

Serbs follow order, retreat from Gorazde

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — U.N. troops evacuated wounded civilians and fanned out across besieged Gorazde to enforce a truce Sunday. The United Nations said Bosnian Serbs had met NATO's demand to pull back from the city.

NATO issued an ultimatum Friday ordering Serbs to stop their assault on Gorazde immediately or face air attacks. The Serbs were given until early Sunday to withdraw their forces from the town, the center of a Muslim enclave in eastern Bosnia.

The top U.N. official for former Yugoslavia, Yasushi Akashi, said in a statement after the NATO deadline passed that the situation had not required air strikes. On Saturday, the United Nations refused a NATO request for authorization to bomb in response to heavy Serb shelling.

Despite the reported Serb withdrawal, two women were killed and 15 were wounded by Serb sniper fire Sunday, Bosnian government radio

reported. There was also sporadic mortar fire and a Serb infantry attack.

But U.N. officials said the situation quieted as the day wore on. U.N. spokesman Maj. Eric Chaperon said Serbs were respecting the terms of a cease-fire they had agreed to and were withdrawing 1.9 miles (three kilometers) from Gorazde's center.

While U.N. officials said the truce was generally holding, Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic complained earlier in the day that "Gorazde is still a scene of fighting."

U.N. officials often play down truce violations to avoid having to call air strikes that could escalate fighting and wreck fragile negotiations.

About 200 peacekeepers arrived late Saturday in Gorazde. Another 300 peacekeepers due to arrive Sunday were held up at Sarajevo airport. The presence of the peacekeepers also diminishes the likelihood of air strikes, which could put them in danger.

Bomb kills nine in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — A car bomb exploded in downtown Johannesburg Sunday, killing at least nine people, damaging the headquarters of the African National Congress, and terrorizing South Africans just two days before the first all-race election.

No one claimed responsibility for the blast, which also wounded about 100 people. Suspicions fell on white extremists — the last, stubborn holdouts to the election that will usher in black-majority rule.

Political leaders from several parties appealed for calm.

"I don't want you to concentrate on the violent action of those people who want to disrupt the process," ANC President Nelson Mandela said at a huge rally in Durban that culminated his campaign for the nation's highest office.

"We're going to deal with those people. We have made fantastic

progress, despite criminals and murderers."

The ANC was expected to win the election, the first in South African history to include the black majority. Right-wing extremists opposed to black majority rule have threatened drastic action before voting begins.

The present white-led government, expected to share power with the ANC in the next administration, said it was resolved to go ahead with the voting, which begins Tuesday and ends Thursday.

"Those who believe that they will prevent or disrupt the election by such terrorism have completely missed the bus," Law and Order Minister Hennie Kriel said in a statement.

One of those killed was an ANC provincial legislature candidate, Susan Keane, who was driving into the ANC regional office for a meeting when the bomb went off. Other

victims were pedestrians near the blast site.

A spokesman for the militant right-wing Afrikaner Resistance Movement denied the group was involved.

The blast, the biggest ever to hit Johannesburg, renewed fears of raging violence during the election — fears that had been quelled by the last-minute decision of the Zulu nationalist Inkatha Freedom Party to take part in the vote.

Inkatha's decision left only right-wing extremists boycotting the ballot.

Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi, who agreed last week to end the party's boycott of the balloting, joined in condemning the violence Sunday. He appealed to his supporters: "The IFP gains absolutely nothing from violence. ... Let the election run its course and let it be free and fair."

World leaders meet to discuss economies

WASHINGTON — The United States pressed Japan and Germany to do more to stimulate their domestic economies as finance officials from the world's seven richest industrial countries conferred Sunday on the threat to global growth posed by rising interest rates.

Finance ministers and central bank presidents of the so-called Group of Seven — the United States, Japan, Germany, Britain, France, Italy and Canada — met behind closed doors at Dumbarton House in the city's historic Georgetown district.

The G-7 talks were being held in

advance of the annual spring meetings of the 178-nation International Monetary Fund and its sister lending agency, the World Bank.

Officials said they were not looking for any dramatic policy announcements to come out of the meetings.

In addition to current economic prospects, the G-7 officials were scheduled to get a first-hand report on the status of economic reform in Russia from top officials of President Boris Yeltsin's government, including Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Shokhin.

The IMF last week announced that

it had awarded Russia a long-delayed \$1.5 billion loan, which was expected to unlock even greater amounts of assistance from individual G-7 countries and the World Bank.

While IMF economists are forecasting that the global economy in 1994 should turn in its best performance in five years, that is due primarily to unexpectedly strong growth in the United States.

The IMF has actually revised downward its expectations for growth in Japan and Germany due to deeper-than-expected recessions in those countries.

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