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DECISIONS TAKEN AT THE MEETING OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL
ON 9TH AUGUST 1993

The COUNCIL takes note:

Of the report on the development of the Geneva negotiations presented today. It renews its firm support for the negotiations, reaffirms that any solution to the Bosnia-Herzegovina conflict requires the implementation of the relevant UNSC resolutions, the conclusion of a lasting cease fire and the implementation of a durable settlement, and confirms its willingness to participate in such implementation. The Council underlines again that the air strikes foreseen by the Council decisions of August 2 are limited to the support of humanitarian relief, and must not be interpreted as a decision to intervene militarily in the conflict. All parties should therefore resume without delay the negotiations.

Of the latest developments in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The situation for the population continues to be dramatic and unacceptable. There should be no doubt about the firm determination of NATO and its member nations to act against those responsible so that the resolutions of the UN Security Council are respected and the suffering brought to an end. In this context, it is essential that the Bosnian Serbs lift without delay the siege of Sarajevo and that the heights around the city and the means of access are placed under the control of UNPROFOR. Actions and provocations throughout Bosnia-Herzegovina jeopardizing the delivery of humanitarian assistance should cease.

Of the importance of taking into account the safety of UN and relief agency personnel.

Of the position set out by the UN Secretary General in his letter of August 4 and confirms that NATO's actions take place under the authority of the United Nations Security Council, within the framework of the relevant UNSC resolutions, including UN Security Council resolutions 770, 776 and 836, and in support of UNPROFOR as it carries out its overall mandate.

The COUNCIL decides:

1. To approve, recalling the assessments set forth in the covering memorandum, the "Operational Options for Air Strikes in Bosnia-Herzegovina" forwarded by the Military Committee pursuant to the Council's August 2 decision, including the targeting identification process and NATO/UN command and control arrangements for air strikes. In particular, the Council agrees with the position of the UN Secretary-General that the first use of air power in the theatre shall be authorized by him. With respect to NATO, the NAC shall be the political authority that will decide on the conduct of air strikes, which will be carried out in coordination with the UN.
2. To maintain a close, day-by-day review of the situation on the ground in Bosnia-Herzegovina and at the negotiations in Geneva, and to be prepared to re-convene at short notice to decide whether to implement air strikes in accordance with the Operational Options approved in paragraph 1 above. Such a meeting may be requested by any member of the Alliance or by SACEUR or in response to a request from the UN.
3. To authorize the Secretary General to respond to the UN Secretary-General's letter of August 4, informing him of the results of today's meeting and informing him that the essential elements of the Operational Options approved today by the NAC, which were developed in full cooperation with UNPROFOR and which ensure close NATO/UN coordination in the planning and implementation of air strikes in Bosnia, will be forwarded to him.
4. To authorize the Secretary General to announce publicly the results of today's meeting, stating that NATO has approved the Operational Options for air strikes as called for on August 2, and is prepared to act in coordination with the UN, when and if the situation demands.
5. To direct SACEUR, in coordination with UNPROFOR, to proceed on an urgent basis with the target identification and planning required to carry out the Operational Options approved today, including the associated detailed changes needed to the relevant operational plans.