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OUTGOING FAX NO:	DATE: 2 July 1995
TO: PHILLIP CORWIN DSRSG/CAC BHC, SARAJEVO	FROM: DAVID HARLAND CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTOR SARAJEVO
FAX NO:	PHONE: 460-556 (VSAT 5605) FAX: 472-609 (VSAT 5656)
ATT:	DRAFTER: DAVID HARLAND SCVAO
INFORMATION COPIES: <u>UNPF HQ ZAGREB</u> : OSRSG; HCA (cc BH DESK), DI, COS, HAAU, UNHCR; <u>GORNJI VAKUF</u> : JAY CARTER, SCVAO, SECTOR SOUTHWEST; <u>TUZLA</u> : KEN BISER, SCVAO, SECTOR NORTHEAST; <u>CORALICI</u> : IVAN BETTYAR, CVAO, CORALICI, BIHAC AREA COMMAND; <u>UNPROFOR HQ SARAJEVO</u> : COMMANDER UNPROFOR, COS, G1-5, PINFO, SPECIAL COORDINATOR FOR SARAJEVO, UNHCR, ICRC; <u>INTERNAL DISTRIBUTION</u> : SECTOR COMMANDER, DEPUTY COMMANDERS, CQS, DCOS, G1-G5, UNHCR.	
SUBJECT: SECTOR SARAJEVO: WEEKLY SITUATION REPORT	

HIGHLIGHTS

- * The Bosnian offensive around Sarajevo sputters on, though without any conspicuous success. Ground taken by the Bosnians seems to have been retaken by the Serbs. The Serbs have resumed a more-or-less indiscriminate bombardment of the city; snipers are active; civilian casualties are high.
- * The Serbs have been targetting UNPROFOR forces around Sarajevo. UNPROFOR has retaliated with 120 mm mortars for the first time.
- * The Serbs have bombarded the UNPROFOR base in Zepa, and have said that they will continue until UNPROFOR leaves the pocket.
- * UNPROFOR relations with the Bosnian government are deteriorating; freedom of movement is restricted.
- * For the first time, UNHCR has brought a convoy of humanitarian aid into the city over Mt Igman. The Serbs were not consulted, and the convoy moved under cover of darkness.

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Bosnian offensive around Sarajevo limps along, without any obvious result R0024214

Two weeks after it began, the Bosnian offensive around Sarajevo appears to have achieved very little.

Early in the week Serb forces counter-attacked in the Cemerska heights to north of the city and on the eastern slopes of Mt Igman to the south of the city. In both areas the Serbs seem to have pushed the Bosnians back from vital roads. On Wednesday (28 June), the Bosnians attempted another attack out of the city. The main attack came from the western part of the town, and was focused on the Serb-held area of Nedarici. The nearby areas of Stup and Rajlovac were also attacked. The operation seems to have failed, and the Serbs may even have succeeded in pushing the Bosnians back in Stup.

The Bosnian media -- which had been boasting of 'newly liberated territories' -- is now talking of the army's 'heroic defense' of the city.

Both sides seem to see the unfolding battle around Sarajevo as a critical moment in the war. Serb officials told Civil Affairs during the week that they believe the outcome of this battle will decide the outcome of the war. They seem reasonably confident that they will contain the Bosnian offensive, and have even said that they will launch punitive counter-attacks against the urban area.

More fighting is expected.

Shelling of the city; active snipers; civilian casualties

The Serbs have responded to the Bosnian offensive by resuming a fairly indiscriminate bombardment of the downtown area, and by increasing sniper activity.

The Ministry of Health reported that almost 40 Bosnian civilians were killed during the week, and over 100 injured. These figures have not been confirmed by UNMOs, as the Bosnian authorities no longer allow UNMOs free access to the hospitals.

On Thursday (29 June), improvised rockets were fired at the Alipasno area. One struck the RTV building -- home to much of the international press corps -- killing one person and injuring more than 30 others, including several foreign correspondents. The same day, four people were killed when a similar weapon hit a nearby apartment building, destroying apartments on three floors. UNPROFOR condemned the use of what it called "highly inaccurate, indiscriminate, highly destructive weapons of terror."

Sniper activity has spread to a number of areas usually considered reasonably safe. On Sunday (25 June), a 16-year-old boy was killed while riding his bicycle on Tito Street, near UNPROFOR headquarters. Later in the week, sniping spread to the Old Town in the east, and to the west. As with the shelling, many of the victims seem to have been hit while collecting water.

**UNPROFOR targetted by Serb gunners, particularly on Igman;
UNPROFOR retaliates**

Serb attacks on UNPROFOR have significantly increased in the past week.

At about 10 o'clock on Thursday evening (29 June), Serb gunners fired three shells at Sarajevo's PTT building, the headquarters of UNPROFOR's Sector Sarajevo. UNPROFOR assessed this as direct targetting. Serb attacks on UNPROFOR also increased in other areas of the city. A Serb mortar destroyed an UNPROFOR vehicle in the northern part of the city on Monday (26 June), and there were numerous other incidents.

The most serious attacks occurred on the Igman road. There were over 30 separate attacks on UNPROFOR and UNHCR vehicles using the road during the week. International vehicles were hit on five separate occasions. Most of the attacks were made with 30 mm cannons. 12.7 mm machine guns, heavy calibre cannons and mortars were also used.

Four times during the week (twice on Monday 25 June, once on Tuesday 26 June, and once on Sunday 2 July) UNPROFOR retaliated with the 120 mm mortars it has placed on Mt Igman. In the first three cases, UNPROFOR used only smoke rounds, as a warning. This caused the firing to stop for a while. In the fourth incident, however, a smoke round was followed by two combat rounds. The last incident occurred at 8:30 this morning when a French rotation convoy was engaged by a 30 mm cannon. Following the incident, Sector Sarajevo went to Orange Alert.

Location of Bosnian weapons a problem

Since the Bosnian offensive began two weeks ago, the number of Bosnian heavy weapons operating from near UNPROFOR facilities has significantly increased.

Some people in UNPROFOR see this as an effort by the Bosnians to draw counter-battery fire onto UNPROFOR -- which would then be drawn into conflict with the Serbs. Others note that there has been a general increase in the number of active weapons, and that the density of heavy weapons is not greater around UNPROFOR facilities than it is elsewhere.

Either way, there has been an increase in the number of Serb shells hitting UNPROFOR targets. The Sector does not consider this to be wayward counter-battery fire from the Serbs, but direct targetting.

Ultimatum in Zepa

The Serbs have been bombarding the UNPROFOR facilities in the Zepa enclave.

On Tuesday (27 June), most of the UNPROFOR observation posts around the perimeter of Zepa were targetted by Serb mortars, as was the company base in the middle of the pocket. On Friday (30 June), the bombardment resumed, with the company base taking three direct impacts. A Ukrainian APC was destroyed and there was other damage to the compound, but there were no UNPROFOR casualties.

The commander of the Ukrainian company was told by the local Serb commander that the attacks would continue until UNPROFOR agreed to leave the pocket altogether. The harassment of UNPROFOR may be a prelude to a general assault on the enclave.

UNPROFOR relations with the Bosnian government deteriorating

UNPROFOR's relations with the Bosnian government seem to be getting worse.

The Bosnians claim that UNPROFOR is doing nothing to help Bosnia or to implement its mandate; that UNPROFOR is trying to ensure that the Reserve Force is ineffectual; and that UNPROFOR is doing nothing to retrieve the large amount of (principally French) military equipment still held by the Serbs, and being used by the Serbs to attack the Bosnians.

The situation seems to have got worse following a number of statements from senior Bosnian politicians. On Monday (26 June), Prime Minister Silajdzic stated that "the United Nations Organization is an accomplice in this genocide against Bosnia and its people, because it does not protect Bosnia." On Tuesday (27 June), Foreign Minister Sacirbegovic stated that UNPROFOR's presence "is no longer in the interests of [Bosnia's] civilians or government, but the interests of certain Western powers ... We do have a choice, which is clearly to tell the international community that we no longer consent to the presence of UNPROFOR in our country." In a letter to the Security Council, dated Wednesday (28 June), he implied that consent might be withdrawn if UNPROFOR, and the Reserve Force, did not become more vigorous in the prosecution of the UN mandate. On Thursday (29 June), Minister Muratovic stated that the Bosnian government wanted no

more dealings with SRSG Akashi, "who is dead for us." And on Friday (30 June), the mayor of the Sarajevo hinted at retaliation against UNPROFOR if it did nothing to help the city.

UNPROFOR's freedom of movement is blocked, not so much in the city itself, as on the routes in Sector Southwest that lead to the Igman road. This has the effect of delaying convoys over Mt Igman by up to a day, and sometimes more. Inside the city, UNPROFOR no longer has access to hospitals, or to other locations of special interest.

UNPROFOR resupply problems

UNPROFOR is still having great difficulty in supplying the 4,500 UN troops in Sector Sarajevo.

The Serbs are still blocking all movement into the city across their territory. What UNPROFOR supplies do get in, therefore, must be brought in by APCs over Mt Igman -- a long, slow and inefficient process that is aggravated the delays imposed by the Bosnians in central Bosnia.

The Sector has six days' supply diesel and seven day's supply of food.

UNHCR brings convoy over Mt Igman for the first time -- without informing the Serbs

In the small hours of this morning (2 July), UNHCR brought a convoy of humanitarian aid over Mt Igman, across the airport and into the city. It arrived safely soon after 3:30 am, having encountered no significant problems on the way.

It was the first time since the war began that a convoy had been brought into the Sarajevo area without the express consent of the Serbs. Seven trucks -- driven by military drivers -- brought 62 tonnes of food to the city, enough to provide the city with bread for about one day.

The unconventional run over Mt Igman was made only after the Serbs again refused to allow UNHCR to bring in any aid through Serb-controlled territory. UNHCR's weekly plan was rejected by the Serbs, who are demanding that they receive 50% of everything that comes to the Sarajevo area (UNHCR insists on distributing on the basis of need, normally allocating 77% of aid to the estimated 300,000 people on the Bosnians side of the line, and 23% to the estimated 100,000 people living on the Serb side).

Further convoys over Mt Igman are expected.

Humanitarian situation poor

Despite the arrival of last night's convoy, the humanitarian situation in the city remains poor.

UNHCR's warehouses are empty of everything except a small amount of wheat flour. The food distribution cycle that was supposed to start on 21 June has been suspended. The 270 tonnes of flour brought into the city last week has been provided to the Sarajevo bakery which should be able to continue producing bread for the next five to six days. Today's convoy will stretch that slightly. The bakery provides bread on a priority basis to collective centres, hospitals, public kitchens and social institutions (such as orphanages). Presently, however, the recipients are getting bread only every other day, instead of every day.

UNHCR estimates that many Sarajevo residents still have enough food reserves to last about a month. Some goods are still available in the markets, but prices are now far too high for all but a few consumers.

The Sarajevo airlift -- closed for 85 days -- is not expected to resume any time soon.

Utilities

The Serb military continues to insist that there will be no restoration of utilities until the fighting around the city has stopped.

Electricity: There is currently no electricity in Sarajevo coming from the regular sources. The current level of supply is thus 7-10 MW on the Bosnian-controlled side. The situation on the Serb side is believed to be a little better.

Water: Four sources of water are currently functioning on the Bosnian side, with a total approximate production of 250 L/S (about 15% of 'normal' wartime supply).

Gas: No gas is being currently supplied to either side of Sarajevo.

David