

Artillery withdrawn under U.N., NATO threats

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Encouraged by the withdrawal of Serb artillery from the hills around Sarajevo, the White House said Sunday that "no air strikes are necessary at this time," even though some weapons remained after a NATO deadline.

After a brief meeting with President Clinton shortly after the deadline, National Security Adviser Tony Lake said all known Serbian weapons were either withdrawn, under control of the United Nations "or should soon be."

"Therefore, the United Nations and NATO commanders have concluded that no air strikes are necessary at this time," Lake said.

The announcement at an unusually crowded weekend White House came after the U.N.'s senior official in former Yugoslavia said he saw no immediate need for air strikes.

President Clinton, who was in his White House residence as the deadline passed, said earlier he was optimistic that the bombings would not be

U.N. declares aggressive Bosnian policy a success

The Associated Press

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Bosnian Serbs pulled back enough heavy guns from snowy hills around Sarajevo to stave off immediate air strikes as a NATO deadline for removal passed early Monday.

Bosnia's Muslim president, Alija Izetbegovic, urged NATO to bomb the remaining guns. But Yasushi Akashi, the U.N.'s senior official in former Yugoslavia, said he saw no immediate need for air strikes.

"I have decided that it is not necessary at this

needed.

"I'm hopeful because of what I see happening," he said.

As the deadline passed, a small number of Serb

stage for me to request NATO to use air power," Akashi said in a statement released at his Zagreb, Croatia headquarters and at NATO headquarters in Brussels.

"I am pleased to announce that as a result of U.N. and NATO initiatives, there has been a substantial withdrawal or regrouping of heavy weapons in and around Sarajevo," Akashi said.

NATO, after nearly two years of painful debate over whether to get involved in Bosnia's war, had demanded all heavy weapons pull back that distance from Sarajevo or be placed under U.N. control. Otherwise it would launch air strikes.

As the midnight GMT (6 p.m. CST) Sunday

deadline passed, the roar of a solitary jet could be heard in misty skies. A C-130 which has been flying over on nightly surveillance also droned through the skies.

Some five hours before the deadline, the U.N. commander for Bosnia said the situation remained unclear at nine of 41 Serb gun sites around Sarajevo which U.N. soldiers have not yet visited.

But Lt. Gen. Sir Michael Rose said then "I find it hard to imagine" that air strikes would go ahead immediately.

In Sarajevo, skies cleared Sunday for the first time in days of snowy weather. After dark, overflights by NATO planes increased.

in place: air strikes could be summoned if the Serbs fall out of compliance.

"If they re-arm, they will be at risk," said a senior administration official.

Oh my gawd . . .



Roger Hsieh/The Battalion

Dyanna Wilson, a sophomore political science major from Pearland, was elated by her win in the Miss TAMU Scholarship Pageant Saturday night at Rudder Tower.

MSC directors refute Student Senate charges of abusing funds

By Kim McGuire

The Battalion

Memorial Student Center leaders rebutted the allegations of wasteful spending within the MSC that erupted during the closed session of the Feb. 9 Student Senate meeting.

After the closed session, the Senate voted to cut the MSC's student service fee allocation by \$400,000. The Senate recommended \$220,000 be allocated from the Student Service Fee reserve and the MSC reserve to offset the initial cut pending the approval of Dr. J. Malon Southerland, vice president of student affairs.

The Senate met in closed session for twenty minutes during this meeting while at least three senators told the Senate of discrepancies in the MSC's budget as well as other information given to them by an MSC student leader who wished to remain anonymous.

After the minutes of the closed session were obtained by The Battalion, two of the senators who spoke during the closed session agreed to elaborate on the allegations.

Sen. Ben Dale said an MSC student leader told him the budget the MSC presented to the Senate Finance Committee was not the correct budget. He said two budgets existed.

"The informant told me the budget we had was not what they operated on," Dale said. "He took some papers out of a file cabinet and said 'Here, this is the real budget. And then went on to say (MSC Director) Jim Reynolds would have his butt if that got out.'"

Dale said the informant also told him the MSC would request more money than it needed.

"They requested money for programs they don't need, money for staff they don't need," Dale said. "They said by us cutting their budget we're hurting students, but their budget is so over-inflated they knew it wasn't going to hurt them."

However Chris Cowan, MSC vice president of finance, said he thought the alleged "two budgets" may have resulted from Senate Finance Committee representatives misinterpreting the budget recommendation process.

"When we plan our budget we plan it nine months in advance and plan for the optimal," Cowan said. "Sometimes we meet our goals and sometimes we don't, so we make adjustments accordingly. Perhaps they saw budget adjustments and misconstrued that as two budgets."

Similarly, MSC Director Jim Reynolds denied the allegation. "There are absolutely not two budgets," he said. "First of all, there would be a paper trail. The budget that was given to the Senate Finance Committee was the only budget."

Sen. Tracey McAllister said the MSC has some "useless committees" that have no committee chairmen, no members or no real purpose for existing other than to "pad" the MSC's budget.

She said both the Literary Arts Club and Recreation Club have not operated in the past two years but have been allocated funds.

MSC President Heather Hartman said funds have been allocated for the two committees.

"We feel there is a need for literary programming so we budget for the Literary Arts Club in hopes we will be able to offer programs," Hartman said. "Yes, it's true some years the club isn't active, but we want to have that money in case we're able to bring in some one like W.P. Kinsella, the author of 'Field of Dreams,' like two years ago. But it depends on student initiative."

Reynolds said the MSC Council has activated and terminated these programs based on productivity and student leadership efficiency.

"It's all a part of streamlining the MSC," he said.

McAllister also alleged the MSC had no viable means to evaluate program performance and implied the programs were inefficient.

"I had heard a complaint from a MSC officer that there was no evaluation process for the programs," she said. "They end up wasting a lot of money on ineffective programs. A lot of the programs are so poorly attended, the only people there are the committee chairman and their dates."

However, Keith Sundstrom, MSC vice president of programming, said every committee is asked to fill out a program evaluation form after every program.

"We ask them things like 'How many people attended?', 'What kind of people attended?', 'What did

Walker to name panel to review allocation policy

Student Body President Brian Walker will appoint a committee this week to review the Senate Finance Committee and the process by which it makes its recommendations for student service fee allocations.

"I will concede there are some things that could be improved," Walker said. "The committee will look into how this might be accomplished."

Heather Hartman, MSC president, agreed with Walker that the process should be examined.

"I wish they would review how the Senate Finance Committee members are selected, train them, educate them and enforce uniform guidelines by which to review the departments," she said.

Currently members of the Senate Finance Committee are selected by application and are interviewed.

Once selected, the committee members select their top three choices of departments to review, and the committee chairman makes the final selection.

Committee representatives interview department officials, students and staff within the department, tour the department and review the department's previous budgets.

Ambassador: Bosnian war linked to fascism

By James Bernsen

The Battalion

The war in Bosnia is not a result of ethnic and religious intolerance, but rather the result of a new wave of fascism in Eastern Europe, Muhammed Sacirbey, Bosnian ambassador to the United Nations said Friday.

Sacirbey told Texas A&M students and faculty members that the region, particularly Sarajevo, were almost perfect models of multicultural societies before the war.

"I come to you knowing you'll understand what it means to be part of a multicultural society," he said. "There wasn't so much hatred and rivalry as there was respect and tolerance."

Sacirbey said the West likes to see Serbians and Muslims as "cats and dogs" that can't live together.

But he said the real cause of the war is a new

nationalist Serbia that arms the Bosnian Serbs.

"There is a regime in Serbian Belgrade that is trying to preserve its absolute power and privileges on the basis of converting itself from a communist philosophy into an ultra-nationalist and fascist philosophy," he said.

Sacirbey said ethnic violence is a tool of this fascism.

"It's very easy to use religion, or to use history, as a tool for fascism," he said.

Sacirbey said people in the West believe giving Serbia what it wants would solve the problems in the region.

"The West is only too willing to separate us and forget about the problem," he said.

Sacirbey stated that even NATO threats to Bosnian Serbs will not do much to end the suffering in Sarajevo.

"Even if the guns are removed, Sarajevo remains besieged," he said.

Sacirbey said the introduction of Russian troops as peacekeepers will only help the Serbs because the Russians and Serbs have long felt a kinship.

The Serbian model of neo-fascism could even become a model for a future Russia, with ultra-nationalists like Vladimir Zhirinovskiy rising to power in the economic turmoil, he said.

Zhirinovskiy recently claimed that any attack on Serbian positions in Bosnia would be seen as an attack on Russia.

"Bosnia was the place to stop the new fascism of Eastern Europe, and the West has failed to confront it," he said. "They have now encouraged it and legitimized it in other nations, perhaps in Russia."

"The Bosnians will have to pay for this for quite some time. The world may have to pay for it too."

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