

Contact Group agrees map to be presented to the parties

Ministerial Text
5 July 1994

Ministers welcomed the map agreement agreed by the Contact Group and instructed the Group to present it to the parties. Ministers took the view that the territorial arrangements incorporated in the map represented a reasonable balance and they instructed the Contact Group to make clear to the parties that a response was needed within two weeks at the latest. Ministers urged the parties to accept the proposed map or to present mutually agreed amendments.

Ministers confirmed their support for a settlement that keeps Bosnia and Herzegovina as a Union within its internationally recognized borders and which continues the international legal personality of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Constitutional arrangements will define the relationship between the Bosniac/Croat and the Bosnian Serb entities. The human rights specified in the principal international and European instruments are to be observed. Constitutional arrangements may be revised by mutual consent once the territorial settlement concerning Sarajevo has been concluded.

Ministers agreed that the parties should observe and prolong the ceasefire and refrain from military action. The objective is the earliest possible signature by the parties of a comprehensive cessation of hostilities as a first step in implementing an overall settlement.

Ministers agreed that the Contact Group should also set out to the parties certain incentives and disincentives as follows:

If, on this basis, both parties agree to the map:

Incentives for the Federation:

- International assurances for implementation of the territorial settlement;
- Assistance with reconstruction;
- Resettlement fund for refugees.

Incentives for the Bosnian Serbs:

- Suspension of sanctions geared to implementation of the territorial settlement. Preparation of a draft UNSC Resolution for Geneva III to be introduced immediately after Bosnian Serb acceptance of the map;
- Phasing of suspension of sanctions would include clearing application in the UN sanctions committee and opening Belgrade Airport for civilian passenger service immediately on acceptance of the map. Completion of withdrawal would lead to suspension of other sanctions.

If the Federation refuses but the Bosnian Serbs agree:

Disincentives for the Federation:

- Loss of international support. Proposed reconstruction assistance for Bosnia put in jeopardy;
- Easing of sanctions on the Serbs as described above;
- Continuation of the arms embargo and its rigorous enforcement;
- Exclusion of Federation military from territory from which the Bosnian Serbs withdrew in accordance with the Contact Group map.

If the Federation agrees and the Bosnian Serbs refuse:

Disincentives for the Serbs:

- Measures to tighten existing sanctions and preparation for Geneva III of a new UNSC Resolution on extending sanctions to be introduced after rejection of the map;
- Extension and strict enforcement of exclusion zones.

If despite these measures, the Bosnian Serbs continued to reject the map, a decision in the UNSC of the lifting of the arms embargo could become unavoidable. There will be consequences for the presence of UNPROFOR.

- We commended and approved the substantive preparations done by the Contact Group following its meeting with the parties in accordance with the instructions given at the last Geneva ministerial Meeting.
- We welcomed the territorial proposal developed by the Contact Group and have directed the Group to present it to the representatives of the Bosnian Government of the Bosnian Serbs.
- This effort is strongly supported by our government as a reasonable basis of an immediate political settlement.
- We are urging the parties to consider it favourably and to give us their responses within two weeks.
- It would form part of a settlement that preserves Bosnia and Herzegovina as a single union within its internationally recognized borders, while providing for constitutional arrangements that establish the relationship between the Bosniac/Croat and Bosnian Serb entities.
- We also express once again our firm support for a settlement which provides for refugees and displaced persons to have the possibility to return freely to their homes of origin.
- Our proposal represents an important moment of opportunity, which may not come again. Those of us gathered here are united in our belief that the war can be ended now.
- We believe the consequences of failing to do so would be grave.
- With peace, however, the international community stands ready to begin implementing a settlement and rebuilding Bosnia. We urge Bosnian parties to respond quickly and positively to our offer.
- The Contact Group will be presenting Ministers' views tomorrow to the parties. Without going into details there are important incentives for the parties if they accept the proposed map:
- For the Bosnian government we are ready to assist in the implementation of a territorial settlement and to help with reconstruction;
- For the Serbs, sanctions will be suspended geared to their pullback to the lines indicated on the map.

If the parties do not agree they can expect more pressure to be applied. In particular, existing UNSCRs concerning safe areas will be rigorously enforced. The necessary planning is being undertaken.

As a last resort decision in the Security Council to lift the arms embargo could become unavoidable. That would have consequences for the presence of UNPROFOR.

- In the meantime, the parties should observe and prolong the ceasefire and refrain from military action.
- The parties are required to give their answer to this proposal in two weeks.
- We agreed to meet again before the end of July
- We also discussed the wider situation in the former Yugoslavia. We urge mutual recognition between all States within the boundaries of the former Yugoslavia. We urge the immediate resumption of talks between the Croatian government and the local Serb authorities.

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