

FOIA MARKER

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Folder Title:

Bosnia - September 1995 (Early): Early-Mid [1]

Staff Office-Individual:

European Affairs-Vershbow, Alexander

Original OA/ID Number:

896

Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:	Stack:
34	2	1	1	V

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001a. memo	For Anthony Lake from Alexander Vershbow. Subject: Additional Items for September 25 PC on Bosnia. Record ID: 9521108. (2 pages)	09/25/1995	P1/b(1)
001b. draft	Further Agreed Principles. (2 pages)	09/24/1995	P1/b(1)
001c. draft	Further Agreed Principles. (2 pages)	09/25/1995	P1/b(1)
001d. draft	Further Agreed Principles. (2 pages)	09/20/1995	P1/b(1)
002. draft	Duplicate of 001d. (2 pages)	09/20/1995	P1/b(1)
003a. memo	For Anthony Lake from Alexander Vershbow. Subject: Checklist for September 25 PC on Bosnia. Record ID: 9521108. (2 pages)	09/23/1995	P1/b(1)
003b. draft	Duplicate of 001d. (2 pages)	09/20/1995	P1/b(1)
003c. paper	Implementation Structure in a Bosnian Settlement. (8 pages)	09/20/1995	P1/b(1)
003d. paper	Confidence Building /Arms Control Measures. (2 pages)	09/20/1995	P1/b(1)
004. paper	Issues for Discussion. (7 pages)	09/05/1995	P1/b(1)
005. paper	Confidence-Building/Arms Control Measures. (3 pages)	08/28/1995	P1/b(1)
006. draft	Position Paper: Russian and other Non-NATO Participation. (3 pages)	09/06/1995	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
National Security Council
European Affairs (Alexander Vershbow)
OA/Box Number: 896

FOLDER TITLE:

Bosnia - September 1995 (Early): Early-Mid. [1]

2013-0687-F

vz2759

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.
PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).
RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
007. memo	For the President from Anthony Lake. Subject: Foreign Policy Group Meeting on Bosnia. Record ID: 9506640. (4 pages)	09/07/1995	P1/b(1)
008. paper	Serb Reaction to Croatian Offensive. (1 page)	09/08/1995	P1/b(1)
009. cable	re: September 8 Trilateral Meeting. (6 pages)	09/08/1995	P1/b(1)

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~~SECRET~~

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

21009

September 25, 1995

1. Copy to JF
2. copy to AV Chm
3. not AV

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR ANTHONY LAKE

FROM: ALEXANDER VERSHBOW

SUBJECT: Summary of Conclusions for the Principals
Committee Meeting on Bosnia, September 21, 1995

Attached at Tab A for distribution to Principals is the Summary of Conclusions from the Principals Committee meeting on Bosnia held September 21, 1995.

RECOMMENDATION

That you authorize Andrew Sens to ^{file.} ~~sign the memo to the agencies.~~

 P approve disapprove

Attachments

Tab I Memo to the Agencies

Tab A Summary of Conclusions

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 13526
White House Guidelines,
September 11, 2006

By VZ NARA, Date 7/31/14
723-0687-f

~~SECRET~~

Declassify on: OADR

~~SECRET~~

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

21109

MEMORANDUM FOR

MR. LEON FUERTH
Assistant to the Vice
President for National
Security Affairs

MR. KENNETH C. BRILL
Executive Secretary
Department of State

COL. ROBERT P. MCALEER
Executive Secretary
Department of Defense

AMB. RICK INDERFURTH
Office of the Representative
of the U.S. to the
United Nations

DR. GORDON M. ADAMS
Associate Director for
National Security &
International Affairs
Office of Management and
Budget

MR. LEON PANETTA
Chief of Staff to the
President

MR. RICK E. YANNUZZI
Executive Secretary
Central Intelligence Agency

COL. F. C. WILSON
Secretary, Joint Staff
Joint Chiefs of Staff

SUBJECT: Summary of Conclusions, Principals Committee
Meeting on Bosnia, September 21, 1995 (S)

Please pass to Principals the Summary of Conclusions attached at
Tab A. (S)

Andrew D. Sens
Executive Secretary

Attachment
Tab A Summary of Conclusions

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 13526
White House Guidelines,
September 11, 2006

By VZ NARA, Date 7/31/14

7-13-087-F

~~SECRET~~

Declassify on: OADR



Summary of Conclusions for
Meeting of the NSC Principals Committee

DATE: September 21, 1995

LOCATION: White House Situation Room

TIME: 2:30 - 4:00 p.m.

SUBJECT: Summary of Conclusions of Principals Committee Meeting
on Bosnia ~~(S)~~

PARTICIPANTS:

Chair

Anthony Lake

CIA

John Deutch

Dennis Blair

OVP

Leon Fuerth

Rick Saunders

JCS

General Shalikashvili

Wesley Clark

State

Secretary Christopher

Peter Tarnoff

Delegation

Richard Holbrooke

Christopher Hill

DOD

John White

Walter Slocombe

Roberts Owen

James Pardew

Donald Kerrick

USUN

Ambassador Albright

David Scheffer

White House

Sandy Berger

Nancy Soderberg

OMB

Alice Rivlin

Gordon Adams

NSC

Sandy Vershbow

Chief of Staff

Leon Panetta

Summary of Conclusions

1. Principals received a briefing by the U.S. negotiating team on the progress of the U.S. diplomatic initiative since their last meeting on September 11. They welcomed plans to hold a second meeting of the Foreign Ministers of Bosnia, Croatia and Serbia with the Contact Group on September 26 in New York, at which the three parties would likely endorse further agreed

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Declassify on: OADR

DECLASSIFIED

PER E.O. 13526

VZ 2010-0533-M

5/9/2014

principles for a Bosnia settlement. Principals agreed that the New York Foreign Ministers' meeting should be announced by the White House later that day as part of a statement on behalf of the President following his telephone briefing by Secretary Christopher, National Security Advisor Lake and Ambassador Holbrooke. (Action: NSC) ~~(S)~~

2. Principals noted concerns by the U.S. negotiating team about growing tensions within the Federation and between the Governments of Bosnia and Croatia in the wake of their recent territorial gains in western Bosnia. They agreed that a high-level demarche should be made to Croatian President Tudjman warning of the consequences of his failure to support the Federation. It was subsequently agreed that the President would phone German Chancellor Kohl to urge that he make a similar demarche to Tudjman. (Action: State and NSC) ~~(S)~~

3. Principals agreed that the recent territorial shifts in western Bosnia may have improved the chances for a settlement. But they agreed that further offensives could jeopardize this progress, especially if they led to large Serb refugee flows, and that we should place renewed emphasis on the need for all parties to show restraint. Principals agreed that we should encourage the Bosnians to consider a limited-duration country-wide cessation of hostilities that would preserve their recent gains while negotiations on a final settlement proceeded. ~~(S)~~

4. Principals noted that NATO air strikes had had a positive impact on Serb attitudes toward a peace settlement. They agreed that we should make clear that the bombing would resume if the Serbs did not comply with the UN/NATO conditions and that we should press the UN to allow access for Bosnian civilian traffic into Sarajevo in order to test Milosevic's commitment to ensure complete freedom of movement. (Action: State/USUN) ~~(S)~~

5. Principals agreed it was still premature to take any decision regarding the timing and venue of an international conference. This should be revisited based on the results of the September 26 meeting of the Balkan Foreign Ministers and the next round of shuttle diplomacy by the U.S. negotiating team. ~~(S)~~

6. Principals reviewed continuing difficulties in persuading our key allies to include the Italians in consultations on the peace process. They agreed we should urge the Italians to organize the expanded Contact Group meeting in Rome that had been discussed previously and that we should also press to include Italy in five-power consultations on military planning for peace plan implementation. (Action: State) ~~(S)~~

7. Principals received an update from General Shalikashvili on NATO planning for the implementation force (IFOR). They agreed

that we would likely want to follow the Haiti model -- i.e., insert a large and heavily-equipped force at the very outset in order to deter non-compliance by the parties but then phase down the force quickly once stable conditions have been established. They agreed in principle that we should be flexible on modalities for linking Russian forces to the IFOR, so long as the single NATO chain of command was preserved, with no UN dual key. ~~(S)~~

8. Principals agreed that, in light of increased media speculation about peace plan implementation, we needed to step up consultations with the Congress on our overall Bosnia strategy, while seeking to lower expectations of an immediate breakthrough in the negotiations. Calls to key Members should take place at the beginning of the week of September 25, followed by a Presidential meeting with Senate and House leadership. (Action: NSC/State) ~~(S)~~

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001b. draft	Further Agreed Principles. (2 pages)	09/24/1995	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
National Security Council
European Affairs (Alexander Vershbow)
OA/Box Number: 896

FOLDER TITLE:

Bosnia - September 1995 (Early): Early-Mid. [1]

2013-0687-F
vz2759

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001c. draft	Further Agreed Principles. (2 pages)	09/25/1995	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

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National Security Council
European Affairs (Alexander Vershbow)
OA/Box Number: 896

FOLDER TITLE:

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2013-0687-F
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21107
THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
9-25-95

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 23, 1995

95 SEP 23 P 6:28

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: ANTHONY LAKE *TL*

SUBJECT: Your Participation in Principals' Committee Meeting on Bosnia, September 25, 1995, 2:45-3:15 p.m.

DECLASSIFIED
PER E.O. 13526
10/1/2013

Principals are meeting to review the latest developments in the negotiations on the eve of Tuesday's meeting of the three Balkan Foreign Ministers with the Contact Group, and to discuss planning for implementation of a peace settlement. Chris and Dick Holbrooke will participate in the meeting from New York via video link.

Negotiations: While the Bosnians are still haggling over final details, prospects are good for agreement on Tuesday on a set of "further agreed principles" for a settlement (draft at Tab A). These will round out the text agreed in Geneva on September 8. They set forth the institutions of the central government (rotating three-person presidency, parliament), identify their areas of responsibility and establish rules for free elections under international supervision. While some points will be controversial, the new principles will help strengthen the case that the peace plan will not partition Bosnia.

Assuming agreement on the principles, the focus of our negotiating team's next round of shuttle diplomacy will be to draft a comprehensive peace agreement based on the principles and to press for agreement on the map. The most sensitive territorial issue will be the status of Sarajevo, which the Bosnians insist must be an undivided city under Federation control.

After another round of shuttling, it will likely be necessary to convene an international conference -- possibly as soon as mid-October -- with the three Balkan Presidents to resolve the most contentious issues and pave the way to a summit where the agreement would be signed. We have not decided whether to hold such a conference in the U.S. or in Europe.

Issues for discussion:

- Will the "further agreed principles" create an effective central government and prevent a formal partition?

~~SECRET~~

Declassify on: OADR

cc: Vice President
Chief of Staff

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

- What are the weak points in the new paper?
- How soon will it be necessary or desirable to move to an international conference?
- Now that the battle lines have stabilized in western Bosnia, is this the time to press for a 1- or 2-month cessation of hostilities?

Implementation Planning: Shali will brief Principals on the status of U.S. and NATO planning for peace plan implementation. The NATO Military Authorities have been tasked to complete a draft OPLAN by the end of the month. This will give a clearer sense of the overall troop requirements -- although, even then, we will need to know the final terms of the settlement before hard figures can be established. Shali told Principals last week that he favors following the Haiti model, i.e. inserting a large and heavily-equipped force at the very outset in order to deter non-compliance by the parties, but then phasing down the force quickly once stable conditions have been established. The NATO-led force would withdraw completely at the end of one year. Still to be worked out are arrangements for associating the Russians and other non-NATO forces with the implementation force (IFOR) while preserving a single chain of command.

Following your departure, Principals will also review planning for implementation of the non-military aspects of a settlement (return of refugees, humanitarian aid, supervising elections, setting up governmental institutions, protecting human rights, etc.). We envisage appointing a senior statesman who would coordinate among the various international agencies involved. He would maintain liaison with the NATO military commander but have no dual key.

Issues for discussion:

- Are we and our Allies in basic agreement on the concept for military implementation of the peace plan? Rules of engagement and command and control?
- When will we need to decide the level of U.S. participation?
- How soon after signature of a peace settlement will we be able to deploy U.S. forces to Bosnia?

Attachment

Tab A Draft of Further Agreed Principles

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

21107

September 23, 1995



ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR ANTHONY LAKE

FROM: ALEXANDER VERSHBOW *AV*

SUBJECT: Memorandum to the President for his Participation
in September 25 Principals Committee on Bosnia

Attached at Tab I is your memorandum to the President for his drop-by at Monday's PC on Bosnia.

I suggest that you encourage him to attend the first half of the meeting, when the focus will be on the status of the negotiations and military implementation planning. We understand that Dick Holbrooke will only participate in the first half-hour, since he will be chairing a Contact Group political directors meeting at 3:00.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the memorandum to the President at Tab I.

Attachment

Tab I Memorandum to the President
Tab A Further Agreed Principles

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 13526
White House Guidelines,
September 11, 2006

By VZ NARA, Date 7/31/2014
2013-0687 -F

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

DRAFT

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: ANTHONY LAKE

SUBJECT: Your Participation in Principals' Committee Meeting on Bosnia
September 25, 1995, 2:45-3:15 p.m.

Principals are meeting to review the latest developments in the negotiations on the eve of Tuesday's meeting of the three Balkan Foreign Ministers with the Contact Group, and to discuss planning for implementation of a peace settlement. Chris and Dick Holbrooke will participate in the meeting from New York via video link.

Negotiations: While the Bosnians are still haggling over final details, prospects are good for agreement on Tuesday on a set of "further agreed principles" for a settlement (draft at Tab A). These will round out the text agreed in Geneva on September 8. They set forth the institutions of the central government (rotating three-person presidency, parliament), identify their areas of responsibility, and establish rules for free elections under international supervision. While some points will be controversial, the new principles will help strengthen the case that the peace plan will not partition Bosnia.

Assuming agreement on the principles, the focus of our negotiating team's next round of shuttle diplomacy will be to draft a comprehensive peace agreement based on the principles and to press for agreement on the map. The most sensitive territorial issue will be the status of Sarajevo, which the Bosnians insist must be an undivided city under Federation control.

After another round of shuttling, it will likely be necessary to convene an international conference -- possibly as soon as mid-October -- with the three Balkan Presidents to resolve the most contentious issues and pave the way to a summit where the agreement would be signed. We have not decided whether to hold such a conference in the U.S. or in Europe.

Issues for discussion:

- Will the "further agreed principles" create an effective central government and prevent a formal partition?

~~SECRET~~

Declassify on: OADR

**DECLASSIFIED
PER E.O. 13526**

12 10/1/2013

cc: Vice President
Chief of Staff

- What are the weak points in the new paper?
- How soon will it be necessary or desirable to move to an international conference?
- Now that the battle lines have stabilized in western Bosnia, is this the time to press for a 1- or 2-month cessation of hostilities?

Implementation Planning: Shali will brief Principals on the status of U.S. and NATO planning for peace plan implementation. The NATO Military Authorities have been tasked to complete a draft OPLAN by the end of the month. This will give a clearer sense of the overall troop requirements -- although, even then, we will need to know the final terms of the settlement before hard figures can be established. Shali told Principals last week that he favors following the Haiti model, i.e. inserting a large and heavily-equipped force at the very outset in order to deter non-compliance by the parties, but then phasing down the force quickly once stable conditions have been established. The NATO-led force would withdraw completely at the end of one year. Still to be worked out are arrangements for associating the Russians and other non-NATO forces with the implementation force (IFOR) while preserving a single chain of command.

Following your departure, Principals will also review planning for implementation of the non-military aspects of a settlement (return of refugees, humanitarian aid, supervising elections, setting up governmental institutions, protecting human rights, etc.). We envisage appointing a senior statesman who would coordinate among the various international agencies involved. He would maintain liaison with the NATO military commander but have no dual key.

Issues for discussion:

- Are we and our Allies in basic agreement on the concept for military implementation of the peace plan? Rules of engagement and command and control?
- When will we need to decide the level of U.S. participation?
- How soon after signature of a peace settlement will we be able to deploy U.S. forces to Bosnia?

Attachment

Tab A Draft of Further Agreed Principles

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
003b. draft	Duplicate of 001d. (2 pages)	09/20/1995	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
National Security Council
European Affairs (Alexander Vershbow)
OA/Box Number: 896

FOLDER TITLE:

Bosnia - September 1995 (Early): Early-Mid. [1]

2013-0687-F

vz2759

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
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C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
003c. paper	Implementation Structure in a Bosnian Settlement. (8 pages)	09/20/1995	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
National Security Council
European Affairs (Alexander Vershbow)
OA/Box Number: 896

FOLDER TITLE:

Bosnia - September 1995 (Early): Early-Mid. [1]

2013-0687-F

vz2759

RESTRICTION CODES

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
003d. paper	Confidence Building /Arms Control Measures. (2 pages)	09/20/1995	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
National Security Council
European Affairs (Alexander Vershbow)
OA/Box Number: 896

FOLDER TITLE:

Bosnia - September 1995 (Early): Early-Mid. [1]

2013-0687-F

vz2759

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BOSNIA HILL CALLS

Beginning week of September 25: Principal calls, as part of process of keeping members informed over next few weeks:

State calls: Gilman, Hamilton, Smith, Hoyer, Helms, Pell, Lugar, Biden, Callahan, Livingston, McConnell, Leahy, Wilson, Obey, Rogers, Mollohan, Kassebaum, Dodd, Kerry, Gramm, Hollings, Hyde, Mikulski, Feinstein and Moran.

DoD calls: Spence, Dellums, Young, Murtha, Thurmond, Nunn, Stevens, Inouye, Levin, Lieberman, Cohen, Warner, McCain, Byrd, Exon.

NSC calls: Dole, Daschle, Specter, Kerrey, Gingrich, Gephardt, Arme, Bonior, DeLay, Combest, Dicks.

Suggested List for Leadership Meeting on Bosnia:

Dole, Daschle, Byrd, Hatfield, McConnell, Leahy, Stevens, Inouye, Gramm, Hollings, Helms, Pell, Lugar, Biden, Thurmond, Nunn, Specter, Kerrey

Other Senate possibilities: Exon, Levin

Gingrich, Gephardt, Livingston, Obey, Callahan, Wilson, Young, Murtha, Rogers, Mollohan, Gilman, Hamilton, Spence, Dellums, Combest, Dicks

Other House possibilities: Hoyer, Neumann

Suggested Administration Representatives:

POTUS, VPOTUS, Secretaries of State and Defense, General Shali, Ambassador Albright, Leon Panetta, Tony Lake, Sandy Berger, Leon Fuerth, Pat Griffin, Al Maldon, Bill Danvers, Wendy Sherman and Sandi Stuart.

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
004. paper	Issues for Discussion. (7 pages)	09/05/1995	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
National Security Council
European Affairs (Alexander Vershbow)
OA/Box Number: 896

FOLDER TITLE:

Bosnia - September 1995 (Early): Early-Mid. [1]

2013-0687-F
vz2759

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
005. paper	Confidence-Building/Arms Control Measures. (3 pages)	08/28/1995	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
National Security Council
European Affairs (Alexander Vershbow)
OA/Box Number: 896

FOLDER TITLE:

Bosnia - September 1995 (Early): Early-Mid. [1]

2013-0687-F
vz2759

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Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
006. draft	Position Paper: Russian and other Non-NATO Participation. (3 pages)	09/06/1995	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
National Security Council
European Affairs (Alexander Vershbow)
OA/Box Number: 896

FOLDER TITLE:

Bosnia - September 1995 (Early): Early-Mid. [1]

2013-0687-F
vz2759

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September 6, 1995

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR ANTHONY LAKE

FROM: ALEXANDER VERSHBOW *AV*
SUBJECT: Foreign Policy Group Meeting on Bosnia

Attached at Tab A is a briefing paper for the President's use for his foreign policy group meeting on Bosnia.

RECOMMENDATION

That sign the memorandum to the President at Tab A.

Attachment
Tab A Memorandum to the President

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 13526
White House Guidelines,
September 11, 2006
By *VR* NARA, Date *7/31/2014*
2013-0687-f

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
007. memo	For the President from Anthony Lake. Subject: Foreign Policy Group Meeting on Bosnia. Record ID: 9506640. (4 pages)	09/07/1995	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
National Security Council
European Affairs (Alexander Vershbow)
OA/Box Number: 896

FOLDER TITLE:

Bosnia - September 1995 (Early): Early-Mid. [1]

2013-0687-F
vz2759

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
008. paper	Serb Reaction to Croatian Offensive. (1 page)	09/08/1995	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
National Security Council
European Affairs (Alexander Vershbow)
OA/Box Number: 896

FOLDER TITLE:

Bosnia - September 1995 (Early): Early-Mid. [1]

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
009. cable	re: September 8 Trilateral Meeting. (6 pages)	09/08/1995	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
National Security Council
European Affairs (Alexander Vershbow)
OA/Box Number: 896

FOLDER TITLE:

Bosnia - September 1995 (Early): Early-Mid. [1]

2013-0687-F
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THE WHITE HOUSE
OFFICE OF THE SPOKESMAN

For Immediate Release

September 8, 1995

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

Today's successful meeting in Geneva of the Foreign Ministers of Bosnia, Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is an important milestone on the road to peace in the former Yugoslavia. As a result of intensive mediation by Ambassador Holbrooke and his team -- supported by our Contact Group partners in the European Union and Russia -- the three Foreign Ministers have endorsed a set of Agreed Basic Principles that will serve as the framework for a political settlement to the conflict in Bosnia. The Foreign Ministers of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia have also agreed to work actively toward a peaceful solution in Eastern Slavonia, the Serb-controlled area of the Republic of Croatia also known as UN Sector East.

The Agreed Basic Principles commit all three governments to support a settlement consistent with the goals we have long sought in Bosnia. Most importantly, for the first time, all three have agreed that Bosnia-Herzegovina will continue as a single state, with its present borders, and with continuing international recognition. Consistent with the Contact Group plan, under the terms of a settlement, all three agree that Bosnia-Herzegovina will consist of two entities: the Federation established under last year's Washington Agreements, and the Serb Republic. The 51:49 parameter of the Contact Group's territorial proposal will be the basis for a settlement, subject to any adjustments that the parties make by mutual agreement. The two entities will have the right to establish relationships with neighboring states, but these must be consistent with the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The parties have pledged to adhere to international human rights standards, to ensure freedom of movement and the right of displaced persons to return to their homes, and to collaborate on joint economic projects that will promote transportation links and communication among all of Bosnia's peoples. These are important principles around which we now can move toward intensive negotiations for a full peace agreement.

I want to congratulate the three Foreign Ministers, Secretary of State Christopher, National Security Advisor Anthony Lake, Ambassador Holbrooke and his team, and our Russian and other European partners for today's impressive achievement. Much work remains to be done in translating these principles into a final peace agreement. All the parties will need to display the same flexibility and statesmanship that made today's agreement possible if we are turn away from war and achieve our common goal of a durable peace in the Balkans.