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15 SEPT - 13 OCT 1994

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**UNITED NATIONS**  
**HIGH COMMISSIONER**  
**FOR REFUGEES**

Bureau de l'Envoyé Spécial  
pour l'ex-Yugoslavie

Office of the Special Envoy  
for Former Yugoslavia

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Kupska 2  
41000 Zagreb

**MEMORANDUM**

TO : Mr Thorvald Stoltenberg, Co-chairman, ICFY

FROM : Nicholas Morris *Nicholas Morris*

OUR REF : OSE/218

DATE: 13 October 1994

SUBJECT : Access from FRY / Bihac pocket

1. Please find herewith, as promised by Soren Jessen-Petersen, a copy of the letter he sent to the Chairman of the Sanctions Committee on 12 October. We are in close contact with Bo Pellnas and have made some suggestions on the first draft of a memorandum of understanding between him and the FRY authorities that we hope will solve the problem. Our suggestions would place the solution within the framework of the notification and authorization procedure of the Sanctions Committee, and make it clear that the solution applied to all our partners. For your information, MSF are as concerned as we and ICRC are, and we understand may be raising the matter directly with New York (I briefed them on our joint efforts).

2. We should be most grateful if you felt it appropriate to enlist President Milosovic's help to solve another problem: that of humanitarian access to the Bihac enclave. Also herewith is a self-explanatory letter dated 15 September to Mr Mikelic. At the end of September we were allowed two convoys to the pocket. Subsequent requests have been refused. On 12 October, our colleagues in Knin were advised that Mr Mikelic had instructed that no UNHCR humanitarian convoys should be allowed to the Bihac pocket. The humanitarian and political implications of such a blockade at this time are evident. Should you need any further explanation, please let me know. For our part, we are of course continuing our efforts to resolve the problem at the Knin level.

*With best regards*

cc Mr Y Akashi, SRSG, Ambassador K Eide, ICFY

13/10/94 13:28

UNHCR SPECIAL ENVOY → 041 177 364

NO.928 P002

SENT BY:

10-12-94 : 18:38 :

UNHCR NEWYORK →

385 41 530101:# 2/ 3

UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER  
FOR REFUGEES



HAUT COMMISSARIAT DES NATIONS UNIES  
POUR LES RÉFUGIÉS

Liaison Office at United Nations Headquarters

Délégation au Siège des Nations Unies

NEW YORK

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TELEPHONE: (212) 963-0332

Our ref: UNHCR/1994/FY/13

12 October 1994

Dear Sir,

We would like to inform the Committee of an urgent concern of UNHCR relating to the current practice applied in respect of the transportation of humanitarian relief items to refugees and displaced persons in Eastern Bosnia, including in the enclaves, under the United Nations humanitarian programme.

According to this practice the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia allow passage to Eastern Bosnia only for those trucks, which have been sealed and contain merely food (including seeds), medicines and clothes. The essential winterization materials, including shelter materials and fuel, allowing for the implementation of the programme in the enclaves are not permitted to be transported across the border into Eastern Bosnia.

This restrictive practice was brought to the attention of the United Nations Secretariat and the Co-Chairmen of ICFY, Lord Owen and Mr. Thorvald Stoltenberg. It was agreed that the Co-Chairmen will approach the Yugoslav authorities urging them to discontinue the restrictive practice with regard to the items duly notified to or authorized by the Committee.

H.E. Mr. Ronaldo Mota Sardenberg  
Chairman  
Security Council Committee established  
pursuant to resolution 724 (1991)  
concerning Yugoslavia

cc: Mr. J. Ngobi  
Secretary  
Security Council Committee established  
pursuant to resolution 724 (1991)  
concerning Yugoslavia



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At the request of the Co-Chairmen, the Special Envoy of the High Commissioner for the Former Yugoslavia sent on 6 October a letter addressed to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (a copy is enclosed). His request was supported by Mr. Stoltenberg in a fax addressed to the Minister, also on 6 October. Mr. Stoltenberg has asked UNHCR to make the fax available to the Committee as an enclosure to this letter (a copy is enclosed). The Co-Chairmen have also informed the ICFY monitoring mission of UNHCR concerns.

The Yugoslav authorities have now informed us that they would have no difficulty in issuing less stringent customs instructions than those in force at present if a clarification was given by the Committee to the effect that also other humanitarian items than food (including seeds), medicines and clothes could be transported to Eastern Bosnia by UNHCR.

In view of the imminent onset of winter, it is of utmost importance that UNHCR will be able to transport soonest all those items which the Committee has authorized or has under its consideration as of now. We therefore request that the Committee urgently inform the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the ICFY mission of the authorizations granted to UNHCR.

We would appreciate it if this request be given urgent consideration by the Committee.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Søren Jessen-Petersen  
Director

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Kupska 2  
41000 Zagreb

15 September 1994  
OSE/189

Dear Mr Mikelic,

I should like to refer to our discussions in Belgrade on 30 August about humanitarian access to the Bihac enclave. You assured me that UNHCR humanitarian convoys that correctly followed established procedures would receive clearance from your authorities. The humanitarian food stocks within the enclave were by then very low: since mid-May, only one convoy had been authorized. However, despite your assurance, no new UNHCR humanitarian convoy for the Bihac enclave has been authorized to date. As a result, humanitarian food stocks there are now all but exhausted. As I explained and you accepted in Belgrade, the UNHCR humanitarian assistance to the Bihac enclave is based on the same criteria of need as that to the areas under your control. Your authorities are able to ensure that what is delivered by UNHCR to the enclave is indeed only the humanitarian assistance for which clearance was sought. Notwithstanding periodic allegations to the contrary, this has always been found to be the case by your own officials. I should be grateful if you would issue the necessary instructions to ensure that UNHCR humanitarian convoys are given access to the Bihac enclave without further delay.

With my thanks in advance,

Yours sincerely,

Nicholas Morris  
Nicholas Morris

Mr Borislav Mikelic

Knin (by hand) — HCA on 16 Sept