



## U.S. GENERAL HANDS OVER RELIEF OPERATION IN SOMALIA TO U.N.

*The Associated Press*

Lieutenant General Robert Johnston of the United States Marines handed over control of the Somali relief effort to the United Nations today, telling his successor, "It's all yours." General Johnston proclaimed the first phase, led by the United States since Dec. 9, a success as the operation moved into a reconstruction period. Lieutenant General Cevik Bir of Turkey, the United Nations military commander, will lead a new force that is projected to reach 28,000 troops, including 4,000 Americans.

An estimated 350,000 people died last year as a result of clan warfare, starvation and disease. Bandits once roamed in armed vehicles. Markets are now thriving, and today, starvation has virtually ended. Aid agencies are phasing out food programs and focusing more on health care. Death rates in cities like Bardera and Baidoa have dropped from hundreds a day to less than a dozen.

But the threat of violence persists, and Somalis worry that their country could easily slip back into clan fighting. General Johnston described encountering the starvation, devastation and disease when the troops first arrived.

"It was one thing to see it on TV and see it in the newspaper, but quite another thing to witness the effects of famine first-hand, to feel it, smell it, to look into the eyes of children who were completely emotionless, instinctively struggling to survive," he said. "Now the famine is behind them. They have learned to smile. It's a good feeling to have been part of that, to make it so different."

## DIPLOMATS ARRIVE IN HAITI FOR TALK

*Howard W. French*

*New York Times*

In a push to finalize an agreement on deploying an international police force in Haiti, envoys of the Clinton Administration and the United Nations arrived here today for talks with the country's military leaders.

For two weeks, diplomats have described the planned deployment of about 500 foreign police officers in Haiti as a crucial final element to reaching a negotiated

settlement to this country's political crisis, which began with a violent coup against the elected President, the Rev. Jean-Bertrand Aristide, in September 1991.

The drive to deploy the police force, led by the United Nations mediator for Haiti, Dante Caputo, has been repeatedly delayed, however, by negotiations with Father Aristide, many of whose supporters are opposed to any armed international presence in Haiti.

Diplomats also had to counter

strong opposition by many of the exiled President's foes here in Haiti, who have campaigned against the deployment with strongly nationalist slogans recalling a 19-year American occupation earlier this century.

For Haiti's military leaders and the civilian government they installed, however, diplomats say, the price of rejection of the plan would be harsh new economic sanctions, and the possibility of losing amnesty protections offered by President Aristide as part of the settlement.

## U.N. WARNS OF END TO KURDISH RELIEF

*Paul Lewis*

*New York Times*

The United Nations has warned that aid for the Kurds in northern Iraq, as well as for needy people suffering the effects of the trade embargo in the rest of the country, will be brought to an end within weeks unless Western countries provide more money and supplies.

In a letter sent to the president of the Security Council this week, Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said the Iraqi Government had agreed to extend the accord under which the United Nations provides relief assistance to the Iraqi Kurds as well as to those in need elsewhere in the country for another six months.

But he warned that unless the United Nations received more money and food from donor countries, he would be forced to suspend the whole relief program in Iraq as

well as in the Kurdish-controlled northern areas by "the end of May 1993 or mid-June 1993." This is because donor countries have failed to respond to his appeal of last April for \$490 million to pay for another year long relief program there.

Because of this shortage of money, the Secretary General said he had already been forced to cut 50 guards from the 236-member United Nations force that is mainly deployed in northern Iraq to protect relief workers. And he warned that the remaining guards would be withdrawn by mid-June unless new financing was found. Risk to Relief Workers

The withdrawal of these guards would leave private relief workers vulnerable to attacks by Iraqi Government agents operating in the Kurdish controlled parts of northern Iraq who have harassed them in the past.

The Secretary General says the security situation in northern Iraq has been deteriorating steadily since last summer when a United Nations guard was killed. A number of bombings later disrupted relief convoys on their way into northern Iraq. And this month two French relief workers were killed by a hand grenade explosion at a school near the Kurdish-held town of Suleimaniyah.

Although the Security Council has given Iraq permission to sell oil to buy food and other relief supplies for its people, Baghdad has refused to make the sales. The Iraqi Government has said that the Security Council's insistence on supervising how the money is spent, as well as its demand that part of the oil sale proceeds be paid as compensation to the victims of the Kuwait invasion, undermines its sovereignty.

## HOPE AND VIOLENCE AS CAMBODIAN ELECTION BEGINS

*Philip Shenon*

*New York Times*

After decades of oppression that have brought genocidal terror, wrenching poverty and a civil war, the future of Cambodia may finally be decided by the millions who have suffered quietly for so long and who are being invited today to vote.

As the voting began at 8 A.M., there were no reports of violence, although United Nations peacekeepers held to their prediction of attacks by the Khmer Rouge, the Maoist rebels who have threatened to sabotage the six-day election. United Nations military observers said there was fighting Saturday night between the rebels and Government soldiers in some areas of the northern countryside. Here in the capital, voters turned out by the tens of thousands in an early morning drizzle for the chance to vote, which for most of Cambodia's 4.7 million registered voters is the first chance in their lives to pick their own government. Cambodians say it is a sign of good fortune when it rains on an important day.

Soy Sina, a retired tailor, lined up an hour and a half before the voting booths opened. "I came early because I want peace to come very fast to Cambodia," she said, clutching the laminated United Nations voting card that displayed her photograph and signature. "I did not think it would be dangerous to vote because I knew the United Nations would protect us." Several feet away, a peacekeeping soldier from Ghana paced nervously, his hands tight around an M-16 rifle. The threat that some voters would face violence was underscored on Saturday when two Chinese soldiers with the United Nations force were killed in an early morning raid in central Cambodia. The United Nations blamed the Khmer Rouge for the attack.

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## ALLIES ANNOUNCE STRATEGY TO CURB FIGHTING IN BOSNIA; U.S. OFFERS PLANES, NOT MEN

*Elaine Siolino*  
*New York Times*

After months of discord and vacillation, the United States, Russia and key European allies agreed today on a joint strategy devised to contain the fighting in Bosnia and Herzegovina and to guard enclaves of Muslim civilians besieged by Serbian nationalists there.

The plan, announced by the United States Secretary of State Warren Christopher and the Foreign Ministers of France, Britain, Russia and Spain after a brief meeting here, calls for the United States to use air power if necessary to protect United Nations peacekeepers guarding six Bosnian towns that have been designated "safe havens" by the United Nations Security Council.

But the size and duties of the peacekeeping mission will have to be decided by the Security Council, and Mr. Christopher did not specify what American aircraft would be authorized to do. That means that no use of American military force is imminent.

The plan is by no means a blueprint for stopping the war, but rather a series of modest steps on which the parties managed to agree. It is not aimed at rolling back the territorial gains of the Serbs, who now control 70 percent of Bosnia.

The protection of the safe ha-

vens will require the deployment of several thousand more United Nations troops in Bosnia in addition to the 9,000 that are already there. France, Britain, Canada, Spain and other countries already have contributed troops, and Russia now plans to do so, the ministers said.

Although the United States would protect peacekeeping troops guarding the Muslim enclaves, it would not come to the rescue of the safe areas themselves if they are attacked by Serbs. Nor would it contribute troops to the peacekeeping effort on the ground.

The joint agreement reflects the Clinton Administration's abandonment of its earlier plan to arm the Bosnian Muslims, a proposal that was opposed by Russia and the allies, and its acceptance of the French initiative for safe havens, a strategy that it had opposed.

The joint plan includes a commitment to put international monitors on the border between Bosnia and Serbia to insure that President Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia keeps his word not to send weapons to Bosnian Serbs. Croatia would be warned that it could face economic sanctions if it assists the Bosnian Croats' campaign of "ethnic cleansing" against Muslims.

The joint strategy also calls for the rapid creation of a war crimes

tribunal so those guilty of atrocities can be brought to justice; urges increased "international monitoring" in the Serbian region of Kosovo, which has an ethnic Albanian majority, and calls for an increased international presence in Macedonia, the southernmost former Yugoslav province, bordering Greece.

Mr. Christopher said that the aim of the plan was to increase pressure on the Bosnian Serbs "to stop the killing," but there is no guarantee that such limited measures will do so that. The British Foreign Secretary, Douglas Hurd, described the joint strategy as a "realistic" approach. "No one is pretending that this is going to be an easy road, or a simple road that we've set out," he said.

Though it does not rule out alternative proposals, the joint strategy emphasizes the importance of reaching a negotiated settlement that would "build on" the Vance-Owen peace plan for Bosnia, which calls for creating semi-autonomous provinces dominated by different ethnic groups. That plan has been flatly rejected by the Serbs.

Amid the self-congratulations among the ministers was an undercurrent of discontent that the United States had refused to contribute troops to the United Nations peacekeeping force. Eu-

ropeans in the United Nations force are already delivering food and medicine and ministering to the sick in Muslim enclaves and will now also be protecting them.

"I haven't agreed with the so-called division of labor between those who are in the sky and those who are on the ground," the French Foreign Minister, Alain Juppe, said in a brief interview after the announcement. "I wish that all the great powers involved in the painful drama will assume their responsibility."

Mr. Juppe indicated that he would press the United States to change its mind, saying, "I think we'll convince all the partners to go forward."

President Clinton has adamantly refused to consider allowing Americans to take part in peacekeeping operations in Bosnia while the war is still raging. On Friday he said he would not want Americans "in a shooting gallery."

Asked why the United States refused to join in peacekeeping on the ground, Mr. Christopher said today that American planes had the "heaviest responsibility" for enforcing a ban on Serbian flights over Bosnia and conducting airdrops of food and medicine.

The six safe havens, already identified in an earlier resolution

approved by the Security Council, are Srebrenica, Gorazde, Zepa and Tuzla in the east; the Bosnian capital, Sarajevo; and Bihac in the northwest. Officials said about 1.2 million people, including tens of thousands of refugees, are in the six towns. Additional havens could be added, the ministers said today.

The plan raises a number of questions that were left unanswered, like whether any penalties will be imposed if Serbs do not allow monitors to police the Serbian-Bosnian border. President Milosevic of Serbia has withdrawn an offer to allow international monitors along the border because he no longer fears American military intervention.

Mr. Milosevic and President Dobrica Cosic of Yugoslavia, which now consists only of Serbia and Montenegro, told Russia's Foreign Minister, Andrei V. Kozyrev, on Tuesday that they would accept foreign monitors only if Croatia did too and also withdrew all its military forces from Bosnia, according to one of Mr. Cosic's close advisers.

Mr. Milosevic first indicated that outside monitors would be welcomed along the Serbian border with Bosnia during the London conference on the Balkans last August. But now, officials in Belgrade are asserting that he never did so publicly or in writing.



REUTERS

*United States Secretary of State Warren Christopher, right, and British Foreign Minister Douglas Hurd yesterday at the State Department.*

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