

U.N. remains powerless against Serb attack

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Confounded by Bosnian Serb guns they cannot silence, international mediators and U.N. officials acknowledged Monday there was nothing they could do for the terrorized Muslim enclave of Gorazde.

"The town is at their mercy," said the U.N. commander for Bosnia, Lt. Gen. Sir Michael Rose. "We are on the edge of a major humanitarian catastrophe."

While Serb artillery pounded Gorazde, U.N. officials said Serb leaders had committed yet again to a ceasefire and the deployment of U.N. troops in the eastern enclave, home to an estimated 65,000 people. But there was no immediate sign it would be anything different from other broken

pledges in recent days.

Russia's special envoy, Vitaly Churkin, lashed out at Serb leaders after a weekend of trying to negotiate a halt to the fighting at Gorazde, saying he had never heard so many broken promises.

Churkin offered little hope to the thousands of refugees huddled in the ruins of Gorazde trying to escape explosions and bullets from snipers and machine guns. "In my view, there is very little way to control the situation," he told reporters in Zagreb, Croatia, and predicted a bloodbath if Serb troops moved into the town.

In Washington, President Clinton played down the possibility of further air attacks on Serb forces around Gorazde. He renewed his call for an

end to the U.N. ban on arms shipments to Bosnia's Muslim-led government.

U.N. officials said there would be little gained by calling in more NATO air strikes like the limited raids over the past week that did not blunt the Serb offensive.

The only military officer in Gorazde to guide NATO planes was among seven British officers evacuated at dawn, U.N. officials said.

Hampered by that muddled sense of purpose and lack of will, the United Nations could do little but express outrage at the Serb attacks on Gorazde, one of six "safe areas" declared by the Security Council a year ago.

In New York, U.N. spokesman Joe Sills said U.N. workers in Gorazde

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reported heavy shelling of the town about 35 miles southeast of Sarajevo. "The defenses have collapsed. There are intentional and indiscriminate attacks on civilians," he said.

The few U.N. workers in Gorazde reported artillery shells hit the town's hospital, a refugee center and the Red Cross building.

Bosnian Serb forces said they had taken over most of the Gorazde en-

clave, apart from the center of town and a stretch of 4 to 5 miles along the northern bank of the Drina.

Aid officials said 302 people had been killed and 1,075 wounded since the Serbs began their attacks on the Gorazde enclave three weeks ago. Sills said about half the dead were children and more than 100 were women and the elderly.

Nixon 'fine' after suffering stroke

NEW YORK (AP) — Former President Richard Nixon, whose accomplishments in a lifetime on the world stage were overshadowed by the Watergate scandal that forced him from office, suffered a stroke Monday.

Nixon, 81, had the stroke at his Park Ridge, N.J., home and was taken by ambulance to New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center, where he was listed in stable condition, Nixon spokeswoman Kathy

O'Connor said.

"He's fine," she said.

Nixon was conscious in intensive care and being treated with blood-thinners, she said.

Carolyn Migliore, a spokeswoman for the hospital, confirmed Nixon was there but said she could not provide further details.

O'Connor said Nixon was upstairs preparing for dinner when he suffered the stroke at 5:45 p.m. He was able to summon the house-

keeper, who called the ambulance, she said.

In 1974, Nixon suffered a recurrence of phlebitis, inflammation of the veins. There were resulting complications from surgery, and he nearly died.

Nixon served in the White House from Jan. 20, 1969, to Aug. 9, 1974 as the nation's 37th president. He was the only president to resign.

His wife, Pat, died last year.

Another rate increase, another market plunge

WASHINGTON — The Federal Reserve nudged interest rates up for the third time this year Monday, and for the third time financial markets showed their displeasure.

Long-term interest rates surged to their highest levels of the Clinton presidency while stock prices fell. The Dow Jones industrial average lost 41.05 points, to 3620.42.

All the commotion was caused by another small, quarter-point increase in the federal funds rate. The Fed signaled it had pushed this key short-term rate to 3.75 percent. Analysts predicted this would send a variety of consumer and business rates up as well.

Many economists had expected the Fed would wait until May 17, the next scheduled meeting of the Federal Open Market Committee, the group that sets interest rate policies.

Fed officials said Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan decided to act after consulting other members of the committee by telephone Monday morning.

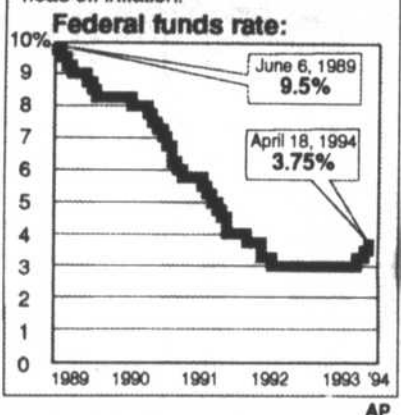
As with the moves on Feb. 4 and March 22, the decision was announced immediately in a statement from Greenspan, who said the change should result in a "small increase in short-term money rates." The central bank has been under pressure from Congress to be more open in its conduct of monetary policy.

While the Clinton administration has refused to criticize the central bank, many Democrats in Congress have complained that Greenspan is overly concerned about inflation at a time when there are no signs that price pressures are getting out of control.

Laura Tyson, chairman of the president's Council of Economic Advisors, insisted that while economic growth has been stronger than expected so far this year, inflation has

Another interest boost

The Federal Reserve Board moved short-term interest rates higher for the third time in as many months, pushing the federal funds rate to 3.75 percent. This rate is charged by banks for overnight loans to each other and is influential on consumer rates. The increases are designed to head off inflation.



Mitchell proposes less costly plan

WASHINGTON — Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell sparked fresh debate among fellow Democrats by suggesting ways to make President Clinton's health care plan less costly.

The White House said it wasn't endorsing any compromises.

Rep. Pat Williams, D-Mont., said Monday the House subcommittee he chairs would begin work Thursday on a version that did not include one of the most controversial elements of Clinton's plan.

Alliances envisioned in the Clinton plan would pool large groups of people to give them purchasing clout in buying health insurance at better prices than they could negotiate individually.

Clinton press secretary Dec Dec Myers welcomed Mitchell's alternatives to the president's plan as "yet another sign that things are moving along." And Sen. Jay Rockefeller, D-W.Va., said Mitchell had "established himself as someone who's going to ram (reform) through the United States Senate."

"Mitchell did a real fine job of outlining three different versions of

employer mandates," said Sen. John Breaux, D-La., whose plan would avoid forcing any business or individual to buy insurance. "I don't think there's a majority of support for mandates before we move on (other) reforms."

All of Mitchell's alternatives would retain Clinton's idea of making employers help pay for their workers' coverage. They would lighten the burden by tinkering with the benefit package, the subsidies and the employer share.

Ira Magaziner, the senior White House adviser who took part in the Democrats' discussion at a weekend retreat, said of Mitchell's suggestions, "They were scenarios more than proposals. He was using them to get a discussion going."

As for the House bill drafted by Williams, the Montana congressman said states would perform the function of alliances and could do so either by creating mandatory consumer purchasing cooperatives, voluntary cooperatives or no cooperatives.

His proposal would also provide more generous subsidies for all small

businesses, with the majority of assistance going to businesses with 25 or fewer workers.

Unlike the president's plan, Williams would exclude all such businesses from his cooperatives. They would run their own health coverage, but pay a 1 percent payroll tax.

His proposal also would provide subsidies to low-income workers up to 200 percent of the poverty line instead of 150 percent as in Clinton's plan.

He said his subcommittee would vote not only on his draft but on a single-payer plan, like the Canadian system, in which the government pays most bills.

Williams said his proposal would cost \$15 billion to \$30 billion more than the president's over five years but that it would be worth it.

The Democrats spent much of Saturday discussing Clinton's plan and alternatives at a Williamsburg, Va., retreat. Clinton joined them that evening and urged them to press forward on health reform and other issues. The president did not take part in the talk of possible compromise on health reform, an aide said.

Arsenio Hall loses night show battle

LOS ANGELES — Arsenio Hall is quitting his fading television talk show, which fell victim in ratings and prestige to late-night competitors David Letterman and Jay Leno, the show's producer said Monday.

"The Arsenio Hall Show," will air its final broadcast on May 27, Paramount said in a statement.

The syndicated show, which first aired on Jan. 3, 1989, developed a trademark audience "woop-woop" to show appreciation. It leaves at least one other indelible image: then-presidential contender Bill Clinton wailing away on his saxophone during the 1992 campaign.

Hall has sent a letter to Kerry McCluggage, chairman of Paramount's television group, saying

he wants to end "The Arsenio Hall Show," according to a Paramount executive who spoke only on condition of anonymity.

Another source close to the nationally syndicated show who also requested anonymity said that Hall planned tell his staff of his decision to quit after the taping of Monday night's show.

Hall's six-year contract was due to expire this December, and there had not been any active negotiations with Paramount on renewing the deal, the Paramount executive said.

Paramount was considering pulling the talk show after the May television "sweeps," the Paramount executive said.

Hall was clearly a victim of the late-night wars: his national ratings took a direct hit after Letterman's "Late Show" debuted on CBS last August.

Hall's show no longer seemed hip in comparison to the colorful antics of Letterman and Leno on "The Tonight Show."

And Hollywood's top-ranked stars were no longer making "Arsenio Hall" their first choice on the talk-show circuit.

In January 1993, "Arsenio Hall" posted an average 2.9 rating, according to Nielsen Media Research. A year later, that had dipped 24 percent to 2.2 (with each ratings point representing 942,000 homes).

Roseanne files for divorce after recent shouting match

LOS ANGELES — TV star Roseanne Arnold filed for divorce Monday from her husband, Tom, a spokeswoman said.

Papers were filed Monday morning for Mrs. Arnold, who was out of town, publicist Jennifer Allen said.

The star of the ABC comedy "Roseanne" took the action three days after a shouting match reportedly erupted Friday between the couple on the set of her series. The argument was reported by the trade papers Daily Variety and the Hollywood Reporter.

Tom Arnold is executive producer of "Roseanne" and also stars in his own sitcom, "Tom," on CBS. Allen, of PMK public relations, which also represents Arnold, said they had no comment from him.

The couple were married in January 1990.

According to the Hollywood Reporter, the Arnolds argued over the

parameters of a three-way "marriage" to the couple's assistant, Kim Silva. The Arnolds have described the "marriage" as a publicity prank.

Mrs. Arnold fired Silva and changed the locks to the door of the couple's production office, the publications said.

The Hollywood Reporter said Mrs. Arnold also posted a security guard outside the couple's Brentwood home.

"Roseanne" taped the season's final episode Thursday, and the events did not affect taping of a pilot of "Cherry Street South of Main," a new show produced by the Arnolds, the publications said.

Arnold's series, "Tom," still has four episodes to tape this year. Mrs. Arnold is the show's executive producer, but the Hollywood Reporter said her involvement in the show is minimal.

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