

Serb forces fight door-to-door in remaining Bosnian safe zone

SARAJEVO (AP) — Bosnia-Herzegovina — Rebel Serbs were reported in hand-to-hand combat Monday with defenders of the last government stronghold in northwest Bosnia. Western diplomats, stung by the United Nations' inability to save the "safe zone," scrambled to broker a cease-fire.

There was little sign that Bosnia's Serbs would agree to one — except on their terms. They have seized up to 40 percent of the safe zone in the Bihac enclave that was declared off-limits to combat by the United Nations, and they were intent on forcing the government garrison there to surrender.

The Serbs' war gains have created a crisis for the international community. Three NATO airstrikes on Serb positions last week were ineffective, and more than 400 U.N. peacekeeping troops have been detained by the Serbs to ward off more attacks.

Britain's defense secretary criticized remarks by Senate Republican leader Bob Dole that Britain and France were partly to blame for the failure of the U.N.-NATO mission in Bosnia. Both countries fear NATO

attacks would trigger Serb retaliation against their peacekeeping troops.

The Serbs launched the war 2 1/2 years ago when they rebelled against a move by Bosnia's Croats and Muslims to secede from Yugoslavia. The war has left 200,000 people dead or missing.

Diplomats renewed their emphasis on a negotiated settlement after the NATO secretary-general, Willy Claes, and U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry acknowledged Sunday that NATO was powerless to stop the Serbs.

U.N. officials have been pressing the Muslim-led government to accept a peace settlement offered by the Serbs on condition they keep the 70 percent of Bosnia they now hold.

A U.N. official traveled to Bosnian Serb headquarters in Pale, just outside Sarajevo, to discuss cease-fire terms. Diplomats at a foreign ministers meeting of the European Union in Brussels said a cease-fire was being discussed there as well.

Members of the so-called Contact Group, representing the United States, Russia, Britain, France and Germany,

were meeting with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, the traditional patron of Bosnia's Serb minority.

The Bosnian Serbs have rejected a contact group peace plan that would give them 49 percent of Bosnia instead of the 70 percent they hold. The government has accepted the plan.

In Bihac, Serb forces were 250 to 500 yards from the town's center and moving house to house, Mayor Hamdija Kabiljagic reported. He claimed hand-to-hand combat occurred in some cases but there was no independent confirmation.

"We don't know how long we can hold out," Kabiljagic told foreign journalists in a conference call.

The commander of the government's 5th Corps in Bihac, Gen. Atis Dudakovic, reported 114 government soldiers were killed or wounded on Monday in the 32-square-mile Bihac area and that there were 94 casualties Sunday. There were no casualty figures from the Serb forces.

U.N. spokesman Maj. Herve Gourmelon said one civilian was killed Monday when two 120mm mortar rounds struck.



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Mass murderer slain in prison

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Jeffrey Dahmer was attacked and killed while cleaning a prison bathroom Monday in a gruesome end for the former chocolate-factory worker who strangled and dismembered 17 boys and men and ate some of them.

Another inmate was being held in Dahmer's slaying and in the severe beating of another prisoner at Columbia Correctional Institution. Authorities wouldn't identify the suspect, who was serving a life sentence for murder, or offer a motive.

All three men were working on a cleaning detail in the recreation area of the maximum-security prison when the attack occurred.

A bloody broom handle was found at the scene, but Corrections Secretary Michael Sullivan said he didn't know if it was the murder weapon.

"One could surmise a number of things. Their heads could have been smashed against a wall," Sullivan said.

"There was a great deal of blood in the area of the attack," Corrections Department spokesman Joe Scislowicz said.

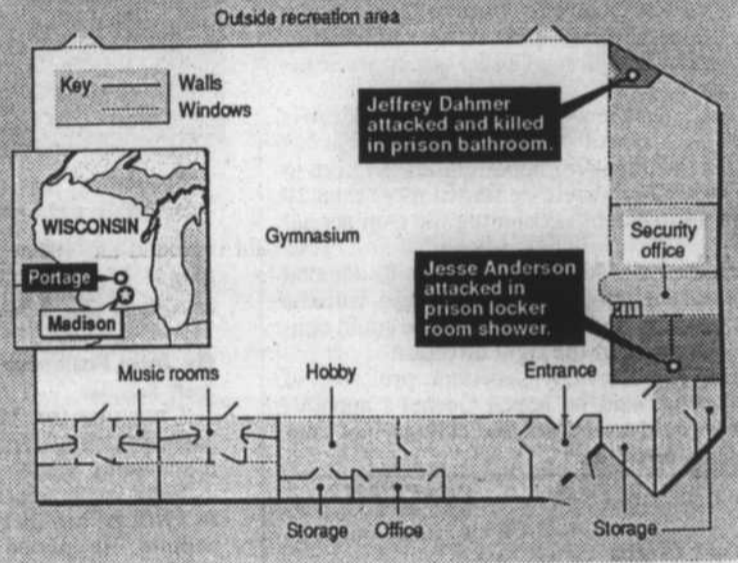
The 34-year-old Dahmer had extensive head injuries and died at a hospital about an hour after he was found.

Dahmer, who had been imprisoned since his crimes came to light in 1991, had been attacked once before. In July, an inmate tried to cut his throat during a chapel service, but the razor blade attached to a plastic handle fell apart before it could hurt Dahmer.

At the time, Sullivan said that it appeared to have been an isolated

Attack on Dahmer

Jeffrey Dahmer, the mass murderer who cannibalized some of his victims, was killed Monday by a fellow inmate at Columbia Correctional Institute in Portage, Wis. Another inmate was injured in the attack.



AP/Bob Bianchini

incident and that Dahmer, who was serving 16 life sentences, was not believed to be in imminent danger.

"Oh my God! My son! How could this happen?" Dahmer's mother, Joyce Flint, said when TV's "Hard Copy" informed her of his death.

The other victim in Tuesday's attack was Jesse Anderson, who was serving a life sentence for stabbing and bludgeoning his wife to death.

"Dahmer had a death wish, and I know that he didn't have the gumption to do it himself, so I had predicted that the day would come when he would be killed in prison,"

said Gerald Boyle, Dahmer's lawyer at trial.

"He never expressed fear," his stepmother, Shari Dahmer, told WJW-TV in Cleveland. "From the day he was arrested he felt he deserved anything that he got."

Dahmer's gruesome past came to light in July 1991, when a handcuffed man flagged down police and led officers to Dahmer's reeking apartment. Police later lugged oil drums packed with body parts from the one-bedroom apartment.

Within days, the sandy-haired factory worker had confessed to killing 17 men and boys since 1978 in Milwaukee and Ohio.

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Clinton marshals support to pass trade agreement

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton assembled the economic stars from eight previous administrations on Monday to give a final push for congressional approval of a 124-nation trade agreement.

"We have to do it now. We can't wait until next year," he declared.

The 22,000-page agreement slashes tariffs by an average of 38 percent worldwide and expands the rules of world trade into new areas such as agriculture, services and the protection of copyrights and patents. It creates a more powerful World Trade Organization to referee trade disputes and eliminates the power of any one country to block an adverse trade ruling.

Clinton said the trade deal would

add hundreds of thousands of U.S. jobs, boost the average American family's income by \$1,700 over the next several years and provide the biggest global tax cut in history. He also acknowledged fears that the agreement could mean U.S. workers would face even more competition from low-wage workers in other countries.

Supporters predicted that the rewrite of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade would sail through the House on Tuesday with perhaps as many as 60 votes to spare.

But the fate of the trade deal was far less certain in the 100-member Senate, where it must win 60 votes on a procedural question of waiving the Senate's budget rules.

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