

## Aid allowed to Muslims

MEDJUGORJE, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Bosnian Croats have agreed to allow food aid for the living and an exchange of the dead in the besieged city of Mostar, which received its first airdrop of U.S. military rations on Wednesday.

Cedric Thornberry, the United Nations civil affairs chief in former Yugoslavia, said that the convoy would bring 200 tons of food for some 55,000 Muslims trapped in the southern city's Muslim sector.

That would be the first substantial amount of aid to reach the Muslims since the Croat siege of the city began two months ago. Another 50 tons is earmarked for the Croat sector, across the river from the Muslims.

Early Wednesday, the U.S. Air Force made its first airdrop of food into Mostar, an expansion of its six-month-old program of airdropping food and supplies into Bosnian areas under attack.

Two Air Force C-130 cargo planes flew from Rhein-Main Air Base in Germany to drop more than 13,400 military rations — known as meals ready-to-eat — into the city, U.S. military officials said in a statement.

Thornberry said the Croats also agreed to an exchange of bodies and to a truce. There were no reports of Muslim-Croat clashes after the cease-fire took effect around midday Tuesday, but dozens of cease-fire accords have been violated in the 17-month-long war that has left up to 200,000 missing or dead.

Gen. Slobodan Praljak, deputy head of the Bosnian Croat army, told the AP's bureau in Zagreb, Croatia,

by telephone that he "had information" the Muslims had rejected the cease-fire. But there was no such indication from the Muslims.

Despite a Bosnian cease-fire signed Aug. 11 and last week's peace talks in Geneva, sporadic fighting was reported across Bosnia on Tuesday, and the Muslim-led government ordered all conscripts to report for military duty.

The Croats had backtracked for days on promises to let the convoy into Mostar. It was stuck in this Bosnian Croat stronghold, 12 miles south of Mostar.

Slobodan Lovrenovic, a spokesman for Bosnian Croat leader Mate Boban, confirmed the convoy agreement and said the Croats believed "everything must be done to speed up the humanitarian aid."

U.N. peacekeepers who reached Mostar's Muslim sector on Saturday said residents were on the verge of starvation and hospital conditions were desperate.

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

Croats and Muslims saw their anti-Serb alliance disintegrate a few months ago as plans for an ethnic division of Bosnia emerged.

The plan proposed by mediators Lord Owen of the European Community and Thorvald Stoltenberg of the United Nations would give Muslims about 31 percent of Bosnia, Croats about 17 percent and the Serbs some 52 percent.



Muslims, who comprised about 43 percent of the population before the war started in April 1992, have demanded at least 40 percent of the territory. They now control about 10 percent of Bosnia while Serbs hold some 70 percent.

## Group charged in 'urban terrorism'

NEW YORK — A radical Muslim cleric was charged Wednesday with commanding a "war of urban terrorism" that included the World Trade Center bombing and foiled plots to blow up New York landmarks and kill Egypt's president.

The federal indictment marks the first time that prosecutors have tied together those conspiracies and other alleged terrorist acts as part of a broad scheme to terrorize the United States.

It also was the first time Sheik Omar Abdel-Rahman was charged in the Trade Center attack and bomb-spreed plot. The sheik has denounced and denied any involvement in those conspiracies.

One of the 15 defendants is El Sayyid A. Nosair, who was acquitted on state murder charges in the Rabbi Meir Kahane killing, but is in a New York state prison on a related weapons conviction.

This time, Nosair was indicted on federal racketeering charges in the shooting death of Kahane in a New York City hotel.

Nosair, Abdel-Rahman and two others among the 15 were accused of conspiring to murder Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Many of those charged earlier in the Trade Center bombing and summertime bomb-spreed plot were known to have supported Nosair during his trial and visited him in prison.

The Feb. 26 Trade Center bombing killed six people and injured 1,000. In June, authorities broke up an alleged plot to bomb the United Nations, the Lincoln and Holland Tunnels, the George Washington Bridge linking New York City and New Jersey, and a federal building that houses the FBI in Manhattan.

The indictment issued Wednesday

spoke of an organization that from at least 1989 carried out acts of terrorism against various governments and officials in the United States and abroad. The indictment gave few specifics.

The indictment had been promised a month ago by prosecutors who were transcribing hundreds of hours of tape recordings captured by a government informant who had become a confidant of Abdel-Rahman.

It alleged the conspirators targeted government officials, law enforcement officials and judicial officers for kidnap and assassination. It said the conspirators also planned to obstruct justice by conspiring to kidnap and take hostages to attempt to gain release of imprisoned colleagues.

The defendants, the indictment said, "unlawfully, willfully and knowingly combined, conspired, confederated and agreed together and with each other to levy a war of urban terrorism against the United States."

The indictment accused Abdel-Rahman of leading the organization, and said he was "consulted in pursuing and planning bombings, murders and other acts of terrorism."

It said he also "provided instruction regarding whether particular acts of terrorism were permissible or forbidden, served as a mediator of disputes among members of the organization and undertook to protect the organization from infiltration by law enforcement authorities."

The four new defendants are Abdel-Rahman; Nosair; Mohammed Abouhalima, the brother of a defendant in the Trade Center bombing; and Abdo Mohammed Haggag, who was charged last month with conspiring to kill Mubarak.

## Hope for ozone layer could come soon

NEW YORK — Worldwide emissions of the two worst ozone-destroying chemicals are slowing sooner than researchers had expected, and the gradual repair of Earth's battered ozone layer could begin by 2000, a study says.

A 1987 treaty banning the chemicals — and aggressive efforts by industry to find replacements — will lead to a decline in emissions of the two chlorofluorocarbons by the end of the decade, researchers predicted.

"It's a beautiful case study of environmental action," said the study's principal author, James W. Elkins of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. "Industry has moved more quickly than scientists or government thought."

It will still be a century, however, before the ozone layer returns to normal, researchers said.

Elkins and his colleagues found that emissions of two chlorofluorocarbons — CFC-11 and CFC-12 — had slowed to a growth rate of about 1 percent per year, down from a peak of 5 percent per year in the 1980s, Elkins said. The findings will appear Thursday in *Nature*, a British scientific journal.

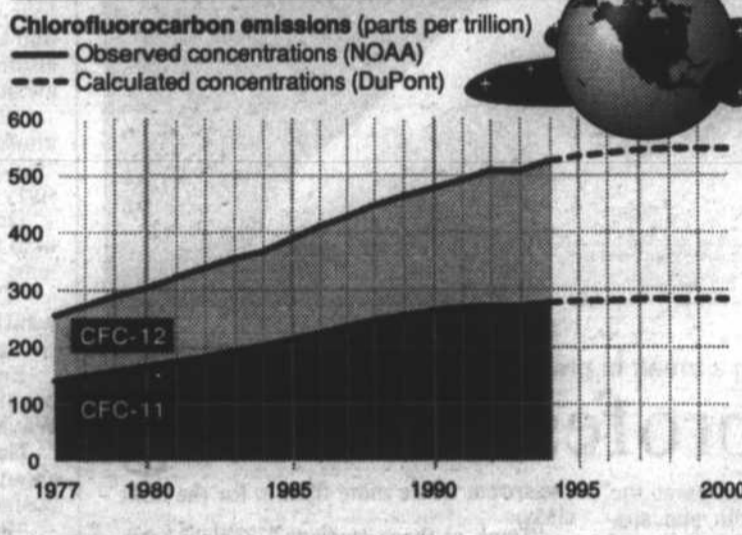
CFC-11 and CFC-12 are used mostly in aerosol cans and air conditioners, especially auto air conditioners, and to produce plastic foam, Elkins said.

The good news comes as NASA satellite data is indicating that the stratospheric ozone layer that shields the Earth from cancer-causing ultraviolet radiation has dropped to its lowest levels ever.

"The ozone levels are at or below what they were last year, and last year

### Decline in ozone-destroying chemicals seen

Worldwide emissions of the two most dangerous ozone-destroying chemicals are slowing sooner than expected. The gradual repair of the Earth's battered ozone layer could begin by 2000. Ozone molecules absorb some of the sun's harmful ultraviolet radiation before it reaches the Earth's surface, making life on Earth possible.



Source: NOAA, DuPont

was a record low level," said James Gleason of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md.

He said that even with the peak in emissions of chlorofluorocarbons by 2000, it will take about a century for the ozone layer to recover to what it was before ozone-destroying chemicals began to be widely used in the 1960s and 1970s.

That's because chlorine persists for a long time in the atmosphere, he

said. "The ozone depletion from the chlorine will continue until the chlorine is removed from the atmosphere," Gleason said.

"All we've done is slowed down the destruction. We are still going to have Antarctic ozone holes until the next century," Elkins said.

Ozone molecules absorb some of the sun's harmful ultraviolet radiation before it reaches the Earth's surface, making life on Earth possible.

## SPORTS WIRE

### Denver's Mile High Stadium bans smoking within confines

DENVER — The Denver Broncos and the Colorado Rockies hailed the city council's decision to ban smoking in the seats of Mile High Stadium as long overdue.

After a lengthy public hearing Monday, the city council narrowly approved a tough anti-smoking law backed by Mayor Wellington Webb. The ordinance, which will require employers to provide smoke-free working areas and bans smoking in most public areas, goes into effect in 60 days.

The smoking ban at Mile High Stadium takes effect in February after the upcoming Broncos season.

Spokesmen for the Broncos and the Rockies say the move to protect fans from secondhand smoke is appropriate.

It seems to be a trend around the league," said Porter Wharton, the Broncos' governmental relations consultant.

For good reason, apparently. "In informal exit interviews with

people who give up their season tickets, smoking in the stadium comes out as the No. 1 reason," Wharton said. "We feel pretty confident it is a major concern to our fans."

Smoking will also be prohibited in concession areas, restrooms and tunnels leading to seats, but smoking areas will be set aside in the stadium.

Coors Field will be subject to the same restrictions when it opens in 1995.

## Jackson was banned from boy

LOS ANGELES — The 13-year-old who reportedly triggered the Michael Jackson child abuse investigation was forbidden by a judge to have any contact with the pop star as part of a bitter custody battle between the boy's parents.

Superior Court Judge Kenneth A. Black said in an Aug. 17 order obtained Wednesday by The Associated Press that the boy's mother wasn't allowed to let the child even telephone Jackson.

The document didn't say why the boy was barred from contacting Jackson or explain their relationship, though the order was dated the same day police opened the investigation into the entertainer.

The boy reportedly traveled with Jackson, including a trip to Monaco in May on which the boy's mother and sister also went along, newspapers reported at the time.

Jackson denies wrongdoing. His security consultant said the investigation was based on false allegations made by an extortionist seeking \$20 million from the entertainer.

Jackson, who turns 35 on Sunday, fell ill in Thailand from dehydration and postponed a Bangkok

concert on his world tour.

Police searched Jackson's Los Angeles condominium and Neverland ranch over the weekend and reportedly seized photographs and videotapes. Authorities provided no further details on the investigation by the police department's Sexually Exploited Child Unit.

A source who saw confidential police documents and spoke on condition of anonymity told the AP on Tuesday that the investigation began after the boy told a therapist he was sexually abused by Jackson.

Jackson's attorney, Howard Weitzman, didn't return a reporter's telephone calls on Wednesday.

Attorney Barry Rothman, who represents the boy's father, wouldn't comment but said he planned a statement soon.

Under the Aug. 17 order, the father was granted primary custody and the mother visitation rights. But the judge forbade the mother to let her son "have any contact or communication in any form, directly or indirectly, including, but not limited to, telephone communication" with Jackson.

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