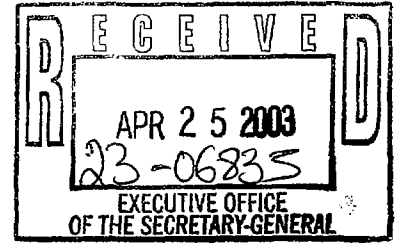




SECRETARY GENERAL
LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL
THE RT. HON.
LORD ROBERTSON OF PORT ELLEN

Ch



SG(2003)0527

25 April 2003

*Mr. Guehenno (for)
cc Mr. Poulsgaard (for)
Mim*

Dear Secretary-General,

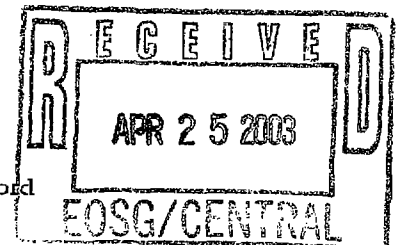
In accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1088, I attach the monthly report on SFOR operations for March 2003. I would appreciate your making this report available to the UN Security Council.

Yours sincerely,

Georgios

His Excellency
Mr Kofi A. Annan
Secretary-General
United Nations Headquarters
United Nations Plaza 2
New York 10017
U.S.A.
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Monthly Report to the United Nations on SFOR Operations

1. Over the reporting period (1 to 31 March 2003) there were just over 12,600 troops deployed in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia, with contributions from the NATO Allies and from 12 non-NATO countries.
2. During the period under review, the overall situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina remained stable despite reports of some ethnically-motivated violence¹.
3. On 9 March, a rocket grenade was fired into a betting shop in Mostar. This incident is believed to be criminally motivated. On 10 March, five Bosnian Serb returnees working in fields in Brvnik were killed by an anti-personnel mine. The explosion happened in an area which was known to be mined.
4. On 7 March, SFOR carried out a search in support of the Office of the High Representative at the Serbian Democratic Party Headquarters in Pale and Lukavica, targeting the two key figures supporting the network protecting Radovan Karadzic. SFOR confiscated documents and electronic recording equipment and took them away for analysis.

Security

5. SFOR continues to contribute to the maintenance of a safe and secure environment in Bosnia and Herzegovina; monitor compliance by the Entity Armed Forces; conduct inspections and monitor consolidation of weapons storage sites; provide support to the international organisations working in theatre, and to the Federation authorities in collecting weapons and ammunition in the framework of Operation HARVEST; and monitor possible terrorist-related threats throughout the country.
6. The total number of items collected during the month under Operation HARVEST included: 596 small arms (rifles, pistols and revolvers); 94,899 rounds of ammunition less than 20 mm; 299 rounds of ammunition between 20 mm and 76 mm; 21 rounds of ammunition greater than 76 mm; 5,404 hand grenades; 208 mines; 117.5 kilograms of explosives; and 2,425 other items (mortars, mortar rounds, rifle grenades, attack rockets and hand-made ordnance).

Cooperation and Compliance by the Parties

7. On 7 March, SFOR carried out a number of unannounced inspections at military facilities belonging to the Republika Srpska (RS) and of the Federation in Banja Luka, Bihac and Bijeljina to ensure compliance with the Dayton Peace Accords and the "Instructions to the Parties." SFOR inspected and removed

¹ Three explosions which took place in Mostar and Banja Luka were reported by SFOR at the end of the last reporting period. In one of these incidents, a grenade exploded in the flat occupied by returnees, killing the father and injuring his son.

information kept by the VRS 410th Intelligence Detachment to check on compliance.

8. On 17 March, the Republika Srpska Supreme Defence Council sent the final report on the Orao affair to COMSFOR and, on the same day, the Bijeljina Public Prosecutor filed charges against 17 RS officials who were either involved or who tried to cover up the illegal export of weapons. Among those accused was the VRS Acting Chief of Staff General Momir Zec. Although General Zec was the only official named, the Prosecutor's office described the criminal charges against the others in some detail. Three company officials were accused of illegally producing and trading weapons while three others were charged with abuse of office. Five senior VRS officers of the commission that investigated the case and who denied any violation of the UN arms embargo were charged with covering up illegal exports. Six customs officials were charged with abuse of office.
9. During the period under review, SFOR monitored 220 training and movement activities: 85 VRS, and 135 VF (Army of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina). SFOR monitored 87 mine clearing activities: 81 VRS; and 6 VF. SFOR also carried out 136 inspections and verification of weapons storage sites (WSS): 70 VRS; and 66 VF.

Cooperation with International Organisations

10. Within capabilities and in accordance with its mandate, SFOR continues to provide assistance to the international organisations working in theatre.

Outlook

11. The security situation is expected to continue to be stable.



ORGANISATION DU TRAITE DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD
NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

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FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

To/A: His Excellency
Dr Kofi Annan
Secretary-General
United Nations
Headquarters

From/De: Lord Robertson
Secretary General

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