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Bosnia-Agreement Statement

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**Original OA/ID Number:**
3382

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For Immediate Release
November 21, 1995

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

The Rose Garden

11:40 A.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. About an hour ago I spoke with Secretary Christopher in Dayton, Ohio. He informed me that the Presidents of Bosnia, Croatia, and Serbia have reached a peace agreement to end the war in Bosnia. To end the worst conflict in Europe since World War II.

After nearly four years of 250,000 people killed, two million refugees, atrocities that have appalled people all over the world, the people of Bosnia finally have a chance to turn from the horror of war to the promise of peace.

The Presidents of Bosnia, Croatia and Serbia have made an historic and heroic choice. They have heeded the will of their people. Whatever their ethnic group, the overwhelming majority of Bosnia citizens and the citizens of Croatia and Serbia want the same thing. They want to stop the slaughter; they want to put an end to the violence and war; they want to give their children and their grandchildren a chance to lead a normal life. Today, thank God, the voices of those people have been heard.

I want to congratulate America's negotiating team, led by Secretary Christopher and Ambassador Holbrooke, for their extraordinary service. Their determination, along with that of our European and Russian partners, along with NATO's resolve, brought the parties to the negotiating table. Then their single-minded pursuit of peace in Dayton made today's agreement a possibility, and eventually, a reality.

The people of Bosnia, the American people, indeed people throughout the world, should be very thankful for this event today. The peace plan agreed to would preserve Bosnia as a single state, within its present borders and with international recognition. The state will be made up of two parts, the Bosnian
Croat Federation and the Bosnian Serb Republic, with a fair distribution of land between the two. The capital city of Sarajevo will remain united.

There will an effective central government, including a national parliament, a presidency and a constitutional court, with responsibility for foreign policy, foreign trade, monetary policy, citizenship, immigration and other important functions.

The presidency and the parliament will be chosen through free democratic elections, held under international supervision. Refugees will be allowed to return to their homes. People will be able to move freely throughout Bosnia. And the human rights of every Bosnian citizen will be monitored by an independent commission and an internationally-trained civilian police. Those individuals charged with war crimes will be excluded from political life.

Now that the parties to the war have made a serious commitment to peace, we must help them to make it work. All the parties have asked for a strong international force to supervise the separation of forces and to give them confidence that each side will live up to their agreements. Only NATO can do that job. And the United States as NATO's leader must play an essential role in this mission. Without us, the hard-won peace would be lost, the war would resume, the slaughter of innocents would begin again. And the conflict that already has claimed so many people could spread like poison throughout the entire region.

We are at a decisive moment. The parties have chosen peace. America must choose peace as well. Now that a detailed settlement has been reached, NATO will rapidly complete its planning for the implementation force known as IFOR. The plan soon will be submitted to me for review and for approval. As of now, we expect that about one-third of IFOR's force will be American. The rest will come from our NATO partners and from other nations throughout the world.

At the same time, once the agreement is signed the international community will initiate a parallel program to provide humanitarian relief, to begin the job of rebuilding, to help the thousands of refugees return to their homes, to monitor free elections. In short, to help the Bosnian people create the conditions of lasting peace.

The NATO military mission will be clear and limited. Our troops will take their orders only from the American general who commands NATO. They will have authority to meet any threat to
their safety or any violation of the peace agreement with immediate and decisive force. And there will be a reasonable timetable for their withdrawal.

I am satisfied that the NATO implementation plan is clear, limited, and achievable; and that the risks to our troops are minimized. I will promptly consult with Congress when I receive this plan, and if I am fully satisfied with it when I see it in its final form. I will ask Congress to support American participation.

The central fact for us as Americans is this: Our leadership made this peace agreement possible, and helped to bring an end to the senseless slaughter of so many innocent people that our fellow citizens had to watch night after night after night for four long years on their television screens. Now American leadership, together with our allies, is needed to make this peace real and enduring. Our values, our interests and our leadership all over the world are at stake.

I ask all Americans in this Thanksgiving week to take some time to say a simple prayer of thanksgiving that this peace has been reached, that our nation was able to play an important role in stopping the suffering and the slaughter. May God bless the peace and the United States.

Q Mr. President, Congress seems deeply skeptical of sending American troops to Bosnia right now. How are you going to turn that around, and how soon would American forces have to go into Bosnia?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, first of all, I believe it's important for the Congress to have a chance to review this peace agreement and to receive the assurances from the leaders of Bosnia, Croatia and Serbia that they intend to do everything in their power to make sure the agreement is implemented in good faith and with peaceful intent and absolutely minimal violence. I think that will be an imperative part of this endeavor.

I will work with the leaders of Congress to establish a schedule for implementing that. I have placed calls to the Speaker, the Majority Leader of the Senate, and the Minority Leaders of the Senate and the House shortly before I came out here. I was only able to reach the Speaker. The others were in transit, but I will speak to them all today. And I will work with them to establish a schedule for consultation with Congress that will begin as soon as I approve the final NATO plan.
I have had extensive briefings on this plan. And as I said, I am satisfied that based on what we knew at the time I was briefed, we had a clear, limited achievable mission that minimized the risks to not only the uniformed forces of the United States, but others who would participate as well. When I see the final plan, if I remain of that opinion, I will immediately consult with Congress and we will have an agreed-upon schedule for consultations, which I think will begin immediately in terms of the detail of the peace agreement itself. And that is the responsibility that I have to bear, and I intend to assume it.

Now, we have assured Congress that there will be no complete deployment until they have a chance to be heard on this issue. The only things that will be done in the preliminary period, assuming that things go forward as we anticipate today and you hear what I think you will hear shortly from the three Presidents, is that there will be some preliminary planning done in the Bosnia area, which is absolutely essential and which we have already fully disclosed to the Congress.

But beyond that, the Congress will have a period of weeks before the final formal signing ceremony, which would trigger the involvement of NATO's forces. So that's what I expect will happen.

Let me say that I know you will have other questions about the details of this peace agreement, how it was reached, the number of 11th hours that came and passed -- and even last night at midnight, when I had my last conversation with Secretary Christopher, we were not sure whether there would be peace this morning. When I got up and we began to work on this we were not sure there would be peace. As often happens in a process like this, as I think I happened in the Middle East, something stirred among the leaders themselves and they decided that they should not let this moment pass for the benefit of their people.

So I believe we'll be able to answer all the other questions in the days ahead and the people in Dayton will be able to answer more of your questions when they have their press conference. The main thing is I ask all Americans to remember what we have seen and heard and read about for the last four years. And remember what the implications were not only for our consciences, but for the prospect that that conflict had spread.

The fact that these leaders have voted to bring an end to this and to give the people of Bosnia a peaceful Christmas and a peaceful future is something for which we should be very, very thankful.
Thank you very much.

END  

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This commitment to peace in Bosnia can put a final stop to the terrible suffering of its people -- the mass executions... the ethnic cleansing... the campaigns of rape and terror. And it can prevent the war from spreading to neighboring states and sparking a much wider conflict.

The peace plan agreed to today would preserve Bosnia as a single state -- within its present borders and with international recognition. The state would be made up of two parts: the Bosnian-Croat Federation and the Bosnian Serb Republic, with a fair distribution of land between the two. The capital city of Sarajevo would remain united. There would be an effective central government -- including a national Parliament, a Presidency and a Constitutional Court -- with responsibility for foreign policy, foreign trade, monetary policy, citizenship, immigration and other important functions. The Presidency and Parliament would be chosen through free, democratic elections, held under international supervision. Refugees would be allowed to return to their homes... people would be able to move freely throughout Bosnia... and the human rights of every Bosnian citizen would be safeguarded by an independent commission and an internationally-
trained civilian police. Those individuals charged with war crimes would be excluded from political life.

I want to commend the Presidents of Bosnia, Croatia and Serbia for heeding the will of their people. Whatever their ethnic group, the overwhelming majority of Bosnia’s citizens, and the citizens of Croatia and Serbia, want the same thing. To stop the slaughter. To put an end to violence and war. To give their children and grandchildren the chance to lead a normal life. Now, the voice of the people has been heard.

I also want to thank America’s negotiating team for their extraordinary service. Their determination and that of the European and Russian partners -- along with NATO’s resolve -- brought the parties to the negotiating table. Then, their single-minded pursuit of peace in Dayton made today’s agreement possible. The people of Bosnia, the American people and people around the world owe them a profound debt of gratitude.

But America’s responsibility does not end with this agreement. The parties to the war have made a commitment to peace. Now, we must help them make good on it. If we do not, our NATO allies may turn their backs on Bosnia as well. Then, the hard won peace would be lost. The war would re-ignite. The slaughter of innocents would begin again. And a conflict that has already claimed too many victims... and made too many widows and orphans... could spread like poison throughout the region. We must not allow that to happen.
As I have said before, a strong, proven international force is needed to give all sides the breathing room and confidence they need for the peace to take hold and the hard work of rebuilding to begin. That force is NATO. And the United States -- as NATO’s leader -- must take part.

Now that a detailed settlement has been reached, NATO can complete its planning for an implementation force -- to be known as IFOR. Two-thirds of its troops will be non-American. The international community will push forward with a parallel program to provide humanitarian relief and reconstruction assistance, to help thousands of refugees return to their homes and to monitor free elections.

I will make sure the NATO military mission is clear... that our troops take their orders only from the American general who commands NATO... that they have the authority to meet any threat to their safety or any violation of the peace agreement with immediate, decisive force... and that there is a reasonable timetable for their withdrawal.

In the days ahead, I will continue to consult closely with Congress and with the American people. Together, we must continue to stand by America’s principles and stand up for America’s interests. American leadership put a halt to the hostilities in Bosnia. American leadership made this peace agreement possible. Only continued American leadership will allow the peace to take hold. We must meet our responsibility. We must remain leaders for peace.
THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release November 21, 1995

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Now that the parties to the war have made a serious commitment to peace, we must help them to make it work. All the parties have asked for a strong international force to supervise the separation of forces and to give them confidence that each side will live up to their agreements. Only NATO can do that job. And the United States as NATO's leader must play an essential role in this mission. Without us, the hard-won peace would be lost, the war would resume, the slaughter of innocents would begin again. And the conflict that already has claimed so many people could spread like poison throughout the entire region.

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Thank you very much.

END

11:51 A.M. EST
PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
STATEMENT ON
THE BOSNIA PEACE AGREEMENT
THE WHITE HOUSE
NOVEMBER 20, 1995
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This commitment to peace in Bosnia can put a final stop to the terrible suffering of its people -- including atrocities that have violated the conscience of humanity. And it can prevent the war from reigniting, spreading to neighboring states and sparking a much wider conflict.
The peace plan agreed to today would preserve Bosnia as a single state -- within its present borders and with international recognition. The state will be made up of two parts: the Bosnian-Croat Federation and the Bosnian Serb Republic, with a fair distribution of land between the two. The capital city of Sarajevo will remain united. There will be an effective central government -- including a national Parliament, a Presidency and a Constitutional Court -- with responsibility for foreign policy, foreign trade, monetary policy, citizenship, immigration and other important functions....
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I want to congratulate America’s negotiating team, led by Secretary Christopher and Ambassador Holbrooke, for their extraordinary service. Their determination and that of our European and Russian partners -- along with NATO’s resolve -- brought the parties to the negotiating table. Then, their single-minded pursuit of peace in Dayton made today’s agreement possible. The people of Bosnia, the American people and people around the world owe them a profound debt of gratitude.
But America's responsibility cannot end with this agreement. The parties to the war have made a serious commitment to peace. Now, we must help them make it work. All the parties have asked for a strong international force to supervise the separation of forces and to give them confidence that each side will live up to the agreement. Only NATO can do the job. And the United States, as NATO's leader, must be an essential part of its mission.

Without us, the hard won peace would be lost. The war would resume. The slaughter of innocents would begin again. And a conflict that has already claimed so many victims could spread like poison throughout the region.
We are at a decisive moment. We are faced with the choice of war or peace. For America, I say, let us choose peace.

Now that a detailed settlement has been reached, NATO will rapidly complete its planning for an implementation force -- to be known as IFOR. That plan will be submitted to me for review and approval in the next few days. As of now, we expect that one-third of IFOR's troops will be American -- the rest will come from our NATO partners, and other nations around the world, including Russia.
At the same time, once the agreement is signed the international community will initiate a parallel program to provide humanitarian relief...to begin the job of rebuilding...to help thousands of refugees return to their homes...and to monitor free elections -- in short, to help the Bosnian people create the conditions for a lasting peace.
The NATO military mission will be clear and limited... our troops will take their orders only from the American general who commands NATO... they will have the authority to meet any threat to their safety or any violation of the peace agreement with immediate, decisive force... and there will be a reasonable timetable for their withdrawal.

If I am satisfied with the NATO implementation plan, I will promptly ask Congress to support American participation. And I will continue my dialogue with the American people on our responsibility to help Bosnia realize its commitment to peace.
But the central fact for us is this. American leadership made this peace agreement possible. Now, American leadership, together with our allies, must make this peace real and enduring. Our interests, our values, our leadership elsewhere in the world are at stake.

We must meet our responsibility. We must remain leaders for peace.
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Without us, the hard won peace would be lost. The war would resume. The slaughter of innocents would begin again. And a conflict that has already claimed so many victim could spread like poison throughout the region.

We are at a decisive moment. We are faced with the choice of war or peace. For America, I say, let us choose peace.

Now that a detailed settlement has been reached, NATO will rapidly complete its planning for an implementation force -- to be known as IFOR. That plan will be submitted to me for review and approval in the next few days. As of now, we expect that one-third of IFOR’s troops will be American -- the rest will come from our NATO partners, and other nations around the world, including Russia.

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American participation. And I will continue my dialogue with the American people on when we
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I will make sure the NATO military mission is clear... that our troops take their orders only from the American general who commands NATO... that they have the authority to meet any threat to their safety or any violation of the peace agreement with immediate, decisive force... and that there is a reasonable timetable for their withdrawal.

In the days ahead, I will continue to consult closely with Congress and with the American people. Together, we must continue to stand by America's principles and stand up for America's interests. American leadership put a halt to the hostilities in Bosnia. American leadership made this peace agreement possible. Only continued American leadership will allow the peace to take hold. We must meet our responsibility. We must remain leaders for peace.
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In the days ahead, as we move forward with our plans to secure the peace agreement, I look forward to consulting closely with Congress and with the American people. Without American leadership, peace in Bosnia would not have been made. Without continued American leadership, peace in Bosnia will not hold. The United States must continue to stand by our principles and to stand up for our interests. We must remain leaders for peace. That is our responsibility as Americans.
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I won't when put this place put fortune & personal lives on line of peace. They take a risk. But they have also fought together. Peaceful unification is all of them to resist difference.

No future that people of NI being talked peace won't go back. Personal attacks in tomorrow I suppose that people want peace. I say to you - you are one people. We are with you. You represent failure & will of your people.

P.S.
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I want to commend the Presidents of Bosnia, Croatia and Serbia for making the will of their people a reality. Whatever their ethnic group -- Muslim, Croat, Serb -- the overwhelming majority of Bosnia's citizens, and the citizens of Croatia and Serbia, want the same thing. To stop the slaughter. To put an end to violence and war. To give their children and grandchildren the chance to lead a normal life. Now, the voice of the people has been heard. Peace is at hand.

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- alliance forged in war, maintained for peace ... now achieve a new peace.
- no more camp for peace? THAT'S PEACE.

- findbottom line, sense of purpose of mission.
- stand at the edge of my journey. No less important challenge, but requires us to think about world we want to shape.
- because we are democracies - reach people.

We who learned together to live with fear in a democratic effort.
- how must we do it in peace? Requeen new way of thinking about world -
- carry in unity with united threat.

- can only rally people behind something. Vision of peace must be just as vital as danger of war. Choice for people to make war or our shared.

Never lived before such opportunity - must find in appropriate interpretation. Peace will have peace. Commitment to peace.
- Resources to people 
- peace for our people. No more life interrupted. Peace because of war, but
- will be sacrifices if it will take us
- less war, courage then before.

(Those who choose peace may be called on to make ultimate sacrifice for peace.)

- deadly life in metaphor.
- You are the people of past - removers.

Discussion: There can be peace if the politicians will put our of the way of the people.
- More examples of peace around world.
- Let's be part: key people (democracies) leading human kind, poised in common goal. Fighting threats to peace.

Because we are dead - if peoples don't see benefits, forces can't work for peace - cannot it requires.

Nuclear war - can't return.
- human nature.
- Reach angels of our nature.
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This commitment to peace in Bosnia can put a final stop to the terrible suffering of its people -- the mass executions... the ethnic cleansing... the campaigns of rape and terror. And it can prevent the war from spreading to neighboring states and sparking a much wider conflict.

The peace plan agreed to today would preserve Bosnia as a single state -- within its present borders and with international recognition. The state would be made up of two parts: the Bosnian-Croat Federation and the Bosnian Serb Republic, with a fair distribution of land between the two. The capital city of Sarajevo would remain united. There would be an effective central government -- including a national Parliament, a Presidency and a Constitutional Court -- with responsibility for foreign policy, foreign trade, monetary policy, citizenship, immigration and other important functions. The Presidency and Parliament would be chosen through free, democratic elections, held under international supervision. Refugees would be allowed to return to their homes... people would be able to move freely throughout Bosnia... and the human rights of every Bosnian citizen would be safeguarded by an independent commission and an internationally-
trained civilian police. Those individuals charged with war crimes would be excluded from political life.

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