Peacekeeping chronicle of events
February-May 1995

A. General

5 February
NATO will not accept restrictions, like those in the former Yugoslavia, when NATO would be brought into action by the direction of the UN. The NATO Secretary-General, Claes, said in Munich, that NATO has to have a clear mandate, which could provide for an autonomous push on of the tasks assigned to NATO. (FAZ, 6 Feb, pp. 1, 2).

16 February
Despite strong opposition from President Bill Clinton, the Republican-controlled House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed a bill that would cut back US participation in UN peacekeeping and support early expansion of NATO. A counterpart bill now must be considered in the Senate, where one has yet to be proposed. President Clinton has made it clear that he almost certainly would veto the measure if it passed the Senate in the form approved by the House. (IHT, 17 Feb, pp. 1, 2).

17 February
Britain has provoked the wrath of the US by inserting itself into the middle of the acrimonious debate over American funding of the UN. Washington is angry about Britain’s attempt to negotiate a reduction in the US contribution that falls short of the full cut already passed into US law. To make matters worse, British diplomats are now reading a joint European Union proposal that would punish countries that do not pay their UN dues in full. (TL, 18 Feb, p. 14).

22 February
The UN Security Council rejected proposals by the UN Secretary-General, Boutros-Ghali, to set up a rapid reaction force for peacekeeping operations. Instead, the Council, left open the possibility to use force in future operations. The Security Council argued that peacekeeping operations have to be based on clear mandates and timetables. (NRC, 23 Feb, p. 4).

27 February
The UN and regional organizations could contribute effectively to peacekeeping within a regional framework, if they took a rigorous approach and were capable of envisaging new forms of institutional cooperation, the UN Secretary-General said. He also said cooperation between the UN and regional organizations must adapt to an ever-changing world situation. However, the Secretary-General stressed that the diversified cooperation taking place between regional organizations and the UN should not lead to a questioning of the basic principles set forth in Chapter VIII of the Charter. (UNPR DI/1839 27 Feb, p. 3).

3 March
On the day the last UN peacekeeping troops left Somalia, UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali suggested he believed that hopes for a new international order were disowned at the end of the Cold War had been dashed. Within a few months, he suggested, peacekeeping troops in Bosnia could also be on their way home. Speaking to a group of international military strategists and diplomats in Vienna, the Secretary-General said, however, that the collapse of peacekeeping in the Balkans, prompted by Croatia’s demand that UN troops begin to withdraw at the end of March, would provide a kind of opportunity to show that peacekeepers cannot stay indefinitely in places where people do not want to help themselves. (IHT, 4 March, p. 2).

9 March
The Pentagon has unveiled a new military strategy that places a greater emphasis on peacekeeping. The new strategy entitled ‘A Strategy of Flexible and Selective Engagement,’ outlines the military’s role in participating in peacekeeping and peace-enforcement operations. The new version supports ‘traditional peace-keeping operations on a case-by-case basis’ and stresses that the UN is responding to the shifting nature of peacekeeping missions by ‘continuing to develop appropriate doctrine and training for these operations’. (Defense Daily, 9 March, IPN).

16 March
A Clinton Administration request for 672 million US Dollar in new aid for 1995 UN peacekeeping was rejected before it left the first subcommittee of the US Congress in February. The House Appropriations Committee has recommended taking back 57 million dollar from funds already appropriated for 1995. The US makes big cuts in UN aid and its own foreign aid at the same time. (IHT 17 March, p. 6).

21 March
The Russian Defence Ministry has cancelled plans for a joint German-Russian peacekeeping exercise. A Russian military official said that the cancellation was due to comments made by German Defence Minister Volker Ruehe and the Bundeswehr command on Russian military intervention in Chechnya. The official said that Ruehe’s comments could be considered only as ‘interference in Russia’s domestic affairs’. (OMRI Daily Digest, 21 March, IPN).

18 April
It was proposed in a general debate of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, that the Security Council should maintain strict control over the implementation of peacekeeping mandates. Zimbabwe said some peacekeeping operations had intended to acquire additional or even different mandates, which were not necessarily in line with their original objectives. The respective areas of responsibility of political and military authorities must be clearly defined. Thailand said peacekeeping operations should be guided by the principles enshrined in the UN Charter, full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states and non- intervention in their internal affairs. Pakistan stressed that peacekeeping operations should remain in place until the causes of the conflicts in question had been resolved. (UNPR DI/1874, 18 April).

19 April
The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations concluded its general debate, which began on 10 April. Among the issues discussed were unified command and control of operations and co-operation between the UN and regional bodies.

New Zealand said unified command and control and other measures were needed to strengthen peacekeeping operations. Indonesia stressed that regional organizations had an indispensable role to play in peacekeeping efforts, although the UN had primary responsibility for international peace and security. Malaysia called for the elaboration of principles and guidelines for peacekeeping operations. (UNPR DI/1876, 20 April).

28 April
The Secretary-General met with Prime Minister Paul Keating of Australia during his visit to Australia. Mr. Keating announced that Australia would participate in the stand-by arrangements for troops and equipment for UN peacekeeping. (UNPR DI/1882, 28 April).

B. Operations

Angola / UNAVEM II, UNAVEM III

1 February
UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has recommended that a new and enlarged UN Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM III) immediately take over from the current operation, UNAVEM II, for an initial period of twelve months. The Secretary-General, in a report to the UN Security Council, said the new operation would be subject to review in the light of progress made in the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol. He noted that under the terms of the Protocol the UN had been called on to play an enlarged and reinforced role and it should respond positively to that challenge. The new responsibilities would require a sizable presence which would augment the chance for successful implementation of the Protocol. (UNPR DI/1824 3 Feb, p. 2).

2 February
Britain is considering sending a battalion of 700 troops to Angola as part of a big new UN peacekeeping operation there. (TL, 3 Feb, p. 11).

9 February
The Security Council has voted unanimously to send a 7000-member peacekeeping operation into Africa, for the first time since troops went to Somalia in 1993. The Angola mission is a critical one for the UN because a previous effort to monitor an Angolan peace accord and conduct elections after a long civil war was undone in 1992 when fighting resumed shortly after the voting. (IHT, 10 Feb, p. 6).

The South African Government said that it would not send troops to Angola as part of the UN peacekeeping force. However, South African soldiers might help to remove mines, or provide logistical support to members of the UN force from Botswana or Zimbabwe. (TL, 10 Feb, p. 12).
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12 February
The UNITA rebel movement in Angola agreed to honour a peace accord it signed with the Government three months ago aimed at ending Africa’s longest and most costly civil war. UNITA also welcomed last week’s approval by the UN Security Council of the deployment of 7000 peacekeeping troops in Angola. But it said it would have to be consulted over which countries took part in the peacekeeping operation. (TL, 13 Feb, p. 12).

17 February
More than 500 British soldiers will leave for Angola to help to set up UNAVEM III. (TL, 18 Feb, p. 1).

3 March
The Angolan Government has accused UNITA of undermining the peace agreement by provocative actions, and has warned of retaliation. A UN spokesman said that diplomatic efforts were underway in Luanda to resolve the problem. (UNPR DH/1843 3 March, p. 4).

10 March
The Security Council called upon the Angolan Government and UNITA to take steps now to ensure the prompt deployment of the UNAVEM III units on May 9.

15 March
Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali has decided to send his Special Advisor, Under-Secretary-General Ismat Kittani, to Angola. Mr.Kittani will hold discussions on ways to move the peace process forward. The Secretary-General will submit a report to the Security Council on 25 March on whether conditions for the deployment of military units of the UN Angolan Verification Mission (UNAVEM III) are being met. (UNPR DH/1851, 15 March).

16 March
UN Special Representative to Angola Alouine Blondin Beye has reported that the peace process is moving forward. Beye said that he had been able to reach all five of the so-called conflict areas in the country and that UN peacekeepers were in place in 30 locations. The UN Security Council wants a firm commitment to peace by both sides before it will agree to more than 7000 UNAVEM III peacekeepers being deployed in the country. (Reuter, 16 March, IPN).

3 May
The Government of Angola and Special Representative Alouine Blondin Beye signed a status of forces agreement regarding the UN Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM III). A spokesman for the UN described the signing in Luanda, Zambia, as an extremely important step. He noted that the UN had experienced difficulties in several mission areas due to the fact that status of forces agreements had not been signed promptly or had not been signed at all. (UNPR DH/1885, 3 May).

6 May
Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and rebel leader Jonas Savimbi met in Luanda for nearly two hours, and exchanged views to work as partners to implement the UN-brokered peace plan. The first UN infantry battalions will come from Uruguay, Pakistan, Brazil, Zimbabwe and Kenya, and are due to arrive later in May 1995. Engineering and logistical support troops from Britain have arrived begin May in Angola. (WP, 7 May).

31 May
About 300 Uruguayan infantrymen arrived in Lobito. They are the first contingent of UN peacekeepers to assume duty in Angola. (NYT, 1 June).

El Salvador / ONUSAL

17 February
UN Secretary-General, Boutros-Ghali, has recommended the establishment of a team of about eight professionals to take over the verification responsibilities and good offices of ONUSAL when its mandate ends on 30 April. In a note to the Security Council, he proposed that the team, accompanied by necessary support staff, be established initially for six months. It would verify the implementation of outstanding points on the peace agreements and provide a continuing flow of accurate and reliable information to keep the Council informed. (UNPR DH/1835 21 Feb, p. 2).

2 March
The Head of ONUSAL, Enrique Ter Horst, has warned that the peace process in the country is still incomplete with only two months of the peacekeeping operation’s mandate remaining. Delays in implementing the peace process have occurred in the areas of public safety, electoral reforms, human rights, programmes to reincorporate former combatants into civilian society and land transfers. According to the original time-frame of the 1992 peace agreement, the peace process was to be completed by June 1. (NYT, 2 March, IPN).

28 April

Former Yugoslavia

UNPROFOR / UNCR
UNPREDEP / ICFY

1 February
Serbs eased their grip on a major road into Sarajevo, opening it to international charitites. But the route remained closed to everyone else in the Bosnian capital, which has been cut off from the outside world since July. (IHT, 2 Feb, p. 2).

The UN in Sarajevo is investigating the shooting of four Bosnian soldiers by French peacekeepers patrolling the demilitarised zone around Mount Igman, an incident that prompted questions among UN staff at the legality of the operation and political unease at this unusual use of force. (Ind, 2 Feb, p. 10).

2 February
The Bosnian government, Serbia and key international negotiators lined up in rejecting French calls for an emergency summit meeting to galvanize the Bosnia peace process. The French Foreign Minister Alain Juppé called for a new international conference to try to revive stalled negotiations between the Muslim-led government in Sarajevo and the Bosnian Serbs before the fragile cease-fire, in operation since January 1, expires on April 30. (IHT, 3 Feb, p. 2).

The Bosnian President, Izetbegovic, threatened the Croatian Serbs to attack them on their own territory in Croatian Krajina, if the UN were not capable to end the fighting in Bihać. (NRC, 2 Feb, p. 5).

3 February
Foreign Minister Mate Granic of Croatia will visit Yugoslavia within a month in an effort to spur diplomatic recognition and reduce the threat of renewed war, Croatian government sources said. Mr. Granic will explore the prospects for peacefully ending the deadlock over the future of the rebel Republic of Serb Krajina on Croatian territory. (IHT, 4 Feb, p. 2).

Special Representative Yasushi Akashi called for renewed diplomatic initiatives and political negotiations to complement the accelerated implementation of the cessation of hostilities agreement between the Bosnian Government, Bosnia Serb and Bosnian Croat leaders. (UNPR DH/1824 3 Feb, p. 3).

5 February
Bosnian Muslims, and Croats, under pressure from the US to shore up their fragile federation, agreed to submit any grievances to an international mediator for binding arbitration. US officials who brokered the agreement at a meeting in Munich portrayed the nine-point accord as an important diplomatic step in containing the Bosnian civil war. (IHT, 6 Feb, p. 1).

Bosnia’s warring factions agreed to open roads across Sarajevo’s airport to civilians as the people of the besieged city marked the first anniversary of a market massacre that galvanized international will to intensify peace efforts, Reuters reported. (IHT, 6 Feb, p. 8).

6 February
EU foreign ministers backed a French proposal that calls for a special international conference on the former Yugoslavia. Such a summit could pave the way to an international conference to deal with all matters relating to the conflict in former Yugoslavia, the ministers said. (IHT, 7 Feb, p. 5).

A line of civilian cars drove out of Sarajevo, the besieged Bosnian capital, for the first time in seven months. The UN called it an encouraging sign of cooperation between the Government and separatist Serbs amid a string of setbacks to a month-old truce. (TL, 7 Feb, p. 12).