

File 1148

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 B&H - SECTOR NE (TUZLA)  
 CIVIL AFFAIRS

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 ROUTINE/PRIORITY/IMMEDIATE/MOST IMMEDIATE  
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OUTGOING FAX NO.	DATE: July 17, 1995
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SUBJECT: SREBRENICA / TUZLA UPDATE	

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## MAIN POINTS

- \* Men who fled Srebrenica arrive in Tuzla area after week-long ordeal.
- \* HCR Ogata tours air base camp, meets Muratovic. "We'll try to move them off as fast as possible." Besaglic arrives, visits camp, Muratovic and SDA rivals.
- \* SNE braces for Zepa influx at Kladanj; BiH pressed to move forcibly displaced to Zenica. UNHCR action expands for collective centers now housing some 17,000.
- \* Wounded/Ill Still in Potocari/Bratunac; DUTCHBAT still in Potocari.

SOME OF THE SREBRENICA MEN ARRIVE

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1. Escapees from Srebrenica have arrived at Tuzla Air Base to join up with their families. UNMOs, Civil Affairs, and others have spoken separately to several individuals who describe a similar ordeal:

- 12 to 15 thousand left Srebrenica on 10-11 July.
- 5 to 6 thousand crossed into BiH 2 Corps controlled-territory in the southern Sapna area last night (16 July.)<sup>1</sup>
- Up to three thousand were killed on the way, mostly by mines and BSA engagements. Unknown others were captured. Some committed suicide. Unknown others went to Zepa.

2. Other reports state that 2 to 3,000 men have been taken to the stadium in or near Bratunac where they have been separated into two groups: Armija and civilian. (ICRC was reported to have been in Bratunac, ready to medevac the wounded/ill from there and Potoacari. The mission did not occur.)

OGATA SEES CAMP. MURATOVIC. PRESS

3. According to Muratovic, Mrs. Ogata favorably received his proposal that a Srebrenica task force be created to manage the resources for the people from Srebrenica; the task force would be headed by Minister for Refugees Muharim Cero, with participation UNHCR as umbrella organization. Mrs. Ogata was reported to have emphasized the importance of the Geneva Donors Conference, and also to have said that if adequate funds for Srebrenica displaced were not allocated in the upcoming budget, she would make sure additional resources were allocated.

4. At her press conference, the High Commissioner was pressed (not too harshly), stressed that the people forced out of Srebrenica were not refugees, but displaced persons; although UNHCR would do its utmost, the BiH government would have to do its share. Also, Mrs. Ogata was reported to have said that "ethnic cleansing is not the result of the war, it is the purpose of the war."

5. SNE Commander BGEN Haukland has pressed Muratovic to take those who may be forced out of Zepa to Zenica. Muratovic has been non-committal (though BiH Minister of Refugees Cero has told SCVAO that any Zepa displaced will go to Zenica. According to UNHCR, any Zepa displaced will be taken to Zenica.) BGEN Haukland has discussed an absolute maximum figure of 10,000 persons at the Air Base, but this figure is only hypothetical.

6. Muratovic told SCVAO that the displaced located on Tuzla Air Base would be moved off "as soon as possible."

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<sup>1</sup> BiH 2 Corps has stepped up military activity in the Kalesija region, possibly to divert the BSA from catching the escapees.



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7. Tuzla Mayor Besaglic arrived from abroad to hurry in for a tour of the camps. Besaglic held a seemingly cordial meeting with Muratovic and other national (SDA) authorities on the subject of the displaced. The local SDA organized a protest at the Air Base. One sign read "UNPROFOR are fascists."

#### TUZLA AIR BASE CAMP

8. According to its staff, UNHCR is prepared to take a higher profile role in administering the Tuzla Base Camp. UNHCR agrees that the camp can only be a temporary situation. (UNPROFOR SNE has warned of the security problem at the air base, a favorite target of the Serbs from nearby Mount Vis.)

9. Improvements continue in the facilities at the camp, which is nevertheless not satisfactory (according to the High Commissioner.) Extreme anxiety is apparent to those who talk to the mostly women who live in the camp: they fear the worst for their men; and they recall their forced expulsion. Some women describe horrible treatment at the hands of the BSA; Civil Affairs is thankful that a human rights team has arrived from Zagreb.

#### COLLECTIVE CENTERS

10. There are approximately 17,000 persons housed in collective centers among eight different communities in Tuzla-Drina Canton. The following figures can serve as an indicator, since much of the information has been collected haphazardly. Also, the numbers change by the day as the refugees move between different centers, as well as between towns.

Banovici	3,500 persons (obstina figure, corroborated by PAKBAT-2) in 8-9 centers
Gracinica	1,510 persons (Swiss Disaster Relief figure) in 9 centers
Srebrenik	3,227 persons (Swiss Disaster Relief figure)
Lukavac	3,617 persons (Tuzla Canton figure) in 16 centers
Tuzla	500+ persons (Tuzla Canton figure)
Zivinica	3,979 persons (Tuzla Canton figure) in 3 centers
Kladanj	500 persons (Tuzla Canton figure)
Dubrave	1,500 persons (Tuzla Canton figure)

11. Tuzla Canton has designated a Head of Logistics Cell, Mr. Edib Kravic who insists that all activities of NGOs will have to go through his office (ostensibly to ensure equitable distribution among the many centers.) UNHCR activity appears to be coalescing, with heavy support from NGOs and ICRC. PAKBAT-2 provides substantial support to the Banovici centers.

12. Civil Affairs visited some of the collection centers and conferred with UNHCR and Cantonal authorities. Report to be sent separately.

ENDALL.