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Security Council Rethinks Harsh Anti-Serb Measures
With AM-Yugoslavia, Bjt
By PETER JAMES SPIELMANN=
Associated Press Writer=

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UNITED NATIONS (AP) An hour after the Security Council clamped sanctions on Serbia over the weekend, it received a report maintaining that Belgrade doesn't control the main Serb militia fighting in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The report by U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali and his chief peacekeeper, Marrack Goulding, also said Croatian soldiers are involved in the fighting in Bosnia.

Security Council ambassadors are wondering now whether they were too tough on Serbia.

On Saturday, the council voted 13-0, with China and Zimbabwe abstaining, to clamp an oil embargo, trade sanctions and sports sanctions on Serbia and Montenegro, the republics remaining in Yugoslavia.

A Western diplomat said Wednesday that if council members had seen Boutros-Ghali's report before the vote, the resolution would have barely squeaked through, with perhaps 10 votes. Nine are needed for adoption.

More countries would have abstained, and it is possible that India or Zimbabwe might have voted against it, he said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The report, made public Wednesday, says the key Serb-led militia in Sarajevo, Bosnia's capital, is apparently no longer controlled by Belgrade or the Yugoslav army. The militia is under the command of Lt.-Gen. Ratko Mladic.

"We have now got a serious problem," said Zimbabwe's ambassador, S.S. Mumbengegwi. "The secretary-general has come out with a very clear report that Belgrade is no longer able to control the Serbs in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"So what are the sanctions going to achieve? The whole purpose of the sanctions was to get Belgrade to issue instructions to the Serbs in Bosnia-Herzegovina to stop fighting," he said.

Most ambassadors still blame Serbia and the Bosnian Serb militias for most of the fighting in Bosnia. But they are having second thoughts over the one-sidedness of the sanctions.

"We certainly would have preferred to have had that information before discussing the draft resolution," said French Ambassador Jean-Bernard Merimee. "But the resolution has been voted on. In response we have to stick to it." Alluding to Croatia's role in Bosnia, Merimee said, "If it is proven fact, in the future, that Croatia refuses to abide by what has been requested from all the parties ... at that time the council will perhaps meet again ... to contemplate sanctions against the offender."

The council's president, Belgian Ambassador Paul Noterdaeme, would not comment on whether Croatia might face sanctions. But he rejected the contention that Serbia was not responsible for bloodletting in Bosnia.

"They can not let loose all these elements and all these soldiers and then say they are washing their hands that is not correct," Noterdaeme said.

Council ambassadors questioned the timing of the release of the report, Noterdaeme said. But he said the late distribution was the result of a technical delay.

Serbian reporters at the United Nations were more skeptical,

asserting the delay was a deliberate maneuver to maintain anti-Serb solidarity until after the vote.

Boutros-Ghali is due to issue another report on Yugoslavia by June 15, and several Western diplomats said Croatia will be risking trouble if it has not withdrawn forces from Bosnia by then.

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U.N. Report Says Serbia Losing Control of Bosnian Militia
Eds: LEADS throughout to RECAST, emphasizing control of Serb
fighters; ADDS details of report, quotes. No pickup
With AM-Yugoslavia, Bjt
By PETER JAMES SPIELMANN=
Associated Press Writer=

UNITED NATIONS (AP) Ethnic Serb fighters in Bosnia-Herzegovina are no longer under direct Serbian control and have launched some of the worst violence despite Belgrade's orders for restraint, a U.N. report said Wednesday.

The report, which was not available to the Security Council when it imposed harsh sanctions on Serbia on Saturday, differs from previous assessments that laid much of the blame for the fighting on the Serb-led federal army.

The report, made public Wednesday, also said Croatian soldiers were staging offensives in Bosnia.

It cast doubt on the effectiveness of sanctions imposed on Serbia and its ally Montenegro in an attempt to halt the 3-month-old civil war, which has claimed an estimated 5,700 lives.

Security Councils members did not see the report by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali until an hour after voting 13-0 in favor of an oil embargo and other trade sanctions. China and Zimbabwe abstained.

The Security Council's president, Belgian Ambassador Paul Noterdaeme, blamed the delay on a technical problem, but he declined to elaborate. Some diplomats believe knowledge of the report would have made the sanctions vote closer.

The loss of Serbian control over the irregulars began month ago when the army began discharging soldiers, most of whom have taken their weapons including artillery and joined ethnic Serbian militias, the report said. The main militia is commanded by Lt. Gen. Ratko Mladic.

Boutros-Ghali noted that Serb militias had attacked a Yugoslav Army convoy on May 27 in Sarajevo, the Bosnian capital. He also said shelling that began the next day violated orders from Serbian commanders in Belgrade. At least 20 people were killed.

Federal army units have backed raids by the Serb militias, which claim they are protecting Serbs from reprisals by Muslims and ethnic Croats.

Noterdaeme rejected the notion that the Serbian government is blameless.

"They can always say that they have no control, but we don't admit that," Noterdaeme said. "They have responsibilities. They cannot let loose all these elements and all these soldiers and then say they are washing their hands."

Most ambassadors still blame Serbia and the Bosnian Serb militias for most of the fighting in Bosnia. But they are having second thoughts over the one-sidedness of the sanctions.

"So what are the sanctions going to achieve? The whole purpose of the sanctions was to get Belgrade to issue instructions to the Serbs in Bosnia-Herzegovina to stop fighting," said Zimbabwe's ambassador, S.S. Mumbengegwi.

"We certainly would have preferred to have had that information before discussing the draft resolution," said French Ambassador Jean-Bernard Merimee. "But the resolution has been voted on. In response we have to stick to it."

Merimee said the council could consider sanctions against

Croatia if it does not withdraw forces from Bosnia.

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