

**COMPTE RENDU Z-1154 DE M. YASUSHI AKASHI À M. KOFI ANNAN
SUR LA SITUATION À SREBRENICA LE 13 JUILLET 1995**

(source : MSF)

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CZK=1141
CZK=44
CZG=928

OUTGOING CODE CABLE

MOST IMMEDIATE

SSN:1730

TO: ANNAN, UNATIONS, NEW YORK
INFO: GHAREKHAN, UNATIONS, NEW YORK
GOULDING, UNATIONS, NEW YORK
STOLTENBERG, ICEY, GENEVA
SMITH, UNPROTEGR, SARAJEVO
FROM: AKASHI, UNPF-HQ, ZAGREB
DATE: 13 JULY 1995
NUMBER: Z=1154
SUBJECT: Situation in Srebrenica

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MOST IMMEDIATE

1. Continuing with our reports on the situation in Srebrenica, this message contains the latest information concerning the joint efforts being made to resolve the current humanitarian crisis, together further details regarding yesterday's developments on the ground.

2. The main areas of concern identified by the HCR Special Envoy, Mr. Anne Willem Bijleveld, who has just returned from Tuzla, are:

-- General Mladic's refusal to allow all access, whether it be to personnel or convoys, to Srebrenica

-- the insistence of the Bosnian Government that the international community, and not Sarajevo, deal with the fate of the displaced who are now assembling at the Tuzla airbase.

-- As of 1130 hours today there were an estimated 5500 displaced at the airbase and this number is expected to rise very quickly. There are an estimated 6000 people in Kladanj who will soon proceed to Tuzla and there are many others to follow them (approximately 25000). We believe there are about 4000 males of draft age still in Bratunac awaiting "screening" by the BSA. Their fate is of obvious concern to everyone here.

3. Other points mentioned by the Special Envoy are:

-- The airbase at Tuzla cannot accommodate Srebrenica's displaced persons for long, and it is the Special Envoy's belief that the Bosnian Government will remain obstinate in its refusal to help the displaced, until Tuzla airbase is overflowing with people, and Sarajevo succeeds in embarrassing both the UN and the international community. Mr. Bijelefeld said there is accommodation for 11000 persons in the Tuzla area. Should the displaced be relocated to Tuzla proper (i.e. from the airport), this could of course put strains on the

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Federation, by upsetting the population balance in the area. Nevertheless, given the looming humanitarian difficulties it appears to be the only viable alternative in the short-term.

-- At the airbase, there are enough tents for about 95. Unless the Government assists us forthwith, the humanitarian situation at the airbase could reach critical proportions. HCR's convoys in central Bosnia, which could be of obvious benefit in this regard, are also being hindered by BiH road restrictions. Mr. Bijleveld noted that Minister Muratovic is dismissive over the obvious fact that the displaced are Bosnians who are now on Bosnian soil and must therefore be cared for by the Bosnian Government with the assistance of the UN agencies.

4. Our two main objectives are to ensure the welfare of the population in the Srebrenica area, and to support UNHCR in convincing the Bosnian Government that it cannot simply abrogate its responsibilities vis-a-vis the safety and security of its own people: that it must take the lead and HCR, UNPROFOR and UNPF will assist. General Smith is due to meet Prime Minister Silajdzic and Minister Muratovic this afternoon and he will endeavour to make this point to the Bosnians. We will also insist that the Bosnian Serbs allow access to Potocari and Bratunac, so that we ourselves may support Dutchbat and the UNMOs in ascertaining the situation there.

5. To continue with yesterday's developments, the following is a summary of the decisions taken in UNPF-HQ and a recounting of the developments on the ground.

6. Late yesterday afternoon, HCA Mousalli chaired a meeting of the joint crisis management team, which brought together the civilian and military components of UNPF and representatives of UNHCR (see separate report of meeting from HCA Moussalli). The meeting's primary objective was to find agreement on how the plight of the displaced can be alleviated, to address the question of who should lead the efforts on the ground, and how this should be coordinated with supporting agencies. UNHCR will take charge of all the humanitarian aspects with UNPROFOR providing all necessary and available support. Press and Information Officers have been sent to Tuzla. The task of establishing the modalities for the implementation of the plan is currently being worked on in this HQ.

7. Meanwhile, yesterday in Potocari, at around 1200 hours, Bosnian Serb troops marched through the town and took up positions around the Dutchbat camp. They also sent a detachment to a prefab factory some 100 metres away from the main camp where a large number of displaced had congregated. On hearing of reports that soldiers from this detachment were pointing their weapons at the civilians in a threatening manner, the UNMOs were asked to investigate. On arriving at the factory, the UNMOs discovered the allegation to be quite false and witnessed, instead, some of soldiers distributing sweets and cigarettes to some of the displaced.

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8. As was reported in my Z-1152, the Commanding Officer of Dutchbat then held another meeting with General Mladic. The results of the meeting have already been communicated to you, and there are no further details regarding the precise nature of the Dutchbat Commander's opposition to Mladic's evacuation order. Meanwhile, the high temperatures, lack of sanitation and the overcrowding in Potocari, combine to create a very difficult situation in that area. There continues to be no reports of the BSA mistreating any of the Bosnian civilians.

9. At 1512 hours yesterday, the Bosnian Serbs provided 30 buses and trucks and began to move the displaced (with the exception of men of draft-age) to Bratunac. The vehicles were under the constant observation of Dutchbat soldiers, who escorted the convoy. By 1645 hours, the URMOS estimated that 3000 people were subsequently being taken from Bratunac to Kladanj, again under Dutchbat escort. The civilians were dropped off by the Serbs close to the confrontation line, from where they walked to BiH lines and were subsequently transported by BiH buses to Tuzla airbase. Contrary to press reports, at no time were UNPROFOR or UNHCR drivers or vehicles used in the movement of the civilians. At 2245 hours the BSA's operation to relocate the displaced was suspended until 0700 hours this morning.

10. MSF reported that those who had arrived at Kladanj transfer point were very hungry and had very little warm clothing.

11. In the Srebrenica area, there are 38 Dutch soldiers who are still detained by the BSA in Bratunac. They were taken from OP-N, OP-S, OP-U, OP-G, OP-R, and OP-Q. Ten other soldiers (from OP-K) were taken by the Serbs to a mining area located at grid CP5582. OPs Alpha and Papa are still manned by Dutchbat (with 10 soldiers at each OP) but are surrounded by the BSA and are thus inoperable. Six Dutch soldiers are still in OP-C without their weapons, and are blocked by the BiH.

12. Finally, we have received initial reports that Mladic intends to have the Dutchbat depart, with its personal weapons only, as soon as the transfer of civilians has been completed. We are now assessing this potentially alarming development.

Regards.

**COMPTE RENDU DE M. YASUSHI AKASHI À M. KOFI ANNAN
SUR LA SITUATION À SREBRENICA LE 14 JUILLET 1995**

(source : MSF)

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UNPROCESSED
COMMUNICATIONS

EZN=1155
EZF=939

OUTGOING CODE CABLE

MOST IMMEDIATE

95 JUL 14 20 07

SSN=1749

TO: ANNAN, UNATIONS, NEW YORK

INFO: GHAREKHAN, UNATIONS, NEW YORK
GOULDING, UNATIONS, NEW YORK
STOLTENBERG, ICFY, GENEVA

FROM: AKASHI, UNPF-HQ, ZAGREB

DATE: 14 JULY 1995

NUMBER: Z -1168

SUBJECT: Situation in Tuzla and Srebrenica

MOST IMMEDIATE
CODE RESTRICTED

1. Further to our last cable of today on the situation in Tuzla, the following summary is drawn from today's meeting of the Emergency Group in Zagreb, chaired by Head of Civil Affairs, and from reports from Tuzla, Sarajevo, and Zagreb.
2. Ninety-five percent of the displaced are women, elderly, and children under the age of twelve. Tents have been erected to accommodate about 2,000 people. More tents will be arriving over the next several days to accommodate additional persons. However, space in the Tuzla air-base is limited and is surrounded by mine-fields.
3. UNHCR reports sufficient food stocks are available and emergency shelter is increasing. Approximately 13,000 displaced persons are now in the Tuzla air-base area. This number seems to have plateaued in the last 12 hours. Norwegian medical officers conducted a survey of the camp yesterday and indicate that heat and exposure continue to make conditions difficult. Lack of sanitation facilities could lead to outbreaks of disease if not addressed immediately.
4. UNHCR is mobilizing resources from Zagreb, Belgrade, and from within Bosnian territory to direct to the Tuzla area. However, UNHCR has encountered some delays from the Croatian Government in getting stocks and supplies intended for Tuzla released from its warehouses in Croatia. UNPF has dedicated several heavy-lift helicopters on priority alert to support an air-bridge to Tuzla. A UNHCR convoy was cleared through to the Bratunac area on the evening of 13 July with approximately 24 metric tonnes of emergency aid.
5. ICRC has requested, but has not yet received, clearance to evacuate approximately 87 sick and wounded from the Bratunac hospital. Today, two persons have reportedly died from lack of treatment. PAKEAT has offered trucks and support for the ICRC effort. At Tuzla, ICRC is in the process of establishing an identification network to help families re-

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unite when they have arrived in the Tuzla area, and will begin tracing functions for missing persons. ICRC will also provide supplemental assistance to UNHCR and UNPROFOR to help fill gaps in food and medical aid. At Kladanj, ICRC has established a relief support effort to aid displaced persons in transit from Bratunac to Tuzla.

6. UNMOs report they have been unable to sight any Bosnian civilians in Srebrenica. BSA troops have been sighted "cleaning" out the town by removing livestock, vehicles, household goods, and other valuables. Karadzic has installed a civilian administrator in Srebrenica, and the first Serb families have begun to move into the town. The BSA HQ has been installed at the PTT building in Srebrenica, which is the former UNMO HQ. Gen. Mladic has reportedly left the Srebrenica area.

7. The majority of the Dutch Battalion remains in place in Potocari with 2 observation posts still being manned. Fifty-five Dutch soldiers are still detained: 45 in Bratunac and 10 just outside the enclaves former boundary near a bauxite mine. An UNPROFOR convoy reached Dutchbat late on 13 July with food, water, and supplies.

8. UNMOs report no sightings of persons in the Potocari area. In this vein, we are beginning to detect a short-fall in number of persons expected to arrive in Tuzla. There is no further information on the status of the approximately 4,000 draft age males. Tuzla reports four bus loads (+/- 250) containing young women, which were expected to arrive at Kladanj from Bratunac have been missing for over 24 hours.

9. The Joint Crisis Action Team has established a 24 hour operations center in Tuzla comprised of representatives from Civil Affairs, UNPROFOR military staff units, UNHCR, ICRC, and ECHM. UNHCR and ICRC have reinforced their presence in Tuzla, and UNPROFOR and UNHCR have dedicated several public information officers to the situation.

10. UNHCR Chief of Mission for B-H is in Tuzla and was initially cleared to travel to Srebrenica on 14 July, but clearances were revoked due to security reasons. The European Union Commissioner for Humanitarian Assistance Mrs. Bonino will arrive in Zagreb today en route to Tuzla to further contribute to the aid effort there.

11. Given the potential for large numbers of missing and unaccounted displaced persons, attempts continue to be made to gain access to the Bratunac, Potocari, and Srebrenica areas, although Pale, which is controlling access to these areas, has so far refused requests for access by UNPROFOR, UNHCR, and ICRC requests.

12. Concern is growing in Zagreb and in Sarajevo about potential aggression by the BSA against the Zepa "safe area," which contains approximately 11,000 persons. UNPROFOR military reports three OPs came under fire today. If the area

is attacked and seized by the BSA, we can expect a replay of Srebrenica in the coming days.

13. Head of Civil Affairs is travelling to Tuzla tomorrow to personally assess the situation and to meet with the Bosnian Government authorities as well as officials from UNPROFOR, UNHCR, ICRC, and other international organizations.