

Air strikes intended to show NATO's resolve

WASHINGTON — After years of weakness and indecision, a long-awaited show of strength in Bosnia could open a new chapter in the conflict - but only if the toughest NATO air strikes of the war convince the Serbs, and maybe the U.S. Congress, that the West is united and resolved.

"We are now translating into acts what we have always said," NATO Secretary General Willy Claes said Wednesday as waves of warplanes hit at Serb targets.

In the past, the Serbs could scoff at Western threats that never led to anything more than brief air strikes designed to avoid casualties and severe damage.

The current assault involved dozens of NATO planes as well as bombardment from the heavy guns of the U.N. rapid reaction force. U.S. Navy Adm. Leighton Smith, the NATO commander in charge of the strikes, said they were meant to "do a significant amount of damage" to Bosnian Serb military targets and "get their attention."

Claes said the attacks had the dual purpose of retaliating for Monday's

shelling of a Sarajevo market and pressuring the Bosnian Serbs to negotiate. He said the Serbs were unlikely "to accept reasonable compromises if the international community did not react in a strong way as we are doing for the moment."

The attacks also could head off a battle between President Clinton and Congress over whether to lift the ban on arms sales to the Bosnian government. Clinton vetoed legislation to lift the embargo and Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole said that if the NATO strikes prove "part of a new and effective policy" he would postpone a vote on overriding the president's veto.

"However, one day of military action does not make up for three years of passivity and failure," said Dole while campaigning in New Hampshire for the 1996 Republican presidential nomination.

The Bosnian Serbs' initial reaction was defiance. But what's important is what they do next.

Will they continue their attacks on Sarajevo? Will they remove the heavy weapons that ring the Bosnian capi-

tal? Will they be more willing or less willing to accept a peace plan that requires them to give up a third of the Bosnian territory they've seized during the 40-month war?

An early hint of the diplomatic prospects might come not from the Bosnian Serbs but from their early patrons in neighboring Serbia.

Richard Holbrooke, an assistant secretary of state, met in Belgrade with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic in another effort to persuade him to recognize Bosnia's government and pressure the Serbs to end their rebellion.

State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns, asked if there was any sign the bombing had damaged prospects for a negotiated settlement, said "it doesn't appear to us that there has been any fundamental break in the momentum that we sense in the region for a peace process."

The Clinton administration also was watching the response on Capitol Hill, where Congress might soon vote on whether to override the president's veto of legislation directing him to lift the ban on arms sales

to the Bosnian government.

Sen. Richard Lugar of Indiana, a senior Republican on the Foreign Relations Committee and a candidate for the GOP presidential nomination, said that "the situation on the ground will determine largely how that vote comes out. In the event that it appears that the Bosnian Serbs are prepared to continue shelling Sarajevo or creating other disturbances where the prestige of NATO is at stake, then the vote to override the president is likely to be a much stronger one."

Sen. Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut, a leading Democratic supporter of lifting the arms embargo, said the air strikes had not changed his position.

"Ultimately, the only way any peace agreement can be sustained is for the people of Bosnia to have the ability to defend themselves," he said.

The question of whether the NATO military campaign was sustainable was raised anew with the shooting down of a French plane over Bosnia, a reminder that military action runs

NATO bombing

NATO planes bombed Serb positions around Sarajevo early Wednesday. The bombing was in response to Monday's marketplace massacre, which the U.N. has blamed on Bosnian Serbs.



the risk of casualties.

"NATO and our participation in NATO are at stake," said Lugar. "These are large issues that call for taking a risk."

Husband butchers wife after he burns pasta

BOSTON — An insurance executive was charged with tearing out his wife's heart and lungs and impaling them on a stake in a fight about overcooked ziti.

Richard Rosenthal, his 4-month-old daughter with him in his car, was arrested Tuesday and charged with murder after he followed a couple home and tried to engage them in a driveway conversation about gun control, police said.

The couple's license plate read "357-BAN." Rosenthal told the court-appointed forensic psychologist that he thought the plate referred to .357-caliber Magnum handguns.

The couple called police, who found the baby in the back seat of Rosenthal's car, along with a plastic bag full of bloody men's clothing, Middlesex County prosecutor Martin Murphy said.

Police followed a trail of blood from Rosenthal's stately Framingham house to the woods and found the beaten, mutilated body of his wife, Laura Rosenthal.

Mrs. Rosenthal, 34, had been slit with a butcher knife from her throat to her navel, and her organs had been placed on an 18-inch

stake in a nearby garden.

Her face also had been pummeled with a softball-size rock, leaving her so disfigured that she was listed as "Jane Doe" on Rosenthal's arrest report. It took more than a day to identify her.

Investigators said Rosenthal, 40, told them his wife had chided him for burning the ziti. "I had an argument. ... I overcooked the ziti," they quoted Rosenthal as saying.

It was not clear when Mrs. Rosenthal was killed. She was last seen alive on Sunday, police said.

The couple had no history of violence and neither had a criminal record, police said. The couple's daughter, Marla, was unharmed and placed in state custody.

Rosenthal, a senior financial officer for John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Co. in Boston, pleaded innocent Tuesday and was held without bail. District Judge Paul Healey sent him to a mental hospital for evaluation.

Jack Levin, a sociology professor at Northeastern University, said temporary insanity could be his defense.

Doctors boast new abortion pill combination as safe and effective

BOSTON — Doctors can quickly and safely induce abortions at home with a combination of two drugs already on the market for other uses, researchers reported in a study that could pre-empt the political debate over whether to make the French abortion pill available in the United States.

The two-drug combination may be as effective as the French abortion pill, RU-486, which is undergoing testing in this country. The two kinds of drug-induced abortion have not yet been compared directly, and neither is likely to work as well as surgical abortion.

A small study published last October in the Journal of the American Medical Association showed the potential of the new two-drug combination. Now a much larger study in this week's New England Journal of Medicine demonstrates its safety and effectiveness.

"This is an exciting phenomenon because it will provide yet another choice for women," said Dr. Richard U. Hausknecht, who conducted the latest study. "Since there is a paucity of health care providers providing abortions in some parts of the United States, this may have a significant impact."

RU-486, which is also called mifepristone, was developed by the French pharmaceutical firm Roussel

Uclaf and has been used in Europe for more than a decade. The Population Council is overseeing testing at several hospitals and clinics in the United States as a step toward seeking FDA approval.

Abortion opponents fiercely oppose introduction of RU-486 and have threatened a boycott of any pharmaceutical company that manufactures it.

Hausknecht, a gynecologist at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York City, tested the new approach on women in their first nine weeks of pregnancy. It involves a combination of methotrexate, a widely used cancer drug, and misoprostol, an ulcer medicine. Methotrexate destabilizes the uterine lining, and misoprostol triggers contractions that expel the fetus.

The combination induced abortions in 171 of 178 pregnant volunteers, or 96 percent. Other studies show that RU-486, the French pill, is about 95 percent effective.

Any doctor can legally prescribe the new combination for abortion, even though the medicines have not been approved by the Food and Drug Administration for this purpose. However, because so few studies about the technique have been published, doctors may be vulnerable to malpractice lawsuits if something goes

wrong.

"We would urge women and their doctors to use this regimen as part of a controlled clinical trial" and not do it routinely, said FDA Deputy Commissioner Mary Pendergast.

However, Hausknecht said he knows of several doctors in the United States and Canada, whom he declined to identify, who are helping women abort fetuses this way.

This kind of abortion requires two visits to the doctor. On the first, the patient gets an injection of methotrexate. A week later, she receives four misoprostol tablets that are placed in the vagina and held in place by a tampon.

Then she goes home and usually aborts the fetus within 24 hours. The main side effects are bleeding and mild to moderate pain.

Hausknecht said a half-hour counseling session is essential before the abortion.

"The bleeding and cramping can be unpleasant," he said. "They could panic if they don't know what to expect. I explain it in graphic terms."

He said none of the women suffered any significant emotional distress or depression as a result of the abortions. They overwhelmingly preferred the medical termination of their pregnancies to surgical abortion.

Teen faces opposition in first day at Tufts

MEDFORD, Mass. — Gina Grant, whose admission to Harvard was rescinded when the school learned she had killed her mother, arrived Wednesday to enroll at Tufts University and encountered new opposition.

Editors of a conservative student magazine plastered the school with leaflets condemning the administration for admitting Grant, who pleaded no contest to fatally bludgeoning her mother with a candlestick in 1990 when she was 14.

"People have been rejected from Tufts for far lesser things that have certainly had less of a negative impact on the community and the world than the violent death of one's parent," said Colin Delaney, editor of The Primary Source.

Tufts broke its silence about Grant's acceptance Wednesday, saying she was admitted as a fully qualified candidate through the normal

admissions process last March - before news of her past led Harvard to reject her.

"Having paid her debts to society, she should not be denied the opportunity of pursuing a college degree," said Tufts spokeswoman Rosemarie Van Camp. She added, "Any other decision would have been antithetical to our fundamental values and beliefs."

Some Tufts students said Grant, now 19, should be given the benefit of the doubt.

"She obviously worked very hard to put her life together," said Katherine Thurston, 18, a freshman from Los Altos Hills, Calif.

"I think it's great she's coming here," said Alex Shalon, 17, from Montclair, N.J., also a freshman. "College is a clean slate. It's a new beginning. And I think it's great she's getting a chance to start over."

"Having paid her debts to society, she should not be denied the opportunity of pursuing a college degree."

ROSEMARIE VAN CAMP
Tufts University spokeswoman

The university refused to say whether she will live on campus and have a roommate.

Friends who wouldn't identify themselves said she will have no comment on the controversy and is just trying to blend in.

University officials said they removed some of the critical leaflets from areas of the campus where post-

ers are not allowed. They said leaflets any left on kiosks or bulletin boards would not be disturbed.

"We respect the right of all students to express their opinion on any subject," Van Camp said.

Harvard rescinded Grant's admission April 3 after learning about the slaying of her mother in Lexington, S.C.

Dorothy Mayfield, 42, had been hit at least 13 times with a lead crystal candlestick. Described in court as an alcoholic, she was drunk when she died; Grant's lawyer said his client had struck out in self-defense.

Grant served a few months in juvenile detention and moved to Cambridge, where she was on probation until age 18. She attended the prestigious public Rindge and Latin School, where she was an honor student and tennis team co-captain and tutored underprivileged children.

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