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ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY AFFAIRS

MEMORANDUM FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

THROUGH UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (POLICY)

FROM: ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE/
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS
Prepared by Bosnia Task Force/x40661 *Jul 11 Jan 95*

SUBJECT: Bosnia--Deputies' Committee (DC) Meeting, January 11, 1995

The DC (principals plus 1) was called at the request of Ambassador Holbrooke, who just returned from a trip to the Balkans. A discussion paper at Tab A covers the three topics on the agenda.

The first is the status of the Contact Group (CG) negotiations. The interagency has little visibility over the upcoming CG deliberations despite the fact that the Serbs are rejoining the talks. The DC on January 6, 1995, commissioned State to prepare a diplomatic strategy to cover the next 100-day period when a number of issues will be addressed. A paper outlining diplomatic strategy options is at Tab B.

The second topic is the U.S. reaction to the Croatian decision not to extend UNPROFOR's mandate beyond March 31, 1995. President Clinton has sent Croatian President Tudjman a letter opposing the Croatian decision (Tab C, which also includes selected intelligence traffic summarizing the recent actions by Croatia). Tab D outlines progress we have made in enhancing defense relationships with Croatia following the Bilateral Working Group meeting in Zagreb on November 10, 1994.

The third issue is increasing UNPROFOR by 6500 troops. Concern for cost is causing some to object (background material at Tab E).

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DEPUTIES' COMMITTEE ON BOSNIA--Jan 11, 1995

Main OSD Issues:

- OSD equities in the CG negotiations (Tab B)
- Critical role of UNPROFOR in Croatia--containment (Tabs C & D)
- Need to increase the effectiveness of UNPROFOR to perform its mission (Tab E)

Points to Make:

NEGOTIATIONS:

- Interagency needs to establish clear guidance and a process for backstopping Ambassador Thomas as he proceeds with efforts within the CG.
- There is a window of opportunity for developing and implementing a diplomatic strategy in Bosnia.
- Constitutional questions should be put ahead of territorial issues (the Map) in our negotiating strategy.
- Emphasize the regional nature of the problem--"Plan B"/especially the Krajina.
- Extending the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement should be a centerpiece of our strategy.
- We must avert the withdrawal of UNPROFOR.
- Let's press ahead with our legislative strategy--working the "soft middle"--and our public affairs strategy--Op Ed pieces and public affairs broadcast appearances.
- Containment is our ultimate objective. Press Milosevic to use his influence on the Krajina Serbs to accept Zagreb-4 plan. Enhance Macedonian stability.

CROATIA:

- We do have some leverage on Croatia--enhanced defense relationship--that should be put on the table now as part of the effort to get Croatia to rethink its decision not to extend the UNPROFOR mandate.

PEACEKEEPING:

- UNPROFOR is barely equipped now to perform its missions. Monitoring the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement will require augmentation and we should support the UN's request to increase UNPROFOR by 6500. This is consistent with the SECDEF initiative in response to the CHODs meeting at The Hague, 18-20 Dec 94.

Listen For:

- Continued disagreement about whether the CG proposal from July 1994 (Geneva III) is the "basis for negotiations" or inviolate.
- Reluctance to focus on containment as our bedrock objective.
- Continued reluctance to launch a legislative and public affairs strategy.

Traps:

- We need to just sit back and be patient.

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