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SUNITED
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S/1995/445

1 June 1995

ENGLISH

ORIGINAL: FRENCH

LETTER DATED 1 JUNE 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF

MOROCCO TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE
PRESIDENT OF

THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to attach a copy of the declaration adopted on 31 May 1995 by the States members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) concerning the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR). I should be grateful if you could arrange to have it distributed to the members of the Security Council and circulated as an official document of the Council.

(Signed)

Ahmed SNOUSSI

Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

(Original: English)

Declaration on the United Nations Protection Force adopted by the Organization of the Islamic Conference on 31 May 1995

The Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), deeply concerned over the erosion of the mandate of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the suffering of the civilian population there as a result of that erosion, reaffirms its resolve to strengthen UNPROFOR. In this context, OIC presents the

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positions of numerous troop contributors who oppose abandonment of the safe areas.

OIC is deeply troubled by the humanitarian situation in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in particular the eastern enclave safe areas and the Bihac safe area, manifested by shortages of food, medicines and other essentials. OIC fully supports the establishment of land corridors to facilitate aid deliveries as well as the use of air-drops. With regard to Sarajevo, OIC urges that UNPROFOR take measures to secure fully the Blue Route, as it is Sarajevo's lifeline, and to reopen Sarajevo airport.

OIC is aware of the need to effectuate better security for UNPROFOR troops, and towards this end stresses the need for more personnel and better equipment for UNPROFOR troops and deployment measures to leave UNPROFOR troops less exposed. While striving to minimize the exposure of United Nations mandated forces to threats and hostage taking, OIC stresses that there can be no erosion of the mandate and commitment of the United Nations forces to their mission. OIC, in order to achieve the above, reiterates the readiness of OIC countries to contribute further to UNPROFOR, especially those that have expressed readiness to contribute troops to replace any withdrawing troops, and calls upon the Secretariat to consider seriously these offers in the process of strengthening UNPROFOR. In this context, OIC is encouraged by contributions of additional troops to UNPROFOR by other fellow troop contributors. It sees this as a positive trend, indicating a determination by the international community not to give in to Pale Serb intimidation, a renewed commitment to fulfil a mandate given, to see a just solution for Bosnia and Herzegovina, and to end the suffering of Bosnia's beleaguered population.

OIC recognizes that the role of UNPROFOR must be complemented by an active political process, consistent with the Charter of the United Nations. The OIC Contact Group on Bosnia and Herzegovina maintains its willingness to meet with the five nations Contact Group to facilitate a just and peaceful solution, and one that ensures the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina's political unity and territorial integrity. The OIC Contact Group on Bosnia and Herzegovina also looks to establish more regular contact with the Secretariat, in order to facilitate timely exchanges of information and to forward the peace process.

OIC reaffirms the Declaration of the OIC Contact Group Foreign Ministers at the meeting at Rabat on 18 May 1995, in which it was reiterated that the arms embargo neither legally nor morally applies to the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

OIC instructs its Working Group on Bosnia and Herzegovina to prepare an analysis and response to the report of the Secretary-General on the future of UNPROFOR as well as other options offered by other relevant organizations.

OIC avails itself of this opportunity to express its deepest sympathy to the family of and the Government of H.E. Dr. Irfan Ljubljankic, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, who was murdered during the criminal shooting of the helicopter in which he was travelling.

following.

OIC commends the courageous efforts of the UNPROFOR troops deployed in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the pursuit of their duties, in difficult circumstances presenting great risks. OIC strongly condemns the Pale Serbs for the cowardly act of taking hostages of UNPROFOR personnel in contravention of international law. It stresses that Pale's leadership bears full responsibility for this terrorist act, as well as any further harm that may come to these UNPROFOR troops. OIC considers it imperative that the international community not succumb to this blackmail, whose motive is to subvert the five nations Contact Group peace plan, undermine the resolve of UNPROFOR, and by extension NATO, in fulfilling their mandate, and to subject the Bosnian Government to further iniquitous concessions. OIC demands the immediate and unconditional release of all these UNPROFOR personnel.

OIC firmly believes that the only response in the light of the current situation is not retreat, but rather resolve, and the robust implementation of the full UNPROFOR mandate contained in the relevant Security Council resolutions. OIC takes special note that numerous other fellow troop contributors have expressed the same during recent meetings of troop contributors in New York and at The Hague.

OIC believes that if any UNPROFOR mission is to reassert credibility and achieve success, its foremost priority must be the civilian population.

OIC, noting the strategic, logistical and political importance of Sarajevo as the capital of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and as the region's pluralistic cornerstone, urges measures to reverse the deteriorating situation in and around the city, which has arisen as a result of Pale Serb actions. OIC stresses the need to achieve full compliance with the Sarajevo exclusion zone. Violations of the exclusion zone, especially the targeting of civilians, which is a war crime, must be met with the use of judicious, rather than proportionate, force. Furthermore, OIC recalls that the concept of the exclusion zone and the "weapons collection sites" therein were developed as an alternative to airstrikes. If this alternative is violated, forceful action must be undertaken.

Likewise, the Gorazde exclusion zone must be respected, while the safe areas as a whole must be considered individually in order to ensure that the motive behind their establishment is fulfilled, namely protection of the civilian population and as a means to preserve the territorial integrity of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina. As such, any proposals with respect to the safe areas, including demilitarization, must fulfil this motive. In this context, OIC expresses its contempt for the terrorist act committed against Tuzla's civilian population, resulting in the murder of 71 young individuals, and notes that this is the type of heinous crime which was to be deterred by the safe area concept, and, as a terrorist act, warrants a judicious response. OIC reaffirms the relevant resolutions of the Security Council on the safe areas and calls for their full implementation, and in this regard, is pleased to recall the

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(PART I OF II)

DAILY PRESS BRIEFING, 30 May 1995

Joe Sills, Spokesman for Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali began today's noon briefing by stating that at 12:30 p.m. the Secretary-General would meet with Sergei Lavrov, Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation, at his request. At 5 p.m. he would meet with Shahryar Khan, his Special Representative for Rwanda, along with Ahmedou Ould Abdallah, Special Representative for Burundi. At 5:30 p.m. the Secretary-General would meet with Lakhdar Brahimi, his Special Representative for Haiti. The Secretary-General would also hold a second meeting later today with his senior advisers on the report on Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Mr. Sills then read out the following statement, attributable to a spokesman for the Secretary-General, on the occasion of the death of Bosnian Foreign Minister Dr. Irfan Ljubjankic:

"The Secretary-General is deeply shocked and saddened by the death of the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and his party on Sunday, 28 May, when the helicopter in which he was travelling was shot down near Bihac.

"The Secretary-General offers his condolences to the Government of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and to the bereaved families of Dr. Ljubjankic and members of his entourage.

"The Secretary-General met with Dr. Ljubjankic on a number of occasions since his appointment as Foreign Minister in the autumn of 1993 and held him in great esteem. His death and that of his colleagues underscores the importance of all parties exercising the greatest effort to bring a solution to this terrible conflict."

The statement would be issued as a press release, Mr. Sills said. (See Press Release SG/SM/5642 of 30 May.)

At consultations this morning, the Security Council was briefed by Lakhdar Brahimi, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Haiti. The Council also considered the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), the peace-keeping operation on the Golan Heights. The Council would also discuss the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. A formal Council meeting would be held this afternoon to approve the renewal of the mandate of UNDOF.

Regarding the situation in the former Yugoslavia, Mr. Sills said that the briefing this morning at United Nations Peace Forces headquarters in Zagreb did not include a lot of new information. The level of heavy weapons firing in and around Sarajevo continued to be considerably lower. Those levels began a downward trend last Wednesday, and continued down on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. There had actually been only six major firing incidents reported on Sunday. On Monday there had been 46 -- an increase over Sunday, but substantially less than in earlier days.

Zagreb had reported little change in the number of United

Nations personnel held or restricted by the Bosnian Serbs, Mr. Sills said. That had been a major topic of interest at briefings in Zagreb and Sarajevo. The number of detainees was in a range of 330 to 375. The reason for giving a range was that the numbers varied almost hourly; some were released and others were detained.

There was also a definitional problem, Mr. Sills said. Some of the individuals in question were detainees at specific sites or locations with Serbian military personnel closely guarding them. Others, such as those at some United Nations observation posts, had been surrounded. They could not leave their posts, nor could the United Nations reinforce them, but they were not being held captive. There was a problem of whether that second category should be considered detainees or merely personnel with restrictions on their movements.

A large number of United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) armoured personnel carriers and vehicles had been stolen by the Bosnian Serbs, Mr. Sills said. The current figure was 33 armoured personnel carriers or vehicles taken by the Bosnian Serbs since the air strikes last Thursday.

Correspondents had repeatedly asked for information on the total number of heavy weapons seized, and the number remaining at the collection points, Mr. Sills said. Those figures simply could not be determined. There were nine weapons collection points in Bosnian Serb-held territory in and around Sarajevo. At all nine sites, United Nations personnel had either been evicted or surrounded. Accurate counts, therefore, could not be made.

Also this morning, people continued to be observed in Bosnian Serb territory wearing United Nations helmets and uniforms. There had been three sightings of Bosnian Serb soldiers either wholly or partially dressed in French uniforms and driving stolen French armoured personnel carriers. The problem was that Bosnian Government soldiers could not know whether they were dealing with United Nations personnel or with Serb Soldiers masquerading as United Nations personnel. The Bosnian Serbs have deployed several heavy weapons in and around the city of Sarajevo, and they have established three artillery positions at the Poljine weapons collection point.

The rest of the report from Bosnia and Herzegovina was fairly routine, Mr. Sills said. Moderate levels of activity had been seen in Sectors Southwest and Northeast. Bihac was quiet with low levels of firing. It was tense in Gorazde, with 120 detonations in that safe area during the last 24 hours.

The situation in Croatia appeared stable, with tensions remaining in the zones of separation. The United Nations had been denied access to the area in which the helicopter carrying the Bosnian Foreign Minister and his party was shot down. The United Nations had been asked by the Bosnia and Herzegovina Government to assist them in obtaining access to the wreckage of the helicopter, but thus far we have not been able to do so.

Yesterday, the Secretary-General had met with his senior advisers for three hours to discuss his latest report to the Security Council on Bosnia and Herzegovina. They discussed the

/ report and the situation on the ground, with particular reference to the hostage situation and to humanitarian assistance.

The Secretary-General's report on the former Yugoslavia would not be submitted to the Security Council today, Mr. Sills said. A new draft was being prepared, following yesterday's meeting; it would be discussed by the Secretary-General and his advisers later today. The time of that meeting had not yet been set.

Participants in yesterday's meeting were Kofi Annan, Under-Secretary-General for Peace-keeping Operations; Chinmaya Rajaninath Gharekhan, Under-Secretary-General and Special Political Adviser to the Secretary-General; Marrack Goulding, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs; Peter Hansen, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs; Major-General Maurice Beril, Military Adviser in the Department of Peace-keeping Operations; and John Hughes, Assistant Secretary-General and Director of Communications.

High level diplomatic activity was under way in an effort to obtain a release of the United Nations hostages, Mr. Sills said. The Secretary-General was closely involved in that effort.

Regarding the proposal put forward by the Contact Group (France, Germany, Russian Federation, United Kingdom and United States) at 2 a.m. European time, Mr. Sills said that Thorvald Stoltenberg and Lord Owen, Co-Chairmen of the Steering Committee of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, had attended that meeting. The Secretary-General had spoken to Mr. Stoltenberg regarding the results of that meeting.

In response to a question regarding the four Bosnian Serb soldiers who were taken by French UNPROFOR troops, Mr. Sills stated that the prisoners had been given a full medical examination, food and shelter. They were being held by UNPROFOR; at 1400 hours local time the International Committee of the Red Cross would visit them, at the request of the Red Cross. To a question on the status of those prisoners, Mr. Sills said that they were "currently being held" by UNPROFOR.

The Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA) had put out information reports on the recent earthquake on Sakhalin island, in the Russian Federation. A United Nations disaster assessment and coordination team reached Sakhalin this morning; at the request of Russian authorities it would help evaluate humanitarian needs. If necessary it would coordinate humanitarian assistance. The Russian Government had informed the DHA that to date, no international rescue team was needed. There was a joint DHA-United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) unit on standby, if it were requested to assist with the ecological aspects of the disaster, which had reportedly caused numerous oil pipeline breaks.

Mr. Sills then said that there was a screening of the World Chronicle television programme today on in-house channels 6 and 23 at 2:30 p.m. with Dr. Ebrahim Samba, Regional Director for Africa of the World Health Organization.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) press briefing, regarding the "Beijing Express", had been rescheduled

until tomorrow at 11:15 a.m.

A correspondent said that a number of people, including the Prime Minister of France, had stated that the disposition of United Nations peace-keepers and the recent air strikes had been badly planned. Why had peace-keepers been located in Pale, and scattered -- rather than concentrated -- at a time when the UNPROFOR was on high alert?

Mr. Sills said that obviously the situation had worked out badly, with a number of peace-keepers being taken hostage. As United Nations spokesman Fred Eckhard had pointed out, if the United Nations had pulled in all the military observers from Bosnian Serb territory and "circled the wagons", it would have given a pretty clear indication of what was about to happen. That would have been extremely unfortunate from a strategic standpoint.

Second, Mr. Sills said, when warnings were issued by Yasushi Akashi, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the former Yugoslavia, the parties had been asked to bring their heavy weapons back to collection centres by a certain time. There had been no way of knowing at the time that those ultimatums would be ignored. What would have happened if those weapons had been brought back to the collection points -- many of which were in Bosnian Serb territory -- and there had been no United Nations personnel at the collection points to collect them?

Third, a primary role and mandate of UNPROFOR was to facilitate negotiations and see what was going on on the ground. Military observers were in territory controlled by the Bosnian Serbs; UNPROFOR had to deal with and negotiate with Bosnian Serbs. If all United Nations personnel were withdrawn from those areas, and all contact were cut off, UNPROFOR would be unable to carry out a significant element of its mandate.

The planning of the air strikes and the deployment of UNPROFOR troops prior to those strikes had been discussed in detail. Mr. Akashi and Lieutenant-General Bernard Janvier, Commander of the United Nations Peace Forces in the former Yugoslavia, had been in complete agreement at every step of the way. Lieutenant-General Rupert Smith, Force Commander of the UNPROFOR in Bosnia and Herzegovina had also been very closely involved.

The action had been impeccably planned. In terms of the hostages, matters had not turned out as had been hoped. In light of all this, Mr. Sills said he rejected any assertion that this was a poorly planned or poorly thought out operation.

There was the perception among some people that the vulnerable placement of peace-keepers had been a "poison pill" to ensure that air strikes failed, a correspondent said. "I disagree with that completely", Mr. Sills said. There had been outcomes related to the hostages that were unfortunate, but the risks had been known prior to the situation. There had been strong arguments, particularly from certain member States, in favour of air strikes. The judgement had been that circumstances in and around Sarajevo had merited the air strikes. The Bosnian Serbs were given every opportunity to respond in such a way that the air strikes never would have happened. It had been a carefully thought out operation.

There had been no "back door" attempt to undercut the effects
of the air strikes.

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(PART II OF II)

DAILY PRESS BRIEFING, 23 May 1995

Had the ICRC visited the United Nations peace-keepers being detained? Mr. Sills said that the organization had not had access to the peace-keepers; he did not know whether the ICRC had requested access, but they had not visited them. The United Nations had no reason to believe that any detainees being held by the Bosnian Serbs had been mistreated or physically abused, he stressed. He did not know about medical care, though he believed that they had been fed and treated considerably.

There were reports that five British peace-keepers in Gorazde had been injured in an automobile accident, he continued, and the UNPROFOR believed this to be accurate.

Had the United Nations requested the ICRC to visit the peace-keepers? If not, why not? Mr. Sills said there might be some question as to their status. He would follow up on the question.

What was the nature of the United Nations' contacts with the Bosnian Serbs in Pale? a correspondent asked. Mr. Sills said that UNPROFOR was in touch, though not a great deal had been accomplished. The United Nations continued to insist on the release of the hostages and to declare that their seizure was outrageous and unacceptable behaviour.

Another correspondent asked if the delay in the issuance of the report of the Secretary-General on the former Yugoslavia was directly related to the events of the last few days.

Mr. Sills said that these events had indeed been the major factor in the delay: the lead-up to the air strikes, the air strikes themselves, the hostage situation, and the results of the meeting of the Contact Group would all be factored into the report.

A correspondent then asked if there was any mechanism to deal with abuse of correspondents by diplomats. He had been shouted at last Saturday by the "so-called Bosnian Ambassador", he said. Mr. Sills said that there was no mechanism to govern the behaviour or statements of delegates. The proper avenue for a complaint in that regard might be to the United Nations Correspondents Association.

Of the United Nations detainees, how many were considered prisoners, and how many had merely been "blocked"? a correspondent asked. Mr. Sills said that he did not have this breakdown; some cases could be considered in either category, so the exact numbers were uncertain.

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The Bosnian Serb leadership had stated that all previous agreements between them and UNPROFOR were "null and void", including the matter of the heavy weapons exclusion zones, a correspondent said. What was the current status of agreements between the United Nations and the Bosnian Serbs?

Mr. Sills said that he understood the declaration to have also claimed that all relevant Security Council resolutions were null and void. He did not think that the Bosnian Serbs had the authority to declare Security Council resolutions null and void. The actions of UNPROFOR had been mandated by Security Council resolutions. In terms of the exclusion zones and other mandates, UNPROFOR would not alter them unless so instructed by the Security Council. Obviously, the concept of Total Exclusion Zones was now "in shambles"; he would not pretend that the regime was functioning properly. But the legal basis of their existence was still in place from the Security Council.

To a question regarding the dispatch of additional British troops to the operational theatre in the former Yugoslavia and whether they would be within the mandated ceiling for number of troops, Mr. Sills said the matter would have to be discussed by the Council. He added that those troops would be under UNPROFOR command.

A correspondent then said there had been strong accusations from Britain, France and other European countries that the current crisis had resulted from the United States State Department's scheme to force the United Nations to undertake air strikes.

Mr. Sills said that he did not want to comment on any accusations from one Member State regarding another's policies. The decision to utilize air strikes last Thursday and Friday had been made by the United Nations, and by the Special Representative in consultation with the Secretary-General. They had then made the request to North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). The views of Member States had been taken into account, but the air strikes had resulted from a United Nations decision, and the Organization stood by that decision.

Asked for details of the conversation between Mr. Stoltenberg, Co-Chairman of the Steering Committee of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia and the Secretary-General, Mr. Sills said the Secretary-General had been informed of what had taken place at the meeting of the Contact Group.

Were the proceedings of the International Criminal Tribunal still under way? a correspondent asked. Would not criminalization of the participants in a civil war make peace impossible?

Mr. Sills said that Justice Richard Goldstone, Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, had made it clear that the proceedings of the Tribunal would not be affected by events on the ground and that he was moving ahead under his mandate.

Was it true that a Security Council resolution was being drafted that would revoke economic sanctions on the Federal

Republic of Yugoslavia? a correspondent asked. Mr. Sills said that Member States were always drafting resolutions and circulating them informally. He understood that there was talk of a draft resolution involving sanctions, but there was a "quid" for that "quo". He did not think that the "quid" had been provided as yet.

On what grounds had the four Bosnian Serb soldiers been imprisoned by the United Nations, a correspondent asked. Had that been done before in Bosnia? Mr. Sills said that those soldiers had surrendered to United Nations forces during a fire fight for control of a bridge. He did not yet know what would be their disposition, but they would not be turned over to the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Their legal status was now being studied.

Were the views of the Secretary-General still being sought by the Contact Group and by NATO, a correspondent asked. Did he feel "left out" of the process? He did not, Mr. Sills said. Mr. Stoltenberg and Lord Owen had attended the meeting of the Contact Group. The cooperation between the United Nations, the Contact Group and NATO was excellent and the Secretary-General had been thoroughly included in these matters.

Other United Nations spokesman had been "flirting" with use of the word "terrorism", a correspondent said. What was the official position in that regard? Mr. Sills said that he did not have any particular term to use. An international treaty on terrorism was being considered. He would refer to the situation at present as an "outrageous action", even a "criminal action" that violated all accepted standards of behaviour. Those actions had made it very difficult to pursue reasonable negotiations or efforts to deal with the situation until the United Nations personnel were released.

A correspondent noted that the United Nations spokesman in Sarajevo had termed the actions of the Bosnian Serbs "terrorism". Mr. Sills said that he did not disagree with that terminology -- he had just used different words. "He does his briefings and I do mine", Mr. Sills said.

To a question on the issuance of the upcoming report of the Secretary-General on the former Yugoslavia, Mr. Sills said that if it was finished this afternoon, there would be a major effort to get it to the Security Council tomorrow. But more work on the document may be needed. The release of the report depended on the drafting process, and on today's meeting of the Secretary-General with his senior staff. On Thursday there would be a change in the Presidency of the Security Council, Mr. Sills noted. Usually, on the first day of a new Presidency, the Council President would hold bilateral meetings, which would mean that it was unlikely that the Council would go immediately into consideration of the report of the Secretary-General. He simply could not, at this juncture, give a precise timetable.

If there were to be a commando raid to rescue the hostages, what role would the United Nations play in the command structure? a correspondent asked. Mr. Sills said that this was a hypothetical question, and he did not want to speculate on it.

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30 May 1995

T U E S D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

--- Secretary-General expresses shock at killing of Bosnian Foreign Minister, stressing need for greatest effort to resolve conflict; to report to Security Council on situation in former Yugoslavia.

--- UNPROFOR says 330 to 375 United Nations personnel are being held or restricted by Bosnian Serbs; reports sightings of Bosnian Serb troops wearing French uniforms.

--- Security Council extends UNDOF mandate until 30 November; says situation in Middle East will remain potentially dangerous until comprehensive settlement is reached.

--- Security Council, expressing concern about implementation of settlement plan for Western Sahara, decides to send mission to region; extends MINURSO mandate until 30 June.

--- United Nations sends disaster assessment and coordination team to Sakhalin to help evaluate humanitarian needs in wake of earthquake.

--- High-level Committee on Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries begins ninth session at Headquarters.

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has expressed deep shock and sadness at the death of Bosnian Foreign Minister Irfan Ljubjankic. Dr. Ljubjankic and his party were killed on Sunday, when the helicopter in which they were travelling was shot down near Bihac. The Secretary-General offered his condolences to the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina and to the bereaved families. He said the deaths underscored the importance that all parties exercise the greatest effort to solve the Bosnian conflict.

The Secretary-General met yesterday with his senior advisers to discuss his latest report to the Security Council on the situation in the former Yugoslavia. They also discussed the situation on the ground in Bosnia and Herzegovina, with particular reference to the hostage situation. A new draft of the report was being worked on today. Meanwhile, the Secretary-General was closely involved in high-level diplomatic activity aimed at obtaining the release of the United Nations personnel held hostage by the Bosnian Serbs.

Some 330 to 375 United Nations personnel are currently being held or restricted by the Bosnian Serbs, a spokesman for the Organization announced today. He said the total varied

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from hour to hour as additional personnel were detained or others were released. Some were being held under guard, while others were surrounded and could not leave their posts, but were not in captivity.

The spokesman said 33 United Nations armoured personnel carriers and other vehicles had been stolen by the Bosnian Serbs. He noted that there had been three sightings of Bosnian Serbs wearing French uniforms and driving stolen French armoured personnel carriers.

Meanwhile, the Bosnian Serbs had deployed some heavy weapons in and around Sarajevo and had prepared three artillery positions at one weapons collection point. However, the situation in the city and elsewhere in Bosnia and Herzegovina was relatively quiet.

The Security Council today extended the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) for six months to 30 November. The Force was established in 1974 to supervise the cease-fire and agreement on disengagement between Israel and Syria. The Council called on the parties to immediately implement resolution 338 (1973), which called for a just and durable peace settlement in the Middle East. It also asked the Secretary-General to report at the end of the mandate period on the development in the situation and the measures taken to implement that resolution. The Council took that action by unanimously adopting resolution 996 (1995).

In a complementary statement by its President, the Council said that despite the present quiet in the Israel-Syria sector, the situation in the Middle East continued to be potentially dangerous. It was likely to remain so, unless and until a comprehensive settlement covering all aspects of the Middle East problem could be reached.

On Friday, the Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) until 30 June. It expressed concern about obstacles to further progress in the implementation of the settlement plan for Western Sahara, and said it was sending a mission to the region. The Council said it would consider a further extension of the mandate beyond 30 June based both on the report of its mission and the recent report of the Secretary-General. In that report, the Secretary-General requested a four-month extension of MINURSO's mandate. The Council took that action by unanimously adopting resolution 995 (1995).

The Council underlined the need for the parties to work with MINURSO in a spirit of genuine cooperation. It reiterated its commitment to holding a free, fair and impartial referendum for self-determination of the people of Western Sahara in accordance with the settlement plan which had been accepted by the two parties.

A United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team arrived today in Sakhalin, Russian Federation, which was hit by an earthquake over the weekend. At the request of the Russian authorities, the team will help evaluate humanitarian needs and, if necessary, coordinate assistance. A joint Department of Humanitarian Affairs/United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) environment unit is on standby to assist with regard to the ecological aspects of the disaster.

The Russian Ministry for Emergency Management has confirmed that the earthquake caused 218 deaths. It said that more than 500 people had been rescued from collapsed buildings and that more than 300 had been evacuated from the disaster area.

The High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC) today began its ninth session at Headquarters. The Committee will discuss new directions for TCDC and institutional and funding arrangements to support them. It will also examine the suggestion that greater emphasis be placed on core development issues of special interest to a large number of developing countries.

The Committee will review progress made in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action adopted at the United Nations Conference on TCDC in Argentina in 1978. Implementation of the Committee's previous decisions will also be examined. In addition, the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will present specific proposals on measures the agency intends to take to further strengthen its support for TCDC.

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PART 1 OF 2

DAILY PRESS BRIEFING, 26 May 1995

Ahmad Fawzi, Deputy Spokesman for Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali began today's noon briefing by stating that Special Adviser to the Secretary-General and Under-Secretary-General Ismat Kittani would undertake a Mission to China as planned from 6 to 8 June to review arrangements for the Fourth World Conference on Women. The dates of his Mission had been proposed by the Government of China and could not be changed.

The Secretary-General would be arriving from Houston at mid-afternoon today. At 5:30 p.m. he is scheduled to meet with Pranab Mukherjee, Minister for External Affairs of India today at 5:30 p.m.

Responding to a question from a correspondent yesterday, Mr. Fawzi said the Secretary-General had received a letter from Iraq stating that depleted uranium shells, which had been used during the Gulf War, had an adverse effect on the environment and may affect the health of the citizens of Iraq. The letter was being studied by the Iraq desk of the Department of Political Affairs. Mr. Fawzi said that the use of depleted uranium was widespread all over the world in weapons, missiles and bullets designed to penetrate hard surfaces.

Kofi A. Annan, Under-Secretary-General for Peace-keeping Operations was briefing the Security Council on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr. Fawzi said. He drew correspondents' attention to a statement by Yasushi Akashi, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the former Yugoslavia, in which he announced a second air strike, which he approved at 8:00 a.m. (local time) this morning. That air strike had resulted in the destruction of six additional bunkers at the Pale depot. Mr. Akashi stated it was imperative to clearly understand that the purpose of that action had been to restore the integrity of the Sarajevo Heavy Weapons Agreement, which was signed in February of last year, and to respect the safety of civilians so that the political process could be resumed. "We must never lose sight of the fact that that is our main mission", Mr. Akashi stated.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) had carried out a strike at 10:30 a.m. (local time) today. Fighter

aircraft had struck the Pale ammunition depot southeast of Sarajevo. Mr. Akashi had confirmed that six bunkers had been hit and that no NATO personnel were injured. The strikes were successful and the targets destroyed.

Mr. Fawzi then said that he wished to underline the extremely successful cooperation between the United Nations and NATO in the action of the last two days and in all actions being undertaken in the theatre of operations, which included all contingency plans for withdrawal, should that withdrawal become necessary. There was "excellent cooperation" between the two organizations, he said.

The attack on Tuzla yesterday had resulted in 71 deaths and over 150 injuries. It was the highest daily death toll of the war, since the Sarajevo massacre of last year, and the worst single incident of targeting civilians. Other developments had included the taking of United Nations hostages, which according to news reports had reached 10 persons. He could not confirm those figures yet; he was awaiting word from Zagreb.

There had been attacks against other safe areas today, Mr. Fawzi said. In Gorazde, five were killed and five injured. One person was injured in an attack on Bihac. There had also been more shelling in Tuzla. Two shells had struck the Sarajevo airport near the terminal building.

Mr. Fawzi announced that eight United Nations military observers were being detained in Pale. Some 80 soldiers had been confined or physically restricted in their movements at heavy weapons collection sites near Sarajevo. Three more heavy weapons were removed from a weapons collection point at Ilidza by the Bosnian Serbs.

The Security Council today was examining the report of the Secretary-General on the Western Sahara. The Council would dispatch a mission to that area from 3 to 9 June. The composition of the mission had not yet been decided; it would probably be a six-person group. A draft resolution was before the Council. The Secretary-General had recommended a four-month extension; some members were favouring a shorter turnover.

A fourth day of inter-Tajik talks was continuing in a serious and constructive manner in Almaty, Kazakhstan, Mr. Fawzi said. Ramiro Piriz-Ballon, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General, had put forward compromise proposals, and he was meeting separately with each side today.

In Angola, both the Government and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) had begun releasing prisoners of war. They had not all been released, but it was a beginning. Yesterday a Government delegation had gone to the headquarters of UNITA at Bailundo with a message from President Jose Eduardo dos Santos regarding an invitation for Jonas Savimbi, Leader of the UNITA to visit Luanda, the capital.

Regarding the deployment of United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM III), the first battalion, a Uruguayan battalion, would likely be deployed within 10 days. British and Portuguese logistical units were already in place.

Lakhdar Brahimi, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Haiti, would brief the Security Council

on Tuesday, Mr. Fawzi said.

Mr. Fawzi then said there would be a press conference with Anton Kruidenink, Regional Director of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), and Gaby Gabriel, UNDP Resident Representative in Poland on Wednesday, 31 May, at 11:15 a.m. on the subject of the Beijing Express, (a train transporting 300 representatives from Eastern Europe and the CIS to the Fourth World Conference on Women).

Why had not the United Nations taken measures to have its military observers in Pale rejoined with the main bulk of the UNPROFOR? a correspondent asked. They had been clearly exposed as eligible hostages.

Mr. Fawzi said he had been asking himself the same question all morning. He was sure that there had been good reasons for not doing so. There were a large number of military observers all over the theatre of operations -- in Pale and Lukovica and at the airfield in Sarajevo. United Nations peace-keepers were "hunkering down" and taking whatever security measures they could, without withdrawing any elements. United Nations peace-keepers were in vulnerable positions all over Bosnia. Decisions and comments on them must be left to the generals and experts in the field.

It had been widely reported that the United Nations had gone on "high alert", a correspondent said. What did that mean? Mr. Fawzi said that the United Nations was indeed on high alert and had anticipated everything that was happening. The United Nations must anticipate such action when it escalated the situation. The United Nations had anticipated that peace-keepers may be taken hostages, as they had been before.

It had been a high-risk option, Mr. Fawzi said. The Organization still had Chapter VII options for the defence of its people, but it would keep the lines of communications open. It was not the intention of the United Nations to go to war with one party or the other. The intention was to stop a war.

Had anyone used the word "terrorism" regarding the recent actions in Bosnia and Herzegovina? a correspondent asked. Had anyone considered the forces that had seized United Nations hostages to be forces of terrorism?

Mr. Fawzi said that he had not heard the term used. He preferred not to comment, and to defer to his colleagues in the field. He did not want to complicate the issue more than necessary. Everything possible was being done to release the hostages, who were being used as human shields.

Asked for the names of the peace-keepers being detained, Mr. Fawzi said that he could not give any names yet, and he did not have information on the circumstances under which they had been seized.

Asked whether additional air strikes were possible, Mr. Fawzi said that if the terms and conditions laid down by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Yasushi Akashi, and by Lieutenant-General Rupert Smith, Force Commander of the UNPROFOR in Bosnia and Herzegovina, were not respected by any side, there could be more air strikes. It was up to the

Special Representative and the generals in the field. They had stated clearly that they expected both parties to comply with their demands. If all heavy weapons were not removed or turned into collection points by noon today, then they were in violation and subject to air action.

Two deadlines had passed, a correspondent said. "And we have seen two air strikes", Mr. Fawzi responded. The current deadline had been violated, and therefore the question of air strikes was open.

Why was NATO not hitting the guns themselves? Mr. Fawzi said that NATO had the option to strike the "smoking gun" itself or to attack the support systems that were directly linked to the smoking gun. The object was to cause minimal collateral damage. Many guns had been placed in heavily populated areas which, if hit, would cause grave civilian casualties. Generals in the field must choose targets that would cause minimal collateral damage.

A correspondent then asked whether there had been a tactical warning to the Serbs and whether pilots had been given more than one target to strike. Mr. Fawzi said that targets had been agreed upon by the United Nations and NATO. He did not know whether the Serbs had been advised.

Another correspondent said that Bosnian Serb General Ratko Mladic had been quoted in the Reuters news service as having said that Bosnian Serb attacks against safe areas had been in response to NATO attacks against his forces. Mr. Fawzi said that under Security Council resolutions, safe areas could be protected under Chapter VII. That was something that the Security Council was looking into. It was up to the military people in the field to decide whether or not to use force to defend the safe areas.

Recalling an earlier question, a correspondent asked if there was any current account of the number of heavy-weapons in United Nations custody. Mr. Fawzi said that his office was still checking on it.

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PART 2 OF 2

DAILY PRESS BRIEFING, 26 May 1995

To a question on the upcoming report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the former Yugoslavia, Mr. Fawzi said that the report would probably not go to the Security Council before Tuesday. The Secretary-General was constantly taking into consideration new developments. The report in its final form would be submitted to him today.

Would the United Nations do anything about the hostages? Mr. Fawzi said that the United Nations was taking action, but that he could not go into details.

Had the Bosnian Government side complied with the second ultimatum? a correspondent asked. Also, had he checked into who had killed the two French peace-keepers? Mr. Fawzi said that the Government had complied with the ultimatum and had stated it would abide by the directive to remove their heavy weapons from the 20 kilometre exclusion zone around Sarajevo. The Government was not currently in violation.

To a question about activity over the upcoming three-day weekend, Mr. Fawzi said that in view of the tense situation in the former Yugoslavia and particularly in Bosnia, everyone should remain on alert. The Spokesman's Office would be staffed over the long weekend in case of any developments. Correspondents should stay in touch with the Spokesman's Office. As to the Security Council, he had no way to predict a meeting. It was a possibility.

Had UNPROFOR taken any measures against additional hostage-taking? Mr. Fawzi said that the security of peace-keepers was paramount. UNPROFOR was doing what it could to protect the security of its troops. In light of the situation, the military was taking precautions, but he could not go into details.

Asked for clarification on the detention of UNPROFOR peace-keepers, Mr. Fawzi said that eight military observers had been detained in Pale. He had received information that three of them had been "chained to poles". Another 80 had been confined -- their movements had been restricted and they were not allowed to leave the area.

A correspondent said that the Serbian News Agency had reported that recently the Bosnian Government had removed 20

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pieces of heavy artillery, including three tanks, from the collection points. Had he received that information? Why was the United Nations being quiet about it? Mr. Fawzi said he had not received that information, but he would look into it.

Regarding the letter from Iraq concerning depleted uranium left over from the Persian Gulf War, a correspondent said everyone knew that those weapons were common, but Iraq had said that 300 tons of depleted uranium had been left in the country. Was the United Nations concerned about the environmental aspect of that issue? Mr. Fawzi said the Department of Political Affairs was examining the letter and the environmental aspect would be part of that analysis.

Had there been death threats against United Nations peace-keepers? a correspondent asked. Mr. Fawzi said there had not been direct threats, but he had been informed that at around 12:20 p.m. (local time), General Mladic, the senior Serb commander, had passed a message, through a junior Serb officer, to Lieutenant-General Rupert Smith, UNPROFOR Force Commander in Bosnia and Herzegovina. That message stated "Your soldiers and officers on my territory are being taken to places which were targets of air strikes yesterday and today. All responsibility for further action is in your hands." The United Nations had seen that threat being carried out, Mr. Fawzi said.

Wouldn't that be a violation of the Geneva Convention? a correspondent asked. If so, why had it not been condemned? Mr. Fawzi said that he was condemning it in the strongest terms possible. But he also knew that the Security Council was discussing the matter and that the President of the Council would likely make a statement of his own.

A correspondent said Cable News Network had reported Serb sources stating that if any additional air strikes were carried out, United Nations military observers would be killed. Mr. Fawzi said that was another example of the tactics being used, and which the United Nations condemned strongly.

If the Serbs did not comply and return their heavy weapons, would NATO carry out a war against 1 million Bosnian Serbs, a correspondent asked. "I reject your terminology", Mr. Fawzi said. The United Nations was not conducting war against one side or the other. The United Nations was taking action to try to stop the war which had been escalating in Sarajevo between the two sides. If violations continued, the generals and politicians on the ground would have to decide whether further escalation was needed. The aim of the action was to try to buy more time to negotiate a durable and lasting peace.

Were they closer to achieving that aim? the correspondent asked. "We'll just have to wait and see", Mr. Fawzi said.

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FROM DPIIDS

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Security Council
3540th Meeting (PM)

SC/6045
26 May 1995

SECURITY COUNCIL, CONCERNED ABOUT IMPLEMENTATION OF SETTLEMENT
PLAN FOR WESTERN SAHARA, DECIDES TO SEND MISSION TO REGION

Resolution 995, Adopted Unanimously, Extends Mandate of MINURSO
Until 30 June

Expressing concern about obstacles to further progress in the implementation of the settlement plan for Western Sahara, the Security Council this afternoon decided to send a mission to the region. It therefore extended the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) until 30 June.

By unanimously adopting resolution 995 (1995), the Council decided to consider a further extension of the Mission's mandate beyond 30 June based both on the report of the Council mission and the report of the Secretary-General which was before it today. In that report the Secretary-General requested a four-month extension of the mandate.

Also in the resolution, the Council underlined the need for the parties to heed the Secretary-General's call on them to work with MINURSO in a spirit of genuine cooperation. It reiterated its commitment to holding a free, fair and impartial referendum for self-determination of the people of Western Sahara in accordance with the settlement plan which had been accepted by the two parties. Progress in identifying potential voters since the beginning of the year was commended, by the terms of the resolution.

The full text of resolution 995 (1995) reads as follows:

"The Security Council,

"Reaffirming its resolutions 621 (1988) of 20 September 1988, 658, (1990) of 27 June 1990, 690 (1991) of 29 April 1991, 725 (1991) of 31 December 1991, 809 (1993) of 2 March 1993, 907 (1994) of 29 March 1994 and 973 (1995) of 13 January 1995,

"Recalling the statement by the President of the Security Council of 12 April 1995 (S/PRST/1995/17),

"Noting the Secretary-General's report of 19 May 1995 (S/1995/404),

"1. Reiterates its commitment to holding, without further delay, a free, fair and impartial referendum for

self-determination of the people of Western Sahara in accordance with the Settlement Plan which has been accepted by the two parties;

"2. Commends the progress in identifying potential voters since the beginning of the year;

"3. Expresses concern, however, that certain practices identified in the Secretary-General's report are hampering further progress towards the implementation of the Settlement Plan and underlines the need for the parties to heed the Secretary-General's call on them to work with the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) in a spirit of genuine cooperation;

"4. Decides in this context, and with a view to accelerating the implementation of the Settlement Plan, to send a mission of the Council to the region;

"5. Decides, therefore, to extend at this stage the present mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) until 30 June 1995;

"6. Decides to consider the further extension of the mandate of MINURSO beyond 30 June 1995 in the light of the Secretary-General's report of 19 May 1995 and the report of the Security Council mission referred to in paragraph 4 above;

"7. Decides to remain seized of the matter."

The Council President, Jean-Bernard Merimee (France), called the meeting to order at 5:27 p.m. and adjourned it at 5:30 p.m.

Report of Secretary-General

In his report to the Council (S/1995/404), the Secretary-General recommends that the mandate of MINURSO, be extended for a period of four months. In recommending the extension he informed the Council that by the end of September he would assess progress achieved during that period and make further recommendations on the fulfilment of the United Nations mandate in Western Sahara.

The MINURSO -- which is known by its French acronym -- was established by resolution 658 (1990). That text approved plans for a settlement of the Western Sahara question. It provides for the United Nations to supervise a cease-fire between Morocco and the Frente Popular para la Liberacion de Saguia el-Hamra y de Rio de Oro (POLISARIO) and to organize and conduct a referendum in which the people of the Territory would choose between independence and integration with Morocco.

The Secretary-General states that while the cease-fire was implemented and has been observed since 6 September 1991, the widely differing positions and preoccupations of the parties led to prolonged consultations in the search for compromises on other aspects of the plan and the timetable for its implementation has been subjected to considerable adjustment.

The complexity and sensitivity of the identification process were not foreseen, says the Secretary-General. It has taken 10 months to process less than one third of the persons to be identified in the population centres of the Territory and the camps near Tindouf, but many barriers that seemed insurmountable have been overcome and much has been achieved that now seems irreversible.

According to the report, "potential voters are prepared to

travel and to wait for hours in uncomfortable conditions.

Parents and children, siblings, family members and friends are meeting for the first time after 18 years of conflict". The process represents the first genuine hope in two decades for resolving the dispute and makes it impossible for the parties to revert to their previous positions without the most serious repercussions..

However, the process cannot be brought to a successful conclusion without the full cooperation of the parties, the Secretary-General stresses repeatedly in the report. The MINURSO can address the technical difficulties as they develop; however, it cannot force the parties to continue with the process if they choose not to do so.

If MINURSO is permitted to proceed rapidly with identification, the referendum can take place early next year, says the Secretary-General. Before confirming the date for the start of the transitional period, progress must be achieved on other important aspects of the settlement plan, which requires the following steps:

- In early July, the Secretary-General would forward to the parties the final text of the code of conduct governing the parties during the referendum;

- In August, he would inform the Council of progress made by independent jurists on the release of political prisoners; and

- In September, he would make a ruling on the confinement of the Frente POLISARIO troops. By that time confirmation would have been received from the Government of Morocco on the arrangements for the reduction of its troops in the Territory.

According to the report, such benchmarks would enable the Council to assess the parties' willingness to press ahead with the implementation of the plan. Equally important will be sufficient progress in the identification and registration to permit the referendum to be held in early 1996.

The report states that both parties may have lost some of the incentive to cooperate unreservedly in the implementation of some elements of the settlement plan due to the cessation of hostilities and the delinking of the coming into effect of the cease-fire from the start of the transitional period. They have continued to respect the cease-fire, but the identification of applicants has progressed slowly.

Reviewing problems in that area, the Secretary-General states that the rate of identification has been uneven. The timely availability of tribal leaders or persons to replace those elected in 1973 and no longer living has been the single greatest obstacle to identification since the process began. At the end of April, identification was taking place at only three centres, as problems were obstructing progress at the other five. Consultations were held by the Deputy Special Representative regarding the issue of the "eldest son". A formula was accepted for dealing with cases where, because of sickness or for some other compelling reason, the sheikh or his agreed alternate was not available. As a result of those efforts, identification was resumed at all eight centres by 2 May. That week saw the highest total of persons identified to

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Background Release

TCDC/95
26 May 1995

HIGH LEVEL COMMITTEE ON REVIEW OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO HOLD NINTH SESSION AT HEADQUARTERS, 30
MAY-2 JUNE

Will Discuss New Directions And Implementation of Buenos Aires
Action Plan

New directions for technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC) and institutional and funding arrangements to support them are among topics to be discussed by the High-level Committee on the Review of TCDC at its ninth session, to be held at Headquarters from 30 May to 2 June.

The Committee will examine the basic elements of the new initiatives and suggestion that greater emphasis should be placed on core development issues of special interest to a large number of developing countries.

The Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will present specific proposals on measures the agency intends to take to further strengthen its support for TCDC. The Committee will, as in previous sessions, also review progress made in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action adopted at the United Nations Conference on TCDC in Argentina in 1978. Implementation of the Committee's previous decisions will also be examined.

The High-level Committee will, which meets every two years, was established by General Assembly resolution 33/134 following the Buenos Aires Conference. It makes recommendations on measures for implementing the Plan of Action and monitors all TCDC activities of the United Nations system. The application of TCDC is considered primarily as the responsibility of developing countries, with the United Nations development system acting as facilitator and catalyst.

All United Nations Member States and its specialized agencies are represented in the Committee. Representatives of United Nations intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations attend as observers.

For the Committee's consideration are a number of reports covering such areas as new directions for TCDC, Asia-Africa cooperation, and timing of future sessions of the Committee.

The report on new directions (TCDC/9/3) states that the

dramatic changes in international economic relations since the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing TCDC call for the reorientation of such cooperation to ensure that it continues to serve as a dynamic instrument at the disposal of developing countries and the international community as a whole.

It states that the strategic initiatives should focus on development issues and themes such as trade and investment, debt, the environment, poverty alleviation, production and employment, macroeconomic policy coordination, and aid management. The basic elements of the new directions agenda include a reorientation of existing TCDC practices and the forging of closer operational integration between developing countries in the fields of technical and economic cooperation.

The report calls for the identification of pivotal countries to serve as catalysts for implementing TCDC; the promotion of triangular cooperation arrangements; the compilation of information on successful and innovative projects capable of replication; the identification of subject specific TCDC products, which could attract funding. It also calls for the establishment of the Group of 77/UNDP award for TCDC/economic cooperation among developing countries, to be presented annually to an individual, group or institution to promote greater awareness of South-South cooperation.

On institutional arrangements, the report recommends that the High-level Committee should continue to serve as the intergovernmental entity responsible for the review of TCDC. Governments are called upon to review their institutions for coordinating and managing TCDC to determine the changes necessary. The report urges the establishment of a suitable mechanism to involve non-governmental organizations and the private sector in TCDC activities. It also recommends the incorporation of these activities in the operational programmes of the United Nations development system.

The report observes that adequate funding is central to the realization of the objectives of the new directions agenda. It urges developing countries to allocate resources to promote TCDC and calls for greater resources for the UNDP Special Unit for TCDC during the next programming cycle. Triangular funding arrangements should be explored, with donor countries providing third-party funding for TCDC activities. A valuable source of funding identified in the report is the private sector.

It states that the TCDC concept was still valid and likely to assume increasing importance in the future, despite unmet needs and the lack of its optimal integration within the operational activities of the United Nations system.

A report reviewing the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action (TCDC/9/2) provides a comprehensive analysis of information received from governments and the United Nations development system on measures they have taken. It notes that TCDC activities are significantly increasing, but that additional efforts would be required to ensure the realization of their full potential.

Also to be discussed at the meeting is a document entitled "Bandung Framework for Asia-Africa cooperation: Working

together towards the twenty-first century" (TCDC/9/3 Add.1).

It contains the conclusions and recommendations of the Asia-Africa Forum held in Bandung, Indonesia, from 12 to 16 December 1994. The meeting identified a number of areas for cooperation between African and Asian countries.

The High-level Committee is also expected to consider reports by the officers of its 1993 eighth session and of the UNDP Administrator on a number of issues, including the timing of future meetings of the Committee, the implementation of guidelines for the review of policies and procedures on TCDC by the United Nations development system, and organizational and supportive arrangements for TCDC. The officers recommend that the present arrangements for the Committee's meetings should be maintained. A report on the comprehensive external evaluation of TCDC implementation will be made available by the UNDP during the meeting.

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DH/1902

26 May 1995

F R I D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

--- Security Council strongly condemns Bosnian Serb shelling of safe areas after attack on Tuzla leaves scores dead; demands immediate release of United Nations personnel detained by Bosnian Serbs.

--- NATO launches second air strike against Bosnian Serb arms depot near Pale; Special Representative Akashi again demands compliance with agreement on heavy weapons and respect for safety of civilians.

--- United Nations and United States are immensely important to each other, Secretary-General tells Baker Institute for Public Policy.

--- UNEP plays vital role in formulating environmental policies and facilitating sustainable development, speakers tell Executive Council.

--- Special Committee on Human Rights in Occupied Territories completes field mission to Egypt, Jordan and Syria.

--- UNCTAD to hold meeting on socio-economic situation in least developed countries; issues report on role of tobacco in developing economies.

The Security Council has strongly condemned the shelling by Bosnian Serbs of safe areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina, particularly an attack on Tuzla which left many civilians dead. In a statement to correspondents by its President, Jean-Bernard Merimee (France), the Council demanded the immediate cessation of attacks against the safe areas. It also demanded that the Bosnian Serbs take all measures to ensure full respect of the status of the safe areas. The Council stressed that relevant resolutions must be respected by all.

The Council expressed deep concern at recent totally unacceptable actions by the Bosnian Serbs gravely affecting the safety and freedom of movement of United Nations personnel. It demanded the immediate release of all the personnel detained.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina today, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) launched another air strike against a Bosnian Serb ammunition depot near Pale, destroying six bunkers. NATO aircraft destroyed two bunkers at the depot yesterday, after the Bosnian Serbs failed to heed United Nations demands for compliance with the 1994 agreement on heavy weapons.

Special Representative Yasushi Akashi said he had approved the latest NATO action after Bosnian Serb forces continued to fire weapons within the Sarajevo exclusion zone, including from inside five weapons collection points. He also said that the Bosnian Serb shelling of Tuzla had killed more than 70 people, while an attack on Gorazde had left five dead.

Mr. Akashi stressed that he had no option but to respond to a dangerous situation which threatened the entire peace process. The NATO actions were intended to restore the integrity of the agreement on heavy weapons and respect for the safety of civilians, so that the political process could be resumed. He reminded the parties once again of the extreme gravity of the situation and the urgent need to reject the military option and to resume peaceful dialogue.

A United Nations spokesman this afternoon reported that the Bosnian Serbs had taken eight United Nations military observers hostage in Pale. Meanwhile, eighty peace-keepers were being confined to, or physically restricted at, weapons collection points in Sarajevo. There were unconfirmed reports that three heavy weapons had been removed from one collection point. The spokesman went on to say that cooperation between the United Nations and NATO was extremely successful, including with respect to contingency planning for any withdrawal of peace-keepers from Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The United Nations and the United States share the same goal of a peaceful and stable international order, and are immensely important to each other, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. He said the United States could work with and through the United Nations to address conflicts requiring international action at an early stage. He made those comments in an address to the Baker Institute for Public Policy in Houston, Texas, yesterday.

America's non-participation in the League of Nations had doomed that Geneva-based world organization to failure, the Secretary-General told the Baker Institute. America's decision to create and support a United Nations had led to the New York-based world Organization of today.

"The United Nations, so much a dream and creation of the United States, is ready for use in a great common cause -- the cause of peace, development and democracy everywhere," he went on to say. "Let us not turn away from that cause. The United Nations needs your support."

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is a pioneering organization in a vital new field, according to Maurice Strong, UNEP's first Executive Director and Secretary-General of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). Mr. Strong was one of several guest speakers during the UNEP Executive Council's two-week session in Nairobi, Kenya. He said success in tackling major environmental problems would depend upon what governments did, or failed to do, at the session.

The Chairman of the Commission on Sustainable Development, Henrique Cavalcanti, stressed the importance of a strong UNEP, saying it would be impossible to achieve sustainable development without proper environmental policies. As the leading United Nations authority in the field of the

environment, UNEP had an irreplaceable role to play in the global effort to achieve sustainable development.

The Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories has completed a field mission to Egypt, Jordan and Syria. The Special Committee is mandated to investigate Israeli practices affecting the human rights situation in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank (including East Jerusalem), and the occupied Syrian Arab Golan, and to report through the Secretary-General to the General Assembly.

Members of the Special Committee said that despite the signing of the Declaration of Principles, support for the peace process would erode without progress on human rights in the occupied territories. The parties concerned must build a true culture of respect for human rights in the occupied territories, so that the people of the region could live together in dignity, peace and mutual respect.

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) will hold a meeting of least developed countries (LDCs) and donor countries and institutions in Geneva from 29 May to 2 June. The meeting will assess the socio-economic situation in LDCs and make recommendations for accelerating the implementation of the Programme of Action for those countries for the 1990s. It will also act as the preparatory committee for the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting to review the Programme's implementation, to be held in New York from 26 September to 6 October.

The United Nations currently identifies 48 countries as LDCs. Their combined population is estimated at 560 million, or one tenth of world's population. Average per capita income in 1993 was \$300, compared to more than \$1,100 in the developing world as a whole, and \$22,000 in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries.

Meanwhile, UNCTAD has issued a report on the role of tobacco in the economies of tobacco-dependent developing countries. The report reviews tobacco production, exports and export earnings by country, and deals with the issue of diversification into alternatives to tobacco cultivation.

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FROM DPIIDS

OMNIPRESS / UNDEVPRO

26 May 1995

PRESS CONFERENCE BY BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

DAILY PRESS BRIEFING, 26 May 1995

At a Headquarters press conference yesterday afternoon, Muhamed Sacirbey, Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina, briefed correspondents on recent events in Sarajevo and its exclusion zone, and on a matter regarding the plan of the Contact Group (France, Germany, Russian Federation, United Kingdom and the United States).

Regarding the Contact Group, he read out a press release from his Mission. In that press release, he stated that the Belgrade Government of Slobodan Milosevic had engaged in petty brinkmanship instead of seizing the new opportunity to reverse its policies of aggression against Bosnia and Herzegovina, to truly support the peace process and to gain a concession from the Contact Group. Despite that, he continued, Bosnia and Herzegovina "continues to support the Contact Group's efforts to achieve mutual recognition between Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Serbia-Montenegro and indeed all the former Yugoslav republics".

"In this process we must expect that the Belgrade regime will attempt to take advantage of what it perceives as the impatience of some of the members of the Contact Group and their willingness to overlook substance for form". However, he stressed, it was important to achieve an agreement that would substantially move the peace process forward rather than enter further arrangements that would undermine the objectives of mutual recognition. Enough concessions had been made to the Belgrade regime and a resolute position by the Contact Group would best help bring about mutual recognition that would promote the peace process.

On events in Sarajevo, he said he had written to the President of the Security Council on the issue. In his letter, he welcomed the substance of Wednesday's ultimatum by the Commander of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina regarding heavy weapons and Thursday's limited actions by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in conjunction with the ultimatum. He emphasized that his country was ready to comply with the ultimatum voluntarily if there was a sincere UNPROFOR effort to keep its own

commitment.

Mr. Sacirbey said the 24 May communique of the UNPROFOR Commander had stated that both the Bosnian Serb and the Government armies had continued to flout the heavy weapons exclusion zone and the United Nations-declared safe area. He argued that, if the United Nations Command had enforced its earlier ultimatums, a new one would have been unnecessary. The Bosnian Serbs had been steadily increasing their reintroduction of heavy weapons into the exclusion zone and using them against civilians. It was only after UNPROFOR had shown its lack of will to stop those violations that the Bosnian Government decided to respond in self-defence.

Three parties --the Bosnian Serbs, the Bosnian Government and the UNPROFOR/NATO -- must honour the exclusion zone, he continued, adding that the Serbians were the first to violate the zone. The UNPROFOR, too, had done so by failing to respond to the Serb actions. "Therefore, we do not appreciate being lectured to or threatened by a command which, by its own words, did not react to earlier Serbian violations and murder of our civilians because such command gave first priority and concern regarding Serbian reprisals", he said. When UNPROFOR and NATO had faithfully committed to executing their mandate as their first priority, his country was prepared to delegate the responsibility to protect and deter attacks against its civilian population. He asked UNPROFOR and NATO to keep their promises.

Mr. Sacirbey expressed appreciation for the efforts of many diplomats in the United Nations, such as the United States Permanent Representative, Madeleine Albright, for trying to act in response to the difficult situation in Sarajevo. Her warnings that things would only get worse as a result of weak responses to Serbian provocations had been borne out, he said.

In response to a question as to whether he saw the recent air strike as the beginning of a more robust response to the situation, he said that it was necessary for UNPROFOR to show its commitment and the will to carry through its mandates in order to prevent greater challenges from the Serbs in future.

Asked whether the Bosnian Government would comply with the deadline for both the Government and the Serbs to withdraw and how it felt to be threatened by United States air power, Mr. Sacirbey said that his Government would meet the deadline. Regarding the threats, he said he did not appreciate being "threatened by those who had brought us to the brink of disaster".

Replying to a suggestion that the two French soldiers killed in Sarajevo several weeks ago had been shot by Bosnian Government forces and that the Government forces had also provoked recent and past skirmishes by making some incursions, he said that those assertions were not true. Those who were prepared to spread such views were engaged in trying to bring about an equivalency between the victim and the aggressor since they failed to distinguish between the two sides themselves when it came to keeping their commitments.

Asked if it was time for the departure of Yasushi Akashi, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Former Yugoslavia, Mr. Sacirbey said Mr. Akashi had spent a very long

time in Bosnia, with a very rough ride. "Sometimes new blood is important", he said, because it not only brought about new views, new options, new opportunities but also "someone who is not contaminated by the arguments of the past". He praised the personal qualities of Mr. Akashi even though the Bosnian Government had sometimes had severe differences with the options he had chosen in Bosnia and Herzegovina, poisoning relations between them.

Pressed to comment on an investigation mentioned by the UNPROFOR Commander, Lieutenant-General Bernard Janvier, which stated that Bosnian Government forces were shelling some UNPROFOR positions in Sarajevo, Mr. Sacirbey questioned whether there had been such an investigation. Those statements were mere assertions by people under fire for failing to carry out their duty. General Janvier should be careful about making assertions that were not supported even by his own investigators. The initial conclusion of the report on the death of the French soldiers was that the physical evidence was inaccurate and that those who had shot the soldiers could not be ascertained. His Government had objected even to that view because it was certain that the French soldiers had been shot by Serbian forces. He expressed wonder as to how physical evidence could crop up now to link the Bosnian Government to the murders when two weeks ago, the same commander had said that there was none.

Asked if he was concerned that Serbian retaliation against the recent air strikes could lead to the French withdrawal from Bosnia, Mr. Sacirbey said he did not favour the withdrawal of the French or any other troops from the Force because they helped the civilian population of Bosnia and Herzegovina. However, if any contingent was unwilling to fulfil its mandate, it would be invited to leave. The inability of the Force to respond to Serbian actions and to fulfil its mandate had been making its presence irrelevant in Bosnia.

Asked what he hoped for in the re-evaluation to be suggested by the Secretary-General to the Security Council, he said the report had in part been prompted by concerns his Government had expressed several weeks ago. They included the reopening of the Sarajevo airport, the securing of the Blue Route and the enforcement of the exclusion zones and safe areas. The position of the Bosnian Government was that it would favour UNPROFOR's continuation if it would be ready to carry out its mandate and be given the means to do so. On the other hand, there should be a further look at consolidation and even, potentially, withdrawal if the review ended up with a very marginalized mandate for the Force, he said.

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FROM DPIIDS
OMNIPRESS / UNDEVPRO

25 May 1995

PRESS BRIEFING BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UNICEF

At a press briefing held at Headquarters this morning, the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Carol Bellamy, reported on the results of an internal audit into the 1993-1994 transactions in its Kenya country office.

Ms. Bellamy said UNICEF's internal investigation into incidents of fraud and mismanagement in the Kenya country office had largely been completed. A report of the findings had been furnished to the Executive Director yesterday. "The results are so serious that I am taking the step of sharing them both with the (UNICEF Executive) Board, which is holding its annual meeting, and with the press."

The current audit into the situation in the Kenya country office had begun in January, she said, following on an earlier audit carried out in November and December of 1994 which had revealed serious irregularities. "It is clear that there was serious fraud and mismanagement in the Kenya office." While it was difficult to quantify the exact sums involved, both because the audit was not fully complete and because it was designed to identify those responsible rather than account for all funds, UNICEF could estimate that it had suffered losses of more than \$1 million in fraud -- personal fraud -- by staff members. In addition, gross mismanagement of resources had amounted to approximately \$8 million to \$9 million.

Lack of adequate management in the Kenya office had led to numerous disbursements which had not been adequately monitored and could not be accounted for, she continued. Investigations had revealed fraud in many of the transactions involved, and excessive overhead costs. Mismanagement had also resulted from working with too many local partners, a number of whom were not properly registered with UNICEF.

"As the new Executive Director, and indeed we at UNICEF as an organization, are committed to taking active, decisive, concrete action" she said. Eight staff members had already been dismissed as a result of the audit findings. An additional 15 staff members had been charged with serious misconduct. They had received charge letters from UNICEF. Another individual had received a charge letter for mismanagement only, rather than fraud and mismanagement. That brought the total number of individuals identified for further

action to 24. Among them were the two former heads of UNICEF's offices -- the country representatives -- who had been suspended since the audit investigation had begun and had been sent letters listing the charges against them. As with other staff members involved in the situation, they had been given a reasonable time to respond to the charges out of respect for their due process rights.

Obviously, she continued, all staff had a right to due process. If and where cases of fraud were established, which UNICEF believed would be the case, the staff members concerned would be dismissed and the evidence in UNICEF's possession would be turned over to the Kenyan authorities for criminal investigation. The UNICEF would take all measures to recover funds that had been stolen or misappropriated.

"It is obviously with a great deal of regret that I report on this today, because I am fully conscious of the gravity of the situation. It is a blow to UNICEF, which in my opinion, and in the opinion of millions of others, is an organization which has earned a well-deserved reputation for its dedication and its commitment to saving children's lives and to their development and their protection." The UNICEF would take immediate and decisive action against those responsible, and would continue to take whatever actions would be necessary in the future. "This kind of behaviour is just totally unacceptable."

Steps would also be taken to improve and strengthen UNICEF's accountability and financial management procedures, she went on. Mismanagement and fraud had absolutely no place in UNICEF, which held its funds in trust for women and children who were most in need. "I plan to make management reform a number one priority at UNICEF." New financial management systems would be established, and training was being provided to new representatives going into the field which emphasized operational procedures. The UNICEF was also designing a "trip-wire system" in its personnel office to identify early in the process any evidence of excessive hiring of staff. "We are taking actions internally as well as with respect to these specific individuals."

She said that in order to strengthen management accountability, she would work with all UNICEF partners, including Board members, donors, countries in which UNICEF worked, national committee partners, and non-governmental organizations. "I will seek advice and suggestions from them all."

She went on to clarify that UNICEF had several offices in Nairobi, including the regional office for east and southern Africa; the office for Operation Lifeline Sudan; and the office which serviced the country programme in Somalia. The problems being discussed today were specifically focused on only one office: the Kenya country programme office. The other UNICEF offices in Nairobi were not involved. Indeed, the same auditors who had audited that office had recently completed a review of one of the other offices and had not identified any kind of similar action.

"I have concluded that we are not talking about systemic problems", she said. "We are talking about one office where

the convergence of bad personnel at the top of that office, plus an environment in which this kind of conduct was not only allowed to take place but indeed encouraged, led to this situation. That will not happen again while I am Executive Director."

A correspondent asked if there were any provisions in UNICEF's administrative rules by which it could recover the money through such measures as withholding the pension of the staff member concerned. Ms. Bellamy replied affirmatively. There were ways to recover funds lost through mismanagement, and UNICEF would pursue all of them. That could involve salaries that may still have been owed or pension payments.

Asked if all staff involved had been internationally recruited, the UNICEF Executive Director said that of the eight staff members who had been dismissed, one was international and seven local. Of the 15 charged with fraud and mismanagement, who had been suspended and had received charge letters, four were international, including the two former country representatives, and 11 were local. The staff member charged only with mismanagement was international. Thus, the total number of international staff identified was six.

What exactly was the nature of the fraud? a correspondent asked. Ms. Bellamy stressed the importance of distinguishing between fraud and mismanagement. Fraud occurred because someone knowingly misrepresented or concealed information. Examples of fraud that had been uncovered included payments for non-existent services, double payments, failure to disclose a financial interest in contractors and claims for insurance refunds for non-existent medical treatment. In terms of mismanagement, which could also be defined as waste, UNICEF had found overstaffing, spending in excess of what had been authorized in the budget (that did not mean the money was not spent on attempting to deliver services, just that it exceeded what was authorized), lack of oversight for contractor delivery and performance, failure to follow procedures, use of office vehicles for private purposes and excessive expenditures for travel.

A correspondent said that the press had often heard that swift action would be taken, only to find months later that disciplinary action was caught up in bureaucratic red tape. Why would action be swift in this case? Ms. Bellamy said that probably the cases would not be closed in the coming months because "quite honestly, the response to this occurs at different levels". The immediate issues concerning the staff at fault must be dealt with. The programme in the country was being implemented, but UNICEF had reduced the number of staff members, including full-time, part-time and consultants, from 254 last December to 138 as of the beginning of this month. By the end of this year, that figure was expected to be reduced to 100.

She recalled that the immediate actions taken had included dismissing eight staff members and sending charge letters to an additional 15. "We have to follow due process." The UNICEF was prepared to move forward. A new country representative would soon be appointed, as would a new regional representative. "I'm not sitting here and saying that by

Friday of this week everything that needs to be done will be done, but I will tell you that in terms of this immediate problem, this particular office, moving forward on these particular individuals, we have dismissed some and we will dismiss others. We will change the leadership in that office."

A correspondent asked how much knowledge the former UNICEF Executive Director, James Grant, had of the situation in the Kenya office. Ms. Bellamy said that Mr. Grant had been the one to authorize the internal auditors to move forward on the matter. That had been a correct decision on his part.

Asked if the donors whose money was involved had been informed of the situation, Ms. Bellamy said they had. She had presented the results of the audit to the Board members, many of whom were donors, and had contacted other donors as well.

In response to another question, Ms. Bellamy said that, on the advice of the United Nations Legal Counsel, UNICEF would turn all of its findings over to the Kenyan authorities. Presumably, they would move on the cases as they felt appropriate.

Had equipment, food or services been diverted from UNICEF's programmes as a result of the fraud? a correspondent asked. Ms. Bellamy replied that the programme had continued. "We continued to serve children during this time, but I don't believe we served them as efficiently and effectively as we could have." It was not as though UNICEF had not still been working to try and meet the needs of children, but perhaps it could have met the needs of more children had the problems not existed. The incidents of fraud involved using money for the wrong purposes, while in the cases of mismanagement, funds had not been used as efficiently as they could have been.

"The UNICEF has, overall, a high quality staff of high integrity", the Executive Director said in response to another question. She said that she was encouraged daily by the quality of UNICEF's staff, but the agency did need to tighten some of its systems of accountability.

A correspondent then asked about rumours that the investigation had uncovered spending on lavish parties and prostitutes. Ms. Bellamy said there had been excessive spending in the context of hospitality, particularly for one party. The UNICEF would have to revisit its general hospitality policies and instigate stronger control. There was no evidence that any prostitutes had been involved.

Asked what the overall budget had been for the 1993-1994 budget, Ms. Bellamy said that it had been \$37 million.

In response to another question, Ms. Bellamy said she could not identify the individuals involved out of respect for due process. To a follow-up question, she said she did not know their nationalities.

Ms. Bellamy was then asked if UNICEF was conducting any similar investigations in any other part of the world. "The answer is no", she replied. Regular audits were being carried out as a matter of course. The UNICEF had always conducted internal audits every three or four years, but no other out-of-the-ordinary audits were being conducted.

Had the audit uncovered any collaboration with fraudulent non-governmental organizations? Ms. Bellamy said that the

audit had identified several non-governmental organizations which had not been registered with UNICEF. However, the agency's ability to look at fraud was limited to people working for UNICEF.

In closing, Ms. Bellamy said, "I assure you that we at UNICEF are proud of what we do and we have terrific people doing it. We come before you because we are convinced that it is important to be honest about what is going on, but we are convinced that this is an instance of terrible abuse which we will act against, not an example of what is happening in UNICEF today."

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BLI-AGBO, DAM/HLA/BAUTISTA, NIC/ROKOSZEWSKI,

DAILY PRESS BRIEFING, 25 May 1995

PART 2 OF 2

Were UNPROFOR warnings "still on the table" in Sarajevo? Mr. Fawzi said all "undeclared" weapons had to be removed. Over the last few days, declared weapons that had been in containment areas, together with "undeclared" weapons had been used throughout the city. All weapons had to be declared by noon tomorrow, otherwise air power would be used.

Regarding the use of phosphorous shells by Bosnian Serb tanks yesterday, a correspondent asked whether those devices were classified as chemical weapons. Mr. Fawzi said that it had been reported that a phosphorous round had been fired, but there had been no report of the use of chemical weapons. He was awaiting further details on the incident.

When was the Secretary-General's report on the UNPROFOR due, a correspondent asked. Mr. Fawzi stated that it may be ready over the weekend. The final draft would probably be submitted to the Secretary-General by the middle of the afternoon tomorrow, but then it had to be approved and translated into official languages prior to release. If it was ready tomorrow afternoon, he would see what could be done about holding a background briefing for correspondents.

Press reports yesterday had stated that both sides in Sarajevo had been in violation of the weapons exclusion zones. Why had NATO bombed only one side? a correspondent asked. Principles of proportionality had been applied, Mr. Fawzi said. Both sides had been warned, and action was taken against the side that had not complied with the warning.

Was it the position of the United Nations that the Bosnian Government was entitled to employ force in the safe areas? Mr. Fawzi said that he could not go into that.

A meeting of organizers of the NGO forum, a correspondent said, had expressed the concern that Mr. Kittani's mission to Beijing might be too late. Were his dates flexible? Mr. Fawzi said that he would ask him. The Conference was not until September, so there was still time to see what could be accomplished. Mr. Kittani was travelling as a representative of the United Nations and as Chairman of the Steering Committee. There were two separate meetings taking place, he recalled, the United Nations Conference, and one NGO forum. The United Nations did not control what went on at the forum.

A correspondent then said that according to Sergei V.

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Lavrov, Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation, Lieutenant-General Bernard Janvier, Commander of UNPF in the former Yugoslavia told the Security Council yesterday that it had been proven beyond any doubt that two French soldiers recently killed in Sarajevo had been shot by Government Forces. Why had that been kept secret?

Mr. Fawzi said that he was not aware that anything had been kept secret.

When would the Foreign Minister of India visit United Nations Headquarters, a correspondent asked. Mr. Fawzi said that he would find out.

(Subsequently it was learned that he would meet the Secretary-General Friday, 26 May, in the afternoon.)

Asked for clarification on the second United Nations warning regarding undeclared weapons in Sarajevo, Mr. Fawzi said that the warning applied to all sides. Tomorrow's deadline was for all remaining heavy weapons to be either moved to collection points or removed from the 12-mile exclusion zone. Some weapons had been placed in collection areas, and others had been withdrawn from the exclusion zone. Over the past few weeks, undeclared weapons had been used in different areas. Tomorrow's deadline was for all heavy weapons either to be declared and taken to collection points or removed from the exclusion zones.

To a question on whether the Security Council was discussing the situation in Sarajevo, Mr. Fawzi said that the Council was being briefed by Mr. Annan. A discussion may ensue; it was of such prime importance that they would likely discuss it. The Security Council's programme today included Western Sahara and other matters; they may well discuss the issue of Sarajevo under other matters.

Today's bombing target had been outside the exclusion zone, a correspondent said. Did that mean it had been a punitive strike? The target had been chosen with proportionality in mind, and the action had been successful, Mr. Fawzi said. That was all that he had to say about it.

Was the General Assembly discussing the venue of the NGO forum in Beijing? a correspondent asked. Mr. Gueye said there were discussions going on between delegations, but the Assembly as a whole was not discussing it.

A correspondent then said a letter from Iraq had stated that the use of depleted uranium shells in the Persian Gulf conflict had left something on the order of 300 tons of depleted uranium in Iraq. Was the United Nations doing anything about it? Also, yesterday, UNDP staff were "in a panic", because they had been told about an imminent 10 per cent staff cut "across the board". Did he have any information?

Mr. Fawzi said that he had read press reports concerning the letter from Iraq, and would look into the matter and report to correspondents. As to cuts at UNDP, they were in compliance with the directives of the Secretary-General, which he had issued four to six weeks ago. Mr. Fawzi recalled that either the Secretary-General or Joseph E. Connor, Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management, had written a letter to all departments and

agencies requesting 10 per cent cuts in manpower and 5 per cent cuts in budgets.

Had Theatre Force Commander Lieutenant-General Janvier informed the Secretary-General that the Bosnian Army had bombed an UNPFOROR position in Sarajevo? Mr. Fawzi said that he could not confirm that.

END OF PART 2 OF 2
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DAILY PRESS BRIEFING, 25 May 1995

PART 1 OF 2

Ahmad Fawzi, Deputy Spokesman for Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, began today's noon briefing by stating that Kofi Annan, Under-Secretary-General for Peace-keeping Operations was briefing the Security Council on the air strike carried out in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the events leading up to it.

Sarajevo today remained volatile. Yesterday, there had been more than 2,700 firing incidents across the city. There were numerous heavy weapons violations on both sides, with mortars, artillery and rockets being employed. Bosnian Serb tanks were sited north and south of the city and a phosphorous round was observed being fired from one of the tanks. Bosnian Government forces fired mortars from the Tito Barracks weapons collection point; Bosnian Serb forces had employed artillery from weapons collections points at Polijne and Osijek. Initial reports indicated that two civilians were killed and 10 were injured in the fighting yesterday.

As a result of the unstable situation in Sarajevo, Mr. Fawzi said, Lieutenant-General Rupert Smith, Force Commander of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina issued a warning with the approval of Yasushi Akashi, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for the former Yugoslavia at 9 p.m. (local time) last night. The first deadline passed without any reaction from the Bosnian Serbs. This afternoon General Smith telephoned the Deputy Commander of the Bosnian Serb Army to ask if he was aware of the consequences of not returning the heavy weapons in question to the collection points; he said that he was.

Authority to use North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) air power was released at 1:30 p.m. (local time). At 4 p.m. an air strike was carried out against an ammunition depot near Pale. The targets were mutually agreed by the Deputy Force Commander of the United Nations Peace Forces (UNPF) and CINC South (NATO's southern command). Bomb damage assessments had not been received, though initial indications were that the mission had been successful, he added.

Mr. Fawzi said that he had spoken by telephone with Fred

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Eckhard of the Spokesman's Office, in Zagreb, and he had stated that Mr. Akashi had called Admiral Leighton Smith, NATO CINCSOUTH Commander, to thank him for a well-executed air strike in which the two targets specified were hit and destroyed. The two bunkers were part of a much larger military complex; the action had been "restrained and proportional" Mr. Fawzi said. The objective was to stop the escalation of the war inside Sarajevo, to get the parties to stop fighting, and to buy more time for the political process to go forward.

The Secretary-General was in Houston, Texas. In one hour he would address the annual luncheon of the International Institute for Education at the Westin Galleria Hotel in Houston. At 2:40 p.m. (New York time) he would hold a press conference at the hotel. This evening the Secretary-General would speak before the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy at Rice University. Both texts will be issued as press releases.

Mr. Fawzi said that Wednesday he and Mr. Sills had received many questions about the dispatch of an envoy to China. They had been unable to confirm it at the time. He could now confirm that the Secretary-General had asked his Special Adviser, Under-Secretary-General Ismat Kittani to visit China for the purpose of reviewing with the Chinese Government arrangements for the Fourth World Conference on Women. Mr. Kittani was the Chairman of the High-Level Steering Committee for the Fourth World Conference on Women, which was comprised of the heads of United Nations departments and programmes. Mr. Kittani was expected to visit Beijing from 6 to 8 June.

Mr. Fawzi said that following the noon briefing, briefing notes from the Integrated Operations Centre for the United Nations-Rwanda Emergency Office in Kigali would be available in the Spokesman's Office. Those notes underlined humanitarian relief work performed throughout that country. Just over 83,000 people in Rwanda were benefiting from food distribution by the World Food Programme (WFP) and a number of non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The number of refugees returning to Rwanda during the period January to April was estimated at 114,000; of that number 23,000 had returned during April.

Regarding Haiti, Mr. Fawzi said that the Provisional Electoral Council had published its final list of candidates for the election scheduled for 25 June, for the first round, and 23 July for the second round. Voter registration had been extended from 30 May to 12 June. Nearly 90 per cent of eligible voters had been registered. Lakhdar Brahimi, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Haiti was scheduled to arrive in New York later today. He would brief the Security Council tomorrow and would meet with the Secretary-General next week -- most likely on Tuesday, the first working day of the week.

Bujumbura, Burundi was much calmer today, Mr. Fawzi said. The "dead city" strike had been ended following a conciliatory speech by the Prime Minister, who had invited delegations of youth to meet with him. Ahmedou Ould Abdallah, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Burundi, was leaving Bujumbura tomorrow, arriving in New York over the

weekend and would be at Headquarters next week. Shahryar M. Khan, Special Representative for Rwanda was also due at Headquarters next week for consultations.

The mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) would expire on 9 June, Mr. Fawzi noted. The Secretary-General was now preparing his report which was due out before that date. The election of judges to the Rwanda Tribunal was undertaken yesterday and would continue today. Judge Richard J. Goldstone, Prosecutor of the International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and of the International Tribunal for Rwanda, had expressed the hope that trials would begin by the end of the year.

Regarding Liberia, Mr. Fawzi said that the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Anthony B. Nyaki, had sent his report on the results of the Abuja, Nigeria summit, which unfortunately had not been a great success in bringing the parties together. The United Nations and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) would continue to exert their best efforts.

The mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) came up for renewal at the end of June. Four options were before the Security Council, which they would consider following their examination of the results of the Abuja summit.

Mr. Fawzi then said that United Nations security had asked that television crews entering the building through the visitor's entrance should proceed through the main building via the first basement, first floor or third floor. If they were on the second floor for any reason, they should be accompanied by a representative of the Media Accreditation and Liaison Unit.

A press conference originally scheduled for today with Anton Kruiderink, Regional Director of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), and Gaby Gabriel, UNDP Resident Representative in Poland, on the topic of the Beijing Express, (a train transporting 300 representatives from Eastern Europe and the CIS to the Fourth World Conference on Women), had been postponed until Wednesday, 31 May.

Also, Muhamed Sacirbey, Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina would hold a press conference on the subject of NATO airstrikes at 3 p.m. today in room 226.

Amadou Moutar Gueye, Spokesman for the President of the General Assembly then told correspondents that as of 7:30 p.m. last night, the Assembly had elected five of the six judges -- from Senegal, Bangladesh, Russian Federation, South Africa and Tanzania -- for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. Five candidates had withdrawn, from Ireland, Zambia, Madagascar, Norway, and a candidate that was a dual national of Czech Republic and Switzerland. Two candidates were still on the ballot, from Sweden and from Jamaica and Saint Kitts and Nevis (also a dual national). Correspondents could find the names and curriculum vitae of the 12 original candidates in document A/49/894. Switzerland and the Holy See, which had been invited to nominate judges, had been invited to participate in the election. (It was later announced that the sixth and last judge had been elected.)

The six judges would be elected for terms of four years on

a full-time basis, he continued. Therefore, they would be fully devoted to their offices and would not engage in other professional activities. They would occupy their offices on two-month notice prior to the initiation of trial proceedings. They could start work immediately if they were required to, for example for adopting rules of procedure for the conduct of the proceedings. According to the statute of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, the members of the appeals chamber for the former Yugoslavia would also serve as members of the appeals chamber for Rwanda.

Mr. Gueye then said that yesterday the General Assembly had taken note of a communication from the Secretary-General informing it that Haiti had made payments necessary to reduce their arrears below the amount specified in Article 19 of the Charter. That meant that Haiti had regained its voting rights. The Assembly also adopted a resolution entitled "Organization of the List of Speakers for the Special Commemorative Meeting of the General Assembly on the Occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations". The draft resolution could be found in paragraph 4 of the report of the Preparatory Committee of the Fiftieth Anniversary (A/49/48/Add.1). As soon as the sixth judge was elected for the Rwanda Tribunal, it would be announced over the speaker.

A correspondent stated that when a government agreed to host a United Nations Conference, arrangements for NGOs were often made. What would be Mr. Kittani's position regarding the decision by China to place the NGO forum 30 miles from Beijing? Mr. Fawzi said that the Secretary-General had been trying to find a solution to the problem that was acceptable to both parties. By sending Mr. Kittani, he was continuing to do so. Mr. Kittani, as Chairman of the Steering Committee would be discussing arrangements for the United Nations Conference on Women and would also raise the problem of the NGO forum location.

END OF PART 1 OF 2
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FROM DPIIDS

OMNIPRESS / UNDEVPRO
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DH/1901

25 May 1995

T H U R S D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

--- NATO aircraft bomb Bosnian Serb ammunition depot after ultimatum for return of heavy weapons to collection points is ignored; United Nations says air strike was restrained and proportional.

--- General Assembly completes election of judges to trial chambers of International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda after eight rounds of voting.

--- Secretary-General asks Special Adviser Kittani to review arrangements for Fourth World Conference on Women with Chinese Government.

--- Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia concludes ministerial session in Beirut by calling for establishment of technical committees on energy and water resources.

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) aircraft today conducted an air strike against a Bosnian Serb ammunition depot, at the request of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR). A United Nations spokesman said that the mission appeared to have been successful and that two bunkers had been destroyed. He noted that the bunkers were part of a large military complex and characterized the air strike as "restrained and proportional".

Special Representative Yasushi Akashi had warned the Bosnian parties yesterday that the worsening situation in Sarajevo could not be tolerated. He said the fighting there violated the safe-area and exclusion-zone regimes and endangered the lives of innocent civilians and United Nations personnel. He noted that heavy weapons had been removed from United Nations collection points, and demanded a prompt cease-fire and full compliance with the February 1994 agreement on heavy weapons.

Late yesterday, UNPROFOR Force Commander Lieutenant-General Rupert Smith issued another warning. However, a deadline for compliance with United Nations demands passed without any reaction from the Bosnian Serbs. Lieutenant-General Smith today telephoned the deputy commander of the Bosnian Serb forces, who reportedly said he was aware of the possible consequences of non-compliance, according to the spokesman. After the air strike, Special Representative Akashi thanked NATO for a

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well-executed mission.

More than 2,700 firing incidents were reported in Sarajevo yesterday, with numerous heavy weapons violations by both sides. Bosnian Serb tanks were sighted to the north and south of city, one of which fired a phosphorous round.

The General Assembly today elected Lennart Aspegren of Sweden as judge to the trial chambers of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, in an eighth round of balloting. The Assembly yesterday elected Navanethem Pillay of South Africa, Laity Kama of Senegal, T.H. Khan of Bangladesh, Yakov A. Ostrovsky of the Russian Federation and William H. Sekule of Tanzania.

The Tribunal has two trial chambers, each made up of three judges; a five-judge Appeals Chamber, appointed by the President of the Tribunal; a Prosecutor, who will be responsible for investigating and prosecuting violations of international humanitarian law; and a Registry which will be responsible for administering and servicing the Tribunal.

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has asked Special Adviser Ismat Kittani to visit China to review arrangements for the Fourth World Conference on Women with the Chinese Government, a United Nations spokesman announced today. Under-Secretary-General Kittani is Chairman of the High-level Steering Committee for the Conference, which will take place in September. He is expected to be in Beijing between 6 and 8 June.

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) today concluded its eighteenth ministerial session in Beirut by calling for the establishment of technical committees on energy and water resources. The committees would help to formulate priorities related to the work programme and medium-term plans of ESCWA, follow up developments in the fields of energy and water resources and in related Commission activities, and follow up international conferences and coordinate relevant regional efforts.

Participating in the session were official delegations from ESCWA's 13 member States. The members are Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen. Representatives of United Nations agencies participated as observers.

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FROM DPIIDS

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DAILY PRESS BRIEFING, 24 May 1995

PART 1 OF 2

Joe Sills, Spokesman for Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali began today's noon briefing by stating that the Secretary-General had held a number of internal meetings this morning. In addition he had met with Eric Jensen, his Deputy Special Representative for Western Sahara. Mr. Jensen briefed the Secretary-General in his capacity as Chairman of the Identification Commission; he would brief the Security Council tomorrow. The Security Council was sending a mission to Western Sahara departing 2 June. Mr. Jensen would also meet with members of that mission.

The mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) would expire on 30 May, Mr. Sills said. The report of the Secretary-General on that topic (S/1995/404) was now available. Paragraph 38 of that report contained a list of necessary steps to get the referendum on schedule. The Secretary-General recommends a four-month renewal of the Mission. At the end of September, he would report in full to the Council as to whether or not the parties had implemented necessary provisions, and whether or not the referendum should go ahead.

At 11 a.m. the Secretary-General met with Leonardo Franco, Director of the United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights and of Compliance with the Commitments of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights in Guatemala (MINUGUA), to follow up on the Secretary General's mission there in early April and to review progress in the Guatemala peace process and the activities of the Mission. The Secretary-General expressed satisfaction at progress made by talks between the Government and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG), and his hope that agreement would be reached shortly on items under discussion, namely the socio-economic aspects and the agrarian situation. The two sides had presented their proposals. That was the same technique that had been followed regarding the indigenous people question, which had been successfully resolved. The United Nations was now trying to narrow differences between the proposals, and some progress had been made.

The Secretary-General also wanted to express his

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appreciation for the support of the international community, particularly that of the group of Friends of the Guatemala Peace Process (Colombia, Mexico, Norway, Spain, the United States and Venezuela). The Secretary-General further expressed the hope that Member States would generously contribute to the recently established Trust Fund for the Guatemalan Peace Process.

Mr. Sills then recalled that yesterday Lieutenant-General Bernard Janvier, Commander of the United Nations Peace Forces (UNPF) in the former Yugoslavia briefed the Secretary-General yesterday; together they reviewed options for the future. This morning General Janvier was briefing members of the Security Council.

The Secretary-General yesterday received a letter from Slavi Zh. Pashovski, Permanent Representative of Bulgaria, regarding the special economic problems of States directly affected by the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolutions imposing trade and economic sanctions on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. That letter had been on behalf of Bulgaria, Greece, Moldova, Romania and Ukraine. The Secretary-General told him that he was concerned and had discussed the matter with the Security Council.

Mr. Sills directed correspondents' attention to the supplement to the Secretary-General's Agenda for Peace, which outlined precise proposals regarding the establishment of a mechanism to address economic hardships faced by surrounding or contiguous States following the imposition of Security Council sanctions.

At 12:30 p.m. the Secretary-General was scheduled to meet with Carol Bellamy, newly appointed Administrator of United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). At 1:15 p.m. he would attend the monthly luncheon of the Security Council, hosted by the Permanent Mission of France, this month's President of the Council.

This afternoon the Secretary-General would depart for Houston, Texas where he would participate tomorrow in that city's observance of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations, Mr. Sills said. The Secretary-General would speak at a luncheon sponsored by the Institute for International Education and chaired by Richard Johnson, Chairman of the Houston Chronicle. The Secretary-General would meet with the editorial board of the Chronicle and would give a press conference.

Tomorrow evening he is scheduled to speak at the James Baker Institute on Foreign Policy at Rice University, hosted by former United States Secretary of State James Baker. Mr. Sills noted that the Secretary-General had met some time ago with the former Secretary of State, at which time Mr. Baker thought that he would not be able to attend the Houston event. The Secretary-General was very pleased that Mr. Baker had rearranged his schedule, and altered very complicated flight plans, so that he could be in Houston to welcome and introduce him. The Secretary-General would return to the office Friday afternoon.

Mr. Sills said that the Security Council was now being briefed by General Janvier. He had passed along to the General

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FROM DPIIDS

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Forty-ninth General Assembly
Plenary
104th Meeting (PM)

GA/8885
24 May 1995

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ELECTS TWO JUDGES OF INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL
TRIBUNAL FOR RWANDA, FOLLOWING ELECTION OF THREE JUDGES IN
MORNING MEETING

The General Assembly this afternoon, in a fourth round of
balloting, elected Yakov A. Ostrovsky of the Russian Federation
and William H. Sekule of the United Republic of Tanzania as
judges to the trial chambers of the International Criminal
Tribunal for Rwanda.

The first three judges elected by secret ballot this
morning were Navanethem Pillay of South Africa, Laity Kama of
Senegal and T.H. Khan of Bangladesh.

~~In the third and the fifth rounds of balloting this~~
afternoon none of the candidates obtained the required majority
of 94. In statements to the Assembly the representatives of
Zambia and the Czech Republic announced that the candidates
from their respective countries were withdrawing their
candidacies.

The Assembly will meet again on Thursday, 25 May, at 10:30
a.m. to elect the remaining judge to the Tribunal from the
following candidates: Lennart Aspegren of Sweden; Lloyd G.
Williams of Jamaica/Saint Kitts and Nevis; Anne Marie Stoltz of
Norway; and Edilbert Razafindralambo of Madagascar.

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FROM DPIIDS

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DAILY PRESS BRIEFING, 24 May 1995

PART 2 OF 2

Mr. Sills responded that he could not go beyond what he had already said. The Secretary-General was working quietly and privately, using his good offices to see if the situation could be resolved. The decision to hold the Conference in Beijing had been made by the General Assembly; any change in the venue of the NGO forum was up to the NGOs, not the United Nations.

Asked if the Secretary-General was dispatching Ismat Kittani, his Special Adviser, Mr. Sills said that he had no comment.

What was the opinion of the United Nations regarding NGOs at the Conference? Did it think that access for the NGOs to the Conference was important? Mr. Sills said it did; there had never been any question of that position. At any United Nations Conference, there would be a number of NGOs who would be accredited to the official Conference. The Commission on the Status of Women, acting as the Preparatory Committee for the Conference, had referred final decisions on accreditation to the summer meeting of the Economic and Social Council. But there would be far more people participating in the NGO forum than could ever be accredited to the Conference. Some 36,000 persons were expected to be accredited to the NGO forum. Perhaps 8 to 10 per cent of that number would be accredited to the formal Conference. It was important that the NGOs accredited to the Conference attend; they had a great role to play even though it was a governmental Conference.

To another question regarding the venue of the NGO forum, Mr. Sills said that the Secretary-General had been asked to help with this sensitive situation. He was doing so, using his good offices. It would not help to comment further.

Did the Secretary-General have any comment on the decision by the Israeli Government to suspend the expropriation of land in East Jerusalem? He did not have any comment, Mr. Sills said.

Did the United Nations have a view regarding the distance between the NGO site and the Conference site in Beijing? Mr. Sills said that it did not. It was important that there be access to the formal Conference, though at the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development, the two meetings had been at a substantial distance and that had not imposed

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insurmountable problems. It was a matter between the NGOs and the Government of China and the United Nations could not take a position on that. The Secretary-General was doing what he could to resolve the matter.

Regarding Mr. Ulkumen, the Chief of Protocol in Geneva, a correspondent said it had emerged that his suspension, which the United Nations had maintained was for traffic violations, was in fact due to "harassment, aggressive and offensive behaviour", although not due to sexual harassment, as was alleged. The recommendation from the two legal advisers was that his contract be terminated, and that the disciplinary committee had recommended a six-month suspension. Yet the Secretary-General had suspended him for only six weeks. Why had he done so? the correspondent asked.

Mr. Sills responded that he would not, under any circumstances, discuss private information on a disciplinary action against a staff member from material which was stolen or given illegally to outside parties. Disciplinary actions were privileged information between the United Nations and the staff member concerned. A decision had been made by the Secretary-General based upon recommendation made to him. Mr. Ulkumen had had his salary suspended for six weeks, he had returned to his job and was performing satisfactorily.

Why had it been stated that the issue was a traffic violation, when it in fact concerned something more serious? a correspondent asked. Mr. Sills said that the information given at the time had been the information that it had been felt was appropriate to give.

To a question on the appointment of a new Chief of Protocol and of a new Chief of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Mr. Sills said that neither post had been filled.

To a question on the letter to the Secretary-General from Bulgaria on behalf of States impacted by economic sanctions on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Mr. Sills said that the letter would be released as an official document. The letter did not ask for a suspension of sanctions, but for financial assistance from the international community.

Did he have any comment on reports that Mr. Paschke had been dispatched to Geneva to ask that the UNCTAD cut "a couple of hundred posts"? Mr. Sills said that he did not. He would check into the matter.

Contingency plans for the withdrawal of UNPROFOR peace-keepers with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in command seemed to be in place, a correspondent said. Was the United Nations comfortable with that plan?

Mr. Sills said that the United Nations had met with NATO extensively and that contingency plans were in place, but that he could not give detailed operational information.

A correspondent said that in a previous report on Croatia, the Secretary-General had indicated that there was "common ground" between the parties. But the issuance of that report had been followed by a Croatian offensive. What was the common ground now?

Mr. Sills said that the report had described continuing difficulties as regards Croatia. Obviously, the report had not

anticipated the action by the Government of Croatia in Sector West. That action had complicated the problem of deploying the UNCRO and working out its operational details. The area of "common ground" was now quite small, he said.

A correspondent said that the Croatian press was reporting that some 200 civilians had been machine-gunned in western Slavonia. What was the United Nations doing and why was it taking so long to investigate?

Mr. Sills said that there was an investigation under way on the situation in Sector West. The Special Rapporteur on Human Rights was in the area. The investigation would look into persons killed, persons who left the area, and into the status of those who remained. The investigation had not been completed and the report was not yet available.

The Secretary-General was about to go into the heartland of the United States where many people seemed to hate the United Nations with a passion, a correspondent noted. Had any additional security precautions be taken?

Mr. Sills said that he would not discuss security measures but obviously they were adequate. He had been amazed at the support of the entire community in Houston. Some 1,000 persons representing all segments of the community would attend the luncheon. It would be a tremendous expression of support for the fiftieth anniversary. He could not rule out that there might be some demonstrators outside the hotel -- that was their right, if they were peaceful -- but needed security measures were in place.

A correspondent said that one of the "citizens' militias" in the United States had sent a United Nations report to the offices of National Public Radio, claiming that it was part of a plot to take over the world. Did he have a comment?

Mr. Sills said that he had heard that report on the radio. The document in question had evidently been published by the Commission on Global Governance, which had been misidentified as a United Nations report. The Commission had presented the report to the Secretary-General, and it had proposed a role for the United Nations. Taking over North America was not one of those roles. "We have enough trouble with the missions we have without having a United Nations mission in North America", he joked.

Had there been a move to close First Avenue traffic for security reasons following what happened in Washington, D.C.? Mr. Sills said that it was up to the City of New York to decide.

(Note: The first sentence of the second paragraph on page 1 of the briefing notes for 17 May should read as follows: "The Secretary-General was, between 12:30 p.m. and 1 p.m., scheduled to receive the credentials of two Permanent Representatives: Ambassador Mamodou Debba Jallow of the Gambia and Ambassador David Rudadiri of Malawi, and to meet with the Minister for Housing of Guinea, Jean Traore.")

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DH/1900

24 May 1995

W E D N E S D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

--- Special Representative for former Yugoslavia demands prompt cease-fire after outbreak of heavy fighting in Sarajevo; warns Bosnian parties not to underestimate gravity of situation.
--- General Assembly adopts resolution on organization of speakers list for Fiftieth Anniversary Commemorative Meeting; elects judges to International Tribunal for Rwanda.
--- Secretary-General meets with senior United Nations officials to review Guatemala peace process and activities of MINUGUA.
--- Secretary-General recommends Security Council extend MINURSO mandate for four months; says Western Sahara referendum could take place early next year if voter identification proceeds rapidly.
--- Antonio Pedauye of Spain appointed as Head of Mission of UNPROFOR; Henryk Sokalski of Poland to be Civilian Head of Mission of UNPREDEP; Khaled Yassir named as Deputy Special Representative for Angola.
--- Tajik Government and opposition extend current cease-fire agreement for three months.
--- WHO reports no new cases of Ebola haemorrhagic fever in Zaire since 21 May; puts total of deaths at 101.

Heavy fighting broke out in Sarajevo again today, leading Special Representative Yasushi Akashi to demand a prompt cease-fire and full compliance with the February 1994 agreement on heavy weapons. He said the fighting violated the safe-area and exclusion-zone regimes and endangered the lives of innocent civilians and United Nations personnel. He noted that weapons had been removed from weapons collection points or, in some cases, fired from them.

"This makes a series of extremely dangerous and volatile escalations that cannot be tolerated", Mr. Akashi said. He reminded the Bosnian Government and the Bosnian Serbs of the potentially serious consequences of non-compliance, saying the gravity of the situation should not be underestimated.

In another development, the Force Commander of the United Nations Peace Forces (UNPF), Lieutenant-General Bernard Janvier, today briefed the Security Council on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The General Assembly this morning approved the

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' organization of the list of speakers for its Special Commemorative Meeting on the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations, to be held from 22 to 24 October. It acted without a vote on a draft resolution submitted by the Preparatory Committee for the Fiftieth Anniversary.

Heads of State will be accorded first priority, followed by vice-presidents, crown princes/princesses, heads of government, highest ranking officials of the Holy See and Switzerland as observer States and Palestine, in its capacity as observer, ministers, permanent representatives and other observers. The order of the list to choose meeting and speaker slots will be determined in a drawing of names by the Secretary-General or his representative on 7 June.

Also this morning, the Assembly elected three judges to the trial chambers of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. Nevanethem Pillay (South Africa), Laity Kama (Senegal), and T.H. Khan (Bangladesh) each received the required absolute majority. Three seats remained to be filled.

Secretary-General Boutros-Boutros Ghali today held a meeting to review progress in the Guatemala peace process and to discuss the activities of the United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights in Guatemala (MINUGUA). The meeting was attended by Special Political Adviser Rosario Green, Special Envoy Gilberto Schlittler and MINUGUA Director Leonardo Franco, who is currently on mission in New York. The review was a follow-up to the Secretary-General's visit to Guatemala in April.

In the meeting, the Secretary-General reiterated his support for MINUGUA's activities in the verification of human rights and the strengthening of national institutions. He expressed his satisfaction at the progress being made in the talks between the Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG), and his hope that an agreement would be reached shortly on socio-economic aspects and the agrarian situation.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali reiterated his willingness to assist the Guatemalans in their quest for peace. He expressed his appreciation for the support of the international community, particularly that of the Group of Friends of the Guatemala Peace Process (Colombia, Mexico, Norway, Spain, the United States of America and Venezuela). He also expressed the hope that Member States would contribute generously to the Trust Fund for the Guatemala Peace Process.

The Secretary-General was scheduled to depart later in the day for Houston, Texas, to participate in that city's observation tomorrow of the Organization's fiftieth anniversary. He was also scheduled to address the Institute for International Education and the James Baker Institute on Foreign Policy, before returning to Headquarters on Friday.

The Security Council should extend the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) for four months, according to the Secretary-General. In a report dated 19 May, he said the referendum could take place early next year if the Mission were allowed to proceed rapidly with the identification of voters. While identification had proved to be a complex and sensitive

process, many seemingly insurmountable barriers had been overcome and much had been achieved.

The Secretary-General called on the parties to cooperate with MINURSO so that the identification process could be concluded successfully. Meanwhile, progress must be achieved on other important aspects of the settlement plan. In early July, he would forward to the parties the final text of the code of conduct; in August, he would inform the Council of the progress made on the release of political prisoners; in September, he would make a ruling on the confinement of Frente POLISARIO prisoners. By that time, he should have received confirmation from the Government of Morocco on the arrangements for the reduction of its troops in the Territory.

Monitoring those benchmarks would enable the Security Council to assess the parties' willingness to implement the settlement plan, the Secretary-General continued. By the end of September, he would assess the progress achieved and make recommendations for the fulfilment of the United Nations mandate in Western Sahara. In a related development, a spokesman for the Organization today announced that a Council mission would depart for the Territory on 2 June.

The Secretary-General has appointed Ambassador Antonio Pedauye of Spain as Head of Mission of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR). Mr. Pedauye is currently Spain's Ambassador-at-large for the former Yugoslavia. Meanwhile, Henryk Sokalski of Poland has been appointed as Civilian Head of Mission of the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force (UNPREDEP) in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. He is currently the Director and Coordinator for the International Year of the Family at the United Nations Office in Vienna.

In another appointment, the Secretary-General named Khaled Yassir as his Deputy Special Representative for Angola. Mr. Yassir has been Director of the Division for Audit and Management Review of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) since 1982. The three appointments announced today were at the level of Assistant Secretary-General.

The Government of Tajikistan and the Tajik opposition have extended the current cease-fire agreement for three months through 26 August, a United Nations spokesman announced today. They agreed on the extension at a meeting in Afghanistan, before beginning the fourth round of inter-Tajik talks in Kazakhstan on Monday.

In a Presidential statement on Friday, the Security Council called on the Tajik parties to extend the cease-fire. It recalled that an extension was necessary for the continuation of United Nations efforts and maintenance of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT).

There have been no new cases of Ebola haemorrhagic fever and no increase in the number of deaths in Zaire since 21 May, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). It said that one duplicated case had been discounted, giving a revised total of 136 cases and 101 deaths, and that the epidemic remained stable.

WHO reported that active surveillance in Kikwit might reveal a possible source of the epidemic. A previous chain of deaths within one household, which possibly began in December

' 1994, was now being linked with other cases of haemorrhagic disease and death similar to Ebola haemorrhagic fever.

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FROM DPIIDS

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Forty-ninth General Assembly
Plenary
103rd Meeting (AM)

GA/8884
24 May 1995

GENERAL ASSEMBLY APPROVES ORGANIZATION OF SPEAKERS LIST FOR
COMMEMORATIVE MEETING MARKING FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF UNITED
NATIONS Elects Three Judges of International Criminal Tribunal
for Rwanda

The General Assembly this morning approved the organization of the list of speakers for its Special Commemorative Meeting to be held next October to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations.

Also this morning, in the first of two rounds of secret balloting, the Assembly elected three of six judges who would serve in the trial chambers of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. Elected were Navanethem Pillay of South Africa; Laity Kama of Senegal; and T.H. Khan of Bangladesh. In the second round, no candidate received the required majority of 94 votes.

By a resolution adopted without a vote, the Assembly decided that at the fiftieth anniversary celebration from 22 to 24 October, heads of State would be accorded first priority on the list of speakers, followed by vice-presidents, crown princes/princesses, heads of government, highest ranking officials of the Holy See and Switzerland as observer States and Palestine in its capacity as observer, ministers, permanent representatives and other observers. The President of the United States, as Head of State of the host country, would be the first speaker.

According to the resolution, the Assembly would hold six meetings which would have 25 speaking slots each, with the exception of the afternoon meeting on Tuesday, 24 October, which would have 60 speakers. The drawing of names by the Secretary-General or his representative to establish the initial list of speakers would take place on 7 June at a meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations.

The representative of Israel, in explanation of position after the adoption of the resolution, said it did not change the status of Palestine as an observer.

The representative of the United States said his Government had joined the consensus and would be proud to

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1. TRIBUNAL

welcome the participants in the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary. He was pleased that the speaking arrangements would not affect the status of the observer States or any other observer and should not be seen as setting any kind of precedent.

At the outset of the meeting the President of the Assembly, Amara Essy (Cote d'Ivoire), announced that Haiti had made the necessary payment to reduce its arrears below the amount specified in Article 19 of the Charter. That article states that a Member which is in arrears in the payment of its financial contributions to the Organization shall have no vote in the Assembly if the amount equals or exceeds contributions due from it for the preceding two years.

The meeting was suspended until 3 p.m. today when voting on the remaining three candidates for the trial chambers of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda will resume.

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23 May 1995

T U E S D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

- UNCRO says situation in Croatia is stable, but troop movements into and out of Zone of Separation continue.
- Decolonization remains unfinished business despite great success, Chairman tells Subcommittee on Small Territories.
- States Parties adopt resolution to amend Convention on Elimination of Discrimination against Women.
- Committee on Rights of Child begins ninth session in Geneva by adopting agenda.
- World Environment Day 1995 to honour fiftieth anniversary of United Nations.
- United Nations University to hold Fourth Global Environmental Forum in Osaka on Thursday.

The situation in Croatia remained stable today, although there was some movement of Croatian Government and Croatian Serb troops into and out of the Zone of Separation, according to a United Nations spokesman. He noted that there had been six flights by Government aircraft into Sector North. In Sector East, the number of incoming refugees from Western Slavonia reached 4,500 today. Meanwhile, the United Nations sent a strong letter of protest to the Croatian police chief in Sector West regarding restrictions on access there.

The situation in Sarajevo was somewhat quieter today, the spokesman said, although two people were killed by Bosnian Serb snipers and a third person was killed by shellfire. A vehicle belonging to United Nations military observers was hijacked and stolen by Bosnian Serb soldiers. However, the Bosnian Serbs returned one of the two artillery pieces removed yesterday from a weapons collection point at Poljine.

Despite great success, decolonization remains unfinished business, Chairman Utula Utuoc Samana (Papua New Guinea) told the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance yesterday. He said decolonization acquired special meaning in light of both the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations and the thirty-fifth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. He made those comments as the Subcommittee began its two-week session at Headquarters.

The Chairman said the Subcommittee's forthcoming work

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would be greatly influenced by the target date of the year 2000 for the eradication of colonialism, as well as by the changing global and regional political environment. The Special Decolonization Committee continued to regard cooperation with the administering Powers to be of paramount importance and stood ready to cooperate with them in safeguarding the interests of the Non-Self-Governing Territory.

The Subcommittee is considering reports on Anguilla, American Samoa, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Tokelau, Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands.

The Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women has decided to amend article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention. That provision concerns meetings of the expert Committee which monitors implementation of the Convention. Under the terms of a resolution adopted by consensus, it would be revised to allow the Committee to normally meet annually to consider national reports of States parties on their implementation of the Convention.

The resolution recommended that the Assembly note with approval the action of the States parties at its fiftieth session later this year. The amendment would enter into force following consideration by the Assembly and acceptance by a two-thirds majority of the States parties.

The Committee on the Rights of the Child has begun its ninth session in Geneva by adopting its agenda and hearing a statement by Ibrahim Fall, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights. Mr. Fall highlighted the goal of universal ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by the end of 1995. While there were currently 174 States parties to the Convention, and signs that other States were considering ratification, it was still too early to relax efforts towards universality. He called for the strengthening of relationships between the various human rights treaty bodies so that a greater synergy could be achieved within the United Nations human rights system by the year 2000.

In her opening address, Chairman Hoda Badran said that if financial assistance were not increased, the Committee would have trouble coping with the large backlog of States parties' reports. She hoped that the Centre for Human Rights would respond to its request for increased assistance.

World Environment Day will be celebrated around the world on 5 June in order to focus attention on environmental action and awareness. With the theme of "We the Peoples, United for the Global Environment", the Day will also honour the United Nations on its fiftieth anniversary.

World Environment Day was established by the General Assembly in 1972. Each year, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) chooses a theme and selects a capital city as the main venue for the international celebrations. The venue this year is Pretoria, South Africa.

The first major event planned in the week-long series of activities in South Africa will be an interfaith celebration led by Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Other planned activities include a festival with an environment theme, an art exhibit on

the environment, and a symposium on South Africa's biological diversity.

The United Nations University (UNU) will hold its Fourth Global Environmental Forum, on the subject of "Population, Land Management and Environmental Change", on Thursday in Osaka, Japan. The Forum started in 1991 as an international gathering of leading researchers and experts from all continents to discuss specific issues related to global environmental change.

The Forum will report on the University's collaborative research project on population, land management and environmental change. The project involves field work in key agro-ecological zones of tropical and sub-tropical areas. It aims to understand the dynamic interactions between population and environment, which affect land management at the global, regional and local levels.

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(PART I OF II)

DAILY PRESS BRIEFING, 23 May 1995

Joe Sills, Spokesman for Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, began today's noon briefing by announcing the Secretary-General's appointments for the day. At 11:30 a.m. he had met with Emma Bonino, Commissioner for Humanitarian Affairs, European Commission; and at 12:00 p.m. with the National Committee of Advisers on French Foreign Trade. At 4:30 p.m., the Secretary-General was scheduled to meet with Slavi Zh. Pashovski, Permanent Representative of Bulgaria; at 5:15 p.m. with Samir Moubarak, Permanent Representative of Lebanon; and at 6:00 p.m. with Lieutenant-General Bernard Janvier, Commander of the United Nations Peace Forces (UNPF) in the former Yugoslavia.

The Security Council had no consultations scheduled today; consultations were expected tomorrow. There were meetings of two Security Council committees today. Details were available in the Journal.

Recalling the release yesterday of the Secretary-General's report on the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) (document S/1995/398), Mr. Sills said that the Force mandate expired at the end of May. The Security Council was expected to take up the item next week. The mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) would also expire at that time. The Secretary-General's report on MINURSO was expected to be issued today or tomorrow.

The mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) was scheduled to expire on 9 June, Mr. Sills said. Interest in that Mission's mandate had been piqued by comments of the Government of Rwanda and by various difficulties encountered there.

The General Assembly was scheduled to meet tomorrow at 10 a.m. to elect six judges of the trial chambers of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, Mr. Sills said. Twelve candidates had been put forward for those posts.

The situation in Croatia was stable today, though small numbers of troop movements had been observed in and out of the Zones of Separation. In Sector North, six Croatian Government flights into the sector had been observed, but no information

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was available on the extent of those penetrations. In Sector South, in an area under the control of the Krajina Serbs, a Canadian battalion armoured personnel carrier hit a newly laid trip-wire grenade; there were no casualties.

In Sector East the number of incoming refugees fleeing Western Slavonia had reached 4,500. They were being assisted by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and by the European Community Task Force, which were distributing aid. The situation in Sector West was stable; some 125 more people had left for Bosnia across the Sava Bridge. Croatian police were still denying the United Nations access to several areas, especially the area of the Argentine battalion. A strong letter of protest had been sent to the Chief of the Croatian Police in Sector West. The United Nations had increased the number of its civilian police patrols in the sector, and hoped to have 300 United Nations Civilian Police in the sector shortly.

Sarajevo today was "statistically quieter"-with some 600 firings observed. Two Bosnians were killed by sniper fire from Bosnian Serb positions, and a third person was killed in a shelling incident in the Kosevo area of the city. A vehicle belonging to United Nations military observers was hijacked by two Bosnian Serb soldiers; both the vehicle and the peace-keepers' radio equipment were stolen.

Regarding two artillery pieces that had been taken from a weapons exclusion area in Poljine, in the northern part of Sarajevo, yesterday, Mr. Sills said that the 105mm howitzer was returned to the weapons collection point by the Bosnian Serbs early this morning.

Bihac had also been quiet, with some activity in the north of the pocket, Mr. Sills said. It appeared that the confrontation line had shifted seven kilometres in a southeasterly direction around the village of Ripac; this area had been taken by Government forces in an offensive.

Regarding three local United Nations staff members in Sarajevo being held on the grounds that their work papers were not in order, Mr. Sills said that the Organization had been negotiating the matter. Two of the three had been released; a third had been drafted into the Army of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The United Nations was actively seeking his release.

The fourth round of inter-Tajik talks began yesterday in Almaty, Kazakstan, Mr. Sills said, with Ramiro Piriz-Ballon, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, delivering an opening statement. There had been reports that a three-month extension of the cease-fire (due to expire on 26 May) had been agreed to at a recent Kabul, Afghanistan meeting between the President of Tajikistan and the chief of the opposition prior to the opening of the inter-Tajik talks. If that was the case, it would represent a major positive development, he said.

In Bujumbura, Burundi, today was the second day of the "dead city" strike, which had been organized by Tutsi militants. The action had effectively closed down the city, though there had been no reports of any casualties related to it. Some grenade fire had been reported in outlying districts, with no casualties reported.

To a question on the Ebola virus outbreak in Zaire, Mr. Sills said that he had not received anything new either yesterday or today, but that he would check with the World Health Organization (WHO).

Regarding the seizure of heavy weapons by Bosnian Serb forces, a correspondent asked whether the United Nations had any means of identifying the culprits and bringing them to justice. The weapons exclusion areas around Sarajevo were not functioning well, Mr. Sills acknowledged. The United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) peace-keepers did not have the means or mandate to coerce or engage those who removed the weapons. Peace-keepers had fired shots in the air and had blocked roads with their vehicles, but in the final analysis, if soldiers insisted on removing weapons by force, peace-keepers could not stop them. The United Nations knew who the culprits were; identifying them was not the problem.

Was there a registry of weapons placed under United Nations Control?

Mr. Sills said that a registry had been established when the weapons were first put into place. He would seek figures on the number of weapons currently under control.

Had the Security Council received a letter from Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadjic accepting the proposals of the Contact Group? Mr. Sills said that five minutes before the noon briefing he had spoken to the Permanent Mission of France in this regard, (France holds the Security Council Presidency this month), but that no letter had been received by the President.

A correspondent then said that he had read on the news wires that French Prime Minister Alain Juppe had linked the continued presence of French troops in the UNPROFOR to recognition of Bosnia-Herzegovina by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). Did he have any comment? Was the United Nations discussing this with France?

Mr. Sills said the United Nations was discussing many aspects of UNPROFOR with different Governments, particularly the main troop contributors. Any decision to pull out of the UNPROFOR, or to modify troop levels or their mandates was up to the Security Council, of which France was a Permanent Member. France could, of course, unilaterally withdraw its troops from UNPROFOR.

As to any linkage concerning recognition of Bosnia-Herzegovina by Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, Mr. Sills said such recognition would be a positive thing and beneficial to the peace process. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali and Under-Secretary General Kofi Annan, of the Department of Peace-Keeping Operations, had discussed continuing French participation in UNPROFOR with that Government. France had earlier stated that if there were withdrawal, it should be unified, not unilateral; as far as he knew they had not modified their position. He directed journalists questions to the Permanent Mission of France.

Was not recognition of a State more a political action than a legal action? a correspondent asked. Could a country be blackmailed into recognition? Mr. Sills responded that recognition was both a political decision and a legal action.

States often had political reasons for granting or withholding recognition.

To a question on the role of non-governmental organizations in the upcoming Fourth World Conference on Women scheduled for Beijing from 4 to 15 September, Mr. Sills said two separate meetings would take place. The formal Conference was the subject of an agreement between the United Nations and China, the host country. Final decisions on accreditation to the Conference would be made by the Economic and Social Council this summer. The parallel

NGO forum was not a United Nations meeting. However, he confirmed that the Secretary-General had been approached by NGOs over the problem of that forum's location.

Mr. Sills went on to say that he had seen news reports that Richard Butler, Permanent Representative of Australia, would meet with the Secretary-General on the matter. The Secretary-General would be happy to meet with him, but a meeting had not yet been scheduled. The Secretary-General was trying to help solve the problem. He did not want to say more about it.

In answer to a question about the importance of the parallel NGO meetings, Mr. Sills said that the Secretary-General had repeatedly stressed the important role of NGOs. NGO meetings parallel to official United Nations Conferences had, he thought, begun at the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm in 1972, and had taken place in conjunction with all world conferences since. At the 1993 United Nations World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna, the NGO forum had been located in the same building as the official Conference; at the 1992 United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, the NGO forum had been located some distance away. There were regular exchanges between official conferences and NGO meetings, he said. Many participating in NGO meetings were also accredited to official conferences, so travelling between them was a matter of some concern. The NGO activities were very important; there was news generated there and issues were discussed in a vibrant and lively fashion. The Secretary-General hoped that the situation would be resolved, and he was trying to help that to happen. However, in the final analysis it was something to be resolved between the forum organizers and the host Government.

When asked by a correspondent about the ethnicity of the local United Nations staff members under arrest in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Mr. Sills said "we don't like to even talk in those terms; they are local staff of the United Nations and we feel they are being detained illegally".

To a question on the terms of a possible recognition of Bosnia-Herzegovina by Serbian President Milosevic, Mr. Sills said that he would not speak for Mr. Milosevic.

A correspondent then said that a Croatian weekly newspaper had stated in an article that 21 Americans, masquerading as UNHCR staff, were in Bosnia preparing intelligence prior to an UNPROFOR withdrawal. Mr. Sills said that he would check with the UNHCR, though he was sure they would categorically deny the accusation. There had been a North Atlantic Treaty

Organization team in the region which had included United States personnel, but this was the first he had heard of any accusations involving the UNHCR. Both the United Nations and NATO had made clear that contingency plans were being drawn up. They had made no secret of the matter, so there was no reason why they should be working undercover.

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(PART II OF II)

DAILY PRESS BRIEFING, 23 May 1995

A correspondent then stated that she had had difficulty getting a copy of a letter to the Secretary-General from Ahmad Kamal, Permanent Representative of Pakistan, regarding the situation in Kashmir. Mr. Sills said that, as a rule, if a Member State wrote a letter to the Secretary-General, the Organization did not release it. The Member State could release it; that was up to them. If the Secretary-General initiated a correspondence, then the United Nations made a decision whether to release it or not.

The correspondent said that last week the Secretary-General had expressed a willingness to assist the parties, but that both had failed to request such assistance. The Secretary-General's good offices required an invitation from both parties, Mr. Sills said. In the past, the Government of Pakistan had looked favourably upon such a role for the Secretary-General, but the Government of India had not.

To a question on the visit to Headquarters by Lieutenant-General Janvier, Mr. Sills said that the Force Commander would meet with troop contributors tomorrow. (Note: It was later announced that this meeting, which was closed, would be at 3:15 p.m. tomorrow.) He suggested that journalists might discuss the meeting with delegates as they departed the conference room. The meeting would discuss the military, rather than political, aspects of the situation. With the report of the Secretary-General about to come out, he doubted that Lieutenant-General Janvier would want to meet journalists, but he would make the request.

Regarding the two people killed in Sarajevo, wasn't sniping a "two-way street"? a correspondent asked. There did not seem to be any information coming from the Serbian side of the conflict.

Mr. Sills said that he received his information from United Nations officials on the ground. In the particular case in question, the two people had been killed by shots issuing from the Bosnian Serb side. Certainly, there was sniping from both sides, as had been stated on numerous occasions.

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FROM DPIIDS

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DAILY PRESS BRIEFING, 22 May 1995

Joe Sills, Spokesman for Secretary-General Boutros - Boutros-Ghali began today's noon briefing by informing correspondents that the Secretary-General had met at 10:30 a.m. with Sergey V. Lavrov, Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation, at the Ambassador's request; at 11 a.m. with Frederico Mayor, Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); and at 11:45 a.m. with Miguel Oyono Ndong Mifumu, Foreign Minister of Equatorial Guinea.

At 12:30 p.m. the Secretary-General was scheduled to meet with Donald Gerth, President of the International Association of University Presidents; at 4:30 p.m. he would meet with Dimitris Avramopoulos, Mayor of Athens.

The report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) (document S/1995/398) was available, Mr. Sills said. That report recommends extension of the Mission mandate for six months. Mr. Sills added that to listen to some discussions of the Golan Heights, in the context of recent peace talks, one would get the impression that there was no United Nations presence in the region, he observed. But the UNDOF had been doing its job with great success for 21 years.

The Security Council this morning engaged in consultations regarding sanctions against the Bosnian Serbs, as provided for in paragraph 21 of Council resolution 942 (1994). That resolution, adopted on 23 September, called for a sanctions review every four months; the present consultation was the second four-month review. Mr. Sills said that immediately following the noon briefing, Jean-Bernard Merimee, Permanent Representative of France, would speak to the press on that topic in his capacity as this month's President of the Security Council.

Regarding the former Yugoslavia, Mr. Sills said that the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, Justice Richard Goldstone, arrived in Zagreb today for a one-day visit. He met with Yasushi Akashi, the Secretary-General's Special Representative in the Former Yugoslavia and with Croatian Foreign Minister Mate Granic. A three-person team from Justice Goldstone's office has been in

the region for two weeks investigating events in Western Slavonia and the bombing of Zagreb; Justice Goldstone would meet with the team and review their work.

Tadeusz Mazowiecki, The United Nations Human Rights Commission's Special Rapporteur on the situation in the former Yugoslavia, was expected to arrive in Zagreb later today. He was scheduled to meet with representatives of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and with the European Community Monitoring Mission (ECMM). On Wednesday, Mr. Mazowiecki was scheduled to visit Western Slavonia.

The situation in Croatia today was stable, Mr. Sills said, although a number of soldiers continued to be present in the Zone of Separation. In Sector North there were reports that government forces were vacating positions by day only to re-occupy them at night. United Nations personnel in Sector North faced extreme restrictions on their movement, imposed by Serbian Forces.

Sector South had also been described as calm, Mr. Sills said, though there were a number of soldiers from both parties in the Zone of Separation. Sector East was stable, though severe restrictions of movement had been placed on United Nations personnel. A number of soldiers from both sides were also located in the Zone of Separation there, though, as in other sectors, the number was reduced from one week ago. In Sector West, the Argentine battalion was still being denied access to a number of its bases.

Sarajevo was tense, with a large number of firing incidents taking place, Mr. Sills said. At 4 a.m. today, Bosnian Serb soldiers removed one 105mm and one 122mm artillery piece from Poljine, in the northern part of the city. French United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) peace-keepers attempted to prevent the removal of the artillery pieces, but had been unable to do so. There had been reports of one civilian killed in Sarajevo by a sniper this morning, but he did not have confirmation of that.

Lieutenant-General Bernard Janvier, UNPROFOR Theatre Force Commander, would be in New York this week, and would meet on Wednesday with representatives of troop contributors to discuss military aspects of the Mission. The Secretary General was scheduled to report to the Council at the end of week, Mr. Sills said. He was not sure what day this week the report would be issued. There had been press reports apparently based on an early draft of the report, but there had been substantial changes, and there would be additional changes, over that version.

Mr. Sills then answered a question raised last Friday on Justice Goldstone's meeting in Kigali with the Rwanda Operational Support Group, regarding voluntary contributions for the Rwanda side of the International Criminal Tribunal. Following the meeting, which took place last Friday, Justice Goldstone reported that \$6 million had been pledged to the Voluntary Fund. A number of other commitments had been made for investigators to be seconded to the Tribunal. The Tribunal now employed 33 investigators; Justice Goldstone needed a total of 100. Justice Goldstone had stated that the \$6 million

contribution meant that the Tribunal would soon become operational. A memorandum was available in the Spokesman's Office outlining the humanitarian support activities of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR), Mr. Sills said.

A memorandum on the financial situation of the United Nations -- "our usual monthly tale of woe" -- was also available, Mr. Sills said. As of 15 May, the United Nations was owed a total of \$2.89 billion by Member States. Of that amount, \$1.02 billion was for the regular budget, and \$1.87 billion was for peace-keeping. That memorandum was available in the Spokesman's Office.

Talks on Liberia, taking place in Abuja, Nigeria, had not resolved the issue of power-sharing arrangements in the interim government, which had been the basic problem all along, Mr. Sills said. The participants in that meeting would continue to work with the factions from Liberia to try and resolve the problem.

The fourth round of inter-Tajik talks, which had been scheduled for Alma-Ata, Kazakhstan today, had been delayed by logistical problems. As of this morning, the delegation of the Tajik opposition had been unable to reach the meeting from Islamabad, Pakistan. Talks had been re-scheduled for 5 p.m. today (local time), if that delegation arrived. As of a few minutes ago, it was not clear whether the talks had actually opened.

To a question regarding office hours next weekend, Mr. Sills said that the United Nations would observe the Memorial Day holiday on Monday, 29 May.

A correspondent then asked for details regarding the recommendations to be contained in the upcoming report of the Secretary-General concerning UNPROFOR.

Mr. Sills said that he did not want to go beyond what the Secretary-General had already said. The Secretary-General would assess the situation and outline a series of options. He had stated at his press conference that he had been receiving input from military and logistical staff. The Theatre Force Commander would be in New York on Wednesday. Mr. Sills recommended that correspondents wait until the report was issued to see exactly what it said. He reminded them that the Secretary-General had made it clear that the decision was in the hands of the Security Council.

When was the mandate of the UNDOF due to be renewed, a correspondent asked. Mr. Sills said that he did not know exactly when the Council would take up the matter, as he did not have its programme for the rest of the week and next. The current mandate would expire on 31 May.

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FROM DPIIDS

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Disarmament Commission
195th Meeting (AM)

DC/2517
22 May 1995

DISARMAMENT COMMISSION HEARS PROGRESS REPORTS FROM WORKING
GROUPS

The Disarmament Commission met briefly this morning to hear progress reports from its three working groups.

The Commission has set up working groups to examine the three issues on its agenda: "the process of nuclear disarmament in the framework of international peace and security; "international arms transfers; and "review of the Declaration of the 1990s as the Third Disarmament Decade".

Luis Valencia Rodriguez (Ecuador), Chairman of working group I on nuclear disarmament, said he had prepared a working paper, which the group had agreed to consider as a basic text. Four chapters had been reviewed. Despite major differences, there was a tentative draft with bracketed phrases on the fourth chapter concerning principles and recommendations. He expressed the hope the working group would be able to come up with a realistic, analytic consensus text.

The representative of India said he did not accept the use of documents from the recently concluded Review and Extension Conference of Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) as a negotiating basis for working group I.

Wolfgang Hoffman (Germany), Chairman of working group II on international arms transfers, said deliberations were progressing as scheduled. The group was using a Chairman's working paper submitted last year as its basic document. The scope of the discussion had been defined and priority attention was being given to illicit arms trafficking. A first reading of the document was almost complete. He anticipated that a second reading of at least part of the document would be concluded by the end of the session. The results of that work would serve as the basis for final negotiation next year.

Ibrahim Gambari (Nigeria), Chairman of working group III on the Third Disarmament Decade, said the group was engaged in substantive work on a Chairman's paper, which it was using as its basic text. Papers had also been presented by India and China.

The Commission, which is holding its annual session from 15 to 30 May, is scheduled to meet again in plenary on 30 May.

END OF TRANSMISSION
DISSEMINATION UNIT/DPI

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The Burundi arms shipment saga:

DON'T ESCALATE CIVIL WARS IN OTHER STATES-CHURCH WARNS GOVT.

* Zambia won't let the arms to pass through her territory

By Mirror Reporter

A controversial Chinese ship suspected to be carrying weapons for the Burundi Government is still in Dares Salaam Port to offload the cargo, whilst a local Church warns Tanzania not to get involved in escalating neighbouring civil wars.

Guangzhou is said to have loaded assorted cargo at Beijing, China, which include weapons, caterpillars, trucks and other undisclosed items.

While the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT) cautioned the government, Zambia says it expects Tanzania to abide by international laws governing borders, following suspicions

that the jointly Zambia-Tanzania owned railway line, TAZARA could be involved in transporting the cargo following the closure of Tanzania-Burundi border.

A Zambia official at the country's High Commission in Dares Salaam City said Zambia had no idea of the arms deal and it is feared that its transaction might be transported by

Tanzania-Zambia Railway Authority (TAZARA) through Mpulungu Port in Zambia.

The High Commission Official said, Zambia can't allow the weapons to pass through her territory and port to Burundi.

The source said even if the cargo was to be shipped through Mpulungu Port along

Lake Tanganyika it would have to pass via Zaire then to Burundi.

The source however said, perhaps it should be carried by TAZARA within Tanzania, then be transported by vehicles to other destinations such as Lake Tanganyika ports on Tanzania side before reaching

Bujumbura.

Early this May *Shaba* Kiswahili bi-weekly reported that the ship which had anchored in Dares Salaam harbour, left the Port for Mombasa, Kenya to offload some agricultural equipment.

Shaba named the ship's

To Page 3

More stringent conditions for aid revealed

STEELCAST

(A Division of Aluminium-Africa Ltd.)

The Burundi arms shipment saga:

From Page 1

agent to be Mr. Sun Shen Yeai and reported him to have said *Shunyi* had left Dar es Salaam thereby making the matter more controversial.

Shaba reported that two Burundi senior military officials, a colonel and major had been in the city to convince the Tanzania Government allow *Shunyi* to offload the arms.

It said the military officials had lodged at Karibu Hotel in the city and their names were withheld by the paper.

Besides, there are speculations that should initial efforts by the two officers fail, then a senior Burundi official would visit Tanzania for some compromise.

Efforts to confirm the matter with Burundi and Chinese officials at their Embassies in the city by *Family Mirror* continue.

On the Kenyan side, the Kenya High Commissioner has been approached for details, besides *SHABA*, which quoted the Mombasa District Commissioner, Mr. Ally Korene as saying that Kenya won't allow *Shunyi* to use the country on military issues;

So far, the weapons weighing 152 tonnes bought overseas by the Burundi government have been on the way to Bujumbura from China via Dar es Salaam port, the Lutheran Church had disclosed.

The Church has urged the Tanzania Government to block off loading of the weapons at the Dar es Salaam Port and strictly deal with all persons involved in the Burundi and Rwanda tragedies, said the Church in a statement available at the *Family Mirror*.

"Never convert wealth and power from destruction and bloodshed, but crave after peace, security and healthy society," the Church stressed in its statement.

The Church has also urged the Tanzania Government not to allow its territory to be used to meddle with military wars in neighbouring countries.

The Church statement from its Secretary General, Mr. Amani Mwenegoha, based in Arusha says: "Democracy and Respect for Human Rights Unit of the ELCT 'has been informed of the dispatched consignment from China."

The statement which didn't disclose sources, said a ship named "*Shunyi*" is enroute to

Dar es Salaam harbour to deliver the weapons loaded at Beijing Port, China.

It says unconfirmed report awaiting confirmation indicated Sodeira clearing Agency managed by Nahima Chrisostome, shipped 3643 cases of weapons weighing 152 tonnes destined to Bujumbura, Burundi via Dar es Salaam port through Delivery Order no. 8631 dated March 29, 1995.

The sources didn't show the value of arms, supplier or manufacturer of the weapons, but said the *shunyi* left Beijing, China with a cargo for Dar es Salaam in the second week of last month (April 1995).

The weapons consignment is said to belong to the Burundi Government Army whose most of its soldiers are of the minority Tutsi tribe which intimidates the majority who are without firearms, the Hutu.

In due course, the ELCT warns the government and alerts peace loving people in Tanzania, that the country must not be used as accomplice to massacre neighbouring innocent majority population, the Hutu tribe.

It urges Tanzania to refuse any attempt to use her territory

on personal whims and vendetta of blood-thirsty mercenary groups.

Continued insecurity, civil strife and political unrest in Burundi didn't merit the purchase and supply of the weapons by individuals legitimate and illegitimate forces all over the world, explains the Church.

It won't be wise for any peace loving country to see further massacre of innocent Burundi civilians and foreigners in the Central African country, the ELCT points out.

Intensified war in Burundi, automatically implies refugee influx to Tanzania will increase and become an extra burden to the nation which up to now is failing to cope with the calamity, besides international co-operation on the matter, commented the Church.

The massive refugee infiltration from Rwanda and Burundi in Tanzania has already deteriorated social services on water, healthcare, sanitation, environment, food security, native people's mobility, economic activities and brought insecurity, fear and more communicable diseases

in the country, asserts the statement.

Colluding with the underground forces would worsen the Burundi situation into a big ethnic military war, the statement explains, adding that the closing of Tanzania-Burundi border was not a lasting answer or solution to the refugees influx to Tanzania.

It further says Africa and Africans must avoid being used as potential market of weaponry business investment at the expense of bloodshed and blind consciousness.

"Cold war which forced former Soviet Union and the United States super powers, China included to invest resources in weapons and

balance their forces has ended, therefore people must concentrate on promoting and safeguarding peace and respect for human rights," stressed the Church.

The end of cold war and market of arms must also extend to African soil leadership and governance emphasises the Church. Consequently, Tanzania should repeal dangerous shadows under ground, it urged.

Politicians and the government must act in moral principles to reconcile the Tutsi and Hutu, and preserve peace rather than allowing arms to be off loaded at Dar es Salaam port and pass in Tanzanian territory to Burundi, it added.

FOR RELIABLE NEWS

AND VIEWS

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22 May 1995

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Security Council says conditions for modification of sanctions regime against Bosnian Serbs have not been met.
- Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is meeting commitment to close border with Serb-controlled areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Co-Chairmen of International Conference report.
- UNPROFOR says situation in Sarajevo remains tense; Bosnian Serbs remove two artillery pieces from weapons collection point.
- Secretary-General recommends Security Council extend UNDOF mandate for six months; says Force performs functions effectively with cooperation of Israel and Syria.
- UNICEF Executive Director says Fund must respond quickly, strongly and with clarity to emergencies.
- States Parties to Law of Sea Convention conclude five-day session by adopting rules of procedure.
- Member States owe United Nations \$2.89 billion as of 15 May; \$1.02 billion owed to regular budget and \$1.87 billion owed to peace-keeping.
- International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda receives pledges worth \$6 million.
- UNEP honours 27 individuals and organizations for outstanding contributions to environmental protection.

The Security Council today reviewed the sanctions regime imposed on the Bosnian Serbs by resolution 942 (1994), and concluded that conditions for its modification had not been met. Council President Jean-Bernard Merimee (France) told correspondents that last week's developments in Bosnia and Herzegovina, particularly in Sarajevo, made it all the more necessary that the Bosnian Serbs accept the Contact Group's plan as a starting point for negotiations.

The sanctions imposed by resolution 942 (1994) apply to "all activities of an economic nature", with certain exceptions on humanitarian grounds. The Council said they would be reconsidered if the Bosnian Serbs accepted the territorial settlement proposed by the Contact Group.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) is continuing to meet its commitment to close the border between it and Serb-controlled areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina, according to the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on

the Former Yugoslavia. In a report issued today, they also certified that there had been no commercial transshipments across the border between the two countries during the past 30 days. The report was transmitted by the Secretary-General to the Security Council in a letter dated 18 May.

The Co-Chairmen called attention to the stringent financial situation of the International Conference's Mission to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). On 6 March, the Mission had 194 international personnel covering 19 border crossing-points. Due to the non-payment or late payment of contributions, it had only 152 as of 16 May. The Mission needed at least 250 international personnel to enhance the effectiveness of its work, the report went on to say.

The situation in Sarajevo remained tense today, and a large number of firing incidents were reported, according to a United Nations spokesman. Bosnian Serb soldiers this morning removed two artillery pieces from a weapons collection point at Poljine. French peace-keepers attempted unsuccessfully to prevent the removal of the artillery pieces.

The spokesman noted that the Force Commander of the United Nations Peace Forces (UNPF), General Bernard Janvier, would meet with troop contributors at Headquarters on Wednesday to discuss military aspects of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR).

Meanwhile, the situation in Croatia was stable, although some Croatian Government and Croatian Serb troops remained in the Zone of Separation, the spokesman said. There were severe restrictions on the movement of United Nations personnel in Sectors North and East.

Meanwhile, the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, Richard Goldstone, visited Zagreb today. He met with Special Representative Yasushi Akashi and the Croatian Foreign Minister. A team from the International Tribunal is currently in Croatia to investigate recent events in Western Slavonia and the shelling of Zagreb with cluster bombs. Justice Goldstone was expected to meet with the team to review its work.

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has recommended that the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) be extended for six months to 30 November. The Force was established in 1974 to supervise the cease-fire and agreement on disengagement between Israel and Syria. In a report dated 17 May, he said that UNDOF performed its functions effectively with the cooperation of the parties, and that its continued presence was essential.

The situation in the Middle East was potentially dangerous despite the present quiet in the Israel-Syria sector, the Secretary-General continued. It was likely to remain so unless and until a comprehensive settlement covering all aspects of the Middle East problem could be reached.

The Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) today began its annual session at Headquarters. In her opening address, newly appointed Executive Director Carol Bellamy stressed that UNICEF must respond quickly, strongly, efficiently and with clarity to emergencies. It must respond

not only when those emergencies arose, but as an ongoing feature of the current global environment. She said the Fund must not weaken its existing programmes or divert resources from longer-term development efforts, which were the most cost-efficient investment in conflict and disaster prevention.

During 1994, UNICEF cooperated in programmes in 149 countries. This included support to 18 programmes in Central and Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic States. Total programme expenditure reached \$801 million (\$397 million from general resources and \$404 million from supplementary funds). That figure represented a decrease of \$3 million from 1993, and included a decrease in programme expenditures for emergency assistance.

The Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea has concluded its five-day session by adopting its rules of procedure. It also requested the Secretariat to prepare a draft budget by 1 September for the initial phase of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea. The next Meeting will be held from 27 November to 1 December to consider the draft budget.

Meeting President Satya Nandan (Fiji) said he had appointed nine States parties to the Credentials Committee: Cameroon, Croatia, Germany, Malta, Marshall Islands, Philippines, Senegal, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay. Regarding practical arrangements to establish the International Tribunal, he said its composition and Chambers would be considered at a date closer to the election of the Tribunal's members scheduled to be held in August 1996. The United States had stated its intention to nominate a candidate to the Tribunal; Philippines had actually made its nomination.

As of 15 May, Member States owed the United Nations \$2.89 billion, according to the latest update on the Organization's financial situation. Of that amount, \$1.02 billion was for assessments for the regular budget and \$1.87 billion was for peace-keeping operations.

The United States -- the largest debtor -- owed \$527 million to the regular budget and \$650 million to peace-keeping. The Russian Federation owed \$41 million to the regular budget and \$558 million to peace-keeping.

The Trust Fund for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda has received pledges worth \$6 million, Prosecutor Richard Goldstone announced in Kigali on Friday. He said the money would allow the Tribunal to become operational very quickly.

Justice Goldstone also received commitments for the secondment of investigators to the Tribunal. Thirty-three investigators are currently available, although a total of 100 are needed.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has recognized the commitment of 27 individuals and organizations to the cause of environmental protection by electing them to its Global 500 Roll of Honour. They will be officially honoured at a special award ceremony in Pretoria on 5 June -- hosted by UNEP and the Government of South Africa -- as part of this year's World Environment Day celebrations. The awards are given out every year to individuals and organizations that have

made outstanding contributions to the protection of the environment.

Meanwhile, UNEP has signed an agreement of cooperation with the World Conservation Union (IUCN) in the field of environmental law. The agreement forms the third annex to a Framework Agreement of Cooperation concluded last March. It covers a wide range of activities, including development and codification of international environmental law; support to international environmental conventions; services to developing countries in the development of national environmental legislation; management of environmental law information; and legal training.

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FROM DPIIDS

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States Parties
Convention on Women
Eighth Meeting
1st Meeting (AM)

WOM/838
22 May 1995

STATES PARTIES BEGIN CONSIDERING PROPOSAL TO AMEND CONVENTION
ON ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN Draft Text on
Meetings of Committee Monitoring Convention Implementation
Introduced

The States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women this morning began considering a draft resolution to amend a provision of the Convention relating to meetings of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

The draft was introduced by the representative of Finland, who said that the time limitation had proved to be inadequate for a thorough and timely consideration by the Committee of reports of States parties and for the Committee to discharge its other responsibilities under the Convention. The 23-member Committee is charged with monitoring the implementation of the 1979 Convention.

The representative of Japan said it was necessary for the Convention to clarify how the duration of the Committee's meetings would be determined. The representative of the Russian Federation said a provision in the draft text for the General Assembly to approve the amendment to the Convention should be deleted.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, Ivanka Corti, said the Committee had recommended that the Meeting of the States parties consider the amendment so as to allow it to meet annually for a duration that was necessary for the effective performance of its functions under the Convention. It was difficult for the work of the Committee to progress due to the current time constraints on its meetings. Pending the completion of the amendment process, the Committee had recommended that the General Assembly authorize it to meet exceptionally in 1996 for two sessions, each for three weeks and preceded by pre-session working groups.

The following countries joined the original 28 sponsors of the draft: Colombia, Hungary, Kenya, New Zealand, Lithuania, Philippines, Bulgaria, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon,

Ethiopia, Estonia, Nigeria, Senegal, Samoa, Zimbabwe, Japan, Dominican Republic and Madagascar.

Also this morning, Ibrahim Gambari (Nigeria) was elected Chairman of the session, with the representatives of Japan (Asia), Lithuania (Eastern Europe), Suriname (Latin America and the Caribbean) and Canada (Western European and other States) elected as Vice-Chairmen.

The States parties will meet again at 3 p.m. today.

Work Programme of States Parties

The States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women began a one-day meeting this morning to discuss General Assembly decision 49/448 of 23 December 1994, on consideration of the request for a revision of article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention. That paragraph concerns the duration of meetings of the 23-member expert Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, which monitors the implementation of the 1979 Convention.

Paragraph 1 of article 20 states, "The Committee shall normally meet for a period of not more than two weeks annually in order to consider the reports submitted in accordance with article 18 of the present Convention." By a multi-Power draft resolution on the proposed amendment (CEDAW/SP/1995/L.1), the States parties would decide to replace the words "normally meet for a period of not more than two weeks annually in order" in that paragraph by the words "meet annually" and recommend that the Assembly approve the amendment at its fiftieth session. By the draft's terms, the amendment shall go into effect when it has been approved by the Assembly and accepted by a two-thirds majority of States parties which shall have so notified the Secretary-General as the Convention's depositary.

The draft is sponsored by Australia, Canada, Costa Rica, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Malta, Namibia, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.

Also before the Meeting of the States Parties is an amendment to the draft resolution (CEDAW/SP/1995/L.1/Add.1) proposed by Japan. By that proposal, article 20, paragraph 1, would be replaced with the following:

"The Committee shall normally meet annually in order to consider the reports submitted in accordance with article 18 of the present Convention. The duration of the meetings of the Committee shall be determined by a meeting of States parties to the present Convention, subject to the approval of the General Assembly."

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DAILY PRESS BRIEFING, 19 May 1995

Joe Sills, Spokesman for Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, began the briefing with details of his appointments for the day. At 11 a.m., the Secretary-General had met Mr. Miltidiadis Evert, Leader of the Opposition in Greece, followed at 11:30 a.m. by a session with William Perry, the United States Defence Secretary. Secretary Perry had earlier spent about 90 minutes in discussions with Under-Secretary-General for Peace-keeping Operations, Kofi Annan, and senior officials of the Department of Peace-keeping Operations. Later in the afternoon, the following statement was issued by the Spokesman on the Secretary-General's meeting with Secretary Perry:

"The Secretary-General and the United States Secretary of Defense, William Perry, met today and, along with their aides, reviewed United Nations peace-keeping operations. The Secretary of Defense expressed his continuing support for the United Nations and its peace-keeping efforts.

"The focus of their review was United Nations peace-keeping in the former Yugoslavia. They discussed in particular proposed changes in the role and deployment of United Nations peace-keeping troops in that area. They also discussed the role of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) air power in support of the United Nations operations.

"They then reviewed the operations of the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH). There was agreement between the Secretary-General and Secretary Perry that the transition to UNMIH had been smooth, and that the operation was going well.

"Prior to his meeting with the Secretary-General, Secretary Perry met with Kofi Annan, Under-Secretary-General for Peace-keeping Operations. At that time, among other matters, there was a discussion of the forthcoming elections and the police training programme in Haiti and United States support for United Nations peace-keeping activities."

At 12:15 p.m., the Secretary-General was scheduled to receive Blagoja Handziski, Minister of Defence of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and at 4:40 p.m., he would meet Herbert Schambeck, Vice President of the Federal Council of Austria. At 5:15 p.m., the Secretary-General would hold one of his regular meetings with Chairmen of the regional groups, seeing Representatives of Mauritania, Bhutan, Republic of Moldova, Venezuela and Iceland. At 6 p.m., he would receive Dominique Follmi, President of the Geneva Committee for the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations.

Mr. Sills said that at his meeting with the

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Secretary-General yesterday afternoon, Ambassador Ahmad Kamal of Pakistan delivered a letter from the Foreign Minister of Pakistan on the subject of Kashmir.

The Security Council was this morning holding consultations on Tajikistan based on the Secretary-General's latest report on the subject. The consultations were not about a mandate renewal, Mr. Sills stated, but on the situation in that country. He drew attention to the fact that the fourth round of inter-Tajik talks was scheduled to start next Monday. (It was later announced that there would be a meeting of the Security Council in the afternoon to read out a Presidential statement on Tajikistan.) Another subject the Council would discuss was Croatia, with a briefing from the Secretariat on the status of the withdrawal of troops from the Zones of Separation.

Turning to the former Yugoslavia, Mr. Sills said that the situation in Croatia remained stable but tense, with large numbers of troops from both warring parties still present in the Zones of Separation. In Sector North, there had been an inspection of the Zones of Separation by the United Nations and the Croatian authorities yesterday. Prior to that, a battalion of Croatian Government soldiers had withdrawn from the area. However, after the inspection, the majority of the soldiers had moved back into their positions. In the end, only about 40 Croatian soldiers actually left the Zones of Separation with nearly 600 still present, Mr. Sills said. As far as the Krajina Serb forces were concerned, there were still over 1,000 soldiers between the cease-fire lines in the Sector North.

The same sort of manoeuvres by the Croatian army had been observed by the United Nations in Sector South. The forces had withdrawn from the most prominent locations but had been observed by the United Nations taking up new positions in secluded wooded areas. It had been assessed by the United Nations that there were still 200 Croatian government troops in the Zones of Separation in Sector South and about 100 Serbian forces in the zones, Mr. Sills remarked.

He also said that there had been reports that in Sector East, the Croatian army had left the Zones of Separation, with about 60 Croatian Special Police remaining there, and between 200 and 300 Serbian forces in the area.

Continuing, Mr. Sills said that in Sector West, 147 people had left the area over the Sava river bridge yesterday. In several areas, the Argentinian battalion had been prevented from patrolling by the Croatian Army. The United Nations had protested this.

In Bosnia, there had been a considerable decrease in firing incidents in Sarajevo, and the situation was described as relatively quiet, though heavy weapons and tank firing had been reported in several areas of the city. Mr. Sills said that the airport had remained open with four United Nations flights, though flights by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) remained suspended.

He said that the two Russian battalion soldiers wounded yesterday by a booby trap device had been medically evacuated out of the area. Restrictions of movement imposed by both

sides continued to impede the freedom of United Nations personnel to travel between the city and the airport. Also, according to Mr. Sills, both the Government and the Bosnian Serbs were preventing the rotation of United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) troops at observation posts. Bosnian Serbs had also blocked access to the Poljine Weapons Collection Point.

Mr. Sills said that a United Nations civilian policeman had been killed in a traffic accident near the Holiday Inn last night and another seriously injured. Both were Irish members of UNPROFOR. He said that the Italian authorities had informed UNPROFOR that Italian journalist Matteo Toson was being held in Government police custody. There had been earlier reports that he had been killed and Mr. Sills was pleased that was not the case. The journalist was reported to be in good condition and his family had been informed of his whereabouts. It was still unclear where Mr. Toson was between 9 April and 16 May. There was no information on whether he would be put on trial or released, Mr. Sills added.

On another subject, Mr. Sills said a number of shells had fallen on Bihac from Serb positions. There had been no reports of casualties. The Bosnian Army Fifth Corps was reported to have continued its offensive to the east and south of Bihac. United Nations military observers had confirmed reports of systematic burning of houses in the area by the Government forces. Mr. Sills quoted the UNHCR as reporting that 4,000 refugees had fled from this area. Recalling a question he had been asked yesterday about the treatment being given the refugees by the agency, he said that the UNHCR had sent food, mattresses and other humanitarian supplies to the area where the refugees were located and would continue to assist them.

Mr. Sills said that following a break of about six weeks, the UNHCR had been able to get a convoy with a fairly substantial food supply -- about 140 tons -- into the Bihac pocket. The agency had, however, been forced by soldiers loyal to Mr. Fikret Abdic to leave 24 metric tonnes of high-protein food in Velika Kladusa. Mr. Sills said that the supplies were not actually taken from the convoy by the soldiers; they were now in a UNHCR warehouse.

On Rwanda, he said that the report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the events at Kibeho had been made available to correspondents. He drew attention to its key conclusion which said that the tragedy of Kibeho neither resulted from a planned action by the Rwandan authorities to kill a certain group of people, nor was it an accident that could not have been prevented. He referred correspondents to the report, in which several parties are criticized by the Commission.

Mr. Sills drew attention to the latest weekly bulletin of the Integrated Operations Centre in Kigali which covered the period 6-16 May. Reading from it, he said that the majority of the internally displaced people were now in their communes of origin. The UNHCR had reported that some 10,000 Rwandans had recently entered Burundi and about 4,000 had fled southwest Rwanda into Zaire. On another matter, he said that Justice Richard Goldstone of the International Criminal Tribunal,

addressing a donor conference in Rwanda today, had said that the tribunal was critically short of money and personnel and that its continued progress depended on getting resources.

On Liberia, Mr. Sills said that he did not have a very hopeful report from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Summit in Abuja attended also by the Liberian factions. There appeared to have been a deadlock on the question of power-sharing in the interim Government. He added that previous meetings on the Liberian conflict had also floundered on this issue. The latest one did not look promising, he observed, and he was not sure whether the conference would resume today.

He announced that next Monday, 22 May, at Headquarters, there would be the twenty-sixth meeting of representatives of internal audit services of United Nations organizations and multilateral financial institutions. Heads of audit services of 29 organizations would attend the three-day gathering which would be addressed by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali and other senior officials. The meeting would discuss a wide range of topics, including the emerging role of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, development of an effective system of accountability and responsibility, auditing aspects of United Nations peace-keeping missions, procurement and inventory policies and ways of increasing cooperation among oversight bodies of the United Nations system. A press release was available on the meeting, he said.

Asked whether the Secretary-General would submit his own comments on the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the Human Rights Centre, Mr. Sills said that he would have to check whether the Secretary-General would merely transmit that report to the General Assembly or add his own comments as well.

He told a correspondent that he would have to find out whether an aggregate figure could be provided of the number of Croatian troops that had withdrawn from the Zones of Separation. Figures he had been giving correspondents on withdrawals from the zones were from the United Nations in Zagreb. (Note: Following the briefing, a press release from the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in the former Yugoslavia, Yasushi Akashi, indicated that of the Croatian troops in the Zone of Separation, which at the highest level totalled 2,430, there remained approximately 760 and 50 Special Police.)

Asked about the funding mechanism for the International Criminal Tribunal headed by Justice Goldstone, he said that the question of funding from the United Nations budget was still under discussion. Money had been made available for the work of the Tribunal but the question would be taken up again by the General Assembly this summer. He said that there was disagreement about the method of assessment, and that the issue had not been resolved. A voluntary fund for the Tribunal had been established by the Secretary-General and appeals for personnel had also been made. Justice Goldstone had reiterated these needs in his statement to the meeting in Kigali earlier today. Replying to a further question, he said that he would check on the total of contributions so far received after the

meeting today.

(Note: In the first paragraph on page 2 of the briefing notes for Thursday, 18 May, Milan Martić, with whom the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in the former Yugoslavia, Yasushi Akashi, met on Wednesday, was characterized as a Bosnian Serb leader. His correction identification is as a leader of the Krajina Serbs.)

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FROM DPIIDS

OMNIPRESS / UNDEVPRO

19 May 1995

PRESS CONFERENCE BY BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

At a Headquarters press conference this morning, Muhamed Sacirbey, Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina, addressed the current review of the mandate of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in his country, as well as recent statements by UNPROFOR spokesmen which, he said, had contributed to the deterioration of the situation.

He said his country had engaged in discussions with representatives of troop-contributing countries regarding their views on UNPROFOR's current situation and on possible changes to its mandate. Although there was a level of psychological and financial fatigue among them, there was consensus among most of them that the Force should remain in his country and fulfil its mandate more effectively. While that would include taking additional risks, many countries saw greater risk in inaction.

His Government had been pleased to hear the view expressed by a Western country that it saw the first priority of its troops in Bosnia and Herzegovina as the defence of the civilian population, he said. It seemed sometimes that too much discussion was given to the safety of the soldiers, which actually encouraged the soldiers to become targets. The fear of reprisal became a self-fulfilling prophesy.

He expressed "strong disappointment" with the ever-increasing trend for official UNPROFOR spokesmen to state that "both parties do not have the necessary political will to reach a political settlement", or to say that both parties were responsible for the fighting, or to ask when both parties would learn that military action would lead nowhere. Such statements were inaccurate and "verge on the criminal".

The Bosnian Government had accepted the Contact Group's peace plan, he said. It continued to work with the Contact Group in its efforts to achieve peace, including its efforts to gain mutual recognition between his Government and that of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). To try to rationalize the murder of civilians by terming Bosnian actions, "real or imagined", as being provocative was an empty attempt to justify inaction by those who were there to defend the civilian population. Nowhere, in its mandate, did it say that UNPROFOR should fail to respond to the murder of civilians

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because of any action or inaction by the Bosnian Government.

It seemed that the only time the word "provocation" was used was in connection with the Bosnian Government, he continued. His Government would have acknowledged it if it had initiated any actions around Sarajevo. However, those actions were initiated by the besieging Serbian forces. The assaults on the defensive lines around Sarajevo would indicate that the assault had been planned. It was strange that UNPROFOR spokesmen did not speak of "provocation" when addressing the shellings of Sarajevo, the closing of the Sarajevo airport and the intensified strangulation of the city. They only seemed to use the term to rationalize their own inaction. If the problem was a fear of reprisal, they should say so, and not blame the victim for their own inaction.

In his meeting with the troop-contributors, what impression had he received from the French? a correspondent asked. Mr. Sacirbey said the French had not made a comment and he would not expect one from them at a time of a change of Government. However, there was a tendency in French politics to favour UNPROFOR's mission and to desire to make it more effective. That was a positive trend. In his meetings with British officials, he was told Britain was very much inclined to stay.

In response to another question, Mr. Sacirbey said that, while he had had some contact with Defence Secretary Perry, most of his contacts had been with United States Permanent Representative Madeleine K. Albright. The United States had fully encouraged the continuation of UNPROFOR in his country and that it be fully responsive to attacks against Force personnel and Bosnian civilians.

Asked to respond to the Secretary-General's comment, at his recent press conference, that he could not yet offer his recommendation on UNPROFOR's future, Mr. Sacirbey said the Secretary-General was entitled to a moment of reflection and that his communication with the Security Council had been "appropriate". However, he might be misreading the will of the international community and of the Bosnians, who were not so much tired of UNPROFOR as of its lack of response to attacks upon it and upon Bosnian civilians. While considering new options for a changing mission, one must avoid inaction. By standing still at a most dangerous time, UNPROFOR might be foreshadowing its own demise.

At his press conference, the Secretary-General had stated that, in the case of redeployment, a main objective would be the protection of civilians, a correspondent said. Mr. Sacirbey had also cited a major country as stating that its first priority was to protect civilians, the correspondent added. Asked for comment, Mr. Sacirbey said that any re-evaluation of UNPROFOR's mission in his country must be comprehensive. One could not marginalize its mandate without addressing the vacuums that would be left behind.

Mr. Sacirbey said he favoured making UNPROFOR more effective. However, if the intention was to effect its partial withdrawal and reduce its mandate, certain matters must be addressed. For example, it would be necessary to consider the repercussion of its possible withdrawal from the eastern

enclaves, which had been established in connection with the arms embargo. If one was considering the demilitarization of Sarajevo or Srebrenica, it would be necessary to look at each zone individually. While Tuzla did not seem appropriate for demilitarization, it would be incomprehensible that a heavy artillery attack against the city should be tolerated because it was not a demilitarized area.

Any intentional attack on a civilian population was by definition a war crime and should be treated as such, he continued. If the aim was to demilitarize Sarajevo, that process should be consistent with the peace process and should not involve the division of the city. In addition, one could not demilitarize only government-controlled areas without also demilitarizing the areas from which the victims were being targeted. Demilitarization assumed that someone would be there to defend those areas. If an area was demilitarized, the soldiers responsible for defending it should have the same rules of engagement as Bosnian soldiers.

Asked for clarification about use of the word "provocation" by UNPROFOR spokesmen, Mr. Sacirbey said such "provocations" were often invented. He knew Western diplomats who had said they were stunned by how some United Nations personnel seemed committed to finding fault with the Bosnians in order to justify their own inactions, stretching all logic to absurdity.

To what extent had his Government been involved in the comprehensive review of UNPROFOR? a correspondent asked. Mr. Sacirbey said it had not been as involved as it would have liked. There had been steady and constructive communication in New York with the office of Kofi Annan, Under-Secretary-General for Peace-keeping Operations. However, on the ground, the view remained that UNPROFOR's mandate should be analysed primarily in terms of the safety of its forces rather than its mandate.

Asked if he attributed "bad faith" to UNPROFOR, Mr. Sacirbey said the Force involved many people controlled from many capitals. The issues with which he was unhappy addressed potentially numerous sources of bad faith. It seemed that certain capitals were concerned about the risks involved, not simply because of the safety of their men but because of the political consequences. The death of one peace-keeper a week seemed to be considered "OK", while the death of three at the same time seemed to be considered unacceptable. In addition, the costs for UNPROFOR were higher than they would have been had it been enabled to carry out its mandate.

It seemed the favoured opinion was to cut UNPROFOR in half and to drop the safe areas, a correspondent said. Asked for comment, Mr. Sacirbey said that UNPROFOR needed to look at its mandate and perform it effectively. To drop the safe areas meant changing the Force's mandate. That would entail reviewing the alternatives that had been passed up with the establishment of the safe areas, including the concept of "lift and strike, or at least lift". Any re-evaluation of the mandate must also consider what was best for the peace process as well as the historical context. In Srebrenica, for example, its defenders had been disarmed by United Nations forces. It would not be constructive to leave a large civilian population

unprotected.

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BI-ACBO, DAM/HLA/BAUTISTA, NIC/ROKOSZEWSKI

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19 May 1995

F R I D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

--- Security Council calls on Tajik parties to extend current cease-fire agreement; stresses need for substantive progress at fourth round of inter-Tajik talks in Almaty.

--- Commission of Inquiry concludes Kibeho tragedy was not result of planned action by Rwandan authorities to kill certain group of people, nor was it unpreventable accident.

--- Secretary-General and United States Secretary of Defense review United Nations peace-keeping operations; discuss proposed changes in role and deployment of peace-keepers in former Yugoslavia.

--- Special Representative Akashi says Croatian Army is complying in general terms with direction to remove troops from Zone of Separation; total withdrawal is only way to further stabilize volatile situation.

--- UNPROFOR reports decrease in military activity in Sarajevo; UNHCR food convoy reaches Bihac after six-week break.

--- Internal auditors from United Nations and multilateral financial institutions to begin twenty-sixth meeting at Headquarters on Monday.

--- United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues to be held in Nagasaki from 12 to 16 June.

The Security Council today called on the Tajik Government and opposition to substantially extend the Cease-fire Agreement of 17 September 1994. In a statement read out by its President, Jean-Bernard Merimee (France), the Council also called on them to achieve substantive progress during the fourth round of inter-Tajik talks, which will begin in Almaty on 22 May. It stressed the need for progress on fundamental institutional issues and consolidation of the statehood of Tajikistan, as defined in the agenda agreed upon in Moscow last month.

The Council expressed concern over the actions of both sides in the past three months, which posed obstacles to the peace process. The parties must resolve the conflict and confirm, by taking practical steps, their commitment to achieve national reconciliation through peaceful political means on the basis of mutual concessions and compromises.

The Council noted the Secretary-General's observation in his report of 12 May that grounds existed for continuing United Nations efforts and maintaining the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT). It also recalled its view that extension of the cease-fire was necessary for that.

The tragedy at the Kibeho camp last month was not the

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result of a planned action by the Rwandan authorities to kill a certain group of people, according to the Independent International Commission of Inquiry. However, in a report issued in Kigali, the Commission said the killings were not an unpreventable accident. It concluded that unarmed internally displaced persons had been subjected to "arbitrary deprivation of life" in violation of human rights and humanitarian law committed by Rwandan military personnel. Such violations had also been committed by armed elements among the internally displaced persons themselves.

The report recognized the legitimate interests of the Rwandan Government and of the international community to have the displaced persons camps closed, for reasons of national security and to facilitate recovery from last year's genocide. It recognized the efforts made by the United Nations and the Government to keep the situation at Kibeho under control. However, it also expressed regret that United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations had not been able to contribute more efficiently to the speedy evacuation of displaced persons from the camp.

The Commission called on the Rwandan authorities to carry out an analysis of the mistakes made in the closure of the camps, and an impartial investigation of individual responsibilities within its armed forces for any other factors which might have contributed to the tragedy. High priority should be given to improving the capability of State and local authorities to react adequately and within the internationally recognized framework of human rights and of humanitarian law to situations of social tension. The Commission recommended that the international community continue encouraging and assisting Rwanda in its efforts to achieve justice, national reconciliation and reconstruction.

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali met today at Headquarters with United States Secretary of Defense William Perry and, along with their aides, reviewed United Nations peace-keeping operations. Mr. Perry expressed his continuing support for the Organization and its peace-keeping efforts.

The Secretary-General and the Defense Secretary focused on the situation in the former Yugoslavia, according to a United Nations spokesman. They discussed proposed changes in the role and deployment of the peace-keepers there, and the role of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) air power in support of United Nations operations. They also dealt with the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH), and agreed that the transition from the Multinational Force had been smooth and that the operation was going well.

Special Representative Yasushi Akashi today reported that the Croatian Army was complying in general terms with the Security Council's direction that it remove its troops from the Zone of Separation. However, he pointed out that some 760 Croatian soldiers and 50 special police remained in the Zone, and urged that the withdrawal be completed without delay.

Mr. Akashi noted "a positive desire at the Government level" to respond to the Council's wishes, although that desire had not been uniformly reflected on the ground. While there had been a further withdrawal from Sector North today, the

Croatian Army maintained a heavy presence just outside the Zone in Sector South, and a small one at key positions within. He said total withdrawal was the only way to restore the integrity of the cease-fire agreement and to further stabilize a volatile situation. The Government should honour its commitment to the common goal of an end to the fighting and a peaceful search for a negotiated solution.

There has been a considerable decrease in military activity in Sarajevo, a United Nations spokesman said today. There was some heavy-weapon and tank firing in parts of the city, but the airport remained open and handled four United Nations flights today. However, both Bosnian parties continued to impose restrictions on the movement of United Nations personnel between the city and the airport, and to prevent the rotation of peace-keepers at observation posts.

Meanwhile, fighting continued around Bihac, and the town was again shelled from Bosnian Serb positions, the spokesman reported. A United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) food convoy reached the pocket after a break of six weeks, although soldiers loyal to Fikret Abdic forced it to leave around 24 metric tons of food in Velika Kladusa.

The twenty-sixth meeting of Representatives of Internal Audit Services of the United Nations Organizations and Multilateral Financial Institutions will begin at Headquarters on Monday. Heads of Audit Services from 29 organizations will attend the three-day gathering, which will be addressed by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

The Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services of the United Nations, Karl Paschke, will host and chair the meeting. He will also deliver a keynote speech on the role of his recently established office. Mr. Paschke has launched a major effort to increase the impact and clout of internal control mechanisms at the United Nations.

Meeting participants will discuss a wide range of topics, including the emerging role of the Office of Internal Oversight Services; development of an effect system of accountability and responsibility; auditing aspects of United Nations peace-keeping missions, procurement and inventory policies; and ways of increasing cooperation among oversight bodies of the United Nations system.

"Disarmament in the last half century and its future prospects" will be the main theme of the United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues, to be held in Nagasaki, Japan, from 12 to 16 June. It will be opened by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Marrack Goulding.

Hosted by the Prefecture and City of Nagasaki and financed by the Government of Japan, the Conference is being convened by the United Nations Centre for Disarmament Affairs through its Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific. Participants will review the progress made by the international community in the field of arms control and disarmament, and search for common approaches to setting new priorities for the future.

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DAILY PRESS BRIEFING, 18 May 1995

PART 1 OF 2

Joe Sills, Spokesman for Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, began the briefing by informing correspondents that the Secretary-General had met at 11 a.m. with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan of Jordan, and that their discussions on a number of items had included the future of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR). The Secretary-General had expressed appreciation of the role of Jordan in the former Yugoslavia and elsewhere in support of peace-keeping. They had also discussed recent developments in the Middle East including the situation in East Jerusalem and questions of regional security and economic development. The Crown Prince had expressed satisfaction that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) would hold its regional conference in Amman, Jordan.

At 11:45 a.m., the Secretary-General had received Victor Gbeho, his former Special Representative in Somalia. At 12:30 p.m. he was scheduled to receive Aldo Ajello, Under-Secretary-General for Special Assignments in support of the Secretary-General's Preventive and Peace-making Efforts.

Continuing, Mr. Sills said that at 1:15 p.m., the Secretary-General would address the twenty-fifth anniversary luncheon of the Association of Former International Civil Servants. The text of his remarks would be made available later today, he said. At 4:30 p.m., a delegation of the American Bar Association would call on the Secretary-General, to be followed at 5:15 p.m. by Ambassador Ahmad Kamal of Pakistan.

At 6:30 p.m., the Secretary-General would speak at a reception at the Pierpont Morgan Library to mark the restoration of the Ben Ezra Synagogue in Cairo.

Mr. Sills said the Security Council had nothing scheduled for today but was expected, in consultations tomorrow, to take up the question of Tajikistan and the Secretary-General's report on it. He said that the meeting between the President of Tajikistan and the opposition leader had started yesterday in Kabul. The meeting was a bilateral one and the United Nations was not represented. The question of the indefinite

extension of the cease-fire, prisoner exchanges and changes in the Tajikistan political system were being discussed at the meeting which would go on through tomorrow. It would be a preparatory meeting to more formal talks. The fourth round of the inter-Tajik talks would begin next Monday with basically the same agenda items.

He announced that the communication from the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) he had referred to yesterday had now been published as document S/1995/392. It was stated in the document that the OIC meeting in Casablanca, Morocco, had urged the United Nations Secretary-General to take due cognizance of the threat to the region's peace and security posed by the deteriorating situation in Kashmir. The meeting had appealed to the President of the Security Council also to take note of the situation and to bring the matter to the attention of members of the Council for appropriate action.

On the former Yugoslavia, Mr. Sills said that the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Yasushi Akashi, had met with Bosnian Serb leader, Milan Martić, in Knin yesterday, as he had previously announced. Mr. Akashi had hoped to discuss the military situation in the Zones of Separation and the mandate of the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia (UNCRO), particularly in Sector West. However, Mr. Martić, according to Mr. Sills, had not been prepared to talk substantively about those matters until the status of the Serb population in Sector West was clarified. As he had previously mentioned, Mr. Sills said that UNCRO, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) were cooperating on a detailed investigation involving identifying bodies, registering people remaining in the sector and putting together those who had been left behind and had gone on to Bosnia. He said that very little had been accomplished given the position taken by Mr. Martić.

On the human rights situation in Western Slavonia, Mr. Sills said that Tadeusz Mazowiecki, the United Nations Human Rights Commission's Special Rapporteur on the situation in the former Yugoslavia, is expected to go to Croatia next week. Mr. Sills called attention to the paragraph in the resolution approved yesterday by the Security Council on Croatia which stated "that full observance of human rights, including appropriate international monitoring thereof, in particular in the area of Western Slavonia known as Sector West, is an essential step towards restoration of confidence between the parties and building a durable peace".

Mr. Sills said that the situation in the Zones of Separation was stable but tense. In Sector North, there were still about 1,200 Government troops in the Zone of Separation and just about that number of Serbian troops. A United Nations helicopter had been fired upon in that sector yesterday, but the origin of the fire was unknown, he said.

In Sector South, there were still small concentrations of Government soldiers in the Zone of Separation. They were reported to have taken up positions in bunkers and outposts. The Serbian side had about 100 soldiers reportedly conducting patrols in the area.

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BI-AGBO, DAM/HLA/BAUTISTA, NIC/ROKOSZEWSKI,

DAILY PRESS BRIEFING, 18 May 1995

PART 2 OF 2

According to Mr. Sills, Mr. Gharekhan had told the Council that the impasse on national reconciliation between the Somali National Alliance (SNA) and the Somali Salvation Alliance (SSA) had continued and that the political situation had been further compounded by the feud within the Habr Gedir clan over the issue of national reconciliation. The security situation remained volatile and unpredictable with intermittent but intense inter-clan fighting mainly in the north-west as well as in Mogadishu. The Mogadishu seaport had been opened to commercial traffic but the airport remained closed. In fact, one United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) supply ship had successfully unloaded goods at the seaport in late April. Incidents of banditry were reportedly on the increase south of Mogadishu. The United Nations humanitarian operations were continuing throughout the country.

In Mogadishu, Mr. Sills continued, United Nations agencies were maintaining operations through their Somali staff following the withdrawal of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II). The United Nations political office was currently based in Nairobi pending clarification of the necessary conditions for its relocation to Mogadishu. So far, two planned preliminary visits to Mogadishu for consultations with both General Mohamed Farah Hassan "Aideed" and Ali Mahdi Mohamed had been rejected. Mr. Ali Mahdi had declined to receive the first visit on the grounds that he was reluctant to receive anyone associated with UNOSOM and General "Aideed" had turned down the second visit and issued a statement strongly critical of United Nations interference in Somalia's internal affairs.

As the Secretary-General had indicated in his letter of 18 April to the President of the Security Council, he would return to the question of Somalia before long, Mr. Sills said.

On Liberia, Mr. Sills said that the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Summit was under way in Abuja, Nigeria. The Summit had been extended through today. The Heads of State last night had gotten together with the Liberian faction leaders for a direct meeting which had lasted until 1:30 this morning. They were to resume the talks at about 10 (local) this morning but no report of the meeting had been received.

Asked for comments about reports of a possible recognition

of Bosnia by Serbia, Mr. Sills said that Bosnia and Herzegovina was a Member State of the United Nations, and the Secretariat felt that Member States should be recognized. That would be a "favourable development", he stated, adding that it would be speculative to comment on the outcome of such an action. It was certainly a step in the right direction, he said. Asked what effect the recognition could have on United Nations operations in the region, he said that it was "hard to speculate" on that as it would depend on what the reaction of the various parties, particularly the Bosnians, would be to that development. He did not want to predict the reaction of any of the parties in the former Yugoslavia, he said and added: "That would be a very dangerous thing to try to do".

Responding to a question, Mr. Sills said that it was the first time that he had referred to the new title of Mr. Ajello. He recalled that Mr. Ajello had completed his assignment in Mozambique as the Secretary-General's Special Representative. The Secretary-General had asked him later to undertake a mission to Rwanda and Burundi as his Special Envoy, which he had done. He would be reporting to the Secretary-General on that mission, Mr. Sills said. He also said that the new title meant that Mr. Ajello would be carrying out special missions for the Secretary-General. Mr. Sills said that, given the exceptional success of Mr. Ajello's work in Mozambique, he thought that "this would be a very good thing". He told correspondents that an update of the list of special representatives and envoys of the Secretary-General would be issued in due course.

A correspondent observed that an implication of yesterday's Security Council action on the occupied Arab territories was that some Member States might want the United Nations to increase its involvement in the region. His understanding was that the small United Nations peace-keeping force in the region had performed "pretty well, and there had been little complaints about them". Was that a correct observation? he asked.

Mr. Sills remarked that there was a "little bit of apples and oranges" in the question. He did not want to speak for the Member States who had made statements before the Council. They had very well expressed their position, he said.

He said that United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) in the Golan Heights and United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) in Jerusalem were performing very well and that there had not been problems with their operation. Mr. Sills also reminded the correspondent of the very active effort of the United Nations in the economic area to assist in the West Bank and Gaza, which everyone seemed to be happy about. He did not believe that reservations had been expressed in the Security Council about those activities.

Replying to a question about the activities of the UNHCR in the Bihac area, he said that it was trying to reach about 150,000 people of different ethnic backgrounds it had estimated were in danger of starvation there. Mr. Sills said that he had no assessment of the needs of refugees and assured the correspondent that the UNHCR would attend to them as it had

done to all refugees of different ethnic backgrounds.

Asked whether the Secretary-General was considering ways of making known the United Nations concern about the status of Jerusalem despite the outcome of the Security Council debate, Mr. Sills said that it was a matter before the Council, which was a main body of the United Nations. The Council had dealt with the issue in accordance with its procedures. It would not be right for the Secretary-General, who had consistently been supportive of the Middle East peace process and continued to do so, to inject himself into the matter.

Mr. Sills told a correspondent that he would check whether a list existed of overall United Nations casualties in Bosnia.

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DH/1896

18 May 1995

T H U R S D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

--- UNPROFOR reports 11 attacks on peace-keepers amid heavy fighting in Sarajevo; UNCRO says Croatian Government and Croatian Serb soldiers remain in zones of separation.
--- Secretary-General discusses developments in Middle East, including situation in East Jerusalem, with Crown Prince of Jordan.
--- Somalia's political parties remain at impasse over issue of national reconciliation; security situation is volatile, with intermittent but intense inter-clan fighting.
--- Organization of Islamic Conference urges United Nations to respond to deteriorating situation in Kashmir, citing threat to regional peace and security.
--- International commission of inquiry into events at Rwanda's Kibeho camp expects to complete its work today.
--- Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information says DPI and Committee on Information enjoy very close relationship; highlights professionalism of DPI staff.
--- Special Representative for Angola travels on newly-reopened road from Luanda to Lobito for sixteenth session of Joint Commission.

There has been more heavy fighting in Sarajevo, with 11 direct attacks on United Nations personnel, a spokesman for the Organization said today. Two peace-keepers -- one French and one Russian -- were injured yesterday. Another two Russian peace-keepers were injured this morning by an anti-personnel mine. There was also fighting around Bihac, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) again warned that over 150,000 residents of the enclave faced starvation if food convoys were not allowed in soon.

Meanwhile, the situation in Croatia was described as stable but tense. Croatian Government and Croatian Serb soldiers remained deployed in the zones of separation in Sectors North, South and East. Two United Nations helicopters came under fire in Croatia yesterday, one from Serb positions in Sector East.

Special Representative Yasushi Akashi had an unproductive meeting with the Croatian Serb leadership in Knin yesterday, the spokesman continued. The leadership refused to discuss the

military situation in the zones of separation or the mandate of the United Nations Confidence Operation in Croatia (UNCRO) until the status of the Serbs in Sector West was clarified.

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali met today with Crown Prince Hassan of Jordan, according to a United Nations spokesman. They discussed a number of matters, including the future of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR). The Secretary-General expressed his appreciation for Jordan's support of United Nations peace-keeping operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina and elsewhere.

They also discussed recent developments in the Middle East, including the situation in East Jerusalem and questions of regional security and economic development. The Crown Prince expressed his satisfaction that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) would hold its regional conference in Amman.

The Somali National Alliance (SNA) and the Somali Salvation Alliance (SSA) are still at an impasse over the issue of national reconciliation, a United Nations spokesman said today. The security situation in Somalia remains volatile, with intermittent but intense inter-clan fighting, mainly in the north-west and in Mogadishu.

The United Nations political office is currently in Nairobi pending clarification of the necessary conditions for its relocation to the Somali capital, the spokesman noted. However, two planned preliminary visits for consultations have been cancelled because of objections by the two main Somali political leaders, General Mohamed Farah Aideed and Ali Mahdi. Meanwhile, United Nations humanitarian operations have been continuing throughout the country.

The Secretary-General's Special Political Adviser, Chinmaya Charekhan, recently briefed the Security Council on developments in Somalia, and the Secretary-General has said he will return to the question shortly.

The Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) has urged the Secretary-General to take due cognizance of the threat to regional peace and security posed by the deteriorating situation in Kashmir, particularly by the destruction of the Charar-i-Sharif Mosque and Shrine. It also appealed to the President of the Security Council to take note of the situation and to bring the matter to the attention of Council members for appropriate action. The OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir made those appeals in a letter dated 16 May.

The Contact Group also urged the Indian Government to withdraw its forces from Charar-i-Sharif and to take immediate steps to mitigate the effects of their desecration of the Mosque and Shrine. It called on the Government to desist from repeating such actions and to respond to the aspirations of the people of Kashmir in the interest of regional peace and security.

The international commission of inquiry into the recent events at the Kibeho camp in Rwanda is expected to complete its work today, according to a United Nations spokesman. The commission will submit a report to the President of Rwanda and the Secretary-General. The report will be made public.

The commission has been seeking to determine why camps for internally displaced Rwandese were closed down; if there was sufficient consultation with the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) before the closures; if ethnicity was a root cause of the problem; how the camps were closed; who was responsible for the events at Kibeho; and what was the role of the army and militia in the camps.

The Department of Public Information (DPI) enjoys a very close working relationship with the Committee on Information, according to the Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information, Samir Sanbar. In an interview today with United Nations Radio, he said the quality of the relationship had been highlighted during the Committee's seventeenth session. The Department and the Committee had met regularly and had reached a common view on important issues and problems before the session began.

The DPI had mobilized its resources effectively, and its staff members had worked together in order to perform their functions, Mr. Sanbar continued. "We have established strongly, and consolidated, our professional credibility", he said. "We are professionals reaching out to the public, doing a professional job and working closely with the media representatives as well as with delegations".

Mr. Sanbar pointed out that the Department had reached a very wide audience through electronic media such as the Internet. He also stressed the importance of radio coverage of peace-keeping matters, saying the DPI should be involved in peace-keeping operations from the very beginning. Radio was the most effective and practical component of the Department's information activities in that area, notwithstanding certain technical and financial limitations.

The Special Representative for Angola, Alioune Blondin Beye, today led a convoy of 40 cars from Luanda to Lobito to demonstrate the demining and reopening of the main road between the two cities, according to a United Nations spokesman. Mr. Beye also attended the sixteenth session of the Joint Commission in Lobito. He was accompanied by the delegations to the Joint Commission and the representatives of the three observer States.

The Joint Commission discussed free circulation of people and goods, demining and continued repair of roads and bridges, the spokesman noted. Mr. Beye and those accompanying him were expected to return to the Angolan capital tomorrow.

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DH/1896

18 May 1995

T H U R S D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

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They also discussed recent developments in the Middle

East, including the situation in East Jerusalem and questions of regional security and economic development. The Crown Prince expressed his satisfaction that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) would hold its regional conference in Amman.

The Somali National Alliance (SNA) and the Somali Salvation Alliance (SSA) are still at an impasse over the issue of national reconciliation, a United Nations spokesman said today. The security situation in Somalia remains volatile, with intermittent but intense inter-clan fighting, mainly in the north-west and in Mogadishu.

The United Nations political office is currently in Nairobi pending clarification of the necessary conditions for its relocation to the Somali capital, the spokesman noted. However, two planned preliminary visits for consultations have been cancelled because of objections by the two main Somali political leaders, General Mohamed Farah Aideed and Ali Mahdi. Meanwhile, United Nations humanitarian operations have been continuing throughout the country.

The Secretary-General's Special Political Adviser, Chinmaya Gharekhan, recently briefed the Security Council on developments in Somalia, and the Secretary-General has said he will return to the question shortly.

The Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) has urged the Secretary-General to take due cognizance of the threat to regional peace and security posed by the deteriorating situation in Kashmir, particularly by the destruction of the Charar-i-Sharif Mosque and Shrine. It also appealed to the President of the Security Council to take note of the situation and to bring the matter to the attention of Council members for appropriate action. The OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir made those appeals in a letter dated 16 May.

The Contact Group also urged the Indian Government to withdraw its forces from Charar-i-Sharif and to take immediate steps to mitigate the effects of their desecration of the Mosque and Shrine. It called on the Government to desist from repeating such actions and to respond to the aspirations of the people of Kashmir in the interest of regional peace and security.

The international commission of inquiry into the recent events at the Kibeho camp in Rwanda is expected to complete its work today, according to a United Nations spokesman. The commission will submit a report to the President of Rwanda and the Secretary-General. The report will be made public.

The commission has been seeking to determine why camps for internally displaced Rwandese were closed down; if there was sufficient consultation with the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) before the closures; if ethnicity was a root cause of the problem; how the camps were closed; who was responsible for the events at Kibeho; and what was the role of the army and militia in the camps.

The Department of Public Information (DPI) enjoys a very close working relationship with the Committee on Information, according to the Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information, Samir Sanbar. In an interview today with United

Nations Radio, he said the quality of the relationship had been highlighted during the Committee's seventeenth session. The Department and the Committee had met regularly and had reached a common view on important issues and problems before the session began.

The DPI had mobilized its resources effectively, and its staff members had worked together in order to perform their functions, Mr. Sanbar continued. "We have established strongly, and consolidated, our professional credibility", he said. "We are professionals reaching out to the public, doing a professional job and working closely with the media representatives as well as with delegations".

Mr. Sanbar pointed out that the Department had reached a very wide audience through electronic media such as the Internet. He also stressed the importance of radio coverage of peace-keeping matters, saying the DPI should be involved in peace-keeping operations from the very beginning. Radio was the most effective and practical component of the Department's information activities in that area, notwithstanding certain technical and financial limitations.

The Special Representative for Angola, Alioune Blondin Beye, today led a convoy of 40 cars from Luanda to Lobito to demonstrate the demining and reopening of the main road between the two cities, according to a United Nations spokesman. Mr. Beye also attended the sixteenth session of the Joint Commission in Lobito. He was accompanied by the delegations to the Joint Commission and the representatives of the three observer States.

The Joint Commission discussed free circulation of people and goods, demining and continued repair of roads and bridges, the spokesman noted. Mr. Beye and those accompanying him were expected to return to the Angolan capital tomorrow.

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17 May 1995

W E D N E S D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

--- Security Council asks Secretary-General to arrange for full deployment of UNCRO after withdrawal of Croatian parties from zones of separation; demands parties withdraw all troops without delay and refrain from military actions that could escalate situation.

--- United States vetoes Security Council draft resolution calling on Government of Israel to rescind orders for expropriation of land in East Jerusalem.

--- Secretary-General says United Nations is counting on ECOWAS Summit in Abuja to give new impetus to Liberian peace process.

--- UNPROFOR reports heavy fighting in Sarajevo and clashes elsewhere in Bosnia and Herzegovina; Special Representative Akashi meets with Croatian Serb leadership in Knin.

--- United Nations Command says effective communications between opposing forces on Korean peninsula are vital for maintenance of peace.

--- WHO issues advice on Ebola haemorrhagic fever for travellers returning from Zaire.

--- UNEP Executive Director says Programme plays key role as custodian of global environment.

--- James Moody of United States to be next Vice-President of International Fund for Agricultural Development.

The Security Council today requested the Secretary-General to make the necessary arrangements for the full deployment of the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia (UNCRO), after the withdrawal of the troops of the Croatian parties from the zones of separation. It demanded that the parties complete the withdrawal of all troops without delay, and refrain from further violations of the zones. The Council took that action by unanimously adopting resolution 994 (1995).

The Council stressed the need for the early establishment of UNCRO's authority in accordance with its mandate. It demanded that the status and mandate of the Operation, and the safety and security of its personnel, be respected. The Council demanded also that the Croatian Government respect fully the rights of the Serb population in conformity with internationally recognized standards.

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The Council demanded that the parties refrain from taking any further military measures or actions that could lead to the escalation of the situation. It warned that in the event of failure to comply with that demand, it would consider further steps to ensure such compliance. The Council requested the Secretary-General to report within two weeks on the implementation of resolution 994 (1995), including on the modalities for the implementation of UNCRO's mandate in Sector West.

The United States today vetoed a draft resolution by which the Security Council would have called on the Government of Israel to rescind orders for the expropriation of 53 hectares of land in East Jerusalem. The other fourteen members of the Council voted in favour of the draft.

Speaking after the vote, United States Permanent Representative Madeleine Albright said she had cast the veto reluctantly but without hesitation on an issue of principle. She stressed that the only path to a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East was direct talks between the parties. The Council had sought to declare itself on a permanent status issue -- Jerusalem -- in violation of that principle. The Israeli expropriation notices were unhelpful to the peace process, but the draft would have compounded the problem by injecting the Council into the issue.

The veto was last exercised in December 1994, when the Russian Federation voted against a draft on the transport of goods between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The United States last used the veto in May 1990.

The United Nations is counting on the Summit of Heads of State of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to give a new impetus to the Liberian peace process, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. He made that comment in a message to the Summit, which is taking place in Abuja, Nigeria. The message was delivered on his behalf by Vladimir Petrovsky, Director-General of the United Nations Office in Geneva.

The Secretary-General said the conflict in Liberia had devastated the country and threatened the political and economic stability of its neighbours. He stressed the need for general disarmament of the warring factions and the establishment of democratic institutions through genuine elections. The international community hoped the Summit would find a practical way to ensure compliance with the arms embargo imposed against Liberia by the Security Council. Neighbouring States should use their influence to ensure that the Liberian faction and political leaders adhered to the provisions of the Accra Agreement.

The United Nations Observer Mission for Liberia (UNOMIL) and the ECOWAS Monitoring Observer Group (ECOMOG) provided a unique example of cooperation between the United Nations and a regional organization in a peace-keeping operation, the Secretary-General went on to say. He assured the ECOWAS Heads of State of his full support for their efforts, and expressed encouragement for their objectives.

There was heavy fighting in Sarajevo again today,

according to a United Nations spokesman. Bosnian Serb forces took three Government-held trenches on the high ground overlooking the city centre, and the fighting may have been spurred by Government attempts to regain that territory.

Last night, Bosnian Serb forces entered a United Nations weapons collection point and tried to prepare some mortars for firing, the spokesman said. Ukrainian soldiers resisted and some shots were fired, and the Bosnian Serbs left without firing the mortars. Meanwhile, there were clashes elsewhere in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Seventeen detonations were reported in the Bihac pocket this morning, probably in response to two Bosnian Government offensives there.

The situation in Croatia was stable, and there were withdrawals of Government forces in the zones of separation in some Sectors. However, the situation in Sector East was deteriorating continuously, with threats to United Nations personnel and property. As a result, United Nations civilian police abandoned another observation post in the Sector.

Special Representative Yasushi Akashi was in Knin today for talks with Croatian Serb leaders, the spokesman continued. Mr. Akashi reviewed the military situation in the zones of separation and discussed the future mandate of the United Nations Confidence Operation in Croatia (UNCRO).

The maintenance of effective communications between the opposing forces on the Korean peninsula is vital to preclude possible incidents and prevent the resumption of hostilities, according to the latest report by the United Nations Command (UNC). The report provides a synopsis of events in the area in 1994, and their impact on the Command's efforts in maintaining the Korean Armistice Agreement.

Both sides must fully cooperate to preserve the existing means of communication through the Military Armistice Commission (MAC), which was an integral part of the armistice, the report said. The United Nations Command would continue its efforts to implement the Armistice Agreement, and thereby contribute to a stable environment conducive to south-north dialogue and the ultimate goal of a durable peace on the Korean peninsula.

Given the unlikelihood of any patient with Ebola haemorrhagic fever leaving Zaire, the World Health Organization (WHO) has not recommended that special measures be instituted for passenger aircraft arriving from the country. Persons with Ebola become infectious for others only when they are extremely ill and already haemorrhaging. It is highly unlikely that such persons would try to travel on an international flight, and unlikely that they would be permitted to board if they did try.

However, WHO said that a very small number of individuals -- principally health-care workers and journalists -- would be returning to their home countries after contact with Ebola patients in Zaire. Unless those passengers were obviously ill, no travel restrictions were required, but they should inform health officials at their destination of their exposure history. If they fell ill during the 21-day incubation period for Ebola, they should seek immediate care and notify the authorities.

WHO advised other passengers leaving Zaire to notify a

doctor immediately if an illness developed within three weeks of their departure date. In particular, any fever should be reported at once and the physician informed that the patient has travelled from Zaire. The incubation period for Ebola haemorrhagic fever is up to 21 days.

There is absolutely no doubt that the world needs the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as a custodian of the environment, according to UNEP Executive Director Elizabeth Dowdeswell. She made that comment as she opened the eighteenth session of the Programme's Governing Council in Nairobi, Kenya.

Ms. Dowdeswell went on to say that UNEP had to consolidate and rationalize its broad range of activities. Consequently, an integrated plan had been prepared to tackle four challenges: sustainable management and use of natural resources; sustainable production and consumption; a better environment for human health and well-being; and globalization and the environment.

Meanwhile, UNEP's Industry and Environment Office has issued two reports: "Environmental Management in the Electronic Industry" and "Cleaner Production in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Region".

The President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Fawzi Al-Sultan, has announced that James Moody will be the Fund's next Vice-President. Mr. Moody, a former United States Congressman, will assume his new post later this year.

Mr. Moody is currently Vice-President of the public policy consulting firm, Chamber Associates Inc., in Washington, D.C. He also serves on the Boards of Directors of the Council on Foreign Relations and the United States Committee for Refugees, and is a visiting professor at the Medical College of Wisconsin.

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(PART I OF II)

DAILY PRESS BRIEFING, 17 May 1995

Joe Sills, Spokesman for Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, began today's briefing by announcing details of the Secretary-General's appointments for the day. At 11:30 a.m., he had met with Sir James Mancham, the first President and now the leader of the Opposition in Seychelles. This had been followed at noon by a call on the Secretary-General by Pierre Cornillon, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

The Secretary-General was, between 12:30 p.m. and 1 p.m., scheduled to receive the credentials of three new Permanent Representatives: Ambassador Mamodou Debba Jallow of the Gambia; Ambassador David Rudadiri of Malawi; and Ambassador Jean Traore of Guinea. At 4:30 p.m., the Secretary-General was scheduled to receive Jorg Haider, Leader of the Opposition in Austria; at 5 p.m., Ambassador Mohammad Abulhasan of Kuwait; 5:30 p.m., Ambassador Nicolaas Biegun of the Netherlands; and at 6 p.m., Ambassador Muhamed Sacirbey of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the last meeting at the Ambassador's request.

Mr. Sills recalled that he had been asked yesterday about a communication from the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) concerning Kashmir -- a question that had also been directed to the Secretary-General at his meeting with the press. He said that Ambassador Ahmed Snoussi of Morocco, whose country was the current Chairman of the OIC, had informed the Secretary-General at a meeting at 4 p.m. yesterday that the OIC letter was being sent to him. The letter, which had been received this morning, was a cover note transmitting to the Secretary-General a declaration on Kashmir that was approved by a recent meeting of the OIC. The declaration itself was an appeal which urges the Secretary-General to take note of the fact that the situation in Jammu and Kashmir poses a threat to the peace and security of the region. It also appeals to the Security Council to take note of the situation. He anticipated it would be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

Continuing, Mr. Sills said the Security Council was still discussing the draft resolution on Croatia; it had not become a provisional document yet. Some work still remained to be done on it. He said the Council would then turn to the draft on the situation in the occupied Arab territories on which there was still no consensus. There had been questions raised, not only

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on its content, but whether there should be a resolution at all.

From the former Yugoslavia, Mr. Sills said that Sarajevo had returned to levels of fighting approaching yesterday's with the most intense fighting in the Sharpstone and Jewish Cemetery areas. In the latter, Bosnian Serb forces had yesterday taken three Government-held trenches on high ground overlooking the city centre. Those were, obviously, very strategic positions. It was probable that the fighting this morning represented an attempt by the Government's military to regain the area. He said that he had no reports yet of casualties or damage. Last night, the Bosnian Serb forces had entered into a weapons collection point and tried to prepare some mortars for firing, but they had been resisted by the Ukrainian battalion. Some shots had been fired and the Bosnia Serb forces had left the weapons collection point without firing the weapons.

Mr. Sills said that the fighting in the Orasje pocket had again been intense with numerous detonations. Early this morning, Serbian forces had begun shelling the pocket from two areas along the confrontation line. The UNPROFOR had assessed that to be the most serious fighting in that pocket to date. Mr. Sills added that the mobility of United Nations observers was very limited.

There had been 17 detonations from Bosnian Serb positions into the Bihac pocket this morning. Those were perhaps in response to Bosnian Army offensives east and south-east out of the pocket, Mr. Sills said.

In Croatia, the situation was stable with some withdrawal of Government forces from the Zones of Separation. In Sector North, there were still over 1,000 Government forces in and around the Zones of Separation, as well as significant concentrations of Serbian troops in the area.

He said that the most significant withdrawal had been in Sector South. It had been assessed that at least two Croatian Army platoons of about 30 men, and about 100 Croatian Serbian troops, remained in the zone.

In Sector East, there had been about 200 withdrawals of Government soldiers from the Zones of Separation leaving about 250 still in position and about 300 Serbian soldiers in the zone. Both sides had heavy weapons in and around the zones, Mr. Sills said. He also said that the situation in Sector East was deteriorating continuously in terms of security and threats to United Nations personnel and property. United Nations Civilian Police had thus decided to leave temporarily the Ilok station where they had a base.

Sector West was stable but tense, Mr. Sills further said. He said that the low number of refugees crossing over from the sector on Monday was apparently due to the registration centre in Pakrac being closed. He had indicated that the number would be significantly less, and that had been a misjudgement. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) had said yesterday that 253 people had crossed into Bosnia. The agency had also reported that people in the villages had packed and were ready to go and that a larger number could thus be expected to continue to cross than had been predicted earlier.

Continuing, Mr. Sills said that Yasushi Akashi, the

Secretary-General's Special Representative in the Former Yugoslavia, was in Knin today for a meeting with the Serb leadership. Mr. Akashi would review the military situation in the Zones of Separation and in Croatia and bring the Serb leadership up to date on the United Nations latest figures on withdrawal. The future of the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia (UNCRO) mandate would also be discussed.

Mr. Sills said he had been asked yesterday whether the investigative team sent to Zagreb by the International Tribunal in The Hague would also look into recent attacks on United Nations forces in Sarajevo. Their terms of reference were limited to the recent fighting in Sector West and the shelling of Zagreb, as he had informed correspondents yesterday.

(Note: In this regard, the second paragraph on page 3 of the briefing notes of Tuesday, 16 May should read: "Mr. Sills said that the International Tribunal in The Hague had sent a four-person investigative team to Croatia for about two weeks. The team would look at two matters: the recent events in Western Slavonia, and the shelling of Zagreb.")

The team would therefore not investigate anything related to the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr. Sills stated.

Turning to Angola, he said that the Secretary-General's Special Representative there, Alioune Blondin Beye, had met with the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) leader, Dr. Jonas Savimbi. Their discussions had focused on the consolidation of the peace process following the recent meeting between Dr. Savimbi and Angolan President Eduardo dos Santos. Mr. Sills said that Mr. Beye had already met with President dos Santos. He also said that Dr. Savimbi had just arrived in Cape Town for a meeting with South African President Nelson Mandela.

On Liberia, he said that the long-awaited Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Summit had opened in the Nigerian capital of Abuja. Vladimir Petrovsky, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, who was representing the Secretary-General at the meeting, had read a message on his behalf. The statement had been issued and copies were on the racks (Press Release SG/SM/5634).

He reminded correspondents that the Abuja meeting was to review the size and composition of the Council of State and power-sharing arrangements in Liberia's interim government. On the question of cease-fire and arms control, he recalled that a Security Council sanctions committee had been set up to deal with those matters. He said that one of the Liberian faction leaders, Charles Taylor, was being represented at the meeting by a delegation; he noted that Mr. Taylor had previously announced that he would not be present personally.

Mr. Sills said that Justice Richard Goldstone of the International Criminal Tribunal was in Rwanda this week to look at the work of the tribunal there. He would convene a donors conference on Friday to raise funds for the work of the Rwanda tribunal, which was severely short of resources. He understood that the Government of the Netherlands had contributed a million dollars but more funds were still needed for the

tribunal.

In answer to a question, he stated that contingency plans with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) for the possible withdrawal of United Nations forces from the former Yugoslavia were substantially in place. However, discussions continued on the subject to refine them, he added.

On Kashmir, a correspondent asked how many people had to die before the Secretary-General exercised his authority as mandate under Article 99 of the Charter. Mr. Sills said that the Article did not impose a mandate on the Secretary-General, but authorized him to call the attention of the Security Council to any situation that he believed to be a threat to international peace and security. He said that the issue of Kashmir had been before the Security Council for more than 40 years; he believed the Council was aware of the problem.

The correspondent asked whether an increase in violence in Kashmir was the result of the inability of the Organization to implement its resolutions on the question. Mr. Sills recalled his statement yesterday that the Secretary-General had expressed his concern about the situation for several years, and that recent events there had deepened that concern. The Secretary-General had also indicated that his good offices were available if both parties desired them. Mr. Sills said that the Secretary-General could not step in and do what was the job of the Security Council. It was a matter before the Council and the OIC declaration had been directed to the President of the Security Council.

Asked what was meant about consolidation of the peace process in Angola, he said that a lot of progress had been made there, but as the Secretary-General had pointed out in his last report, a lot still remained to be done. Logistical arrangements for the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM III) had still not been totally worked out, and de-mining was a major problem. A total cease-fire and demobilization of troops were also part of the peace process. The Secretary-General's Special Representative had been pushing both parties towards a free resolution of those problems.

Responding to questions about the shelling in Sarejevo, he said that his office tried to give factual information received from United Nations officials in Zagreb. The information he had provided today on Bihac was based on their assessment of the situation. The material he had provided on the fighting in Sarajevo yesterday -- which he understood some parties had not been totally happy with -- was based on information received from United Nations officials. He had checked the information again and the officials concerned stood by it. There was a difference between giving factual information and trying to put a blame on one party, he stated, adding that it was not for him to assign blame in the situation.

Responding to a further question on the investigation of the International Tribunal team from The Hague, he reiterated that this particular team's terms of reference concerned the recent fighting in Croatia. However, the Tribunal had authority over all the former Yugoslavia. He added that information on its actions were regularly made available to correspondents.

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(PART II OF II)

DAILY PRESS BRIEFING, 17 May 1995

In response to a question on the Secretary-General's recommendations on the future of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), he said that the Secretary-General was in the process of receiving information on all aspects of the operation.

What did the Secretary-General hope to achieve by the scaling-down of UNPROFOR and would civilians be left behind? a correspondent asked. Mr. Sills noted that the Secretary-General had briefed the press extensively on the matter, making it clear that he would present his written recommendations to the Security Council soon.

A correspondent remarked that the Secretary-General's concerns seemed to have been limited only to the peace-keepers with no reference to civilians. Mr. Sills, responding that it was not a fair comment, said the Secretary-General had made it clear yesterday that he was concerned about the willingness of Members States which had provided troops to continue to do so. He had used the phrase "Somalia syndrome". The Secretary-General had also further stated that his main goal was to keep UNPROFOR on the ground and functioning. The Secretary-General had to be concerned with the safety and security of those forces, and if those remained problematic, the troop contributors might pull them out. Mr. Sills said that he did not think that the Secretary-General, in emphasizing troop security, in any way meant that he was not concerned about the security and protection of civilians as well. The Secretary-General had stated before, he added, that the ability of UNPROFOR to protect safe areas and civilians was very limited. The United Nations simply did not have that capability, Mr. Sills observed.

Asked about Somalia, he told a correspondent that it was difficult for the United Nations to follow developments there. It did not have a political presence there. There had been talk of Aldo Ajello, the former Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Mozambique, going to the country but that had not materialized. He also said that information on developments in Somalia was received from humanitarian agencies and non-governmental organizations operating there, but that was limited.

A correspondent asked if both the former United Nations Protected Areas (UNPAs) in Croatia and the safe areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina had been eliminated. Mr. Sills said that the

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recent action of the Security Council in creating the new mission in Croatia (UNCRO) had altered the terminology of the UNPAs. There had been no decision of that nature regarding the safe areas.

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