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8 May 1995

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence

FROM: Chief, DCI Interagency Balkan Task Force

SUBJECT: Deputies' Committee Meeting on Bosnia
and Croatia, 9 May 1995

1. Tomorrow's Deputies' Committee meeting will focus on options for improving the situation around Sarajevo and containing the conflict in Croatia.

-- According to the agenda, you will be asked to assess the situation around Sarajevo. As background, I recommend you read the paper we prepared at the request of the Principals (see SARAJEVO TAB). We will provide you with talking points at the pre-brief.

-- You probably will also be expected to discuss prospects for renewed conflict in Croatia. The MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS TAB includes an updated version of the "hotspots" paper we prepared last Friday at your request. The CPAS cartographers have prepared a new hand-out map showing military developments between 4 and 8 May. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the Sector West operation has made all-out war between Knin and Zagreb a virtual certainty, although not necessarily in the immediate future. [REDACTED]

2. Senior policymakers are becoming increasingly concerned about the deteriorating situation around Sarajevo. Over the weekend, a probable Serb-fired mortar resulted in 10 deaths, and the number of firing incidents has risen dramatically. Silajdzic called in foreign ambassadors and said that the arms embargo should be lifted if NATO and the UN cannot stop the killing. Today, local UNPROFOR officials requested close air support, but Akashi turned them down. The Serbs also have restricted use of Sarajevo airport to UNPROFOR flights.

-- State is particularly concerned about the airport situation (see TAB A behind MEETING PAPERS TAB). They conclude--somewhat dramatically--that "the key to keeping UNPROFOR on the ground and to avoid deployment of US ground troops in Bosnia is to take aggressive and decisive measures to keep Sarajevo airport open for all traffic."

-- The JCS/OSD paper (TAB C behind MEETING PAPERS TAB) lays out three proposals for robust military action

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to prevent the strangulation of Sarajevo--1) secure the airport by forcibly removing combatants from an 8-10 kilometer radius area around the airport, 2) use close air support and airstrikes to support delivery of humanitarian aid flights, and 3) open a land corridor from the Adriatic to Sarajevo. Not surprisingly, the Joint Staff recommends against executing a military option given the high risks.

- The HUMANITARIAN TAB includes our assessment that existing food reserves, continued convoy deliveries, and commercial access through the airport tunnel should stave off severe shortages among most of Sarajevo's 280,000 inhabitants for several months. [REDACTED]

3. The CROATIAN ATROCITIES? TAB examines what we know about whether the Croats attacked civilians during their recent operation to recapture Sector West. Refugees in Banja Luka report that they were attacked as they fled. Those Serbs who stayed behind in Sector West say they have been treated well. We think it likely that some did come under attack as they attempted to cross over into Bosnia at a time when the Croats were attempting to eliminate the bridges. The Croats also detained about 1,000 Serb men of draft age, probably to determine whether there were any "war criminals" among them.

- In general, Croatian authorities have tried to behave themselves--they want to convince the Serbs to reintegrate peacefully into Croatia--but Zagreb has not been able to prevent all looting and has aroused suspicions by not permitting UN officials full access to Sector West and refugees. [REDACTED]

4. As a possible hand-out, I will carry copies of a new map--see inside front cover of this book--summarizing territorial changes that have occurred in Bosnia since January 1993 (i.e. since the Clinton Administration came to office). I commissioned this map for the Perry/Deutch briefing I'll be doing tomorrow morning. The bottom line is that the Muslims have made considerable gains, but most at the expense of the Croats. The Serbs, on balance, have more territory today than two years ago, in large part due to gains made in the eastern enclaves. [REDACTED]

4. I will accompany you to the meeting and serve as note-taker. [REDACTED]

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A. Norman Schindler

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