


The Muslim Student Association
presents
Betty Turulja
Betty Turulja is a native Bosnian
who recently came from Bosnia.
a lecture on
**The Pattern of Genocide
in Bosnia**
Wednesday, May 12
12-1 p.m. Ben Linder Room
Muslim Student Association
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TOMORROW!

Clinton wary of Bosnia action



WASHINGTON (AP) — As recently as Friday, President Clinton said that within days the United States and its European allies would agree on military action in Bosnia.

On Monday, the White House declared its Bosnia policy in a "holding pattern." What happened?

Basically, the administration found that it lacked international support for its military plans, that it was uncertain about its longer-term policy on the former Yugoslavia and that in the absence of these two ingredients it couldn't make a convincing case for intervention to the American people.

Clinton found that the Europeans, familiar with the ancient hatreds of the Balkans and wary of a quagmire, were reluctant to take offensive action. Instead, the European Community on Monday called on the United States and Russia to send troops to protect U.N. "safe zones" in Bosnia. Clinton has thus far ruled out sending troops.

He also found skepticism within his administration and Congress about the longer-term goals of such intervention. If the United States bombed Serb artillery targets for several days to silence the guns — as was apparently the plan presented to the Europeans — what would happen if the Serbs retaliated by attacking U.N. relief troops?

If, as Clinton wanted, the United Nations lifted its arms embargo and allowed the Muslims to arm themselves, who would deliver the weapons and train the Muslim fighters? The United States has quietly obtained funding from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait for such a scheme, but would U.S. troops have to carry it out?

And with the Muslims trained and armed, what incentive would they have to come to the negotiating table? Would the war then spread and engulf volatile neighboring provinces? Would the United States have to intervene there, too?

"We've got to be very sure what our interests are, what our objectives are, what the costs are going to be, what we can achieve, and how we can get out, and none of those things have been determined, none of them have been articulated to the Congress or to the American people at this point," said Rep. Lee Hamilton, D-Ind., chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

If Clinton knows the answers to these questions, he isn't saying.

The seeds of Clinton's dilemma were sown during the election campaign, when he criticized then-President Bush for failing to stop the killings in Bosnia. It was one of the few areas of foreign policy on which Bush was vulnerable, and Clinton took advantage.

The reason Bush chose not to involve the United States in Bosnia, said former National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft, is that "we were unable to answer those questions about the use of military force that we answered specifically in the case of the Persian Gulf."

Indeed, Clinton found the going tough when confronted with the hard choices of using military force to carry out his promise.

The turning point came Saturday. After telling a skeptical news corps at a Rose Garden news conference Friday that "there's a lot more agreement than you think" with the Europeans on military force, Clinton met Saturday with Secretary of State Warren Christopher who had just returned from Europe.

What he heard was a litany of European reluctance: how they preferred to wait for the Bosnian Serb referendum next weekend on the U.N. peace plan, how they wanted to wait for Serbia to enforce its promised embargo against the Bosnian Serbs, how they wanted another U.N. resolution to approve air strikes on the Bosnian Serbs and how they opposed Clinton's proposal for arming Bosnian Muslims.

The meeting, which White House aides billed in advance as the start of a 48-hour consultation blitz to prepare a plan for announcement this week, lasted less than three hours. Clinton's weekly radio address Saturday was devoted to campaign reform. A planned Sunday meeting with congressional leaders to discuss Bosnia was put off.

On Monday, Clinton left Washington to campaign for his economic program. "Bosnia is in kind of a holding pattern at this time," said Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers.

She said Clinton would call allied leaders later this week to discuss Bosnia, but she indicated that no decision would be made before the weekend referendum in Bosnia.

Given that the United State and its allies are highly skeptical of the referendum's feasibility and effectiveness, the allies' next steps are as murky as the civil war in Bosnia.

'Bosnia is in kind of a holding pattern at this time.'

— Dee Dee Myers,
White House press secretary

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Ex-postal worker pleads not guilty

LAGUNA NIGUEL, Calif. (AP) — A fired postal worker pleaded not guilty Monday to two murder charges and seven counts of attempted murder from a post office rampage and attacks that terrorized southern California for two days.

Mark Richard Hilbun, 39, surprising his attorney by demanding a fast start to the case, also pleaded not guilty in Orange County Superior Court to one count of attempted kidnapping and three counts of attempted

robbery.

As public defender David Biggs began asking Judge Blair Barnette to delay the arraignment, Hilbun interrupted.

"No, I want to be arraigned today," Hilbun said from the court's holding pen.

So Biggs entered the not guilty pleas, and Barnette set a preliminary hearing for May 18 and ordered Hilbun held without bail.

Biggs said outside court that Hilbun had surprised him.

"Anything that speeds up the

process of the prosecutor being able to try to convict my client of a crime for which he could end up on death row — that's not a good thing," Biggs said.

Biggs said an insanity defense was possible, but he needed to see police and pathology reports.

Authorities allege Hilbun fatally stabbed his mother, Frances Hilbun, 63, at her Corona del Mar home early Thursday, and shot to death letter carrier Charles Barbagallo, 41, later that morning at the Dana Point post office.

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