

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 21, 1994

Dear Mr. Leader:

I share your deep concern about the deteriorating situation in and around the town of Bihac in northwest Bosnia-Herzegovina. We are particularly disturbed at the large-scale involvement of Serb forces from the Krajina region of Croatia, and the air strikes launched from that area against Bihac city.

As the Bihac crisis began to escalate last weekend, we took action on a number of fronts. In an emergency session of the UN Security Council on Sunday, Ambassador Albright won agreement to a Presidential statement condemning the Serb offensive and the cross-border actions of the so-called Krajina Serbs. Our Ambassadors in NATO capitals have pressed our concerns with our NATO allies and we have called for firm action in the North Atlantic Council. NATO Military Authorities with their UN counterparts are developing appropriate military responses to contain the fighting around Bihac. At the same time, we have been consulting with the government of Croatia on NATO's behalf and have obtained its approval for NATO to conduct close air support, if requested by the UN, against artillery and other targets in the Krajina region that have been involved in the assault on Bihac.

We are continuing to press our Allies on measures to limit the Serb offensive and are actively working on a range of options that could bring NATO air power to bear in response to continued escalation by Serb forces.

Ambassador Albright convened the Security Council Thursday and Friday afternoon, and again on Saturday, to underscore the seriousness of

the situation and to urge action by the UN in coordination with NATO.

In Saturday's meeting, at her urging, the Security Council adopted new resolutions on the protection of the safe areas that included the authorization to conduct air strikes in Croatia as well as Bosnia against targets threatening the safe areas. The North Atlantic Council convened Saturday night in Brussels to provide the corresponding authority to NATO forces. And as you know, NATO aircraft conducted such a strike today.

I hope you will stay in touch on this issue. I will always welcome your ideas as we work to resolve it.

Sincerely,

*Bill Clinton*

The Honorable Robert Dole  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510