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PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
RADIO ADDRESS ON BOSNIA
THE WHITE HOUSE
SEPTEMBER 23, 1995
Good morning.

I want to talk to you today about the prospects for peace in Bosnia.

Over the past weeks, America's leadership and the determination demonstrated by NATO and the United Nations have helped bring Bosnia closer to peace than at any time since war began there four years ago. Let me be clear: there are many tough obstacles still to overcome. But we are determined to press forward for a lasting, peaceful settlement.
At the end of the Cold War, Serbian nationalism forced the break up of Yugoslavia. An ugly and dangerous war broke out in the heart of Europe, risking an even wider conflict. Bosnia, a land in which Muslims, Serbs and Croats had lived together peacefully for centuries, was torn apart.

As President, I have worked to do everything in our power to support the search for peace in Bosnia, to stop the conflict from spreading beyond its borders, and to ease the suffering of the Bosnian people.
We can’t force peace on the parties -- only they themselves can make it. That’s why I have refused to let American ground troops become combatants in Bosnia. But we can press the parties to resolve their differences at the bargaining table, not on the battlefield. We will spare no effort to find a peaceful solution and to help implement a settlement once the parties reach it.
Working closely with our partners from Europe and Russia, last year we proposed a peace plan that would preserve Bosnia as a state and give Bosnia's Muslims and Croats 51 percent of the land, with 49 percent going to the Bosnian Serbs. The Muslims and Croats agreed to our plan. The Bosnian Serbs did not. Instead, they laid siege to Sarajevo and the other U.N. declared safe areas, denying food, medicine and supplies to innocent civilians. They continued to make war. They refused to make peace.
This July, as the Serbs continued their assaults against the safe areas, America pressed NATO and the U.N. to take a tougher stand and our allies agreed. When a Bosnian Serb shell slaughtered 38 people in Sarajevo three weeks ago, we insisted that NATO and the U.N. make good on their commitment to protect Sarajevo and the other safe areas from further attacks. We demanded that the Serbs stop offensive actions against the safe areas, withdraw their heavy weapons from around Sarajevo, and allow road and air access to the city. When they refused, NATO began heavy and continuous air strikes against Bosnian Serb military targets.
The NATO air strikes -- many of them flown by courageous American pilots and crews -- convinced the Bosnian Serbs to comply with our demands. They stopped shelling Sarajevo. They moved their heavy weapons away from Sarajevo. They opened the roads and airport to convoys carrying food, medicine and supplies. I want to salute our pilots and crews and their NATO colleagues. Because they did their job so well, today the people of Sarajevo can walk the streets of their city more free from fear than at any time in the past year. And I want to make absolutely clear that if the Bosnian Serbs strike again at Sarajevo or the other safe areas, NATO’s air strikes will resume.
Over the past few weeks, I also ordered our negotiators to step up their efforts to get the parties back to the negotiating table. They shuttled throughout the region, and they brought the foreign ministers of Bosnia, Croatia and Serbia together in Geneva. Their hard work got the Serbs to agree to the principles of our peace plan.

Thanks to the combination of military muscle and diplomatic determination, there is a real chance for peace in Bosnia. We must seize it.
I have instructed our negotiating team to go to New York on Tuesday to meet with the foreign ministers of Bosnia, Croatia and Serbia and our allies to push the peace process forward. Then, I have asked them to return to the region to continue their intensive shuttle diplomacy and to keep the parties focused on an overall settlement.

As I’ve said, reaching a settlement won’t be easy. There are still deep divisions among the parties. But there has been progress. And what’s happening today in Bosnia demonstrates once again the importance of American leadership around the world.
Just think of the extraordinary achievements of the past year: democracy in Haiti... greater peace in the Middle East and Ireland... Russian nuclear weapons no longer aimed at our people... North Korea’s agreement to end its nuclear weapons program. Each one is a product of American leadership. In this new and changing world that we live in, America is the one country that can make a difference.
But if want to continue to make a difference -- if we want to continue to lead -- we must have the resources that leadership requires. I intend to do everything in my power to make sure our military remains the best fighting force in the world and that our diplomats have the tools they need to help those who are taking risks for peace.
We must not let our foreign policy and America's place in the world fall victim to partisan politics or petty fights. All of us -- Democrats, Republicans, independents -- should agree on the need for America to keep leading around the world. That's the lesson of the progress we are making in Bosnia. And that's the lesson of the foreign policy actions we have taken over the past year -- actions that have made the world a safer place and every American more secure.

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But if we want to continue to make a difference -- if we want to continue to lead -- we must have the resources that leadership requires. I intend to do everything in my power to make sure our military remains the best fighting force in the world and that our diplomats have the tools they need to help those who are taking risks for peace. We must not let our foreign policy and America's place in the world fall victim to partisan politics or petty fights. All of us -- Democrats, Republicans, independents -- should agree on the need for America to keep leading around the world. That's the lesson of the progress we are making in Bosnia. And that's the lesson of the foreign policy actions we have taken over the past year -- actions that have made the world a safer place and every American more secure.

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When I became President, I decided that the United States should do everything in its power to support the diplomatic search for peace, to stop the conflict from spreading beyond Bosnia, and to ease the suffering of the Bosnian people. And that is what we have done.
I also decided that we should not allow American ground troops to become combatants in Bosnia.

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From: Antony Blinken
To: George Stephanopoulos
Agency: c/o Leader Gephardt’s Office
Fax Number: 202-225-7296
Date/Time: Sept. 22, 1995
No. of pages to follow: 4

Message: George -- Berger wants to get this out to the party within the next 10/15 minutes. He didn’t go for the insert we discussed, so call him if you want to push it.

Tony
9/22/95 1 p.m.

PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
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THE WHITE HOUSE
SEPTEMBER 23, 1995

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September 21, 1995  9 p.m.

To:       Tony Lake
          Sandy Berger
          Nancy Soderberg
          Don Baer/Michael Waldman
          George Stephanopoulos
          Jill Schuker
          David Johnson
          Peter Bass

From:     Tony Blinken

Attached, draft of President’s radio address on Bosnia, which he is taping Friday. Comments to me, please (x6-9175).

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Over the past few weeks, America’s leadership and the resolve demonstrated by NATO and the United Nations have helped bring Bosnia’s Muslims, Serbs and Croats closer to peace than at any time since this terrible war began four years ago. There is a lot of hard work left to be done. We must not underestimate the obstacles. But we are determined to seize this moment and to press forward for a peaceful, lasting settlement.

When I became President, we found a war going on in Bosnia fueled by ancient, bloody divisions.

I determined that the United States should do everything in its power to support the diplomatic search for peace, to stop the conflict from spreading, and to ease the suffering of the Bosnian people. And that is what we have done.

I also determined that we should not send American ground troops to Bosnia in a futile, costly effort to end the conflict there by force. Peace in Bosnia cannot be compelled by the United States or any other outside country. Only the parties themselves can make it. Our responsibility
is to help them resolve their differences at the bargaining table, not on the battlefield, and to spare no effort to find a diplomatic solution.

Working closely with our Contact Group partners from Europe and Russia, we proposed a peace plan that would give Bosnia's Muslims and Croats -- who make up XX percent of Bosnia's population -- 51 percent of Bosnia, with 49 percent going to the Bosnian Serbs. The Muslims and Croats agreed to our plan. The Bosnian Serbs did not. Instead, they continued to press their advantage on the ground. They laid siege to Sarajevo and the other U.N. declared safe areas, denying food, medicine and supplies to innocent civilians. They refused to make peace.

Clear that NATO/UN needed to take firm, stand against Serb attacks against Sarajevo and UN safe areas. After failing to comply with those demands, NATO began heavy air strikes against Bosnian Serb military targets.

Three weeks ago, a Bosnian Serb shell slaughtered 38 people in Sarajevo. I insisted that NATO and the U.N. make good on their commitment to protect Sarajevo and the other safe areas from further attacks. We demanded that the Serbs withdraw their heavy weapons from around the safe areas, stop offensive actions around Sarajevo, and allow road and air access to the city. When they failed to comply with those demands, NATO began heavy air strikes against Bosnian Serb military targets.

The NATO air strikes -- in which American pilots and crews played a lead role -- convinced the Bosnian Serbs to comply to our demands. They moved their heavy weapons away from Sarajevo and opened the city to cars and planes. Because of NATO's steadfastness, today the people of Sarajevo can walk the streets of their city free from fear for the first time in XX months. And I
want to make absolutely clear that if the Bosnian Serbs strike again at Sarajevo or the other safe areas, NATO's air strikes will resume.

While the airstrikes were underway, I also ordered our diplomats to intensify their efforts to get the parties back to the negotiating table. Our team convinced the foreign ministers of Bosnia, Croatia and Serbia to meet in Geneva. Then, the Serbs for the first time agreed in principle to our 51/49 partition plan for Bosnia.

Thanks to this combination of military muscle and diplomatic determination, an end to Bosnia's long nightmare is now in sight. I am determined to capitalize on the momentum for peace.

Therefore, I have instructed our negotiating team to join our contact group partners in New York on Tuesday to meet with the foreign ministers of Bosnia, Croatia and Serbia. They will

seek progress. Then, they will return to the region on Wednesday to continue their intensive shuttle diplomacy and to focus the energies of the parties on an overall settlement.

As I've said, I want to caution again that reaching that settlement won't be easy. Many, many difficult issues remain. But we are making real progress toward peace. And I want to leave you with my conviction that the progress we have made in Bosnia demonstrates once again the importance of American leadership around the world. So many of the extraordinary achievements of the past year -- democracy in Haiti, the promise of peace in the Middle East and Ireland, the fact that Russian nuclear weapons are no longer aimed at our people, North Korea's agreement to end its nuclear weapons program -- are all the product of American leadership.
I intend to do everything in my power to make sure we continue to have the resources we need to lead and to maintain a bipartisan consensus for American leadership. We must not let our foreign policy and America’s place in the world fall victim to partisan politics or petty fights. All of us -- Democrats, Republicans, independents -- should agree on the need for America to keep leading around the world. That’s the lesson of the progress we are making in Bosnia. And that’s the lesson of the foreign policy success we’ve had over the past year -- success that has made the world a safer place and every American more secure.

Thanks for listening.
September 21, 1995 9 p.m.

To: Tony Lake
   Sandy Berger
   Nancy Soderberg
   Don Baer/Michael Waldman
   George Stephanopoulos
   Jill Schuker
   David Johnson
   Peter Bass

From: Tony Blinken

Attached, draft of President's radio address on Bosnia, which he is taping Friday. Comments to me, please (x6-9175).

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In a world in which we live, America is about what we make it differ.
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Thanks for listening.
- Language, maybe

- Cast of Yugo broke up. Each other
  sorry food isn't. Me in
  part of the Italian franciscan
- Plan by common
  In the center of Europe

- I did not believe US shall return
  on its own in a war. Russia feels one
  or began militarily but they lack support if
  NATO

- Why we didn't bomb precisely.
Bosnia

- Contact group - Tuesday - Chimed by No/Bronte + EV
- 13 PM's
- Dinner team to go back at middle of next week.

- Stern worry on violating conditions.
  1. What we've been not to do
  2. What we've done (list) makes
  3. What have said

End

Long way to go - Lots of difficult coming
We have some in for due to impact of
US 1-ship.

(3) And of world (3) Must ME, NK
need to start again that US 1-ship pays
off.

I'm going to wa/c/Larsen to continue 1-ship
get some in need.

Note: I'm feeling sorry the way we
know above point.
I'm not a robot.

Tell me best real to paur in.

Bom- we've been pray for years/wh.

Start, Sanger.

Groundwork = very difficult problem.

Start of my progress.

Continue.

Human.

Feeding.

Nato's dies of July/Aug & our air paur.

Staging. Delight of ability to cover.

Launch of our asset.

Swift dune expans to Sotero.

Gearing: Staying with it take success.

Pilots soon.

Time to turn to paur t: regular table.

Deferred to prone.

No illusions can't diff - Senor obstacle, neither fit dual paths.

I have instructed.