

More American troops head to Somalia

Clinton administration approves reinforcement with 400 U.S. soldiers

WASHINGTON — The Clinton administration is sending at least 400 additional American soldiers...

A defense official said that soldiers from the Army's 75th Ranger Regiment were being sent to help deal with "the level of violence in Mogadishu" after three separate attacks on U.S. soldiers this month...

A mine exploded beneath a truck carrying American soldiers, but none of the six was seriously injured, officials said.

The troop reinforcement symbolizes the dramatic change in the U.S. military's role in recent months as fighting between United Nations forces and a Somali warlord has persisted in the East African nation's capital.

Last week U.N. Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali requested 3,000 more troops for Somalia and vowed to press military operations to disarm fugitive Somali warlord Mohamed Farrah Aidid.

The Army rangers join a 1,200-member U.S. quick-response force that is under U.S. command in Somalia. There also are 4,000 American support troops under U.N. command in the country.

White House press secretary Dee Dee Myers, speaking from Clinton's vacation retreat in

Martha's Vineyard, Mass., said she had no comment on additional troop deployments.

Administration officials, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said the additional rangers would be sent later this week.

One official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, denied that the additional troops were being deployed as a result of Sunday's incident, saying the decision to send the troops had been in the works for several weeks.

The decision to send more troops is likely to draw fire from congressional critics of President Clinton's policy in Somalia. Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan., has said it may be time to reassess the U.S. role there, and Sen. Robert Byrd, D-W.Va., the Appropriations Committee chairman, last month called for withdrawal of U.S. troops from Somalia.

When thousands of American troops landed in Somalia last Dec. 9 as part of "Restore Hope," it was for humanitarian assistance. The

Pentagon stressed their job was to secure relief supplies to feed the starving nation and get out. Care was taken to avoid military confrontations.

The U.S. contingent grew to nearly 26,000 in mid-January, but by early May most of the Americans had departed and a U.N. force took over officially.

But tensions soon intensified and reached a peak on June 5 when 24 Pakistani soldiers were ambushed and killed by forces belonging to warlord Aidid. The United Nations responded by attacking Aidid's compound, ordered his arrest and put up a \$25,000 reward for his capture.

Since then, Aidid's forces have waged a series of hit-and-run ambushes against U.N. troops, often appearing to target Americans. At least 39 U.N. soldiers, including four Americans, have been killed and more than 165 wounded.

Aid blocked to starving Muslims

MEDJUGORJE, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Bosnian Croats went back on a promise Tuesday and blocked a U.N. convoy from bringing food to tens of thousands of Muslims said to be near starvation in Mostar.

Cedric Thornberry, the U.N. civil affairs chief in former Yugoslavia, said the 19-truck convoy was stuck in the Bosnian Croat stronghold of Medjugorje, 12 miles south of Mostar, with no prospects of progress before today.

Bosnian Croats initially agreed to unimpeded access to the southern city. But Thornberry said they were now demanding that rival Muslim forces in Mostar hand over the bodies of Croat soldiers.

It was not immediately clear whether the Croats had agreed to return bodies.

The 19 trucks are hauling 200 tons of food and medical aid for the 55,000 Muslims trapped in the city's eastern section. It would be the first substantial amount of aid to reach the Muslims in two months of siege by Bosnian Croat troops.

Jadranko Prlic, self-styled premier of Bosnia's Croats, said the trucks halted because rearguard fighting made a crossing impossible.

"The problem is that the humanitarian organizations did not want to risk the crossing to the other side," he told reporters.

But the United Nations blamed the

Bosnian Croats. "I am of the opinion that we are being played with," said U.N. spokeswoman Lyndall Sachs, in Sarajevo. "The Bosnian Croats are leading us on a merry dance."

The U.S. Air Force, meanwhile, said it would begin airdrops to Mostar on Tuesday night. The Air Force has been dropping aid pallets over Bosnia for the past six months, and will drop about 25 tons of food over Mostar in the first run, said Petty Officer Kelly Williamson, a spokesman for the relief mission at the Air Force's Rhein-Main base outside Frankfurt, Germany.

U.N. peacekeepers who reached eastern Mostar on Saturday said Muslims were on the verge of starvation and hospital conditions were desperate.

Some operations were being performed without anesthesia, more than two-thirds of the 35,000 residents were refugees, and 60 percent of the buildings were uninhabitable, they said.

Croats and Muslims — each some 42 percent of Mostar's pre-war population of 130,000 — saw their anti-Serb alliance disintegrate a few months ago as plans for an ethnic division of Bosnia emerged.

Bosnia's Croats want Mostar to be the capital of a Croat-dominated republic. Muslim-Croat fighting for control of the city broke out in May. Sporadic fighting was reported

across Bosnia on Tuesday.

Mostar-based Bosnian Croat radio said 40 soldiers of the Muslim-dominated government army died in a battle for a dam near Mostar that left the structure in Croat hands. And Bosnian Croat officials in Mostar reported fierce battles on the demarcation line dividing the city.

In a move apparently dictated by the battles in Mostar and elsewhere, the Bosnian presidency ordered all conscripts to report for military duty.

In a statement on Sarajevo radio, the presidency ordered "mobilization of all conscripts in full" and strict punishment of deserters, smugglers and war profiteers.

Southeast of Sarajevo, in the Bosnian Serb stronghold of Pale, officials asked for new concessions to Muslims at Geneva peace negotiations. Mediators Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg have proposed dividing Bosnia into three states and giving Muslims 31 percent of the territory, Croats 17 percent and Serbs 52 percent.

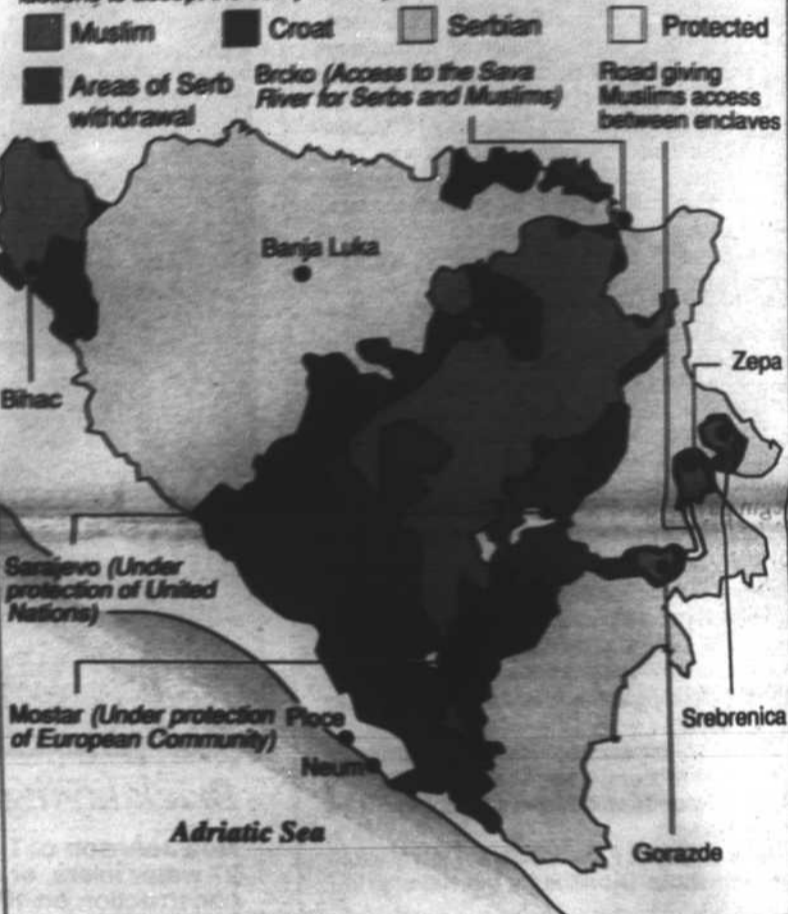
Muslims, who control about 10 percent of Bosnia, have demanded at least 40 percent of the territory for their future republic.

The demand has been rejected by the Serbs, who hold some 70 percent.

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic told reporters in Pale there would be "no more negotiations" on further Serb concessions.

Serb pullback plan

Areas currently held by Serbs from which they would withdraw are shown over a map of the Geneva compromise plan. International mediators have set an August 30 deadline for the three warring factions to accept the compromise plan.



Trio dies in naval helicopter crash

MANAMA, Bahrain — A U.S. Navy helicopter crashed Tuesday in the United Arab Emirates, killing three people aboard and injuring a fourth, the U.S. Navy said.

Lt. Cmdr. Bruce Cole, spokesman for U.S. Naval Forces Central Command, said the CH-46 Sea Knight from the supply ship USS White Plains crashed near the town of Siji in the emirate of Fujairah.

The names of the four people aboard were not disclosed, pending notification of relatives. Details about the crash were not immediately known.

The White Plains, which has two of the helicopters, is currently in port at Jebel Ali in the Persian Gulf.

"The helicopter was returning to the ship from Fujairah where it



had gone as part of a routine logistics mission," Cole said. Cole said an investigation would be conducted to determine the cause of the accident. But he said it appeared there was no hostile action involved.

Jackson investigated in child abuse case

LOS ANGELES — Michael Jackson's ranch and another of his homes were searched by police investigating a child abuse allegation that the pop star's security consultant blamed Tuesday on an extortion attempt gone awry.

Police confirmed that a complaint has been under investigation since Aug. 17, but officials wouldn't elaborate.

"We do not want to feed any wild speculation on this matter," Cmdr. David Gascon said.

Jackson's security consultant, Anthony Pellicano, said people Jackson knew made a false child abuse complaint against the entertainer after he refused to pay them \$20 million.

Search warrants were served during the weekend at Jackson's condo-

minium in Los Angeles and at his Neverland ranch north of the city.

"I am confident the department will conduct a fair and thorough investigation, and its results will demonstrate that there was no wrongdoing on my part," Jackson said in a statement from Thailand Tuesday.

Jackson hired criminal lawyer Howard Weitzman, who defended John DeLorean in a cocaine case in which the former automaker was acquitted. During a brief news conference, Weitzman read the statement from Jackson but refused to answer questions.

Pellicano, who appeared with Weitzman at the news conference, said the case was "an extortion gone

awry." Jackson gets 25 to 30 such extortion attempts a year, said Pellicano, who has worked for the musician for four years.

"He is appalled by this thing," Pellicano said.

"We had no intentions to do anything with it, we wanted to see how far they went," Pellicano said. "They made threats that they wanted to go to the district attorney's office and I says, 'Go.' I says, 'Why you waiting?'"

"When we would not pay, a phone call was made to Child and Family Services, which started this investigation."

Investigators for the county Department of Children's Services had no comment on the case, said spokesman Schuyler Sprowles.

SPORTS WIRE

Shaq Attack impresses Japanese with dunks

TOKYO — Forget finesse. Forget subtlety. When Shaquille O'Neal met the Japanese media for the first time Tuesday, the subject was breaking backboards.

And how to dunk. And just why it is that he's so big and tall.

"I've broken five backboards and fractured one," O'Neal, in Japan as part of a promotional tour for Reebok, told a standing-room-only crowd of mostly Japanese reporters. "And I plan to do it a couple times more."

The Orlando Magic center made good on that promise immediately afterward, much to the delight of a few thousand fans at Tokyo's Ariake Coliseum for the all-Japan 3-on-3 championship.

His first dunk in an exhibition game against a three-man Japanese company team proved too much for the rim, which hung limp and twisted as the crowd roared.

Officials switched the game to an adjacent court, where the rim held up for about 20 Shaq attacks. Each elic-

ited a mass exclamation of "sugoi," or "awesome."

Though basketball remains far behind baseball, sumo wrestling, soccer and many other sports in popularity in Japan, it has been gaining fans rapidly over the past few years.

NBA teams have traveled to Japan each year since 1990 to play in the only regular-season games held outside of North America, and sellout crowds are the rule.

O'Neal was selected the NBA Rookie of the Year last season.

Daily Nebraskan

Editor: Jenny Fitzpatrick 472-1764; Managing Editor: Wendy Mott; Assoc. News Editors: Angie Brunbow, Kate Morrison; Night News Editors: Jeff Zelensky, Lisa Siskort, Kristine Lang, Andrea Kaseit, David Sanders; Art Director: David Sanders; FAX NUMBER: 472-1761; The Daily Nebraskan (USPS 144-080) is published by the UNL Publications Board...