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Associated Press

Serbian soldiers peered toward Croatian positions yesterday in the northern mountains near Ozren.

# Bosnia, in Arms Plea to U.N., Says Sarajevo May Fall Soon

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NWT

By JOHN F. BURNS  
Special to The New York Times

SARAJEVO, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sept. 28 — The Bosnian Government has sent an urgent appeal to the United Nations Security Council warning that Sarajevo is in "imminent danger" of falling to besieging Serbian nationalist troops unless Bosnian forces are exempted from a United Nations arms embargo.

The appeal said that Serbian military moves, including an increase in tank strength in Grbavica, an area of the city that is barely a mile from key government installations like the presidency, indicated that Sarajevo was facing "what is likely to be the final assault."

"If our fears are realized, we are unlikely to survive this latest onslaught on the city," the Government's letter said.

The appeal, dated on Saturday, came in a letter addressed to the Security Council by Ejup Ganic, a Vice President who is in charge of the Government in the absence of President Alija Izetbegovic. Mr. Izetbegovic is on a foreign tour intended to foster support for his beleaguered Government, which has been hanging onto its control of Sarajevo under a six-month siege by the Serbian forces.

The appeal for a lifting of the arms embargo, imposed on all the republics of the former Yugoslavia before the outbreak of the war in Croatia last year, was a renewal of a plea that was made insistently throughout the summer. Mr. Izetbegovic put the appeal to President Bush at a meeting in Helsinki, Finland, in July, but United States

officials said at the time that Washington was opposed to any step that would have the effect of intensifying the fighting here.

The Bosnian position has been that the arms embargo penalizes only the Sarajevo Government, since the Serbian forces are fighting with the backing of the well-equipped Yugoslav Army and have a lopsided advantage in artillery pieces and other heavy weapons.

### The Quiet Is Ominous

The area was quiet, rarely a good sign in Sarajevo, and as the jeep pulled up it became clear why. Artillery shells began whistling overhead, apparently fired from Serbian positions in Nedzarici, a mile away. Some of the explosions were not more than 100 yards from the jeep, but running for the safety of a bunker near the United Nations building was made hazardous by intermittent sniper fire. When the guns fell silent and it was relatively safe to move, Mr. Dzirlo and his son left the area.

The road home took him past the home of a friend, Nenad Matic. Mr. Matic, delighted as many in Sarajevo are to discover that friends are still alive, offered glasses of brandy and lemonade.

"You've survived," he said, laughing and embracing Mr. Dzirlo. After a half-second's pause, he remembered something equally joyful.

"And I've survived, too," he said.

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