

*Bijlage 24* **Dreigende situatie in Srebrenica**

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SARAJEVO

Thru: 4 June 1995

Commander  
HQ BH Sector NE  
TUZLA

Nr: TK9588

Subject: Deteriorating situation in SREBRENICA

Ref 1: Report nr TK9581 fm 29 May 1995 (not in English)

Ref 2: Report nr TK9583 fm 30 May 1995

Ref 3: Report nr TK9584 fm 31 May 1995

Ref 4: Report nr TK9586 fm 1 June 1995

1. For some months past the general situation within and around the enclave SREBRENICA is deteriorating. There use to be a kind of status quo which could be monitored by Dutchbat in a reasonable way. However, due to limitations in operational and logistical sense as well as in humanitarian wise, the mission of the bn is not longer feasible. Dutchbat is not able to execute any action nor can it respond on forthcoming deteriorating situations. Beeing hostage of the BSA for over more than three months, something has to be done.
2. A lot of negotiations and talks has taken place lately. In that perspective I like to refer to my reports issued last week (ref 1 thru 4). Ref 1 dealt with withdrawal of OP's based on what happened in GORAZDE. I did not issue orders to leave any OP although all preparations had been taken. I'm glad that we didn't. Thru ref 2

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BSA stated that BIH would attack OP's. In my opinion there were no reasons to leave OP's based on these ridiculous announcements. Thru ref 3 BSA stated that Dutchbat should leave OP(NL)E asap due to an attack by BIH, BSA will not start offensive operations against UN forces i.c. Dutchbat and that they like to maintain the good relationship with the bn. OP(NL)E didn't withdraw. Thru ref 4 BSA issued 'orders' to abandon the OP. We rejected and notified that as such. That was on Thursday the 1st of June.

3. As you know the BSA deliberately attacked OP(NL)E on Saturday morning. The soldiers were forced to withdraw under pressure of SA-fire, AT-weapons, mr and handgranates. The crew managed to abandon their positions in a military way. Afterwards the BSA denied the attack and stated not having used any arms. Incidentally the attack has been recorded on tape.
4. Since this event several mtgs took place with BIH. The civil and military authorities do have great concerns. Knowing the tense situation within and around the enclave, I fully understand their desperate circumstances. OP(NL)E has been a dispute since war broke out. The BSA tried to seize it a couple of times before. Now they succeeded. Thru my assessment of dtg 04.1500BJun 1995, I would like to emphasize those concerns. I am strongly convinced that the BSA will proceed their offensive operations with only one objective: the JADAR valley.
5. In that case, SSP will be lost and about 3.000 refugees either killed or expelled towards SREBRENICA town. With regard to my first point the bn wouldn't be able to prevent a deteriorating situation as such while authorities are begging for help. Dutchbat established two temporary OP's in the vicinity of former OP(NL)E and the entrance of SSP as of today. These are OP(NL)U and OP(NL)S.
6. On top of that, the foodsituation within the enclave is getting dramatic. Within some days the warehouses will be empty. Due to the extreem bad weatherconditions of last week a lot of seeds got lost from the farmland and most of the selfmade electricity installations disappeared into the flood. There is hardly no medical aid available throughout the enclave and the hospital is not able to cope with this prospectless situation. Because of the limitations with regard to medicines and diesel my field dressing hospital cannot assist. Schools are closed since the shelling of SREBRENICA lately. Smuggling routes have been closed. Many inhabitants left their houses and moved towards the city. Therefore these developments are most critical and tension has grown to a maximum. Both civil

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and military authorities are desperate and do not foresee any suitable solution. They literally gave their lot in the hands of the bn and did an appeal on the world community.

7. As Commanding Officer of Dutchbat I would like, on behalf of the population of the enclave SREBRENICA, to ask the superior commands and the UN to make a plea for this deteriorating situation in any way and to give the bn all possibilities to implement better living conditions. The same applies for the bn itself.

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