

TOP SECRET [REDACTED]

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DCI Interagency Balkan Task Force
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Government Forces Seizing Initiative

Undaunted by their defeat at Gorazde, the Bosnian government forces appear intent on recapturing territory.

- Rather than launch a single major offensive, however, government commanders plan to conduct a series of small-scale attacks across most of the confrontation lines, [REDACTED]

An Improved Force

Government troops probably can win some territory, but they almost certainly are not capable of substantially rolling back the Serb gains.

- The Bosnian Government forces have improved substantially over the past year although they still suffer from a shortage of heavy weapons.
- The federation agreement between the Bosnian Croats and Muslims has essentially freed up as many as 25,000 to 35,000 government troops--some 25 percent of the force--who had been fighting the Croats. In northern Bosnia, Croat forces are now more actively supporting government troops.
- Since the federation agreement was signed, Zagreb has again served as a conduit for arms smuggled into Bosnia. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Although such deliveries are still too limited, the prospect of additional deliveries probably has encouraged the Bosnian Army to use existing stockpiles rather than conserve resources. [REDACTED]

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Strike Everywhere

The Bosnian Government forces probably hope that by launching multiple attacks they will stretch the Serbs, forcing them to use their limited manpower to reinforce a number of fronts thus leaving some areas poorly defended.

- After extensive debate, the Bosnian Government has decided to maintain military pressure on Serb forces in the northern corridor area near Brcko, but it does not intend to try to sever the corridor between eastern and western Bosnia, [REDACTED].
[REDACTED] The Government doubts it could seize and hold the corridor and believes that its forces would be better used elsewhere.
- The Bosnian Government has reinforced its troops along the northern corridor and has moved as many as 10 tanks, possibly a quarter of its armor force, to the area around Brcko, [REDACTED].
[REDACTED]

The Government is probably planning a military attack from Travnik in central Bosnia, possibly as part of a drive on the town of Jajce some 20 kilometers west of Travnik. There is a major hydroelectric plant at Jajce that supplies the Serb-held areas of western Bosnia including the major Serb airbase at Banja Luka.

- [REDACTED] the Government has moved some ten brigades--including elements of the 17th Brigade, one of several Muslim spearhead units --into the area between Turbe and Travnik in central Bosnia. There are reportedly only two Serb brigades in the area.
- [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] In mid-April the government launched an attack that captured a key mountain. [REDACTED]

The Bosnian Government has developed plans to attack the Bosnian Serb-held Ozren mountains to relieve pressure on the Maglaj region, [REDACTED]. These attacks would not only trap Serb forces but would open several government supply lines between Maglaj and Tuzla.

- The Government forces have launched several attacks from the east along the edge of the Serb-held

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regions in the Ozren mountains and is planning an attack from Zavidovici to the west. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] that the government also eventually plans to seize Doboï to trap Serb forces in the region. [REDACTED]

The government has already begun offensive operations around Tuzla in northeastern Bosnia, probably initially designed to preempt further Serb gains that could threaten the government supply routes from central Bosnia to Tuzla.

- Around 11 May, the Muslims attacked Bosnian Serbs some ten kilometers west of Tuzla, capturing several villages. [REDACTED] On 15 May, Government forces attacked Serb positions north and east of Tuzla threatening a Serb communications facility and gaining additional territory. [REDACTED]

Bosnian Government forces have launched a preemptive attack around Kladanj and Olovo because they believe the Bosnian Serbs are preparing for a major attack there that would threaten supply lines to Tuzla. [REDACTED]

- On 15 May, Government forces increased their operations around Kladanj, 30 kilometers south of Tuzla, after several weeks of low-level fighting and a Serb attack in the region, according to multiple sources. By 17 May, the Government claimed to have recaptured some 32 square kilometers of territory near Kladanj. Building off their success, the government now plans to move east towards Vlasenica to sever a key Serb supply route. [REDACTED]

Likely Serb Response

Although stretched thin, the Bosnian Serbs will respond to these government attacks, attempting to preempt other offensives by striking in other vital areas and interdicting Muslim supply routes in central Bosnia.

- The Bosnian Serbs have substantial forces in the northern corridor region and may well launch a preemptive attack to protect their key resupply route.
- The Serbs are likely to exert military pressure on the Bosnian Government in key areas such as Tuzla

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and Bihac in order to convince Sarajevo to abort its military campaigns. The recent increase in Serb artillery attacks on Tuzla and its airport, for example, appear designed to coerce government troops into halting their nearby attacks.

- The Serbs also probably will launch attacks against government-held cities such as Maglaj or Olovo to halt government attacks and to draw government forces away from other conflict areas. [redacted]