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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN 9/14

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WE NEED TO DISCUSS THE NEXT STEP

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

4x needs to discuss this multilateral

INFORMATION

September 14, 1994

94 SEP 14 P8:45

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: ANTHONY LAKE

SUBJECT: Principals Committee Review of Bosnia Policy

Principals met Tuesday afternoon to review planning for lifting of the arms embargo and our political strategy from now until mid-October, after which you have pledged to introduce a UN Security Council resolution to lift the embargo.

Principals agreed we should press forward with our current strategy aimed at maximizing pressure on the Bosnian Serbs to accept the Contact Group proposal. In addition to encouraging Milosevic's steps to isolate the Bosnian Serbs with limited sanctions relief, we will make an all-out effort to implement the disincentives agreed earlier by the Contact Group, in particular to carry out air strikes in response to violations of the exclusion zones. This will require pressuring Boutros-Ghali and reluctant allies (especially the UK) to override the objections of the UNPROFOR commanders to any use of air power.

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Principals continue to see major risks in lifting the embargo, even if done multilaterally. They recognized that there may be factors arguing for delay when the October 15 deadline (now established in the DoD Authorization Bill) rolls around: Allies and the Russians may argue that more time is needed for other Contact Group measures to play out, and thus oppose a lift resolution in the Security Council in November; and the Bosnians themselves may prefer to wait till spring if there is no way to persuade UNPROFOR to remain after lift. Indeed, the JCS military planners have concluded that the rearmament program and air campaign that must accompany lift could be more effectively pursued if we delayed for 4-6 months.

Nevertheless, Principals agreed that we had to uphold our commitment to the Congress to act on multilateral lift after October 15, and that the prospect of lift provides important leverage vis-a-vis the Serbs and our Contact Group partners. If the Contact Group strategy shows promise in mid-October, we may be able to gain some flexibility on timing of lift from the Congress. (We will not, however, have much flexibility in implementing the Nunn amendment provision that DoD cease funding of enforcement of the arms embargo after November 15; but that is a far more limited action than unilateral lift in that we would at most be restricted from participating in aspects of NATO's sanctions enforcement in the Adriatic.)

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Declassify on: OADR

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cc: Vice President
Chief of Staff