

~~SECRET~~Approved for Release CIA Historical
Collections Division AR 70-14 1OCT2013DCI Interagency Balkan Task Force
23 March 1993**Likely Consequences of Fully Lifting the Arms Embargo on Bosnia**

Lifting the arms embargo completely would increase the Bosnian Government forces' fighting capabilities in some areas and deflect Islamic criticism that the UN embargo is unfair, but would not enable the Bosnians to regain lost territories without long-term foreign assistance. They would likely encourage Muslim hardliners to back away from the Vance-Owen talks.

- The government forces' defensive capabilities could be improved fairly easily in some areas, particularly if military supplies reached enclaves short of basic munitions.
- However, the Bosnian forces have fundamental weaknesses in training, organization, and discipline which prevent them from functioning as an effective fighting body. They could not immediately employ the sophisticated or offensive weapons which they would need to retake lost territory.
- Outside states--such as Iran, Turkey, and some of the Gulf states--would likely be willing to contribute military assistance, but their goals may not parallel those of the US. Foreign military supplies would probably have to transit Croatia, enabling the Croats to continue to skim arms and keep the Bosnians dependent on them.
- Fully lifting the arms embargo on Bosnia probably would lead to the unravelling of the Vance/Owen process by encouraging Bosnia's predominantly Muslim government to continue the fight. Lifting the arms embargo on Croatia would increase the prospects for a renewed conflict between Croatia and Serbia, and for a more destructive war than in 1991.
- Belgrade probably would increase its modest support to the Bosnian Serbs to match the advantage new arms would give Muslim forces.
- Moscow would almost certainly not agree to lifting the arms embargo. Unilateral Western action could create a serious rift in Russian relations with the West and further undermine Yeltsin.

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