

## Forces attack Serb fighters in northern Bosnia

The Associated Press

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Government forces attacked Serb fighters in northern Bosnia on Sunday, leading the Serb leader to threaten a counterattack and hardened negotiating stance.

Bosnian radio claimed government forces had captured key Bosnian Serb positions near Maglaj, killing 70 Serb fighters, and were advancing. There was no confirmation of the report.

Belgrade's Tanjug news agency said Bosnian Serb military sources reported "intensive" attacks by government forces but claimed the attacks had been repelled.

On Friday, U.N. peacekeepers destroyed a Serb bunker near Maglaj, 50 miles north of Sarajevo, after a seven-hour battle. A few days earlier, Bosnian Serbs looted an aid convoy headed for Maglaj.

Speaking to his Serbian Democratic Party in Banja Luka, a Serb stronghold in northern Bosnia, Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic said the government's "spring offensive must be broken."

"If they do not stop this offensive, I will order a counteroffensive and then they shall not be able to get the territories they would be able to by political negotiations," he said, according to Tanjug. "They can never get the territories on which they are now killing our men."

Another round of talks among Bosnia's Muslims, Serbs and Croats has not been scheduled, overshadowed by the creation of a Muslim-Croat federation in Bosnia. But Karadzic has never been willing to concede much land in peace talks anyway.

The Serbs control about 70 percent of Bosnia's territory.

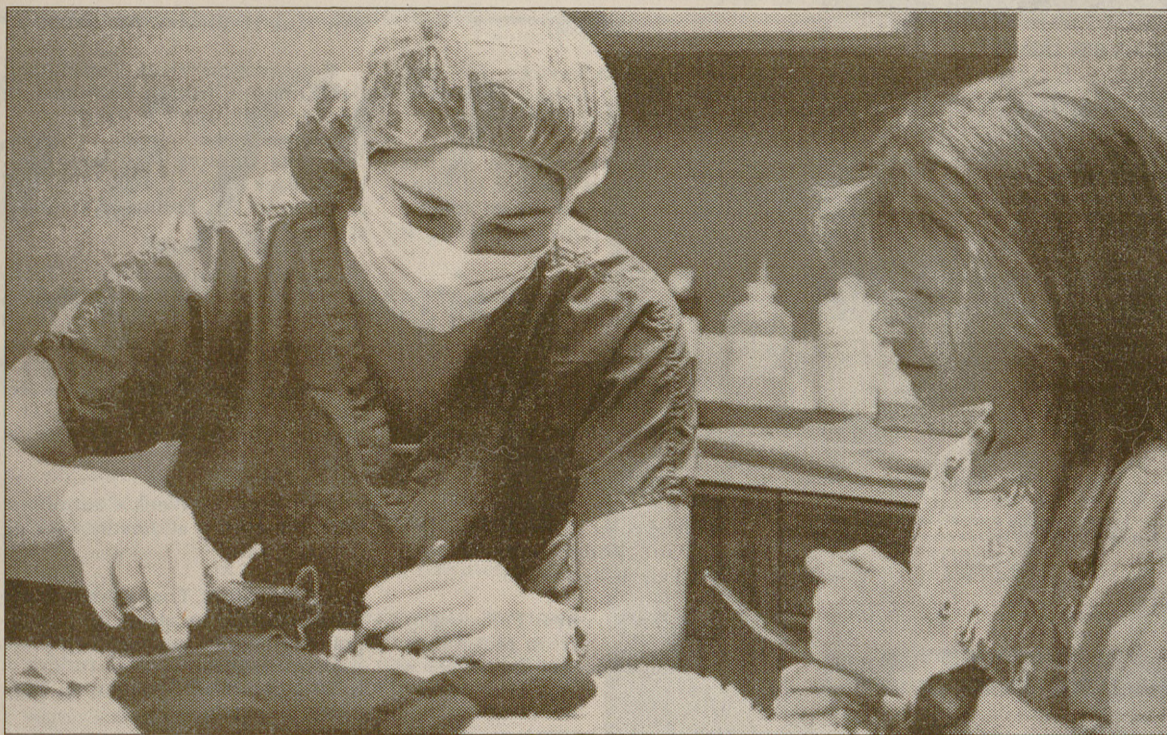
For months, all sides in Bosnia's two-year war have threatened a spring offensive, but it wasn't clear if the weekend fighting was part of that offensive or an isolated attack.

It is much easier to get around Bosnia's snowy, mountainous and often bad roads in the spring.

In Sarajevo, meanwhile, ethnic Serbs loyal to the Muslim-led Bosnian government held an assembly and asked that their representatives be included in peace talks since Bosnian Serbs led by Karadzic want to form a separate state.

Ljubomir Berberovic, assembly president, praised the new Muslim-Croat federation for beginning "the process of stopping the war."

## Sewing up "Toadie"



Amanda Sonley/The Battalion

Lisa Powell (left), a third year veterinarian student, shows 9-year-old Meredith Gardner how to repair her stuffed frog "Toadie" in Teddy Bear Surgery in the Small Animal Clinic during the First

Annual College of Veterinary Medicine Open House Saturday morning. Vet students at Teddy Bear Surgery showed children how to sew their stuffed animals when they had a tear in them.

## Average Russians not aware of U.S., international aid assistance

The Associated Press

MOSCOW — One winter day, 80-year-old Antonina Vizhinskaya got a call from her district social workers: Would she and her husband, Viktor, care to visit a sanitarium outside Moscow, free of charge?

The couple, along with about 100 other elderly Russians, spent the next three weeks enjoying the sanitarium's clean rooms, good food and attentive personnel.

"It was a good rest for old people like us and we could never afford it on our pension," Vizhinskaya said. "We wouldn't mind going there a second time."

What she did not know was that they had Uncle Sam to thank, at least in part. In complex, often roundabout ways, some U.S. aid is making its way through a bureaucratic web to ordinary Russians.

A recent report by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee concluded that the average Russian is not "aware of or affected by international assistance or the reforms that it is supposed to foster."

Apart from "George Bush's thighs" — a popular name for chicken legs sent by the Bush administration — few Russians could point to any specific U.S. aid.

But some of it does trickle down.

Unlike the World War II shipments of canned beef remembered by many older Russians, today's American aid focuses on programs more than people. It includes defense conversion plans, agricultural commodities and advisers sent to promote democracy and free enterprise. In Vizhinskaya's case, the tangled chain of transac-

tions that led to a sanitarium stay began with U.S. agricultural products sold at commodity exchanges.

Russia's humanitarian and technical aid commission distributed the proceeds to social, health and farming programs.

"You could say there's U.S. money in those sanitariums, but people in the street might not know it," said the commission's humanitarian-aid director, Nikolai Anisimov.

The commission expects to get the equivalent of about \$32 million from 1993 sales of U.S. grain, corn, peanuts, rice, chicken and other products, Anisimov said.

Some U.S.-financed programs show quick results, such as a \$6 million housing project for discharged army officers in the Volga River city of Nizhny Novgorod, to be completed this summer.

Others take longer. For example, Washington has assisted the effort to privatize state property and has contributed more than \$5 million to the International Finance Corp., which assists in privatization.

Many U.S. programs send volunteers to help with farming or industry, and experts on economics, the judiciary or democratic institutions.

Those are the ones that raise the most doubt about the direction and efficiency of American efforts. The Senate committee report suggested that too much money was spent on short visits by U.S. experts, and questioned the effectiveness of exchange and training programs.

## Brady Bill not welcomed by all Texans

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — The Brady Bill came to Texas a month ago looking to bring its own brand of order to the way Lone Star residents buy handguns.

But the new stranger in town hasn't received the traditional Texas welcome.

"I hate it!" gripes Cindy Smith, an Alvin resident.

"It's taking our rights away. We have the right to bear arms," says gun-owner Brenda Lege of nearby Dayton. "You don't want to depend on other people to defend you here in Texas."

This is the state where the most honored souls are those who fought and died for independence

"It's taking our rights away. We have the right to bear arms."

— Brenda Lege, gun-owner

at The Alamo.

Texans love their freedom, and they have a long history of fighting those who try to mess with it.

Enter the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act, which took effect Feb. 28. It requires the state's estimated 21,605 federally licensed gun

dealers to run background checks on anyone trying to buy a handgun.

A month later, law enforcement agencies across Texas are struggling with the extra work needed to complete the checks while gun dealers are handling questions from a confused public and buyers are mad for many reasons.

Opposition to the bill seems to often stem from the belief that the bill is causing much work but won't do much to reduce crime.

"Criminals can just buy them off the street," says Houstonian Robert Dodd. "Criminals are not going to go into gun stores. The way they're going about it is not going to hurt anybody but law-abiding citizens."

## FDA commissioner may try to regulate cigarettes

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — David Kessler stunned even supporters when he announced he was considering regulating, perhaps banning, cigarettes.

It was merely the latest controversy for the fiery Food and Drug Administration commissioner.

Now the public is waiting to see if the pediatrician who cracked down on everything from orange juice to powerful drug makers will really rein in the \$60 billion tobacco industry.

"There is no greater public health issue," Kessler insists.

But critics say this time Kessler has gone too far.

"It's another example of Kessler seizing an issue to advance his agenda, which is to make the public think Doc Kessler is Mr. Enforcement," said Kim Pearson, a Washington lawyer who publishes an FDA-watchdog newsletter.

Kessler doesn't think that's bad; it's an image he has cultivated in his three years as head of the agency charged with protecting Americans from bad food or medicine. In that time, he has:

- Seized orange juice mislabeled "fresh."
- Banned silicon breast implants because of evidence they were sickening women, although he later allowed some for reconstructive surgery.
- Cracked down on drug makers that don't follow FDA manufacturing guidelines, saying the lapses could compromise product safety. The biggest company hit so far is Warner-Lambert, which in August briefly halted production at a loss of millions of dollars.
- Prohibited makers of dietary supplements from issuing unproven health claims.

But Kessler says a lack of authority sometimes hinders him. The FDA can't force the recall of contaminated products, can't even look at company records to see if food is properly chilled.

"I have had food decomposing in plants and I have not had the ability to look at where that food's been shipped," he said in a recent interview.

And that question of authority may halt his quest to regulate nicotine. To do so, Kessler must prove tobacco companies intentionally control nicotine levels to cause or sustain addiction.

**AIM HIGH**

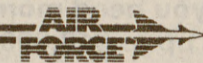
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## Department of Speech Communication and TAMU Debate Society

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### PUBLIC FORUM DEBATE

**Resolved: Affirmative action policies are still necessary in 1994 and should be maintained.**

Date: Wednesday, March 30, 1994  
Time: 8:30 p.m.  
Place: 601 Rudder

**Come and voice your opinion!**

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are now available in the Campus Programs Office of the Association of Former Students in the Clayton Williams Jr. Alumni Center, the MSC Student Programs Office and the Department of Student Activities.

**Deadline: April 4, 1994**

**AggieHostel**

