

Capitulating, Bosnia Backs Plan to Create Safe Areas

By CHUCK SUDETTIC
Special to The New York Times

SARAJEVO, Bosnia and Herzegovina, June 7 — The Bosnian Government announced today that it would cooperate in carrying out a Security Council resolution calling for the deployment of thousands of United Nations military forces to protect six regions it has designated as safe areas for Muslims.

The decision, made on Sunday, came despite sharp local criticism of the resolution, which many people here regard as capitulation by the West to nationalist Serbs who have seized 70 percent of Bosnia and as a move toward the creation of reservations for uprooted Muslims.

"As far as the public opinion goes, it would have been easier to reject the plan," said one Government official, who did not want to be named. "We would have gotten three days of applause, and then we would have had to decide what to do next."

No Other Choice

In diplomatic language the Government made clear that it had decided to back the resolution to designate safe areas because, with the Serbs attacking Muslim enclaves and with Croats seeking to carve out a section of Bosnia, it had no other choice.

"Having in mind Srebrenica, Zepa and Gorazde and facing the risk of rapid deterioration of the situation, the Presidency and Government have decided to cooperate," an official statement said, listing Muslim enclaves that have been surrounded.

A Security Council resolution provides for stationing thousands of international military forces in the so-called safe areas: Srebrenica, Zepa, Gorazde, Sarajevo, Bihać and Tuzla.

In its statement, the Bosnian Government requested that the United Nations mark out the safe areas in a way that would guarantee them economic viability; connect the areas with unoccupied parts of Bosnia by land corridors patrolled by United Nations police, and insure the removal and dismantling of heavy weaponry.

"These are all items that are provided for in the Vance-Owen plan," said the Bosnian Government official, referring to the international peace plan that would formally maintain Bosnia as an independent country. "We



Two women wounded during shelling over the past three days rested in a hospital in Travnik, Bosnia and Herzegovina. A cease-fire was reached after three days of violence between Croatian and Muslim forces.

are making no new demands."

The Bosnian Serbs have defied international pressure and rejected the plan because it would require them to abandon at least a third of the land they have conquered and would frustrate their ambition to merge with Serbia.

Monitors, and a Commitment

The Bosnian Government's statement also called on the United Nations to place monitors on Bosnia's borders and to pass a new resolution explicitly backing the Vance-Owen plan. United Nations and Western government officials insist the resolution for safe areas is only an interim step toward carrying

out the plan.

The Bosnia Government official continued: "It is essential that the United Nations take a decision to put monitors on the borders and bring a separate resolution endorsing Vance-Owen. If they want to say they support the plan, let them say it in a resolution. We don't want the safe areas to be cut off from the economic assets that made them viable communities. We don't want the people in them to live only on humanitarian assistance."

"What does it mean to be in a safe area if there is no water, no food, and no future?" the official asked.

"We want the people in the safe areas to be able to come and go, and we want the communications corridors to be patrolled by United Nations police. Commercial goods must also be able to move. As for the heavy Serbian guns around the declared safe areas, we want them put out of commission, not stored for future use or taken off to bomb Olovo."

Renewed Attacks

A town in central Bosnia, Olovo came under renewed Serbian shelling attacks today, as did Maglaj, Gradacac and Gorazde. The commanders of the Serbian forces attacking the Gorazde "safe area" have refused for days to allow United Nations military monitors to enter it.

Four days of clashes between Croatian militias and Bosnian Government forces near the central Bosnian town of Travnik claimed hundreds of lives, a United Nations military officer said today. The forces of the Muslim-led Bosnian Army drove the Croats from Travnik in weekend fighting and forced about 3,000 civilians from their homes in the area today.

The mostly Muslim town would have become a part of a Croatian-controlled province under the proposed peace plan, and Croatian militia members in the area had attempted to force the Bosnian army to come under its command.

Another Safe-Zone Proposal

The Bosnian government official said the Bosnian Government had considered requesting that the resolution for safe areas be extended to cover the city of Mostar, in which the main Bosnian Croat militia forced thousands of Muslims from a part of the town they

consider Croatian.

"We still think we can talk with the Croats," the official said. "If we sought Mostar as a safe zone, it would have cut off this communication, and Vance-Owen would go right down the drain. Once again we are appealing for the United Nations to lift the arms embargo against Bosnia and Herzegovina."

A United Nations arms embargo imposed on the former Yugoslavia's six republics in September 1991 gave a huge firepower superiority to the Bosnian Serbs, who were armed by Serbian-dominated army of Yugoslavia.

"They can put our weaponry under their supervision, but we must be given the right to defend ourselves," the official said. "The aggressor must know that we can defend ourselves. It means creating a balance that will bring the Serbs to think about peace seriously."

Balkan Update

In SARAJEVO yesterday, the Bosnian Government announced its support for a United Nations plan that would deploy thousands of peacekeepers to protect six towns in BOSNIA that have been designated safe areas by the Security Council. The Muslim-led Government emphasized, however, that the decision was made because it saw no other choice. Officials said that Serbian forces were continuing to attack Muslim enclaves and that Croatian forces were continuing to make efforts in seeking their own territory in Bosnia. In TRAVNIK, a United Nations military officer said, hundreds of people have been reported killed in four days of clashes between Croatian militias and Bosnian Government troops. The Government troops are reported to have driven the Croats from Travnik in fighting over the weekend and forced about 3,000 civilians to flee.

In TAIPEI, the Government in TAIPEI said it had detained a Yugoslav-owned cargo ship in accordance with the United Nations embargo against Yugoslavia. Officials at the southern harbor of KAOSHIUNG detained the ship, the 13,607-ton Malta-registered Brisa, on Sunday, at the request of Taiwan's Foreign Ministry, a spokesman said. The ship, carrying about 20 Yugoslav crew members, was bound for JAKARTA with cargo containers it had picked up in JAPAN and Taiwan, a spokesman for the ship's Taiwan agent said.

In WASHINGTON, Senator Carl Levin, Democrat of Michigan, said trucks were streaming across the MACEDONIA-SERBIA border and called for the deployment of NATO forces to enforce sanctions against Serbia. Mr. Levin, a member of the Armed Services Committee, showed photographs of lines of trucks traveling each way across the border. He said both United Nations officials and United States Customs officials acknowledged that the embargo was not working.



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Serbs Attack Two of U.N.'s 'Safe Areas' in Bosnia

By CHUCK SUDETIC

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SARAJEVO, Bosnia and Herzegovina, June 6 — Bosnian Serb forces reportedly kept up their offensive against the United Nations-designated 'safe area' of Gorazde today and shelled another safe area, Srebrenica, defying a new United Nations Security Council resolution providing for troops to protect the six Bosnian Muslim areas.

Bosnian Serb commanders denied a five-member team of United Nations military observers access again today to Gorazde, where a year of fighting has trapped some 60,000 Muslims, said Comdr. Barry Frewer, spokesman for

the United Nations force here.

Amateur radio reports from Gorazde said the Serbian assault there continued for the 11th day. Four people were killed and 20 wounded in the Serbian shelling attacks today, the radio reports said.

"They're also trying to penetrate the pocket with their infantry," Mustafa Kurtovic, a spokesman for the Gorazde's authorities, said by ham radio.

The Sarajevo radio reported that the Bosnian Serbs had shelled an area outside the demilitarized zone of the eastern Bosnian enclave of Srebrenica on Saturday night as well as this morning. The area hit encompasses the town of

Srebrenica, the report said. United Nations officials here could not confirm the attack.

Attacks were also reported in the towns of Brcko, Maglaj, Olovo and Tesanj.

The Serbs have used weapons provided by the Yugoslav Army to seize 70 percent of Bosnia and to force Muslims to leave huge swaths of land since starting the war 14 months ago.

Bosnia's Government has yet to announce a decision on whether it will cooperate with the United Nations resolution to deploy at least 5,000 more United Nations troops in the six safe areas: Gorazde, Srebrenica, Sarajevo,

Bihac, Tuzla and Zepa.

Commander Frewer said the current 8,000 United Nations troops in Bosnia could not be used to enter the Gorazde pocket forcibly. "Unless both sides are willing to cooperate with the United Nations forces, it is going to be difficult to set in place," he said, referring to the United Nations Security Council action. The Security Council's resolution provides for the placement of the United Nations forces in the safe areas but appears to limit their mandate to self-defense and not to protection of the areas themselves.

Bosnia's Government criticized the plan when it was announced two weeks ago, calling it a sellout to the Serbs and a prescription for the creation of uninhabitable "reservations" for poorly armed Muslims forced to leave their homes by Serbian gunmen.

Speaking off the record, however, Bosnian officials have said that unless a United Nations arms embargo against Bosnia is lifted, the Government has no real choice but to accept the safe-area plan. They say Bosnia lacks the weapons and other resources to continue the war indefinitely and is afraid of being left alone to deal with the Serbs and Croats, who appear to be waiting to divide the republic.

New clashes between Croatian militia members and the Bosnian Army, which is largely Muslim, were reported today in the predominantly Muslim town of Travnik. The Sarajevo radio reported that two Bosnian military police officers had been killed and eight wounded in the Travnik fighting. Sniper fire also reportedly wounded several civilians, and Croatian artillery guns pounded Bosnian-held areas of the city.

The Croatian radio said Muslim forces around Travnik had attacked Croatian villages and sent people fleeing for their lives. It said that both Muslims and Serbs had shelled Croatian-held areas near Travnik.

In Belgrade today, Serbia's main opposition party, the Serbian Renewal Movement, began campaigning for the release of its leader, Vuk Draskovic, who was arrested and repeatedly beaten by the Serbian police after unrest on the Serbian capital's streets on Tuesday. Mr. Draskovic was charged on Saturday with trying to overthrow the constitutional order of the state.

United Nations relief flights to Sarajevo resumed today after a four-day suspension called after a United States transport plane was hit by machine-gun fire and another plane was targeted by a ground-based radar system.