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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Deputies' Committee Meeting on Bosnia
2 February 1995

1. Deputy National Security Advisor Berger chaired the meeting called to consider next diplomatic steps for Bosnia and Croatia and whether the US should commit in principle to deploy ground forces to help extricate UNPROFOR troops from Croatia. In addition to the DDI, attendees included Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Tamoff, Deputy Secretary of Defense Deutch, Vice Presidential National Security Advisor Fuerth, Special Assistant to CJCS Christman, David Sheffer (USUN), and Gordon Adams (OMB). [redacted]

2. The meeting began with a discussion of intelligence reporting suggesting that Serbian President Milosevic and Croatian President Tudjman were close to an agreement on mutual recognition that would also include some territorial swaps in Bosnia. Some participants viewed this as a positive development that could help avert conflict in Croatia. The DDI warned that such a deal would be viewed negatively by the Bosnian Government, and that Milosevic had manipulated the recognition issue in the past. Participants nonetheless agreed that the US and Contact Group should focus on securing Serbian recognition for both Croatia and Bosnia. They acknowledged that Milosevic would require substantial sanctions relief as an incentive to do this, and Leon Fuerth was tasked with preparing a new package of sanctions relief proposals for consideration by Principals. [redacted]

3. The Deputies also considered issues related to a possible US commitment in principle to deploy ground forces in Croatia if necessary to help extricate UNPROFOR. It was agreed that JCS should further develop options for Principals to consider. The DDI emphasized that any planning should take into account that fighting could resume in Bosnia before the end of March, and that UNPROFOR might find itself forced to withdraw from Bosnia and Croatia at the same time. [redacted]

[redacted]

A. Norman Schindler
Chief, DCI Interagency Balkan Task Force

[redacted]

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