

# War-torn Bosnia to be divided, president will resign



GENEVA (AP) — Bosnia-Herzegovina's president agreed Tuesday to allow his battle-torn country to be divided into autonomous areas and said he would resign by the end of the year, apparently to improve relations with his Croat allies.

Serbia, meanwhile, said it would ration heat and power to cope with U.N. sanctions imposed because of its role in the Bosnian civil war.

Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic's comment came after a meeting in Geneva with the leaders of Croatia and Yugoslavia.

The leaders are trying to end the bloodshed and seek a political resolution for the former Yugoslav federation, which broke up in a war that has killed at least 24,000 people and left more than 1 million homeless.

Izetbegovic, long opposed to anything but a unitary Bosnian nation, said a proposal by international mediators to create eight to 10 autonomous regions is "fully acceptable."

But the Serbs, who control two-thirds of Bosnia, have demanded their own state. Croats, who control most of the other third, are nominal allies of the Muslim-led government but also independence-minded.

"We don't want to form three religious states. We want a European country," Izetbegovic said.

The war began in April, when Serbs took up arms after refusing to accept a referendum for an independent

Bosnia. The war has left the Muslims, who make up about 43 percent of the republic's 4 million people, in control of little land.

The plan discussed by Izetbegovic would create regions divided along geographic lines, keeping major farming and industrial regions intact and Sarajevo as the administrative capital.

In an unexpected move, Izetbegovic also said he will give up his presidency by December as foreseen under a 1990 constitution.

As leader of Bosnia's defense throughout the 8-month-old war, he had been expected to stay in office. Yugoslav media have speculated he would hand over power to an ethnic Croat, to maintain Croat loyalty to the central government.

Izetbegovic did not say who might succeed him.

Meanwhile, Yugoslav President Dobrica Cosic and Franjo Tudjman, the Croatian leader, signed an agreement to speed normalization of relations between their states.

Serbs hold about a third of Croatian territory, captured in fighting after Croatia declared independence from Yugoslavia. Some 10,000 died in that war.

Cosic refused a Croatian demand for immediate diplomatic recognition, but the two agreed to open liaison offices and to grant dual citizenship to Serbs in Croatia and Croats in Yugoslavia.

It was unclear what effect the agreements would have without the support of Slobodan Milosevic, the hard-

line Serbian president, or that of Serb fighters in Bosnia and Croatia, who have generally ignored pronouncements from outside.

"There are some concrete results from the talks but I still don't know how they will be carried out," Izetbegovic said.

Milosevic supports Serb fighters in Bosnia, while Federal Premier Milan Panic has taken a more conciliatory stand toward Bosnia's Muslim-led government.

Cosic said he had contacted Serb authorities in Bosnia and Croatia "and insisted on the immediate stoppage of ethnic cleansing"- forced expulsion of other ethnic groups from the Serb-occupied regions in Croatia and Bosnia.

But in a move apparently aimed at showing who holds the power in Yugoslavia, troops from Milosevic's Serbian police forced the federal interior minister Tuesday to abandon his Belgrade office to Serbian police.

There are about 40,000 Serbian police, compared to 1,000 federal police.

The United Nations, meanwhile, said Serb fighters have blocked the road from Sarajevo's airport to the city several times, defying an agreement to keep it open for aid deliveries.

Shelling of relief convoys and new fighting along key roads throughout Bosnia have "all but shut down" aid deliveries by land, as local commanders often ignore guarantees of safe passage made by their leaders, a U.N. spokeswoman in Geneva said.

## Opposition meets in West Bank

JERUSALEM (AP) — Leaders of the opposition Likud Party met Tuesday in the occupied West Bank and criticized the government's handling of a recent wave of Arab attacks.

Likud leader Yitzhak Shamir, the former prime minister, said he believed the Arabs were emboldened by "the policy of concessions" of the left-center government of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, which has pledged to speed up Arab-Israeli peace talks.

The seventh round of U.S.-backed Middle East negotiations is scheduled to begin Wednesday in Washington.

Israel has offered the Palestinians limited self-rule with an elected administrative council to run such activities as health, education and religious affairs.

The Palestinians have demanded an elected, lawmak-

ing body and a commitment from Israel that the period of limited autonomy will lead to talks on independence for the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

A source close to Rabin told The Associated Press Tuesday that the government was ready to grant the Palestinian body limited powers, including the power to pass bylaws.

The territories, captured by Israel from Jordan and Egypt in the 1967 Middle East war, are home to 1.8 million Palestinians. They have been torn for nearly five years by an Arab uprising aimed at ending Israeli occupation.

Growing violence in the past two weeks, including several attacks on Israelis, has inspired growing rightist criticism of Rabin's peacemaking plans.

The Likud gathering oc-

curred near the settlement of Mathityahu, where a Jewish woman was burned to death last Saturday when the van in which she was riding triggered the trip-wire of a roadside bomb. Nine others were injured.

The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine claimed responsibility Tuesday for the bombing, saying the attack was to avenge last week's death of Hussein Obeidat, the first Palestinian to die following a collective hunger strike undertaken by Palestinian prisoners.

An autopsy, in which a Palestinian physician stood in for the family, confirmed Obeidat's death by heart attack was unrelated to the hunger strike. Obeidat was 26 and had been serving a six-year sentence for membership in the DFLP.

## Moscow McDonald's bombed with grenade

MOSCOW (AP) — Two drunken men were arrested for throwing a grenade at a police station near the Moscow McDonald's, an attack that injured a 5-year-old girl and seven other people waiting to enter the restaurant, authorities said Tuesday.

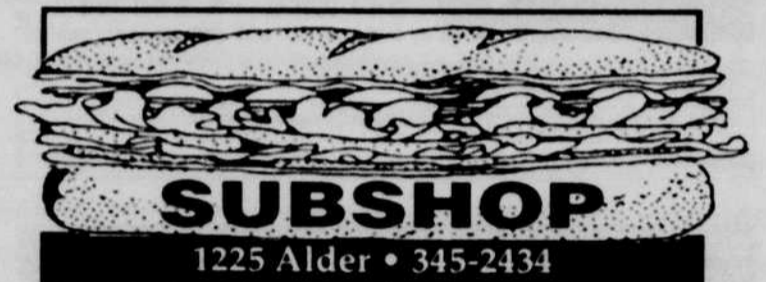
Police said the Monday night bombing was aimed at their precinct building and not the adjacent fast-food restaurant, which has been jammed daily with Russians and foreign tourists since opening in 1990.

Officials said five Russians and three Afghans were injured. "There was such an explosion that I forgot my television was broken. I thought the set had exploded," said Galina Schwarz, 75, whose apartment window one floor above the precinct was shattered by the blast.

The explosion occurred at 7 p.m. several yards from the entrance to McDonald's, which faces Pushkin Square.

The Interfax news agency quoted Security Ministry spokesman Alexander Mikhailov as saying the explosive was an RGD-5 anti-personnel fragmentation hand grenade. It was thrown in a window of Precinct No. 108, but ricocheted off protective iron bars, fell to the pavement and exploded, Interfax said.

It shattered the precinct office's windows and three windows in the apartment complex above it. Fragments injured eight people waiting in the McDonald's line, police Col. Yuri Fedoseyev said.



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