

U.N. Security Council Enlarges Bosnia Force

Members Fail to Agree on Imposition of a 'No-Fly Zone' to Prevent Serb Air Attacks

By John M. Goshko
Washington Post Staff Writer

UNITED NATIONS, Sept. 14—The Security Council agreed tonight to commit an additional force of up to 7,500 U.N. troops to the humanitarian relief operation in war-ravaged Bosnia, but it failed to agree on creating a "no-fly zone" over the republic to prevent Serb air attacks on embattled Bosnian government forces.

The 15-nation council adopted the recommendation of Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali that the current force of 1,500 U.N. troops in the former Yugoslav republic be increased "four or five" times. The action was supported by 12 members, while China, India and Zimbabwe abstained because they objected to language in the resolution that they said might set a precedent for interference in the internal affairs of other countries.

The augmented force is intended to strengthen U.N. efforts to escort convoys carrying relief supplies to Sarajevo and other government-held Bosnian cities that have come under siege by powerful Serb nationalist forces. They also will allow the U.N. operation in Bosnia to provide more effective control over convoys of civilians being released from detention camps as part of prisoner-exchange agreements among the republic's warring Serbs, Croats and Slavic Muslim-led central government.

Britain, France and Canada are expected to contribute up to 5,100 troops to the new force, with the rest coming from other European countries. Unlike most U.N. military operations, the additional troops would be paid for by the con-

tributor countries and other member states on a voluntary basis.

The resolution noted the importance of a ban on military flights over Bosnia that was agreed to at an international conference on the Balkans in London last month, but there was no decision on how to curb Serb air attacks on opposing factions in the five-month-old Bosnia war.

Most of the Serb aircraft involved are based at Banja Luka, the largest Serb-held city in Bosnia, but it is not clear if they are being piloted by Bosnian Serbs who formerly served in the Yugoslav air force or if the planes are still under the command of the Yugoslav military. Officials of the new Serb-controlled Yugoslav state have declared repeatedly that no arm of their military establishment is currently involved in the Bosnian fighting.

Defense Secretary Richard B. Cheney, speaking in Detroit, confirmed that the United States is considering taking part in creation of a "no-fly zone" over Bosnia, saying: "I would expect we would participate were a [U.N.] decision made to proceed."

"It's something that's being discussed among our allies," he said, adding: "I'm going to be in Paris and London later this week, and it's a subject that I'll discuss with my counterparts."

Cheney's remarks contradicted a statement here by U.S. Ambassador Edward Perkins that "a 'no-fly zone' is just an idea somebody floated. I don't think it has any currency at the moment."

Other U.S. officials in Washington said the United States is pushing its allies to consider what one official called "an action-oriented approach" to stop Serb aircraft from providing support for Serb ground forces in Bosnia. Last

week, the United States also charged that Serb-piloted planes have been shadowing Western relief flights flying to and from Sarajevo to protect themselves from Muslim anti-aircraft gunners.

But U.S. officials said that Washington so far has been unable to persuade other countries—particularly the European nations that would contribute more ground troops to the U.N. humanitarian aid force—to go along with the idea of a "no-fly zone."

U.N. sources said that Britain, in particular, wants any U.N. pronouncements about blocking military flights over Bosnia to be couched in terms of exhortation rather than warning. The British reportedly are opposed to the kind of punitive action, possibly involving the shooting down of planes, that the United States and its allies have threatened against Iraqi air force planes that violate the "no-fly zones" decreed over northern and southern Iraq.

Last Saturday, a meeting in Britain of the 12-nation European Community called for monitoring of flights over Bosnia to be conducted from the ground. However, the sources said, the United States believes that this is insufficient to enforce the ban agreed to at the London peace conference.

U.S. officials said they also were puzzled by the position of France, which originally proposed the idea of a flight ban that would be enforced by Western planes. However, the officials noted, the French supported the EC decision to limit operations to ground monitoring.

Staff writer Barton Gellman in Detroit contributed to this story.

Serb Leader Lied About Artillery Supervision, U.N. Official Says

SARAJEVO, From A11

aircraft—apparently operating from the Serb-controlled Bosnian

vent them from using important roads for logistical purposes."

The shelling and stepped-up ground combat also seemed to jeop-

Former U.S. secretary of state Cyrus Vance and former British foreign secretary David Owen, co-chairmen of the talks, traveled to

seem to have stalled the proposal, at least for now.

But even if they are denied air power, the Serbs still possess a formidable array of artillery and other

AROUND THE

First U.N. Troops Land In Somalia

MOGADISHU, Somalia—The first of 500 armed U.N. soldiers arrived in this devastated capital yesterday to help prevent looting of food meant for up to 2 million starving Somalis.

U.S. military C-130 cargo planes flew an initial 63 Pakistani soldiers to the city, according to the U.S. Embassy in neighboring Kenya. Pakistani Brig. Gen. Imtiaz Shaheen, commander of the U.N. forces in Somalia, said his troops—armed with light weapons, tear gas and rubber bullets—would camp at the airport until the arrival of the full contingent. He said it would likely be October before the force begins to guard relief convoys and warehouses.

Badly needed American sorghum—about 10,000 tons of it—has been sitting in a dockside warehouse for two weeks because a clan dispute has prevented its distribution. A Turkish cargo ship carrying 6,500 tons of rice, beans and oil docked Sunday after standing offshore for 10 days because of instability at the port.

About 1,000 people marched past the U.N. compound in southern Mogadishu on Sunday carrying placards denouncing armed intervention, but urging more food aid.

ANC, Pretoria Start Talks

■ CAPE TOWN, South Africa