

COPYRIGHT / USAGE

Material on this site may be quoted or reproduced for **personal and educational purposes** without prior permission, provided appropriate credit is given. Any commercial use of this material is prohibited without prior permission from The Special Collections Department - Langsdale Library, University of Baltimore. Commercial requests for use of the transcript or related documentation must be submitted in writing to the address below.

When crediting the use of portions from this site or materials within that are copyrighted by us please use the citation: *Used with permission of the University of Baltimore.*

If you have any requests or questions regarding the use of the transcript or supporting documents, please contact us:

Langsdale Library
Special Collections Department
1420 Maryland Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21201-5779
<http://archives.ubalt.edu>

REPUBLIC OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
GOVERNMENT / VLADA
PRIME MINISTER / PREDsjedNIK

Statement to the Press by
H.E. Mr. Mile Akmadzic

United Nations, New York
February 10, 1993

Contact: George Rudman
(212) 490-8900 extension 4119

Speaking both as the Prime Minister of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and as a member of the Croat delegation in the peace talks -- I greatly welcome the steps presented by Washington this afternoon.

My government has always supported the Vance/Owen peace process, and now the direct participation of the United States in the peace process will hopefully lead to all three sides accepting the Vance/Owen peace plan, by applying a new degree of pressure on the parties to reach a consensual agreement.

My government especially welcomes the U.S. decision to take new steps on the humanitarian side: accelerated delivery of aid and formation of the war crimes tribunal.

I can not emphasize enough how grave the humanitarian situation is in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The international community must take all necessary measures, in accordance with Security Council resolution 770 (1992), to deliver aid to all parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and especially eastern Bosnia.

It is imperative that this new initiative by Washington takes effect immediately -- we have no time to lose.

###

REPUBLIC OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

GOVERNMENT / VLADA
PRIME MINISTER / PREDsjedNIK

PRESS RELEASE: February 8, 1993
Contact: Jure Rudman (212) 490-8900 extension 4119

Mile Akmadzic, Prime Minister of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, met today with Dr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Secretary General of the United Nations. Cyrus R. Vance and Lord David Owen, Co-Chairmen of the Geneva Conference, also attended the meeting.

Mr. Akmadzic stated that he had been in New York since Thursday and engaged in many successful talks. He had met with eleven of the fifteen Security Council members, as well as with seven representatives of the Contact Group of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

Mr. Akmadzic stated that a solution to the tragic situation required the mediation of the international community. The Government of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in its November program, sought a peaceful settlement through negotiations and gave full confidence to the Co-Chairmen of the Geneva Conference. Only after exhausting all means to achieve a political solution, would new military measures have to be considered. These decisions were by consensus. He stated that even if new military measure became necessary, all peoples must still recognize the need for all of the parties to sit down and negotiate to find a political solution.

Mr. Akmadzic also told the Secretary General that the Presidency of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina is now rejecting this program even though it also accepted it by consensus. The Government decided that six people -- two Muslims, two Croats and two Serbs -- should represent the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina with respect to foreign relations. For an internal settlement, the Government has decided to negotiate among three nations. As these negotiations have not succeeded, we need outside help, he stated.

The situation of refugees is an increasing problem for everyone, especially Croatia, and one of the main reasons why peace is needed. Mr. Akmadzic noted that Croatia has played a major role in helping refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In his capacity as a member of the Croatian delegation from the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr. Akmadzic stated that the Croats have accepted the Vance-Owen plan as a painful compromise that all three parties should accept and as the only realistic hope for ending the bloodshed. After one year of talks, Serbs have accepted Bosnia and Herzegovina as a sovereign state and Muslims have accepted the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina as having three constituent peoples.

The Vance-Owen proposal has gained support because it presents a just solution to a highly complex problem, because there is no alternative, and because military victory is not possible for any group, Mr. Akmadzic said.

Cyrus R. Vance noted that Mr. Akmadzic had been cooperative and diligent in finding a solution. Lord David Owen stated that the Croats had been very helpful in the latest rounds of talks in New York.

###

REPUBLIC OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

CROAT DELEGATION

Helmsley Hotel / Room 4119 / New York / (212) 490-8900

1. **No single position** of the government on the current stage of the Vance/Owen Plan. This is an **internal** question: so three negotiating parties have own views. The government does however support the Vance/Owen peace **process**.
2. Vance/Owen Plan gives a **middle ground** between two extreme positions. **Serbs want** the three nations to have three separate states, i.e., **disintegration** of Bosnia-Herzegovina. **Muslims want** one un-national state with strong **centralization**. Vance/Owen plan proposes a **compromise**: one state, **decentralized**, and made up of three nations.
3. U.S. participation is **good because** it will apply a **new degree of pressure** on the three parties to reach a consensual agreement.
4. Vance/Owen Plan is a **painful compromise** for all sides, especially for the victims, but a compromise that all three parties should accept as the **only realistic hope** for ending the bloodshed.
5. The three parties have been negotiating for nearly a year, and there is no need for a new plan, we must **build and improve on** this plan.
6. The best way that this plan can be improved is by **specific commitment** for implementation and enforcement, by international actors like the U.S.
7. Those who **oppose** this plan are obligated to propose a better plan, which the Croats will gladly consider.
8. **Regardless of how provincial lines are drawn**, i.e., the country is decentralized, each province will have one group in larger numbers than another group.
9. For Croats, provincial boundaries are only a vehicle for **decentralization of power**, and will become meaningless because **Croats are committed** to tolerance and co-existence that has prevailed in Bosnia-Herzegovina for centuries.
10. Provinces were delineated on five criteria:
 1. Economic
 2. Geographic (Topography & River flow)
 3. Historic & Cultural
 4. Ethnic
 5. Infrastructure (Traffic & Communication)

REPUBLIC OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

CROAT DELEGATION

Helmsley Hotel / Room 4119 / New York / (212) 490-8900

Statement by
Mr. Mate Boban
Head of the Croatian Delegation
and
H. E. Mr. Mile Akmandzic
Prime Minister

United Nations
New York
February 5, 1993

We met yesterday with Mr. Vance and Lord Owen and also with the President of the Security Council. Today we are meeting with other members of the Security Council, and we will continue those meetings on Monday.

We gave full support to the peace plan proposed by Mr. Vance and Lord Owen. We told them that this is certainly not the best plan for any of the three parties, but it is a painful compromise that all three parties should accept. We also told them that those who oppose this plan are obligated to propose a better plan, which we would gladly consider. However, if those who oppose this plan do not offer a better plan, they should bear responsibility for prolonging the conflict in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

We believe that this plan is the only realistic hope for ending the bloodshed. We have been negotiating for nearly a year, and there is no need for a new conference or a new plan. What is needed now is implementation and enforcement of this plan, by international force if necessary, and that is where actors like the United States can and should play a decisive role.

Bosnia and Herzegovina has always been, and will continue to be, a state of three peoples: Croats, Muslims and Serbs. When we look at the plan proposed by Mr. Vance and Lord Owen, we should not give too much emphasis to the delineation of provinces. Regardless of how the lines are drawn, each province will undoubtedly have one group in larger numbers than another group. For the Croatian delegation, the provincial boundaries are only a vehicle for the decentralization of power, and are in no way a vehicle to divide peoples. The Croatian delegation believes that the provincial boundaries will become meaningless because the Croatian people are committed to living with Serbs and Muslims in one state.

We must remember that Croats are also members of the Government of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Therefore, we ought not to make the mistake of accepting only one group's view of the Vance-Owen peace plan as the position of the Government of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina
Permanent Mission to the United Nations
New York

H.E. Mr. Mile Akmadzic
(Mee-leh Ahk-mah-jitch)
Prime Minister

B I O G R A P H Y

Prior to assuming his current position in November 1992, Mr. Akmadzic was chief of staff in the Presidency of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina since early 1991. In 1990 he became an adviser and general secretary in the cabinet of president Alija Izetbegovic (Ali-ya Ih-zet-beg-o-vitch), a post which he also held until his current appointment.

Mr. Akmadzic has served in the Presidency since 1978, in various positions, with emphasis on international relations and policy. During the period 1964-78, he was a director at Energoinvest, a Sarajevo conglomerate, where he managed the international relations division.

During 1982-84, Mr. Akmadzic was also the secretary of the Commission for International Affairs and Protocol of the Organizational Committee of XIV Winter Olympic Games in Sarajevo. For many years he has worked as a volunteer with a number of sports institutions. Mr. Akmadzic is a recipient of several international awards in the field of sports, including the Yugoslav Order of Labor, Order of Service of the Republic of Italy, and the Order of Service of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Mr. Akmadzic is also vice-president of the Croatian Democratic Union of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and a member of the Croat delegation in the talks regarding the internal political settlement in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Mr. Akmadzic has widespread support from Croats, Muslims and Serbs alike in Bosnia and Herzegovina. His professional association with president Izetbegovic and his lifelong friendship with Aleksa Buha (Boo-ha), member of Mr. Karadzic's Serb delegation in the peace talks, will provide exceptional insight into the complexities that make up the Vance/Owen peace plan.

Mr. Akmadzic lives in Sarajevo with his wife Mijana (mee-yah-nah), a dentist, and two children, Ornela and Hrvoje, both university students. He was born in Grude, Herzegovina in 1939 and received his B.S. in philosophy in 1965 from the University of Sarajevo. He speaks English and German. 02/11/93