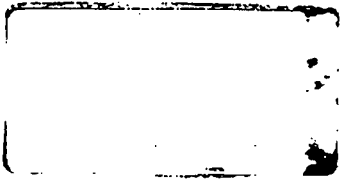
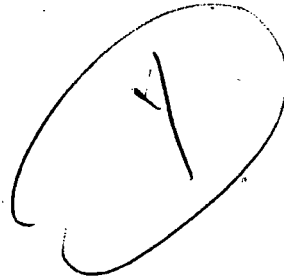


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DCI Interagency Balkan Task Force


18 April 1994



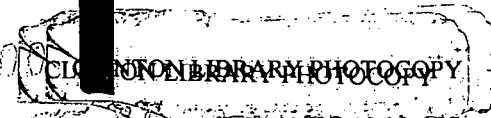
NOTE FOR: Anthony Lake
National Security Advisor to the
President

SUBJECT: Situation in Sarajevo Deteriorates

Attached is an analysis of the possibility of a
deterioration of the ground situation in Sarajevo. This was
tasked by you at this morning's PC.


Ray Converse
Deputy Chief, Balkan Task Force

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DCI Interagency Balkan Task Force
18 April 1994

Situation in Sarajevo Deteriorates

Both Bosnian Serbs and government forces recently have violated the Sarajevo cease-fire agreement, and fighting around the city in recent days could quickly spiral out of control.

- In the past week, Serb sniper fire--targeted against civilians and UN personnel--has been reported in the city. Serb forces fired on British UN positions northwest of Sarajevo near Visoko on Saturday night and a sniper wounded a French UN peacekeeper near Vrbanja bridge in Sarajevo last Wednesday.
- Serb forces equipped with a tank surrounded a weapons collection point 6 km northwest of Sarajevo last week and demanded the return of their weapons. [redacted] the tank probably came from the Serb refurbishment plant in Hadzici. The Serbs also tried to reclaim their weapons from two other sites.
- Meanwhile, government forces reportedly occupied Mt. Bjelasnica--18 kilometers southeast of Sarajevo--late last week, according to press reports. Mt. Bjelasnica is within the 20-km exclusion zone and in a UN-controlled area. Serb press claims that government forces also have taken up UN positions that were recently abandoned on Mt. Igman.
- A government offensive just outside of the Sarajevo exclusion zone near Olovo is underway. Government forces today claimed to have captured eight villages in the region. In earlier reports, a Bosnian Serb commander for the region claimed that heavy weapons from Vogosca--in the Sarajevo exclusion zone--were going to be re-taken for operations in the region. [redacted]

The Serbs may try again at any time to re-take the heavy weapons, which were turned over to UN troops in February.

- The outnumbered Serb troops almost certainly would claim they need these weapons to prevent further government gains in the Sarajevo region.

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-- UN troops would have difficulty preventing the Serbs from retaking the heavy weapons without NATO close air support. All of the collection sites are behind Serb lines and each is staffed by only a few UN troops.

The Serbs almost certainly will bring additional forces to bear against government operations north of Sarajevo in order to stop government advances, probably out of fear that the government forces are attempting to link Olovo with the eastern enclaves. Government forces' occupation of Mt. Bjelasnica, if true, plays on Serb fears that the government is using the cease-fire to gain territory and could cause the Serbs to attempt to retake their heavy weapons.

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