



Security Council

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LETTER DATED 18 APRIL 1994 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Following the Security Council's informal consultations earlier today about the situation in Gorazde, I have the honour to transmit to you for the information of the members of the Security Council, a copy of the letter which I have addressed today to Dr. Manfred Wörner, the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

(Signed) Boutros BOUTROS-GHALI

Annex

Letter dated 18 April 1994 from the Secretary-General
addressed to the Secretary-General of the North
Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

I have the honour to refer to resolution 836, adopted by the United Nations Security Council on 4 June 1993.

In paragraph 9 of that resolution the Security Council authorized the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), in carrying out the mandate conferred on it by paragraph 5 of that resolution, "... acting in self-defence, to take the necessary measures, including the use of force, in reply to bombardments against the safe areas by any of the parties ...". The safe areas had been declared by the Security Council in its resolution 824 of 6 May 1993.

In paragraph 10 of resolution 836, the Security Council further decided that "... Member States, acting nationally or through regional organizations or arrangements, may take, under the authority of the Security Council and subject to close coordination with the Secretary-General and UNPROFOR, all necessary measures, through the use of air power, in and around the safe areas in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, to support UNPROFOR in the performance of its mandate set out in paragraphs 5 and 9 above."

In the declaration of the Heads of State and Government participating in the meeting of the North Atlantic Council held at NATO Headquarters, Brussels on 10-11 January 1994, the Heads of State and Government inter alia reaffirmed their "readiness under the authority of the United Nations Security Council and in accordance with the Alliance decisions of 2 and 9 August 1993, to carry out air strikes in order to prevent the strangulation of Sarajevo, the safe areas and other threatened areas in Bosnia-Herzegovina". You subsequently informed me that, whereas the North Atlantic Council had already authorized close air support, a further decision would be required for it to authorize air strikes. I reported this position to the Security Council in my letter of 28 January 1994 addressed to its President.

In my letter to you of 6 February 1994 I asked you to take action to obtain a decision by the North Atlantic Council to authorize the Commander-in-Chief of NATO's Southern Command to launch air strikes, at the request of the United Nations, against artillery or mortar positions in or around Sarajevo which were determined by UNPROFOR to be responsible for attacks against civilian targets in that city, which was one of the safe areas declared by the Security Council in its resolution 824 (1993). I received a positive reply to that request in your letter of 9 February 1994.

The tragic events which are currently taking place in Gorazde demonstrate the need for the North Atlantic Council to take a similar decision with respect to the five other safe areas declared by the Security Council, namely the towns of Tuzla, Zepa, Gorazde, Bihac and Srebrenica and their surrounding areas. I should accordingly be grateful if you could take action to obtain, at the earliest possible date, a decision by the North Atlantic Council to authorize

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the Commander-in-Chief of NATO's Southern Command to launch air strikes, at the request of the United Nations, against artillery, mortar positions or tanks in or around the above-mentioned safe areas which are determined by UNPROFOR to be responsible for attacks against civilian targets within those areas.

The arrangements for the coordination of such air strikes would be elaborated through direct contacts between UNPROFOR Headquarters and NATO's Southern Command, as has already been done in the case of close air support for the self-defence of United Nations personnel in Bosnia and Herzegovina and air strikes in and around Sarajevo.

I am today informing the members of the Security Council that I have addressed the above request to you.

(Signed) Boutros BOUTROS-GHALI
