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29 November 1994

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Principals' Committee Meeting on Bosnia  
28 November 1994

1. The DCI attended the meeting chaired by National Security Advisor Lake. Other attendees included Secretary Christopher, Secretary Perry, JCS Chairman Shalikashvili, Ambassador Albright, White House Chief of Staff Panetta, Vice Presidential National Security Advisor Fuerth, and Deputy National Security Advisor Berger.
2. The DCI led off the meeting with a briefing on the situation around Bihac, noting that the Serb advance on the city had slowed in recent days, that the Muslims appeared more confident about their defense capabilities, but that serious humanitarian problems loomed on the horizon. He also reported that more than 400 UNPROFOR personnel continue to be detained by the Bosnian Serbs.
3. The Principals agreed that priority must be given to ameliorating strains within NATO that have been exacerbated by recent Bosnia developments. Toward that end, and with several ministerials on the horizon, they agreed that the Administration would emphasize its opposition to a unilateral lifting of the arms embargo and work to build Congressional support for this position. Principals also agreed that the President would be asked to endorse a US offer to put ground forces at NATO's disposal to extricate UNPROFOR personnel in case of emergency.
4. On Bosnia, Principals concluded that Serb gains around Bihac--or further Serb advances on the city--could not be deterred by airstrikes alone. They agreed that it was futile to attempt to win international support for a more robust air campaign to deter the Serbs. Principals expressed strong frustration that UN restrictions had undercut the credibility of airstrikes as a leverage tool with the Serbs. They concluded, however, that NATO still would respond to calls for close air support (CAS) in the event UNPROFOR forces came under attack, but that they would insist that CAS implementation be robust.
5. Principals agreed that, in the short-term, US policy should focus on achieving a cease-fire in the Bihac area and Bosnia as a whole. At the same time, the Serbs should be pressured to ensure adequate humanitarian deliveries for the winter months. Principals expressed a desire to continue pursuit of a political settlement and a willingness to offer some concessions to the Bosnian Serbs in an effort to bring them along. These concessions would include a willingness to consider territorial swaps using the Contact Group map as a basis for discussions and--ultimately, but not now--an offer that the Bosnian Serbs could confederate with Serbia.

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6. The meeting did not result in any new tasking for the Intelligence Community. NSC was tasked to develop talking points for use with Congress and the press on current US policy toward Bosnia. OSD was tasked with preparing a decision memorandum for the President on use of US ground troops in Bosnia. JCS was requested to prepare options for deployment of US forces in the event it becomes necessary.

A. Norman Schindler  
Chief, Balkan Task Force

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