

Sum: 7/16/92

# Western Navies Cooperating In Watch on Yugoslav Coast

By Marc Fisher  
Washington Post Foreign Service

BERLIN, July 15—Warships from eight NATO nations, including the United States, will begin patrolling the Yugoslav coast Thursday in the latest Western attempt to weaken the ability of Serbia and the new Yugoslav state it controls to promote aggression in neighboring Bosnia-Herzegovina.

A NATO flotilla of six ships, including the guided missile frigate USS Jack Williams, will be positioned in the southern Adriatic Sea, while a separate monitoring force of similar size assembled by the nine-nation Western European Union will patrol the Strait of Otranto at the mouth of the Adriatic. Both forces will be under Italian command.

A NATO statement said the ships are under orders only to watch for possible violations of the U.N. trade embargo against Serbia and Montenegro—Serbia's subordinate ally in the new Yugoslav union—but not to stop any vessels. Patrol craft crews will not board any ships approaching the coast but will seek to determine their cargo and destination through radio contacts. The patrol fleets will be supported by 10 search helicopters and radar surveillance planes, the statement said.

The two defense alliances agreed to set up the patrols last week in an attempt to restrict the Belgrade government's access to weapons and other war materiel it is believed to be funneling to Serb militia forces that have seized most of Bosnia in a powerful three-month-old offensive. Nearly 8,000 people have been killed in the fighting and 1.5 million left homeless—most of them Slavic Muslims, Bosnia's largest communal group.

Western diplomats said that any move to add interdiction to the patrol plan would have to come from the U.N. Security Council. U.N. authorization also would be required for any expansion of the current international relief effort in Sarajevo, the besieged Bosnian capital, or any other Bosnian city where civilians have been isolated by Serb forces.



BY LARRY FOGEL—THE WASHINGTON POST

Y-U-W

The new pressure against Belgrade comes as another attempt by the European Community to jumpstart long-stalled peace talks among the warring Bosnian factions appeared to be making no headway.

The EC's mediator, Lord Carrington, had little promising to say about the new round of talks, beyond the fact that representatives of Bosnia's Serb, Muslim and Croat communities had assembled in London. Bosnian Foreign Minister Haris Silajdzic, who represents the republic's Muslim-led government, has said already that he will never speak directly to the leader of Bosnia's militant Serb minority, Radovan Karadzic. "What kind of people can slaughter a child?" Silajdzic asked at a news conference in a reference to Serb shelling of civilian areas in Bosnia. There was no immediate response from Karadzic, who has proclaimed an autonomous Serb republic on Bosnian territory seized by militia forces he controls.

In Bosnia tonight, heavy fighting continued north and east of Sarajevo, where tank-backed Serb forces pressed a four-day-old offensive to establish undisputed control of a broad swath of territory stretching from Serb-held regions in neighboring Croatia eastward to Serbia.

Serb forces also stepped up their bombardment of Gorazde, a refugee-packed town 30 miles east of Sarajevo that is the last Muslim stronghold in the area. Gorazde—whose prewar population of 20,000 has more than tripled by refugees fleeing the Serb advance—has been under sporadic attack for weeks, and journalists there say many of its buildings have been reduced to rubble.

Telephone lines to Gorazde have been severed, and the town has been able to communicate with the outside world only through short-wave radio broadcasts. One such broadcast today said: "Gorazde will cease to exist without immediate help from outside."

---

*Special correspondent Laura Silber in Belgrade contributed to this report.*