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## Documentation

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### Bosnian VP: 'Europe is in a situation like 1939'

*The following are translated excerpts from an interview with Bosnian Vice President Ejup Ganic that appeared in the Danish paper Berlingske Tidende on Aug. 22:*

**Q:** President Izetbegovic has declared that he is willing to accept some form of a three-way split of the country. If he signs such a peace settlement, will you and the Army respect it?

**Ganic:** No. He has to get it democratically accepted here in Sarajevo. The very basis of the negotiations is wrong. Owen and Stoltenberg have to openly state whether they accept ethnic cleansing as a basis for the peace settlement or not. They are trying to force us to do that in Geneva. If there were more openness concerning the negotiations, everybody would be able to see what it is that they are forcing us into.

I demand that Bosnia remain a united nation. We are occupied by Serbia and Croatia. Why make it more complicated than it is? We are squeezed in between these two powers. Perhaps it is our destiny, that all Bosnians are going to be killed. But nobody will ever force me to sign my own death warrant.

**Q:** You are very tough in your criticism of Great Britain and France. Why do you think that these two countries should be so opposed to the Bosnian Muslims?

**Ganic:** The British still have unsolved problems in relation to Germany, which they accuse of swallowing up the Balkans. Therefore, Great Britain wishes instability here. London equates the Bosnian Muslims with the Muslims they hate. The British U.N. troops only follow orders from London. Boutros-Ghali has practically no command over them. France is trying the well-known old colonial methods. They want to be where the other Great Powers are fighting. It's all a big mess of old European conflicts.

**Q:** The U.N. is now keeping the majority of the population of Sarajevo alive through a difficult emergency aid operation. Do you see any progress?

**Ganic:** The U.N. here in Sarajevo is totally irresolute and disoriented. It's almost tragi-comical to watch them. These are troops from different countries, each with their own policy. It is deeply tragic. In the end it may lead to the dissolution of the U.N. . . .

This is an experiment which Europe is going to regret. This virus of ethnic cleansing will spread, if it isn't stopped in Bosnia. Europe is in a situation like that of 1939.

## Armenians struggle to break blockade

by Konstantin George

In July and August, the "war between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the Armenian-inhabited region of Karabakh," as it is generally called, has undergone a qualitative transformation, beyond the confines of Karabakh to cover large parts of Azerbaijan. In reality, the war has been not only "over Karabakh," but has been forced on Armenia by the crippling blockade imposed by Azerbaijan and Turkey.

Earlier Armenian military operations had been confined to driving Azerbaijani forces out of Karabakh and breaking the encirclement and blockade of Karabakh by seizing the stretch of Azerbaijan territory separating Armenia proper from Karabakh. Between April 1992 and June 1993, Armenia had achieved both of these goals by military actions. By June it held firmly all of Karabakh plus two corridors to it: through Lachin in the south, and through Kelbecer in the north. The long-sought union of Karabakh with Armenia had been achieved. On Aug. 22, Armenia dropped all pretenses that Karabakh is independent, by appointing Sershevik Sarkisyan, the commander of the Karabakh Self-Defense Forces, and self-styled "defense minister" of Karabakh, as Armenia's new defense minister.

Armenian forces operating from Karabakh during July and August have fanned out to the northeast, east, and south, in a series of offensives deep into Azerbaijan proper. By the last week of August, some 20% of Azerbaijan was either in Armenian hands or totally cut off from the rest of Azerbaijan.

In July, the Armenians, advancing along the main road northeast out of Karabakh, captured the Azerbaijan district capital of Agdam, which had a pre-war population of 150,000. Now it is a ghost town. During the years of war that devastated Karabakh, Agdam had served as the forward headquarters and main base of the Azeri forces that had shelled and attacked Armenian towns inside Karabakh.

In August, Armenian forces pushed south from Karabakh and crushed the Azerbaijan defense lines. This breakthrough has put them in a position to advance to the Iran-Azerbaijan border at the Araks River any time they choose. These military operations concluded with the capture of two Azerbaijani towns, Fizuli and Jebrail, respectively on Aug. 22 and 24, and the advance of Armenian forces to within 15 kilometers of the Iranian border. Fizuli and Jebrail, like Agdam, were critical staging areas for the years of Azerbaijan attacks into Karabakh. All of southwestern Azerbaijan between Armenia-Karabakh and the Iranian border, is now either in Arme-