Albanian-language university in Tetovo. (See the

17 February item in the March '95 issue of Yugo News.)

An ambush on the Albania-Kosovo border killed one Yugoslav soldier and wounded another. The attack was probably retaliation for yesterday's incident in which three drunken soldiers killed an ethnic Albanian.

30 August 95

Despite today's NATO air strikes, US negotiator Richard Holbrooke went ahead with today's planned meeting with Serbian President Milosevic in Belgrade. The two will discuss American proposals to end the war in ex-Yugoslavia. Yugoslav territory, including Belgrade, was not bombed.

Five Albanian soldiers applied for political asylum in the US. They are in the US for joint US-Albanian military exercises.

Note: The chances are slim the asylum will be granted. The US needs Albania's port facilities for a potential

Operation Deliberate Force

On August 30, the UN and NATO attacked Bosnian Serb targets around Sarajevo in retaliation for Monday's shelling which killed 37 Bosnian civilians.

Sixty NATO aircraft participated in the air strikes which began at just after 2:00 a.m. local time. At 4:00 a.m. RRF artillery on Mt. Igman began firing. The RRF fired more than 600 shells at the Bosnian Serbs. Targets included command and control positions and ammo dumps in Ililjas; an ammunition factory in Vugosca; an ammunition dump in Lukavica; sites around Pale; an air defense radar facility on Mt. Jahorina; sites near Mostar and Gorazde; a communications relay tower in the hills northeast of Tuzla; and an ammunition depot in Hadzici.

European leaders quickly endorsed the attacks which NATO Secretary General Claes ordered after the UN concluded -- beyond any reasonable doubt -- Monday's mortar attack on Sarajevo was launched from Bosnian Serb positions. Claes said NATO's objective is to reduce the threat to the Sarajevo and deter further Serb attacks.

The Bosnian Serbs said the "criminal and unjustified" attacks resulted in a large number of civilian casualties. NATO Southern commander USN Admiral Smith said not a single civilian target was hit.

The Bosnian Serbs retaliated by firing seven rockets at Sarajevo -- some of which landed near a large UN barracks. Despite the retaliation impromptu street parties broke out in the capital, with the besieged Sarajevans jubilant that their tormentors are now themselves being hunted.

Four EU observers were released from Bosnian Serb custody after being reported killed earlier in the day. The UN had taken precautions in advance to get its peacekeepers out of the areas lest they be taken hostage. The only "blue helmets" in exposed positions now are Russians, and it is doubtful that the Serbs will want to anger Moscow, one of their few friends.

One French plane was shot down. It's crew ejected and is evading capture.
action in the Balkans and wouldn't want
to offend the Albanian government. Also,
while not yet a Western-style democracy,
Albania's political system has been
greatly liberalized the last three years.

31 August 95

Bad weather caused a temporary
let-up in Operation Deliberate Force
this morning, after over 300 sorties
against 23 Bosnian Serb targets. Battle
damage assessment (BDA) has not been
released.

During the lull, NATO requested
another "two dozen" US aircraft be
added to those available for air strikes.
NATO resumed its air strikes in the
afternoon.

Search and rescue operations con-
tinued for the two French pilots shot
down yesterday.

1 Sept 95

Operation Deliberate Force con-
tinued for a third day. Over 500 sorties
have been flown against the Bosnian
Serbs.

In Germany's first foreign mili-
tary involvement in 50 years, German
planes flew recon missions over Bosnia.

Clinton called the air strikes "the
right response to savagery." He said that
the Serbs have "everything to lose and
nothing to gain" by continuing the war
and that "NATO is delivering that mes-
gage loud and clear."

NATO air strikes were sus-
pended pending talks between the UN
and the Bosnian Serbs. (RRF artillery on
Mt. Igman continued firing at the
Bosnian Serb Lukavica barracks.)

Lt. General Janvier, the overall
UN commander in ex-Yugoslavia, met
with Bosnian Serb commander General
Mladic. Janvier demanded the Serbs re-
move their artillery from the 20km Sara-
jevo 'exclusion zone'; Mladic demanded
NATO stop the air strikes first. Janvier is
even willing to give the Serbs four days
to do so, Mladic still refused.

2 Sept 95

A shell landed in Sarajevo, injur-
ing seven people. Bosnian Prime Minis-
ter Siladzic said the shelling was the
result of the pause in NATO air strikes
against the Bosnian Serbs. NATO and the
UN are still discussing the results of yest-
erday's UN-Serb meeting

US Assistant Secretary of State
Holbrooke announced a meeting of
Yugoslavia's three warring sides will
take place in Geneva next week. After to-
day's shelling of Sarajevo, Bosnian For-
egin Minister Sacirbey said he might
boycott the talks.

"Bomb them and bomb them some
more until these Chetnik [Serbian] bas-
tards beg for the mercy they never showed
anybody in this war."
Sarajevan after NATO air strikes

Sources
The Economist, USA Today,
InterNet.
Secondary sources include Washington Post,
Izvestiya, New York Times, Frankfurter Allegemeine
Zeitung, Nasa Borba, BBC, AFP, Hina, Reuters, Il
Messaggero, Vjesnik, Bihori, Rilindja Demokratike,
Tanjug, SRNA, AP, VOA, OMRI

Editor
Preston McMurry

---

Balkans Internet Resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Usenet</th>
<th>bit.listserv.bosnet</th>
<th>bit.listserv.croatia</th>
<th>bit.listserv.makedon</th>
<th>soc.culture.bosna-herzgovna</th>
<th>clari.world.europe.balkans</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>soc.culture.croatia</td>
<td>soc.culture.yugoslavia</td>
<td>soc.culture.albania</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gopher</td>
<td>gopher://ums1yma.ums.edu/11/LIBRARY/GOVDOCS/ARMYAHBS/AAABH2</td>
<td>gopher://ums1yma.ums.edu:70/00/LIBRARY/GOVDOCS/CRPT/CRPT0090</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>