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Approved for Release CIA Historical
Collections Division AR 70-14
1OCT2013

DCI Interagency Balkan Task Force
23 March 1993

**Likely Consequences of Partially Lifting the
Arms Embargo in Conjunction with Air Strikes**

Delivering light weapons to the Bosnian Muslims and launching multinational airstrikes against Serb positions would not have any lasting effect on the Bosnian Government's military situation, but would probably lead to the breakdown of the Vance-Owen talks and the shutdown of UN humanitarian relief missions.

- Successful air strikes would relieve some of the human suffering in Muslim-held areas, as well as ease Serb military pressure. The Muslims probably would still be unable to retake much of their lost territory, however.
- They would still lack mobility and the capability to mass or coordinate their forces.
- Belgrade would be able to quickly replace lost weapons as well as increase its support to the Bosnian Serbs. Without additional air strikes, the Muslims would be no better off than they are now.
- Moreover, the nature of the conflict--infantry with small mortars operating in mountains and forests--would make it almost impossible to locate and destroy the Serb forces.
- The Serbs in retaliation would almost certainly cut off humanitarian deliveries.
- The Muslims would view Western intervention as the first step toward a favorable military solution, and would abandon negotiations.
- Moscow would oppose taking such actions against Bosnian Serbs. Unilateral western action probably would lead to a serious break in relations and the undermining of Yeltsin.

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