

Water and airlift remain cut off as defenders fall out

# Talks fail to restart Sarajevo aid flights

Ian Traynor  
East Europe Correspondent

SIX months into the Serbian siege that has left about 2,000 of Sarajevo's inhabitants dead and tens of thousands wounded, the city's plight worsened yesterday with the Western aid airlift still suspended, water supplies cut off, and growing tension between the nominally allied Muslim and Croatian forces defending the city.

Fierce fighting between the Serbian besiegers and the Muslim defenders at the airport and in the west of the city lessened the chances of the airlift resuming quickly.

The United Nations secretary-general, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, hinted that the airlift, frozen since an Italian transport plane was apparently shot down last week, would resume. But talks in Geneva between international mediators and the parties to the conflict failed to secure the restart of flights.

It had been expected that the meeting at the new Geneva-based peace conference on the Yugoslav conflict would order a resumption of the aid flights. However, any decision was put off until tomorrow when the talks broke up without agreement.

Aid workers warned that the city was running short of food,

adding that as the cold weather approached there was a pressing need to ferry in blankets and building materials. They expected cold weather to cause severe hardship within weeks. But only food, and not enough at that, was being delivered.

Italian officials said there would be no more aid flights until the precise cause of last week's crash, in which four Italian crew were killed, was known. It could be several weeks before a formal investigation releases its conclusions, though UN and European Community officials openly say the plane was shot down.

France yesterday blamed an "act of terrorism" for the crash and said that a UN inquiry had already provided hard evidence of the attack. The French foreign ministry called for armed escorts to protect relief convoys, a measure that has already been approved by the UN Security Council.

Despite that approval, there was no agreement at the Geneva talks yesterday on armed support for the relief transports and Dr Boutros-Ghali said the issue would have again to go before the UN later this week.

There was no sign of the main political negotiations on Bosnia getting under way at the Geneva talks yesterday.

The forum was set up at the recent London conference on former Yugoslavia which decided that a task group would,

as a matter of urgency, bring together the warring parties in Bosnia to try to hammer out a long-term settlement. That process failed to begin on schedule yesterday. It remained unclear when political negotiations would get under way.

Following a visit to the former Yugoslavia over the weekend by Murrack Goulding, the UN's head of peacekeeping, Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen — the co-chairmen of the Geneva conference — are to travel to the Balkans later this week.

On Sunday they issued an ultimatum to the Serbs to group their big guns and allow them to be monitored by UN observers.

Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, pledged yesterday that he would comply with the request, in accordance with his promise in London.

Mr Karadzic said the Serbs' heavy artillery around the four besieged towns of Sarajevo, Gorazde, Bihac, and Jajce would be collected and placed under UN supervision by the weekend.

He cited as a measure of his good faith the lifting last week of the Serbs' four-month siege of the south-eastern Muslim stronghold of Gorazde.

But UN officials said that there was no sign yet that the heavy weapons pulled back from the town had been gathered and made accessible to international monitors.



**AZERBAIJANI women** mourning relatives killed by Armenian shelling in the border village of Taty. A

surge of fighting has threatened a ceasefire between the two republics at war over the enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh. According to Armenian reports, at least 60 Azerbaijani and two Armenian fighters have been killed

since Sunday's abortive Azerbaijani offensive. Yesterday peace talks involving 11 countries and aimed at

brokering a new truce to be monitored by international observers began in Rome.

PHOTOGRAPH: SHAKH AVAZOV

## Hint of bigger US army role

Hella Pick  
Diplomatic Editor

THE United States is prepared to join other Nato countries in considering a military response to help the United Nations in Yugoslavia, General Colin Powell, chairman of the US joint chiefs of staff, said in London yesterday.

He hinted at an expanding US role in providing military escorts for aid convoys in Bosnia.

But Gen Powell also warned the allies against allowing their debates about the relative roles of Nato and the Western European Union to intrude on "getting the job done".

He was one of the keynote

speakers at a conference on Europe and the world after 1992, organised by Britain as current holder of the European Community presidency.

Gen Powell was adamant that the military could not provide a quick fix in Yugoslavia or elsewhere. Western leaders should define "clear objectives" and political strategies before involving their armed forces.

"A quick sniff of gunpowder will not resolve conflicts and hatreds that have not yielded to a thousand years of violence," Gen Powell said.

"Diplomacy and collective political and economic action must be in the front lines. Policies must be in place for the long haul and not just the headline."

The government's main purpose in inviting a senior US administration spokesman to participate in yesterday's conference was to secure a high-level reaffirmation of the US commitment to Europe and Nato.

Preoccupation with eastern Europe showed in virtually all the speeches yesterday. Jacques Delors, the EC Commission president, was so concerned with new world order imperatives that he made not a single controversial statement about the Maastricht treaty.

It was left to Bernard Chidzero, Zimbabwe's minister of finance, to remind the conference that the Third World demanded attention, too.

## Loaf-filled Dutch colossus faces fate as lowly Low Country landfill

AP in Amsterdam

A BREAD-STUFFED colossus that was going to be dumped as a sacrificial offering in the North Sea will instead get an ignominious burial on land.

What finally did in the "National Gift To The Sea" was neither the sacrilegious churchmen nor the thrifty Dutch decrying the waste of 20,000 loaves of bread.

It was the bureaucrats. The council of state, the country's highest legal body, ruled yesterday in favour of a waterways ministry decision that the project violated the Seawater Contamination Act.

The 100-ft steel structure in the shape of a man with outstretched arms had been stuffed with 20,000 loaves of bread and stood ready to take the plunge later this month.

The project's organisers, a group of publicity-shy Dutch citizens calling themselves the Cargo Foundation, supposedly conceived of the idea two years ago as a symbolic gesture of thanks for everything the seafaring nation has taken from the sea.

But neither the country's conservative Christian elements nor its strong environmental lobby saw the issue that way. More than 33,000 people signed protest letters to the waterways ministry in an effort to halt the project.

Churchmen blanched at what they saw as its pagan aspects and Greenpeace called it "pure pollution" and "the most mindless, primitive act imaginable".

The Council of State ruled that the foundation could have chosen a less harmful gift, and said dumping so much bread would be "a major assault on the quality of the seawater... that cannot be sufficiently justified."

The foundation said it was "flabbergasted" by the Council's ruling. "This has made a unique event impossible. It is with pain in our heart that we have to conclude that the spirit of the times will not allow the National Gift to be presented to the sea," said a foundation statement.

The foundation now plans to bury the 800-ton statue, complete with bread, in a shallow grave on the huge dike north of Amsterdam where it took shape.

## Democrats' new internationalist

Martin Walker in Washington talks to Lee Hamilton, who could be Bill Clinton's secretary of state



Lee Hamilton: respected by both sides in Congress

THE man poised to become the most influential Democrat in foreign policy, whether Bill Clinton wins or loses, is a free trader and internationalist, who believes that a credible garrison of US forces should stay in Europe and Asia, even after defence cuts and some troop withdrawals.

Congressman Lee Hamilton of Indiana is on all the shortlists to be secretary of state in the next Democratic administration. But whether or not he is offered the post, Mr Hamilton is enthralled by the near certainty that he will be the next chairman of the House foreign affairs committee.

"I want the US to be a world leader," Mr Hamilton says. "I don't agree with those who think we should play a reduced role in foreign affairs."

He sees a twin challenge for Congress to recover the prominent role in foreign policy that it last enjoyed in the 1960s and to redeem the public image of Congress as stagnant, corrupt and in the thrall of lobbyists and special interests.

"Most people these days run for Congress by running against Congress," Mr Hamilton complains. "This is dangerous. We are eroding Congress as an institution, and in the process undermining its capacity to mould a national consensus behind a problem — and our foreign policy has always worked best when we had that consensus."

A quiet revolutionary, Mr Hamilton wants an overhaul of US foreign policy institutions and has suggested closing the Agency for International Development, which has traditionally cast US foreign aid policy in a cold war perspective. He criticises the lion's share of US aid that goes to Israel and Egypt, and the increasing dominance of the White House over Congress in foreign policy.

"We can modify, we can alter. But the fundamental policy remains the president's policy," he says. "I think a president can win any foreign policy issue if he fights hard enough for it."

Mr Hamilton, aged 61, is a small-town lawyer and Methodist who went to Frankfurt's Goethe University, and has

served 15 terms in Congress, 28 years representing the rural and suburban voters of south-west Indiana. It is heartland of moderate and centrist voters. Interviewed for the vice-presidential slot, Mr Hamilton's opposition to federal funds for abortion was a key factor that kept him off the Democratic ticket.

He has one of the most respected reputations in Congress, able to work closely with moderate Republicans on the House committee.

Mr Hamilton voted against the Gulf war, calling for more time for sanctions against Iraq to work. When President Bush rattled the sabres against Iraq again last month, Mr Hamilton quietly but successfully pressed for a tightening of the embargo on the Jordanian border.

Mr Hamilton gave up his Labour Day holiday weekend to attend a conference on Pacific Rim affairs and US trade policy near Seattle, trying to assure Japanese and Asian officials and politicians that the North American Free Trade Agreement was not aimed at excluding them. Mr Hamilton shares the view of the Clinton advisers that US foreign policy will in future hinge on America's economic health and its trading relationships far more than on nuclear warheads and military strength.

Mr Clinton's lack of experience in foreign policy would force him to rely heavily on Mr Hamilton, whether as secretary of state or as the House committee chairman. Which post Mr Hamilton took could be a crucial test of a Clinton presidency. If he did not join the cabinet, Mr Hamilton's determination to strengthen the role of Congress in foreign policy could lead to a collision course with the next White House occupant.

## 'Turkish forces faked attacks'

Jonathan Rugman in Ankara

THE head of Turkey's human rights association has accused Ankara of not telling the truth about two days of violence and destruction which forced 25,000 Kurds to flee last month.

Speaking after a visit to the south-eastern town of Sirmak, Akin Birdal said he had seen nothing to support the official view that public buildings had been badly damaged by hundreds of Kurdish separatist guerrillas. "All the indications are that the state did it."

The government has denied malpractice by its forces, accusing newspapers which published eyewitness accounts of failing for separatist propaganda. Fourteen civilians and four security men were reportedly killed in Sirmak, but there are no known Kurdish Workers Party casualties, casting doubt on reports that 500 separatists tried to occupy the town.

Western diplomats say the picture emerging is of an over-reaction to some kind of PKK attack, with soldiers setting shops alight with petrol and tanks firing at houses.

Turkey's role in the allied air exclusion zone over the Kurds of Iraq has kept diplomatic objections muted, but a damning report on Sirmak is expected shortly from Lord Avebury, chairman of the parliamentary human rights group, who visited the town at the weekend.

For three weeks about 5,000 Kurdish refugees from the violence in Sirmak have been camping along the banks of a river 12 miles from the town. A further 15,000 have been staying with friends or relatives elsewhere. The government is still trying to persuade the majority to go home.

The PKK is widely held responsible for last month's flat-topping of the post office warehouse and a hole in the roof of a military hostel. But even the local governor, Mustapha Malay, has said his "conscience is not clear" about Sirmak.

Yesterday President Turgut Ozal ended a visit to soldiers and civilians along the Iraqi and Iranian borders. Mr Ozal claims his grandmother was Kurdish and that he wants his last service to Turkey to be a solution to the Kurdish problem. But the president has been criticised for meddling in government affairs, including last week's meeting with Iraqi Kurdish leaders to discuss the PKK.

Later this week the interior minister, Ismet Sezgin, will travel to Tehran and may offer the Iranians a new mutual security agreement after PKK guerrillas were seen recently crossing the Iranian border.

In another development, the International Press Institute president, Peter Galliner, is visiting Turkey to investigate the deaths of eight journalists in the south-east this year. No arrests have been made. The prime minister, Suleyman Demirel, has said that the dead were not journalists at all but militants in disguise.

## Ex-Stasi officer held in Greece

A former senior official of the East German Stasi security police, wanted on terrorist charges in Germany, has been arrested in Athens, Greek police said yesterday.

Helmut Voigt, aged 50, was arrested at an Athens hotel and is suspected of supplying the guerrilla Carlos with explosives for a 1983 attack against the French consulate in Berlin where a number of people were killed. — Reuter.

## Blood wedding

An outbreak of food poisoning at a village wedding near Zaragoza, Spain killed one woman and left more than 110 of the 500 guests in hospital yesterday. The newlyweds were also

treated for symptoms following a meal of prawns in mayonnaise, veal, lemon sherbert, cake and ice cream. — AP.

**Overworked**  
Women work more hours a week, including housework, than men in every part of the world except North America and Australia, an International Labour Organisation report said yesterday. They work the hardest in Africa — 67 hours a week, compared to 63 for men. And differences between pay for men and women widened in both developing and industrialised countries. — AP.

**Kabul public hanging**  
Afghanistan hanged three men yesterday in front of a crowd of thousands in its most dramatic implementation of Islamic law since it came to power in April. The men admitted murder, loot-

ing and robbery, the defence ministry spokesman, Yunis Qanuni, said. — Reuter.

**Striking twice**  
A bus rolled off a mountain cliff and plunged into a swollen river in central Nepal, killing 12 people, a government minister said yesterday. It was the second bus disaster at that spot in two days. Ten passengers died on the spot when a bus carrying 35 people plunged into the Thopla river on Sunday. — AP.

**A bigger splash**  
An Austrian couple making love in their car on a secluded riverbank forgot to put on the handbrake. The car crashed into the river Steyr. But the husband Peter, aged 34, managed to kick out the windshield so that he and his wife, Monika, aged 32, could swim to safety. — Reuter.

## Race violence could hamper German economic progress

Anna Tomforde in Bonn

THE anti-foreigner riots in eastern Germany could jeopardise investment and undermine the contribution foreign workers are making to the German economy as a whole, experts fear.

Warnings that the attacks on asylum hostels could scare off investors have come from politicians and economists who fear that the riots could be interpreted abroad as a sign of political instability.

Professor Herbert Hax, chairman of the economic council of "five wise men" advising the government, said the disturbances had caused "atmospheric damage" to the investment climate.

His view was backed by Robert Machalak, of the American chamber of commerce in Frankfurt, who said that daily television pictures of racist violence only strengthened the impression held by many foreign investors of political instability in eastern Europe.

Japanese investors and businessmen in Berlin have been especially worried about being mistaken for Vietnamese workers who have been one of the principal targets. Japanese business and diplomatic representations in Berlin are understood to have begun instructing their employees on "how to dress and where not to go" to avoid being taken for "asylum applicants from Asia".

Heiner Geissler, a leading member of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democratic Party, warned that the feeling abroad that racism was on the rise could have devastating consequences, considering that every third job in Germany depended on exports.

"The prosperity of Germany is dependent on the country remaining an exporting nation," he said. The German economy's vulnerability regarding exports, and its reliance on foreign labour, are arguments that should be used by political leaders to counter xenophobia, according to Professor Faruk Sen, head of the Centre for Turkish Studies in Essen.

He said the riots in the east and the "understanding" that politicians had expressed for the motives of the rioters had a "devastating effect" on immigrant workers in the western half of the country. Many of the 1.76 million Turkish immigrant workers feared they could be the next target and were increasingly preparing to defend themselves.

Prof Sen said that a recent study showed that Turks, the biggest ethnic minority in Germany, came second on the "hate list" of young Germans of the right after Gypsies.

"We receive many threatening letters and many phone calls from Turks asking how to defend themselves," he said. He had warned self-employed Turkish businessmen to be cautious over setting up businesses in the east. They will be able to do so from October when, under a clause in the unifica-

tion treaty, non-EC foreigners will be allowed to move freely in eastern Germany.

"I have had to tell them that such initiatives risked being suicidal in the present climate," he said. According to the Turkish Centre, two-thirds of the 33,000 Turkish self-employed businessmen who have already created 115,000 jobs in western Germany, and who are making a significant contribution to its economic and social system, were prepared to set up subsidiaries in the east.

They were ready to repeat the stimulus they had given to West Germany when they first arrived in the 1960s but were being held back by "massive anti-foreigner sentiment", Prof Sen said.

In the latest attacks, police yesterday reported that seven Vietnamese immigrants were injured in arson attacks on their homes by rightwing extremists in the east German city of Halle.

In one incident, a woman suffered serious burns on her feet after an incendiary device was tossed through her window.

Reuter adds: Chancellor Kohl dismissed talk about a grand coalition government yesterday, but invited opposition, business and labour groups to join crisis talks on Germany's economy. "The coalition has a working majority. The coalition is able to take action," the chancellor said, referring to demands to bring the opposition Social Democrats into a national unity government.

Green tea 'may ward off cancer'

JAPANESE researchers have found fresh evidence for the age-old theory that green tea may help fight cancer.

However, Professor Mamoru Isemura of the University of Shizuoka — in one of Japan's prime tea-growing areas — cautioned that his study was not designed to support the claim that drinking tea would directly reduce cancer.

He said tannic acid in traditional Japanese green tea prevented cancer cells from adhering to healthy cells, reducing the likelihood of cancer spreading. One element of the acid — epigallocatechingallate — reduced cancer cell adhesion by 84 per cent, and another reduced it by 67 per cent.

There have been studies showing that people in Shizuoka have a significantly lower rate of death from cancer than other Japanese. Studying the structure of these substances and how they get into the blood "would help in designing cancer-restraining drugs", Prof Isemura said. — Reuter.



Japan's Empress Dowager Nagako, Hirohito's widow, returning from her holidays