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Commanding Officer
1(NL)UN Infbn (Dutchbat3)
Compound POTOARI
SREBRENICA
Bosnia-Herzegovina

Commander
Bosnia-Herzegovina Command
HQ UNPROFOR
SARAJEVO

Thru:

9 July 1995

Commander
Sector North East
TUZLA

Nr: TK95113

Ref: TK95112 of 7 July 1995

Subject: Deteriorating situation in SREBRENICA

BACKGROUND

1. As of Thursday 6 July 1995 at sunrise the BSA started offensive operations by attacking several ABIH positions along the CL and by shelling OPs, battalion HQ and SREBRENICA itself. By ref, I did inform you about the deteriorating situation including an overview of civilian casualties till that very moment. I also did express my concerns about the military and humanitarian situation in and around the enclave and gave an assessment of the possibilities to be explored by the BSA.
2. During three days these operations have been executed by all means: attacking ABIH and UN positions, shelling the enclave and suppressing Dutchbat thru intimidation by using artillery, mortars and MLRS (M-63 and M-77) overhead compound POTOARI with over 200 soldiers. Most of my OPs have been shot by mortars. BSA does exactly know what they are doing and till how far they can go. They do execute their operations according to a predominated and well-organised plan.
3. Yesterday at 1400 hrs, OP(NL)F did receive another three hits by T-55 while ABIH positions were already left due to heavy fighting and have been disabled. The OP-crew managed to abandon the OP by APC under the threat of that T-55. During their withdrawal, local ABIH tried to stop them by blockading the road. At that moment one of the soldiers has been shot and died in the field dressing station afterwards.
4. At 1840 hrs both OP(NL)U and OP(NL)S were surrounded by BSA forces and ordered to surrender. For both crews there was no way turning back because of the resistance by the ABIH troops in positions in depth.

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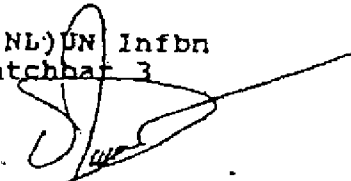
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5. Both OP-crews are now in BSA territory with their APC and most of their equipment. In my opinion, the soldiers will be treated by courtesy, however their APCs including ammo and equipment will be lost. I was able to communicate with them: they do find till now.
6. The situation in and around the enclave is extremely tense again. At this moment Swedish Shelter Project in the south has been shelled. All refugees and inhabitants of villages in the surroundings left their houses and entered the town of SREBRENICA, about 3 to 4 thousand persons.

COMMANDERS ASSESSMENT

7. Now the BSA has overtaken several positions in the south-eastern part of the enclave and created their 'freedom of movement' around ZELENI JADAR [the vicinity of former OP(NL)E] and the road towards JASENOVA and the mining-area, they will proceed their operations in western direction through JADAR valley up to mount KAK. I did express these concerns already last month.
8. Proceeding their operations does mean that OP(NL)K and OP(NL)D in the south will be pushed out as well. The BSA will be able to execute these offensive actions according to their plans as mentioned in par. 2. By that time they will have full control over the southern part of the enclave.
9. If they manage to reach their objectives - which in my opinion they can in due time - then two possible goals are left. Firstly the conquest of the entire enclave, secondly the the enhancement of the occupation of the southern part.
10. Using CAS in all possible ways is in my opinion not feasible yet. It will provoke the BSA in such way that both SREBRENICA itself and OPs and compounds will be targeted by all means. Especially the MLRS M-63 north of OP(NL)P, the MLRS M-77 within BRATUNAC and all their artillery and mortars will launch their missiles and rounds at fixed targets. Unless these weapons systems could be eliminated in once which is hardly impossible.
11. For your information.

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