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FROM: AKASHI, UNPF-HQ, ZAGREB *W. Fisk*

DATE: 15 JULY 1995

NUMBER: Z - 1170

SUBJECT: Situation in Tuzla and Srebrenica

1. Further to our cable Z-1168 of the 14 July on the situation in Tuzla, the following summary is drawn from today's meeting of the Emergency Group in Zagreb chaired by the Head of Civil Affairs, and further reports from Tuzla, Sarajevo and Zagreb.

2. UNHCR reports the situation in the Tuzla area seems to have stabilized. UNHCR estimates there are approximately 5,670 persons in 720 tents inside the air-base. The Bosnian Government has begun to allow relocation of displaced persons who are outside the air-base to other centers and towns around the Tuzla Canton. These figures are: 3,000 to Lukavac; 2,000 to Srebrenik; 2,500 to Zivinice; 2,000 to Banovici; and 1,500 to Gracinica. UNHCR stated that by evening 14 July, all displaced persons outside of the Tuzla airbase had moved to these collective centres. ICRC report they are giving priority to a programme of care for unaccompanied children.

3. According to UNHCR, distribution of food, water, and other emergency relief supplies is improving, although they report a small number of cases of dehydration. UNPROFOR, UNICEF and Infrastructure Management Group (IMG) have joined UNHCR in the provision of water facilities including 26 water distribution points in order to address this problem. Sanitation and hygiene conditions remain the greatest concern to UNHCR who are providing chemical toilet facilities and investigating the possibility of installing a sewer system. Other agency support includes Action Internationale Contre la Faim (AICF) (baby food and supplementary feeding for 0-3 year old children), Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) (tinned meals), International Rescue Committee (IRC) (Hygienic items), Medecins du Monde (MDM) (Clothing).

4. The Bosnian Government continues to insist UNHCR pay rents and provide financial assistance for housing and caring for displaced persons. Negotiations between UNHCR and the Bosnian Government are on-going. The Bosnian Government is

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represented by Cero, Minister for Refugees and Social Welfare, Zigic, Minister for Veterans Affairs, and Hadzic, Governor of the Tuzla Canton.

5. ICRC has counted approximately 19,700 persons transitting Kladanj. Those who have not yet reached the Tuzla area should arrive by tomorrow. Composition of displaced remain at the level of 90-95% women, children, and elderly. No more displaced persons, in significant numbers, are expected through Kladanj. This leaves a range of 10,000 to 20,000 persons unaccounted for. A strong word of caution should be added that the base figure of 42,000 inhabitants of Srebrenica was established in 1993 and remained unconfirmed. Therefore the number of detained males of draft age, or missing civilians, is uncertain. Approximately 700 males are reported by MSF to be in the Bratunac football stadium, but no other locations are yet known for the large remainder.

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6. ICRC is continuing its efforts to obtain clearance to evacuate the sick and wounded from Bratunac and Potacari, but to date with no avail. UNPROFOR, BHC in Sarajevo has attempted for several days and through all available channels to contact Pale for clearance and access to the Srebrenica area also to no avail.

7. The Zepa area was shelled yesterday and today by BSA. UKR Coy reports shelling near their OPs where BiH forces have been operating firing positions. All UKR OPs continue to be manned. There is no reported change in the confrontation line around the Zepa "safe area" perimeter, but communications are poor and UKR OPs do not cover the entire "safe area."

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