

/handwritten/ REPORT

Čitluk, 29 April 1993

/word illegible/

Meeting of the HZ HB /Croatian Community of Herceg-Bosna/

- Presidency of the HZ HB
- Government of the HZ HB HVO /Croatian Defence Council/
- Members of the Presidency and government of the RBH /Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina/
- Presidents of the HVO Municipalities
- Presidents of the municipalities of HDZ /Croatian Democratic Union/

About 60 people attended the gathering.

Mate BOBAN presided the meeting.

Object of the meeting:

Information about the joint statement (with Mr. IZETBEGOVIĆ) and the political and military situation in the HZ HB

Mr. Mate BOBAN made introductory remarks.

Mr. Mile A/?KM/AČIĆ, President of the RBH government:

If the RBH will exist, and the world wants it to, then the central government will have authority in the following matters:

- preparations for the elections in the RBH
- the issue of human rights
- contact with international organisations
- international affairs
- the field of international trade
- the issue of the citizenship
- coordination of some affairs in the competence of the provinces

Referred to the powerful media propaganda of the Muslims in the world. Example: interview with A. IZETBEGOVIĆ, in Slobodna Dalmacija.

Suggested officially disputing the mandate of Mr. A. IZETBEGOVIĆ in the capacity of president (of 2 November 1992).

The Croats must be more specific about what they want in BH /Bosnia and Herzegovina/ and the Muslims about what they want.

We must ensure more effective propaganda and representation.

The standpoint of émigrés shows support for the HZ HB.

Mr. Miro LASIĆ, member of the RBH Presidency:

The HZ HB accepted the label of a State community. It saved BH as a State entity.

The Muslims are pressing for a single State with a powerful propaganda campaign via international institutions and officials.

00513958

The impression is that the Croats operate exclusively within the framework of HZ HB and not beyond (in the RBH or international organisations).

In Sarajevo, the Muslims are spreading propaganda, planning and taking action without the Croats. The actual interest of the Muslims does not lie in the direction of Serbia, but in the direction of Zagreb. That is the great /word illegible, possibly "opportunity"/ of the Croats.

The Muslims will recognise those who do not support the real interest of the Muslims in their ranks.

The Croats are giving in to the Muslims by accepting the 4:3:2 formula for a central power.

Mr. BOBAN: The Muslim political option is to disregard the Croatian people.

Mr. Franjo BORAS, member of the RBH Presidency:

Has not participated in the work of the War Presidency since June 1992.

By insisting on the civilian option, the War Presidency, with the participation of the opposing parties, is representing Muslim interests.

It is necessary to support the statement and the Vance-Owen Plan and embark on its implementation beginning with municipalities, through the Provinces and up to the Republic.

To ensure the unity of the Croatian people.

Mr. Bruno STOJIC, head of the Defence Department:

All reports from the field indicate that Muslims have not accepted the statement.

They are attacking Vitez, Busovača, Kiseljak, Konjic, etc.

They are carrying out ethnic cleansing. The Croats have been driven out from Travnik even though the town is being held under siege.

I ask for a political decision ordering units to advance into that part of the HZ HB.

Mr. BOBAN:

The political platform of the HZ HB is obvious:

- to defend every Croat and every part of the HZ HB;
- to call on the Muslims to act decently towards the Croatian people, since we have been maintaining this kind of a relationship with them for a long time;
- specific decisions are linked with the competence of bodies and individuals.

Mr. Ivan ŠARAC:

I think that the RBH cannot exist. A joint military and police command cannot exist.

It is necessary to build everything for ourselves. The resettlement of the people should be carried out in a planned and organised manner. What we succeed in defending with the military will be ours.

Mr. ZUBAK:

Visited Zenica, Busovača and Vitez together with Mr. BRNETIĆ and Mr. ŽULJEVIĆ

00513959

It is necessary to take all military measures in order to defend Vitez and Busovača. The intention of the Muslims is to cut off the Vitez - Busovača road and take over the territory.

An intensive media war is being waged against the Croats and is particularly pronounced in Radio Zenica and the 3rd Corps of the BH Army.

The Muslims are playing a particular and perfidious game. The 7th Muslim Brigade, which is allegedly out of control, has a special role in organising the dirtiest jobs against Croats (arson, arrests, brutality, etc.). The BH Army gives the impression of a well-disciplined protective force and so on.

They are trying to create the impression of insecurity in Vitez and Busovača by calling on Croat refugees to return to Zenica.

About 30 Croats were killed and 500 arrested in Zenica.

Mr. HAKOVIĆ (Livno)

Fully supports the policies of the HZ HB HDZ and Mr. BOBAN. Thinks that the SDA /Party of Democratic Action/ and the BH Army have a single political purpose, a singular unified BH of the Bosnian people with their three religions.

Finds that the members of the Presidency and the RBH government have a great deal of responsibility.

Mr. Anto VALENTA, deputy president of the HZ HB HVO:

Spoke of the events in Travnik and Vitez. The Muslims are against the HZ HB, the Vance-Owen Plan and the Croats. The Muslims have opted for war. It is necessary to postpone the conflict with the Muslims. To wait for the decision of the UN Security Council. To wait for the reaction of America regarding the Serbs. Warned about the gravity and strength of the Muslim attack from Zenica on Vitez and Busovača.

Mr. Ivica ŠANTIĆ (Vitez):

Pointed out the acceptable attitude of the HVO army towards the HVO government. Learned about it by chance eight hours before the attack in Vitez. Pointed out the initiative of the HVO in Central Bosnian municipalities for work and activities in this part of the HZ HB which have not been accepted into the HZ HB. Also pointed out the mistakes of the HVO units. No one can justify the crime in Ahmići. Great damage has been done. The reaction of the UNPROFOR (the English) is devastating for us. Believes that Mr. BOBAN and Mr. ~~NET~~BEGOVIĆ must come to Central Bosnia. People must be resettled in an organised manner.

Mr. Pero KRIŽANAC (Travnik):

Informed those present that a delegation from Central Bosnia had risked their lives to come to the meeting. Reminded those present that since the beginning of the HDZ and HZ HB activities /word missing/ and pointed out their previous decisions that, if necessary, the HZ HB army could reach Central Bosnia within two hours in order to provide assistance.

Referred to the situation in Travnik. To the number of the members of the Muslim military formations in Travnik. To the occupation of the town itself, but also the siege

00513960

of the town by our units. Believes that actual military assistance is necessary for this area and that it must arrive very quickly. Otherwise, the worst might happen.

Mr. Mate BOBAN:

The Muslims will not receive ammunition. Warned of the conduct of Muslims in BH. The BH SDA has turned down the TUDMAN-IZETBEGOVIĆ Agreement and the RBH Presidency never approved it.

Mr. MARIC, head of the HZ HB department:

Thinks that it is necessary to redefine our position on the RBH Presidency and the government and A. IZETBEGOVIĆ.

Mr. B. RAJIC, /some words crossed out/ RBH Defence Minister:

Thinks that we agree in the political option based on the HDZ tenets, the Vance-Owen Plan and the BOBAN-IZETBEGOVIĆ Statement. Thinks that the relevant bodies and individuals of the HZ HB government and departments can make particular decisions. The State institutions of power and State bodies have been underestimated. Conduct towards the legal State authorities was careless for too long.

Mr. BUNTIĆ, head of the HZ HB department:

Is of the opinion that many mistakes were made, first of all regarding Muslim and Croatian refugees, with various consequences.

/Says that/ units will carry out part of the job wherever necessary (Central Bosnia, Konjic), but /asks/ how we are to retain the territory and manage it. Thinks that a cease-fire must be arranged and negotiations held at once. Thinks that it is necessary to continue and intensify military defensive preparations. Thinks that we have to work specifically on the evacuation of the Croatian people in an organised manner from Zenica as well as from other areas towards Travnik and Vitez (the Croatian Provinces). Thinks that it is necessary to demand the recall of all foreign diplomats for whose presence we have not given our approval. Thinks that it is necessary to take an inventory of staff and that it is necessary to procure qualified staff to implement the Vance-Owen Plan.

Thinks that this demands more aggressive, consistent and better-quality propaganda in the HZ HB, RBH and the world.

Mr. Ante KRAJINOVIĆ, deputy president of the Konjic HVO:

Pointed out the development of events and situation in Konjic. President A. IZETBEGOVIĆ has made a decision to appoint Mr. Safet ČIBO as President of Konjic (Jablanica and Prozor). The rotation of that post will be organised through the BH MUP (Habib, SKENDERAGIĆ). The HVO has been declared illegal and paramilitary. The ethnic cleansing of Croats has been carried out in all villages of Konjic and in fact while the cease-fire was still in effect (the Army's forces from the Igman and the Mujahedin). Radio Konjic is under full supervision of the SDA and declares:

- that all members of the HVO government are criminals;

00513961

- that the Vance-Owen Plan is unacceptable;
- that the BH Army will protect everyone.

A BH Army order has been intercepted: "All Croatian men must be killed". They have looted the food in the villages. They use Croatian civilians as human shields in their attacks. No access is allowed to villages which have been torched in order to recover the dead and wounded.

Mr. D. TADIĆ, HVO Refugee Office:

Finds that coordination between the municipal offices and the main HVO office must be improved. Sixty thousand of our refugees can be taken care of (provided with food and accommodation). We must exercise as much control as possible on humanitarian aid. We should define a position towards the RBH Agency in Croatia which is the centre of propaganda and the battle against the HZ HB and Croatia.

Mr. I. BENDER (Neum)

Is of the opinion that Croats must not be evacuated from just any area, but one must see how, in what way and with what means the Croats and their land can be protected.

Mr. Mate BOBAN

Instead of closing remarks, emphasised:

1. Individuals on all levels must complete their tasks or leave.
2. In making a decision, certain limiting factors must be taken into account, especially when it concerns the Republic of Croatia.

Due to the events in Vitez (the village of Ahmići), EU ministers have almost announced sanctions against Croatia.

Report prepared by:

1. Pero KRIŽANAC, deputy president
2. Drago BILANDŽIJA, head

Enclosures:

1. Joint statement of Mr. BOBAN and Mr. IZETBEGOVIĆ
2. Conclusions of the meeting