

**COMPTE RENDU SUR LA SITUATION À TUZLA FAIT PAR LE SECTEUR
NORD EST DE LA FORPRONU LE 15 JUILLET 1995**

(source : MSF)

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UNITED NATIONS PROTECTION FORCE
B&H - SECTOR NE (TUZLA)
CIVIL AFFAIRS

NOVA
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ROUTINE/PRIORITY/IMMEDIATE/MOST IMMEDIATE
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OUTGOING FAX NO.	DATE: July 15, 1995
TO: MR. PHILIP CORWIN CAC/D-SRSG UNPROFOR HQ, SARAJEVO	FROM: KEN BISER, SCVAO SECTOR NE, TUZLA
FAX: VSAT 155-7220	FAX: VSAT 156 7185
ATTN: MR. JOHN RYAN, DCAC	FILE REF NO: TUZ/CA/376 DRAFTER: EDW. JOSEPH TITLE: CVAO RELEASING OFF: KEN BISER SIGNATURE:
INFO: MR. MICHEL MOUSSALLI, HCA, ZAGREB VSAT 151-3062/2278 <i>(Please Relay to HCA & CVAO Bair in Split, if Possible)</i> MR. JOHN ALMSTROM, SPA OSRSG, ZAGREB VSAT 151-3063 MR. JAQUE GRINBERG, HAAU OSRSG, ZAGREB VSAT 151-3063 MR. DAVID HARLAND, SCVAO SECTOR SARAJEVO, VSAT 155-5656 MR. PHILIP WATKINS, B-H DESK, ZAGREB VSAT 151-3062 MR. TONY BANBURY, OSRSG, ZAGREB, VSAT 151-3063	
SUBJECT: SREBRENICA UPDATE / TUZLA WEEKLY REPORT	

MAIN POINTS

- * CAS Falls, Srebrenica Falls, Refugees Pour into Tuzla, UNPROFOR/UNHCR overwhelmed. Muratovic: "Why didn't they (the BiH!) fight?"
- * Government Authorities Relax Tough Stance -- Displaced Diverted to non-UN Facilities.

Serbia Reportedly...

Thousands of Srebrenica...

10 July: Tuzla-area Representatives of Srebrenica Meet with SCvAO, stage blocking demonstration

11 July: Tense demonstrations continue

12 July: (a) Civil Affairs establishes phone contact between persons fleeing Srebrenica and Cantonal Governor Hadzic. Hadzic: "do not negotiate with the Serbs. Fight."

(b) Minister Muratovic, Minister Cero (Refugees), and Minister Zigic (Veterans) meeting with UNHCR Special Envoy, SCvAO, UNPROFOR DCOS, G-5

Muratovic: (acting on "instructions from President Izetbegovic")
Open Airlift Tuzla-Srebrenica for aid
Medevac Wounded from Srebrenica to 3rd Countries
Population will stay in Srebrenica
Don't help them be cleansed
"UN is totally responsible."

(c) Minister Muratovic with Acting Commander SNE and SCvAO Muratovic (as it becomes apparent that refugees are in Kladanj): "Refugees will be transported from 1 UN safe area to another Kladanj to another (the airbase.) They will stay at the airbase until war ends or send to a third country." "UN is totally responsible."

(d) Minister Muratovic with SCvAO: "Where was our Army? Why didn't they fight?; they were well-equipped to hold out for a couple of months."

(e) Ministers Cero (Refugees) and Zigic (Veterans), Cantonal Governor Hadzic and Cantonal Minister Muminhodzic (Health) meeting with Chief of Staff, AirBase Commander, UNHCR Rep, and CvAO. Ministers: "We have no place to accomodate the refugees. They are UN refugees. To avoid 'social turbulence', it would be better to receive them."

13 July: Ministers Cero and Zigic, Cantonal Governor Hadzic, Muminhodzic Present written demands (protect safe area, open airport, third-country evacuation, secure Srebrenica-Kladanj road, open reception center, UN-conference, Ogata visit. BiH/Cantonal delegation visits refugee camp and is visibly shocked.

(cont.) 13 July: Communique Issued by BiH/Federation Government (PM Siladzic) requesting opening of Tuzla airport, Ogata visit, UN teams to go to Srebrenica, monitor road from Srebrenica, UN to prevent Serbs from arresting males and to consider those arrested as "hostages", seek financial assistance. Concern expressed about Zepa, requiring additional UN troops.

14 July: Cantonal Minister for Refugees with SCvAO
Minister: "We are glad to cooperate."

Cero, Zigic, and Hadzic with SNE Commander, UNHCR, SPO, SCvAO, and WFP

"What is the reply to our yesterday's demands."

Hadzic: "These are special refugees. We want contracts for food and accomodation of displaced. They pose a direct obstacle to the Federation as we will have to put them in Serb/Croat homes."

UNHCR: No contracts for accomodation. Refugees are your responsibility.

LTGEN Smith-Minister Muratovic (in Sarajevo). Muratovic: "We will cooperate with UNPROFOR."

UNHCR COM B-H and Minister Cero (in Tuzla). UNHCR: Contracts can be issued based on assessed needs.

ENDALL

**COMPTE RENDU DE LA RENCONTRE À BELGRADE
LE 15 JUILLET 1995 ENTRE MM. CARL BILDT,
THORVALD STOLTENBERG, YASUSHI AKASHI, ACCOMPAGNÉS DES
GÉNÉRAUX RUPERT SMITH ET RATKO MLADIC**

(source : MSF)

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MOST IMMEDIATE

TO: ANNAN, UNATIONS, NEW YORK ONLY TCCOEZ
INFO: STOLTENBERG, ICFY, GENEVA ONLY -IC11Z
FROM: AKASHI, UNPF-HQ, ZAGREB *[Signature]*
NUMBER: Z - 1175
DATE: 17 JULY 1995
SUBJECT: MEETING IN BELGRADE

[Handwritten notes]
95 JUL 17 9:59
#12222

Mr. Carl Bildt, Mr. Thorvald Stoltenberg and myself met in Belgrade with President Milosevic on Saturday, 15 July. I was accompanied by General Rupert Smith. Milosevic, at the request of Bildt, facilitated the presence of General Mladic at the meeting. Mladic and Smith had a long bilateral discussion. Despite their disagreement on several points, the meeting re-established dialogue between the two Generals. Informal agreement was reached in the course of the meeting on a number of points between the two Generals which will, however, have to be confirmed at their meeting scheduled for 19 July. In view of the highly sensitive nature of the presence of Mladic at the meeting, it was agreed by all participants that this fact should not be mentioned at all in public.

Please find attached summary of main points discussed.

Regards.

UNPF OFFICE
COMMUNICATIONS
95 JUL 17 10:11
[Signature]

No Internal Distribution

SRSF

**COMPTE RENDU DU 16 JUILLET 1995 DU SECTEUR NORD EST DE LA
FORPRONU SUR LA SITUATION DES RÉFUGIÉS**

(source : MSF)

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UNITED NATIONS



PROTECTION FORCE

IIQ SECTOR NORTH EAST - TUZLA

GS CIVIL MILITARY OPERATIONS

TO: SEE DISTRIBUTION (FAX) FROM: Major Guy Sands-Pingot, Asst Chief of Staff, GS
DATE: 16 July 1995 FILE: 5000

SUBJECT: Srebrenica Displaced Population Situation at Tuzla Air Base

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to give an immediate update on the humanitarian relief situation at Tuzla Air Base, Bosnia and request immediate assistance in form of personnel, resources, and supplies as stated below. As the only military Civil affairs Officer in UNPROFOR I am stating this request as a list of urgent requirements this Sector needs immediately in order to cope with the immense flux of expelled people from the Bosnian Serb occupied UN Protected Area of Srebrenica, and with the expected expulsion of upto 15,000 from the Zepa Protected Safe Area. The contents of this report are based upon my own observations both on the scene, and reports that I have received from UNPROFOR, UNHCR, ICRC, and the survivors themselves.
2. Within the past 72 hours over 22,000 people out of the total population of between 38,000 to 42,000 previously counted in the Srebrenica Enclave have arrived through the Bosnian Government held side of the Confrontation Line. Almost all of them are elderly women and men, and women who are mothers with children under 14 years of age, who have been forcibly put at gunpoint on Serbian buses near the DUTCHBAT compound at Potocari in the Srebrenica Enclave and moved to a point 4 or 5 kilometres from the Confrontation Line at the road junction Tisca on the Bosnian Serb held side. From there they are forced to walk until they reach the ruins of the town Turalici in the vicinity of Kladanj. From that point they are met by ABiH relief contingents which are provided by the Cantonal Ministry of Civil Defense and Emergency Operations as well as UNPROFOR and UNHCR humanitarian assistance elements.
3. Busing of the vulnerable population from Srebrenica, across Serbian held territory has been systematic, brutal and non-negotiable. It has not been a spontaneous undertaken by the Pale regime, rather it was preplanned, and efficiently executed in terms of provisioning buses, routes, manpower to carry it out, and precise timetables to be followed for the population transfer. Another unnoticed, but critical aspect of this expulsion is that the continual refusal by Bosnian Serb authorities over the past 4 months to allow the regular delivery of essential food stuffs, fuel, and other humanitarian relief through UNHCR and DUTCHBAT convoys was a deliberate policy of keeping the population in a weakened physical and mental state that would make them more vulnerable and less resistant to any incursion against the Enclave. Nor was the civil population the only victims of this policy. For almost three months, DUTCHBAT personnel totalling almost one-fourth of the UNPROFOR strength in the Enclave were not allowed to the center into the Safe Area. Since this refusal was promulgated following the last DUTCHBAT leave convoy allowed out—but not back in since April, it appears that planning for the reduction or destruction of the UNPROFOR presence has been in progress that time.

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4. Survivors of this latest ordeal of ethnic cleansing, whether old women, nursing mothers, or children -- speak of being punched, beaten and kicked when being put on board the Serbian driven buses. They were given no food or water for the 10 kilometer trip through the rugged mountainous terrain of Eastern Bosnia. It is apparent they had no choice but to get on the buses. As a result of the repeated Serbian refusal to allow humanitarian relief convoys the population of Srebrenica has been undernourished for many months now. Therefore the affected population's resistance--whether in terms of physical, mental and morale--was low, and have been traumatized by the most recent fighting in Srebrenica.

5. During the Bosnian Serb attack against the UN Protected Safe Area, houses, schools, hospitals and other clearly civilian facilities were deliberately targeted. Once within the surrounding villages, Serbian forces set fire or destroyed the remaining houses that stood, thus leaving nothing for the population to go back to. In order to frighten the populace into moving onto the buses, the Serbs surrounded the estimated 30,000 people who fled from other parts of the enclave to the vicinity of the DUTCHBAT compound earlier this week, with fully visible weapons systems such as quad-four anti-aircraft guns, mortars, tanks and dismounted infantry. The Serbs also made repeated fire power displays in the vicinity of the totally exposed civilian population with live mortar and heavy machine gun rounds in order to totally terrorize the already vulnerable population into absolute submission. The only water or food the fleeing residents received came from the stocks the DUTCHBAT could provide.

6. Remaining elements of the male population between the ages of 16 and 60 (estimated between 7,000 to 8,000) either escaped into the surrounding mountains (perhaps 2,000 or 3,000 in total) or were rounded up (perhaps 4,000 or 5,000) and sent to the Serbian town of Bratunac for examination for "committing war crimes" by the Serbs. Despite repeated requests by both DUTCHBAT, SNE, ICRC, UNHCR and HQ UNPROFOR about their fate, the Bosnian Serb forces have refused to disclose any information or allow any outside contact with the men. Reports by UNPROFOR elements within the Potocari compound report sporadic bursts of gunfire in consistent streams having taken place from 13 July onwards from beyond the sight or influence of the UN elements being held within the Potocari compound.

7. It took a total of 72 hours for the Bosnian Serbs to uproot, round up, arrest, expell and possibly kill (both outright and through denial of water, medical treatment, or exposure to 36-40 degree temperatures) the entire Bosnian population of Srebrenica. With the exception of the DUTCHBAT, therefore, the Srebrenica Protected Area has ceased to exist through a deliberate and planned execution of an "ethnic cleansing" operation which UNPROFOR and the community of nations have watched with little or no response against the Bosnian Serb regime.

8. Although better now, the initial physical and mental state of the Displaced Civilians (DC) who survived the forced expulsion was very low. Most arrived literally with only the shirt or dress on their backs. Many had no shoes. Nursing mothers had no means to carry their babies other than their arms and thus could carry nothing else. Old women, young children and women who are able to carry only a blanket or hastily wrapped sack as they streamed through the narrow road at Turalici which is bounded by a river to the north and mountains to the south arrived at the reception station established by elements of PAKBAT 2 in a state of exhaustion and collapse.

9. From the reception area in the vicinity of Turalici, the DC's were given water, immediate medical attention and sorted out in some way on buses chartered by the Tuzla Cantonal Ministry of Defense, which took them directly to Tuzla Air Base. The first stream of buses came in

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the Air Base at 2200 hrs, 12 July carrying over 1,000 DC's. That first wave did not cease until 0300 hrs, 13 July. The movement began again by 0800 hrs 13 July until 0100 hrs last night. For the next two days a continuous stream of buses delivered a total of 19,800 displaced civilians from Kladanj up to Tuzla Air Base.

10. The decision that Tuzla Air Base be chosen for the DC's to come to was not one which UNPROFOR made. At several meetings on 12 July, the Bosnian Government's Minister for UN Relations, Mr. Muratovic stated that both he and President Izetbegovic hold the UN responsible for not acting to safeguard and save the Protected Areas. In their view therefore the UN had an obligation to continue to safeguard and take care of the affected population. Thus, at a final meeting at 1800 hours, 12 July he stated to the Acting SNE Commander that Tuzla Air Base was where the DC's would come. Alternative sites, including delivering the DC's to approximately 11,000 other places within existing UNHCR sponsored, but Bosnian government controlled collection centers and camps were rejected by Mr. Muratovic. The position of his government is clear. In short, the UN effort in Bosnia has failed to safeguard and protect and the people who were entrusted to them in the Protected Area of Srebrenica (and now in Zepa), therefore, UNPROFOR must safeguard and protect them in other UN installations until conditions change wherein the DC's can return to their own homes. This view has been reinforced continually throughout various meetings held with the Minister of Refugees and the Cantonal Governor, Mr. Hadzic and other leaders. As a result both UNPROFOR and UNHCR have responded to an emergency situation for which it neither fully foresaw nor was prepared to handle in the way it emerged.

11. With this as a background to the existing situation, SNE has responded by setting up a joint military-civilian-governmental Crisis Management Task Force with the cooperation of the UNHCR and other organisations such as the ICRC. Commander, UNPROFOR has appointed Commander, Sector NE to be the head of the initial relief effort, and has designated that Sector NE be responsible for management of the relief effort in regards to the arrival and care of the Displaced Civilians from the Eastern UN Protected Safe Areas. Tuzla UNHCR Chief of Mission, Mr. Demasso Fetci is the Director, with Commander, SNE, Brigadier General Haukland acting as Refugee Task Force Commander. Overall Coordinator for Civil-Military-UN Cooperation is the Sector Civil Affairs Officer, Mr. Ken Biser. Refugee Camp Commander is Tuzla Air Base Commander, Colonel Stale Botten who is assisted by an Emergency Operations Coordination Staff headed by Deputy Commander, SNE Colonel Charles Brantz. The SNE General Staff has been tasked organised to work closely with UNHCR sponsored NGO's/PRO's which are the lead elements for long term relief. Until they can fully mobilize their resources, UNPROFOR elements are filling the immediate life sustaining requirements of providing food, water, medical aid, transport and shelter construction.

12. The main site for the emerging DC camp is the western approach of the Airfield. Rudimentary water, sanitation, and food/personal demand item distribution points have been constructed along with a grid of UNHCR emergency 8 person tents set up in groups of 50, separated by 30 meters between. These will continue to be built indefinitely until the stockage is exhausted. These are far from ideal however since they are only 3 feet off the ground, are small and must be pitched in the middle of an open run way area which offers no protection from the sun. Additionally, many of the DC's are elderly people who have great difficulty in getting up or bending over as they must in order to enter or exit the small tents. It is imperative that an intermediate solution be the immediate construction of large RUB HALLS to both shelter the DC's and give them protection from the blistering sunlight. Unfortunately, SNE has only two available to raise presently, however

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10,000 cots (collapsible field beds) have also been requested so that the DC population might have something to lay on other than the ground.

13. The construction of the camp has proceeded rapidly after an initial period of slow starts due to a lack of personnel, equipment and appropriate shelters. Additionally, humanitarian aid organizations have geared themselves up for the reception, registration and provisioning of life-saving aid to the DC's, whose arrival into the AO has not yet fully ceased. Now that adequate supplies of water, food, shelter and medical care has been given to the 6,700 Displaced Civilians who have been processed and become resident within the camp, the focus can be shifted from life saving, to life sustaining. A schematic diagram of the camp layout can be found at Annex A. Until the late evening of 14 July it appeared that Tuzla Airbase would have to absorb the total DC population of nearly 20,000 people. However, the Cantonial Ministry of Civil Defense arranged for the movement of over 12,000 people to 7 other emergency settlement sites within the Tuzla Canton between 17.00hrs 14 July and 03.00 hrs 15 July. The breakdown of where this first wave of nearly 23,000 DC's from Srebrenica have been placed and sheltered is shown at Annex B. In order to fully support the humanitarian relief effort in SNE, a complete listing of those NGO/PVO, military units and other agencies providing assistance is shown at Annex C. *STATUS OF CAMP*

14. The immediate need now is for the delivery of at least 15 large RUB HALLS to Tuzla Air Base for housing the DC population, 10,000 cots (field beds) for the immediate use of the elderly and nursing mothers, 10 large lighting sets (generator powered), 20 water tank trucks (for water at the other DC sites), 500 wooden pallets.

15. The next step from life sustaining for the maintenance of the DC population at Tuzla Air Base Camp is the development of a life enhancement phase, wherein those people who cannot be immediately placed with families or sponsors into actual homes or collection centers, will see an increase in the quality of life for the period of time they must stay at the Camp. This will include recreational activities, religious services and activities, family tracing operations and permanent housing placement. The ultimate goal in the next several weeks will be the transfer of responsibility and running of the Camp to UNHCR and the eventual dismantlement of the camp as people are placed into better accommodations.

16. Structure

GUY SANDS-PINGOT
Major, US Army
Chief, GS