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LETTER DATED 24 OCTOBER 1996 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to convey the attached communication, dated 24 October 1996, which I have received from the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

I would appreciate your bringing this to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Boutros BOUTROS-GHALI

Annex

Letter dated 24 October 1996 from the Secretary-General
of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization addressed to
the Secretary-General

In accordance with United Nations Security Council resolution 1031, I attach the eleventh report on Implementation Force (IFOR) operations. I would appreciate your making this report available to the Security Council.

There have been some signs of progress in the implementation of the Peace Agreement in Bosnia over the period following the elections there on 14 September. However, distrust and tensions between all Parties remain, as demonstrated by the difficulties in establishing the common institutions and by the confrontations which have taken place in various villages in the Zone of Separation, with refugees returning to take possession of their former homes. Clearly, the international community still faces many challenges in its efforts to bring lasting peace to the region. IFOR will continue to work closely with the Office of the High Representative and the other civil organizations in meeting this challenge. At the same time, IFOR will continue to fulfil its primary mission of ensuring compliance with the military aspects of the Peace Agreement.

As you will be aware, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) announced on 22 October the decision to defer the municipal elections in Bosnia until 1997. The implications of this decision for IFOR drawdown are currently under review by the NATO Military Authorities. I should, however, like to assure you that its overall capability will be retained until December, when its mandate comes to an end. Options for supporting a secure environment necessary for the consolidation of the peace in Bosnia after 1996 are currently under study.

(Signed) Javier SOLANA

AppendixEleventh Report to the United Nations Security Council
on IFOR OperationsIFOR Operations

1. The multinational implementation force (IFOR) currently comprises approximately 53,000 personnel deployed in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia from all the NATO nations and 17 non-NATO troop contributors. As authorized by the North Atlantic Council on 18th September, in order to prepare for the execution of the last phase of IFOR's mission, a new Headquarters, based on HQ LANDCENT, began deployment into Bosnia and Herzegovina on 1st October, to replace Headquarters AFSOUTH and Headquarters Allied Rapid Reaction Force. IFOR's overall capability will be retained until December, when the IFOR mandate comes to an end.

2. IFOR air assets continue to provide the capability required to secure the air space, defend and support IFOR ground forces, provide support to civilian agencies within mission capabilities, and monitor compliance with the Peace Agreement. IFOR maritime assets also remain deployed in support of the operation. On 2nd October, however, following the termination of sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and in accordance with the decisions taken by the North Atlantic Council and by the Council of the Western European Union, the order was given to terminate Operation SHARP GUARD.

3. IFOR has continued to fulfil its primary task of implementing the military tasks of the Peace Agreement, and maintains a continuous programme to patrol and inspect cantonment sites and to confiscate and destroy unauthorized weapons. Subject to the fulfilment of this primary task, IFOR has continued to provide support to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and to the other civilian organizations in the wake of the 14th September national elections.

4. Continuing support has been provided to the United Nations Transitional Authority in Eastern Slavonia (UNTAES) throughout the reporting period, with IFOR maintaining its regular, coordinated close air support training missions over Eastern Slavonia.

Cooperation and Compliance by the Parties

5. The Parties remain in general compliance with the military aspects of the Peace Agreement. The movement and storage of air defence and heavy weapons by the Parties is complete, and the majority of incidents of non-compliance over the reporting period have involved the confiscation of small arms.

6. In the month following the national elections, it is clear that divisions in the country still run deep, as evidenced by the Bosnian Serb boycott of the new multi-ethnic parliament on 5th October and the raising of the "Herceg/Bosna"/Croat flag at a bridge opening ceremony in Mostar on 4th October. Civilian Freedom of Movement (FOM) and Freedom of Return (FOR) continue to give

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rise for concern, with instances of ethnic harassment between all three factions. During the reporting period there have been confrontations in Jusici and other villages in the Zone of Separation around Zvornik, between Bosnian Serbs and Bosniac refugees, some of whom were armed, attempting to resettle in their former homes. The Office of the High Representative (OHR) and the International Police Task Force (IPTF), with IFOR support, have now established procedures for the peaceful, phased and orderly return of displaced persons and refugees to their homes in the Zone of Separation, based on the relevant provision of Annexes I A and 7 of the Peace Agreement.

7. In an effort to improve FOM and FOR, the North Atlantic Council, on 9th October, encouraged nations to address the feasibility of donating to the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina their temporary, installed bridges. In addition, as a contribution towards improving reconciliation in the country, consideration is being given to the holding of confidence-building courses at the NATO (SHAPE) School in Oberammergau for selected military personnel from the forces of all parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Within the limits of its primary missions, IFOR will also actively continue its work with the Human Rights Coordination Centre in Sarajevo to improve the human rights monitoring system.

Cooperation with the High Representative, the OSCE and other International Organizations

8. IFOR's close cooperation with the OSCE, the OHR, and the IPTF proved crucial in ensuring the peaceful conduct of the Bosnian national elections in September. This cooperation will continue.

9. IFOR will continue to work with the OSCE in accordance with the provisions of the Article IV Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control. To that end, and in an effort to assist the OSCE in its identification of overall reduction requirements, IFOR will continue to share relevant information with the OSCE on a regular basis. Subject to the judgements of the commanders on the ground and within the limits of its primary mission, assigned principal tasks and available resources, IFOR will also consider requests for support to the OSCE in such fields as: the provision of engineering assets in theatre to support the construction of arms reduction sites, and the transport of heavy weapons to those sites. IFOR will also be ready to consider other requests by the OSCE for assistance with Article IV implementation.

10. IFOR will continue to provide assistance to the OHR in its efforts to develop the common institutions of the Presidency, Parliamentary Assembly, Council of Ministers, Constitutional Court, Central Bank and the supporting constitutional framework. The provision of experts, of transport and communications support, and of support for short-term rehabilitation and construction projects will continue.

11. In Mostar, the IFOR presence was increased to deter potential disturbances during the transfer of police responsibilities from the WEU to the IPTF-monitored Federation Police Force, beginning on 15th October.

12. IFOR continues to support the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) through carrying out aerial and ground surveillance of alleged mass grave sites to which ICTY has given priority status. IFOR will continue to provide security and logistical support to ICTY teams investigating alleged mass grave sites in Bosnia-Herzegovina, as occurred from early July until the end of September in support of ICTY teams carrying out exhumations at several mass grave sites in the Srebrenica area.
