

Serb attack on peacekeepers provokes swift NATO reprisal

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — NATO jets struck at a Serb tank near Sarajevo on Thursday in retaliation for a Serb attack on U.N. peacekeepers.

The attack followed a Bosnian Serb assault on an armored personnel carrier manned by French peacekeepers in a northeastern district of the capital and two other attacks on French soldiers. One French soldier was seriously wounded in the attack on the APC.

Brig. Gen. Andre Soubirou, U.N. commander of Sarajevo, told reporters that new attacks on U.N. personnel "will be met with the appropriate and proportional military force."

In Washington, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher praised the NATO action. "I think it's a very positive thing that NATO has responded. They've always been ready to respond... and the response was quick and determined."

U.S. and British planes attacked the Serb tank at sunset about seven miles west of Sarajevo, NATO officials said. It had violated an agreement to keep heavy weapons out of a 12.5-mile exclusion zone around the capital.

Two British Jaguars each dropped a 1,000-pound bomb on the target and a U.S. A-10 fired a 30mm cannon, NATO spokesmen in Naples, Italy, said on condition of anonymity. They said the object of the attack was destroyed.

Gen. Bertrand de Lapresle, commander of U.N. troops in Bosnia and other former Yugoslav republics, told Cable News Network that an empty tank was purposely targeted so as not to cause loss of life.

Bosnian Serb TV, monitored in Sarajevo, claimed the NATO planes attacked a civilian target in the village of Dobrosevici. The report mentioned no casualties but said Bosnian Serb soldiers would retaliate by at-

tacking U.N. personnel.

Soubirou said U.N. commanders asked for the strike after Bosnian Serbs fired a projectile, from an 82mm anti-tank recoilless gun, at the APC. The peacekeepers were observing fighting between Muslim-led government troops and Serbs in the area of Sedrenik, just northeast of Sarajevo.

In a second incident Thursday, one French soldier deployed in downtown Sarajevo was wounded in the leg by a small bullet, said U.N. spokesman Col. Bertrand Labarsouque. The origin of the fire was unknown.

Another French APC was shot at southeast of the city and returned fire.

The United Nations is authorized to call on NATO jets for protection any time peacekeepers are attacked by any of the warring sides.

NATO jets destroyed a Bosnian Serb anti-tank gun Aug. 5, after the Serbs seized weapons from a U.N.-guarded compound near Sarajevo.

NATO is also authorized to attack any heavy weapon not under U.N. control within the weapons-free zone.

Both Bosnian Serbs and government forces defending the city agreed in February to remove heavy weapons from Sarajevo's immediate vicinity, but violations have increased in recent weeks.

NATO launched two previous air attacks April 10-11 on Serb targets around the eastern Muslim enclave of Gorazde, after besieging Serbs ignored repeated U.N. warnings to stop attacks there. The attacks endangered peacekeepers and other U.N. personnel.

Tensions have been on the rise in Bosnia since neighboring Serbia severed all ties to Bosnian Serbs last month and cut off all supplies except humanitarian aid.

NATO strikes back



12.5-mile exclusion zone



1. Bosnian Serbs attacked French U.N. peacekeepers Thursday.
2. NATO jets struck Bosnian Serb tank in retaliation.

NATO warplanes included one U.S. A-10 and two British Jaguars.



U.S. A-10 Warthog

Defense contests seizure of evidence

LOS ANGELES — A tape of a TV movie for which O.J. Simpson was coached on killing with a knife was seized from his mansion along with a note from his ex-wife saying she only wanted to speak to him in an emergency.

Detective David Martin said even though the items weren't specified in a search warrant, he took them from Simpson's house because he believed they might link Simpson to the June 12 stabbing deaths of his ex-wife and a friend of hers.

With Simpson's trial scheduled to begin Monday, his lawyers are challenging the June 28 search as too broad and want the evidence thrown out.

The note, read in court by defense lawyer Gerald Uelman, said Nicole Brown Simpson would only call in an "absolute emergency" and would only leave a message with "Cathy," believed to be Simpson's secretary Cathy Randa.

"O.J., I understand that this is probably too late, but I have to do it for myself and the kids or I would never forgive myself," said her handwritten note, attached to a yellow envelope containing tapes of their wedding and their daughter's birth.

Police seized the note and the videotapes during the search. It was unclear when the note was written.

Martin testified that the items appeared to be "part of a permanent breakup. ... I felt that those particular items would lend themselves to the motive."

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GERALD UELMAN
defense attorney

Defense lawyer Robert Shapiro noted that investigators spotted the videotapes in Simpson's home, used his VCR to watch them, then seized them as evidence. He said they included scenes from Simpson's new movie "Frogmen" and highlights of Simpson's football career.

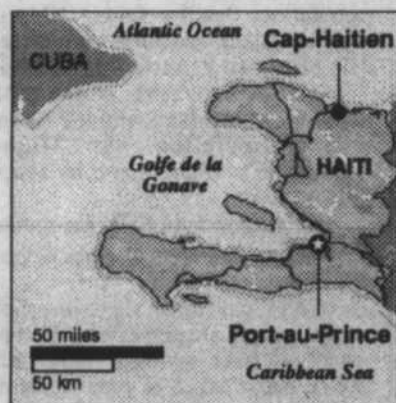
"It was a grazing and browsing expedition in which district attorneys and officers were looking for whatever might help them," said Uelman.

Uelman said authorities also hauled off Simpson's Bentley automobile although "the affidavit was devoid of any probable cause that there was evidence of a crime in the Bentley."

He said, there were insufficient warrants for repeated searches of Simpson's Ford Bronco and his business office.

Judge Lance Ito said if the warrant was used as "a subterfuge for a general search," all evidence seized could be thrown out.

Troops permitted to use force to halt Haitian violence



In Port-au-Prince

- American forces are dismantling the Haitian force's heavy weapons. U.S. Special Forces began sharing barracks with Haitian soldiers south of Port-au-Prince.
- U.S. light armored vehicles are patrolling the city.
- 1,000 military police are en route.

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — The United States muscled toward total military control of Haiti on Thursday, breaking up the army's heavy weapons, guarding pro-democracy activists and giving U.S. troops more leeway to use force.

American forces also planned to move into the countryside and take over the training of rural police forces notorious for their harsh repression of civilians.

In the northern city of Cap-Haitien, Marines parked armored personnel carriers in front of several police stations.

"There should be no misunderstanding by now that the Marines will intervene if necessary to prevent violence," said Maj. Steve Little, a Marine spokesman.

"We're still alive so I can't complain. I am very happy to collaborate," said a Haitian soldier who would not give his name. "If there was any sense in fighting we would have. There is no reason to fight our American brothers."

Ruling Lt. Gen. Raoul Cedras is balking at leaving the country and parliament remained divided over proposed amnesty for the military.

Cedras, a key leader of the 1991 coup that overthrew elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, and the other military leaders have to surrender control under the U.S.-Haiti accord, but he isn't required to leave the country.

About 11,000 U.S. troops were

expected in Haiti by Thursday night, more than two-thirds of the total planned deployment of 15,000. The earliest they could begin to withdraw would be after the Haitian parliamentary elections in December, Defense Secretary William Perry said.

Asked about Cedras' remarks that he would stay in Haiti after stepping down, Perry said he believed all the coup leaders would decide to leave "when it comes right down to it."

U.S. Army Col. Barry Willey, a spokesman for the joint military task force overseeing the operation to restore democracy to Haiti, said Thursday that American soldiers should use their discretion in using force.

Since tear-gassing and beating people bloody on Tuesday, Haitian police have shown more restraint in dispersing crowds that come to the port to watch the arrival of more and more American troops.

In the capital Thursday, U.S. troops occupied the capital's military airfield just north of La Saline, the slum where Aristide, a former Roman Catholic priest, once preached at his parish church. The 100 Haitian soldiers on duty did not resist.

A convoy of nine Bradley fighting vehicles and six HumVees arrived at at Haiti's only weapons depot in the suburb of Petionville Thursday morning to begin taking

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MAJ. STEVE LITTLE
a Marine spokesman

the army's heavy weapons apart.

The weapons company helped spearhead Aristide's ouster. To be dismantled are decades-old, poorly maintained heavy equipment including six V-150 armored vehicles, anti-aircraft weapons and heavy artillery.

The United States also sent out troops to guard pro-democracy Haitian leaders including Port-au-Prince Mayor Evans Paul, former campaign manager for Aristide, Schragar said.

"We will secure them as long as necessary until we establish a stable and secure environment," he said.

Most Haitians seem to welcome the more than 9,000 U.S. troops

that had arrived by Thursday morning. As many as 15,000 U.S. troops are eventually to be deployed.

Haitian volunteers began cleaning up and repairing downtown streets, and most of the shops that have been closed in recent months began opening their doors. Street vendors clogged the streets.

The volunteer crews recalled those that helped clean up the capital after dictator Jean-Claude (Baby Doc) Duvalier fled the country and during Aristide's presidential campaign and before his inauguration.

The United States will help return exiled lawmakers to Haiti to approve an amnesty for the leaders and supporters of the 1991 coup, Schragar said.

Haitian radio on Thursday broadcast a statement by de facto President Emile Jonassaint's government saying he intends to convene lawmakers as soon as possible to vote on the matter.

Human Rights Watch and the National Coalition for Haitian Refugees on Thursday deplored the amnesty, saying that it "tells the abusers there is no penalty to pay, and does nothing to dispel the temptation to disregard the law in the future."

They also called on President Clinton to oppose any amnesty law in Haiti that would prohibit the prosecution of those accused of gross human rights abuses.