

NATO warns warring Bosnian snipers

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina - Taking a tough stance on its peacekeeping mission, NATO warned Bosnia's warring factions Monday that any more attacks on its troops will provoke deadly force.

NATO said rogue elements from all sides shot five times at alliance troops and twice at airplanes over the weekend. There were no injuries, but NATO said it has had enough.

"If our forces are threatened, they have every right and responsibility to attack the source," said U.S. Admiral Leighton Smith, commander of the NATO force in Bosnia. "It is not a good idea to continue."

Although it is not clear how effective NATO's heavy weaponry would be against isolated snipers, the alliance's battery of sophisticated weaponry could be a daunting deterrent. And NATO troops already have fired back hard on occasion, beginning when an Italian soldier was hit by a sniper last week.

NATO officials insisted that overall their mission is going well as reports surfaced that recent violence between Muslims and Croats in the pivotal city of Mostar was easing. Failure to achieve peace in the divided southwestern city could bode ill for a Muslim-Croat federation.

"Both sides have managed to calm the situation," said Hans Koschnick, the European Union's administrator for Mostar.

But tensions remained high in the wake of ethnically motivated attacks last week that left a Croat policeman and a young Muslim civilian dead, and two Muslim policemen wounded.

"In the last few days there were some incidents in Mostar and elsewhere," U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Robert Gallucci said after meeting with Croatian officials in Zagreb, including President Franjo Tudjman.

"It is important that we all try to work to make sure that these kinds of incidents do not continue and that we meet the deadlines."

In another area that could threaten the peace plan, Bosnian Serbs in the Sarajevo suburb of Ilidza held two people from the government-held sector of the divided capital.

The Serbs claimed they were arrested after driving into their area wearing Bosnian government army uniforms, said NATO spokesman Lt. Col. Mark Rayner.

The Bosnian government, however, said that four civilians were being held and they were abducted from a main road leading into Sarajevo.

The detentions occurred Friday, the same day 16 other civilians were released by Serb authorities amid warnings from NATO.

People in the Serb-held sectors of Sarajevo are particularly edgy because the Bosnian peace agreement mandates that all of Sarajevo is to be governed by their former enemies.

Serbs say they are worried about retaliation by Muslims and some have begun leaving for Serb-controlled sections of the country.

NATO commander Smith stressed Monday that his troops would not impede their departure.

Serbs already have started to leave other areas they have to cede to Muslims and Croats under the terms of the peace agreement.

Also in Sarajevo, Bosnian Croat and Serb army representatives agreed to a Red Cross plan for the release of all prisoners by Jan. 16. But the Bosnian government army delegation refused to sign, apparently because of a dispute over the number of prisoners being held.

Meanwhile, NATO and officials with the Yugoslav war crimes tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands, discussed how alliance troops in Bosnia can arrest indicted war crimes suspects.

The U.N. court has indicted 52 suspects including Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and his army commander Gen. Ratko Mladic, but has just one suspect in custody.

Those accused face charges ranging from rape and torture to genocide.

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News in a Minute



Blizzard sends workers back home

CHICAGO—Federal employees who had been out of work for weeks while the government was shut down began returning to work Monday — weather permitting.

Along the East Coast, many government workers were idled by a huge blizzard that paralyzed the nation's capital.

In Atlanta, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's staff of 6,400 were back on the job — then told to leave early because of the winter storm.

Mail was stacked at least 4 feet high when Buddy Sexton returned to work as the assistant mail room supervisor at the Housing and Urban Development office in Phoenix.

By 11 a.m., Sexton still had 5,000-plus pieces of mail to sort.

"It's going to take the rest of the week just to get caught up," he said.

Airport plagued by more glitches

DENVER—Last week, it was Denver International Airport's balky ground radar system. This week, it's stalled trains. The problems at the city's new \$5 billion airport just never end.

Even the automated baggage system that was supposedly cured from its habit of chewing up luggage is causing trouble again. Angry passengers called a radio station last week, with one passenger saying his bag "looked like it had been chewed on by an alligator."

The airline acknowledged it has not used the inbound part of the automated system since Dec. 22 because of a computer error that gave the system amnesia on where to deliver bags.

Japanese man finds meteorite fragment

TOKYO—A fiery meteorite streaked over central Japan and blew up Monday.

A 19-year-old student driving in the city of Tsukuba, 37 miles northeast of Tokyo, was quoted as saying he saw a rock drop out of the sky in front of his car and got out to pick it up.

The rock was later examined by Masako Shima, a researcher at the National Science Museum, who confirmed it came from a meteorite, reports said.

The fragment was about the size and shape of half an egg and appeared to be charred on one side. The student, Ryutaro Araki, was quoted in local newspapers as saying the rock was still warm when he found it.

Israeli official resigns after assassination

TEL AVIV, Israel - The head of Israel's Shin Bet security service resigned Monday, saying his agency was primarily to blame for failing to prevent the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Shimon Peres, who succeeded Rabin, said in a statement that he accepted the resignation "with regret" at the insistence of the security chief, who can only be identified by the first initial of his first name, "C."

Although "C" was the first Shin Bet head considered to be more of an expert on Jewish radicals than Arab radicals, critics accused him of overlooking the possibility that a Jew would try to kill Israel's leader.

In his resignation letter, excerpted in Peres' statement, "C" said he was stepping down because "the main failure that led to the horrible murder was the agency's." But he denied personal wrongdoing.

Shin Bet officials have admitted that security measures at the Nov. 4 Tel Aviv peace rally where Rabin was shot were primarily aimed at preventing an attack by Arabs.

Videotape of the killing shows the security around Rabin appeared lax. Confessed assassin Yigal Amir was allowed to wait in ambush beside Rabin's car.

"C's" resignation also appeared linked to the killing three days ago of the terrorist most wanted by the Shin Bet, Yehiya Ayyash.

Ayyash died while talking on a booby-trapped mobile phone in an operation widely attributed to the Israeli agency. Israel has not formally claimed responsibility.

But Environment Minister Yossi Sarid said that after the assassination of Rabin - the first high-level political killing in Israel's history - "there was no other possibility" but for him to resign.

"This is how a man of honor acts," Sarid said.

The 45-year-old "C" will remain at the helm of the Shin Bet, whose role is defined as rooting out spies and countering threats to national security, until a successor has been found.

Israeli media reports said Peres might take the unusual step of appointing a replacement from outside the agency. The reports named military figures, including former navy commander Ami Ayalon and Maj. Gen. Ilan Biran, who is Israel's top West Bank commander; as possible replacements. Israel TV said Peres might also call on "C's" predecessor, Yaacov Perry, to come back.

"C's" attorney, Eli Zohar, said the Shin Bet chief, who was abroad at the time Rabin's assassination, decided to resign the moment he heard of it. But Peres initially rejected the offer.

Peres apparently changed his mind when a commission of inquiry on the assassination sent letters of warning last month to "C" and five other security officials. Such letters often precede the assigning of blame by inquiry panels.

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Information Sessions

Wednesday, January 10

3:00-4:30 PM	Neihardt Blue TV Lounge
6:00-7:30 PM	Sellect Cont. Dining Room
8:00-9:30 PM	Smith Hall Conference Room
8:00-9:30 PM	Abel North 24-Hour Lounge

Thursday, January 11

6:00-7:30 PM Burr Hall Dirt Room

Friday, January 12

3:30-5:00 PM Nebraska Union

if unable to attend a session, contact Bob at
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