
Clinton Presidential Records Mandatory Declassification Review

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DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1010

PLEASE STAFF

ASAT 20050
Feeley cc
16 JAN 1997
Bass



[Signature]
MEMORANDUM FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR NATIONAL
SECURITY AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: Repatriation and Resettlement of Bosnian Refugees

In the aftermath of the January 9 Deputies Committee meeting, I remain concerned about the adequacy of our approach on the critical return of refugees issue.

While there appears to be a considerable degree of consensus on the broad contours of our policy, we still have not crafted an implementation plan for refugee return to majority and minority areas, as well as locations within the Zone of Separation (ZOS). The devil is very much in the details.

We continue to believe that such a plan is very much needed, and would urge that it be developed by the State Department and USAID in concert with UNHCR, IPTF, SFOR, the HIREP and other appropriate partners. At a minimum, this plan should:

1. Provide a detailed action plan for the return of refugees to majority areas, including how donor assistance is folded in so that housing and other forms of reconstruction assistance are well integrated with the overall return program;
2. Describe specifically how returns are to occur in the Zone of Separation (ZOS) in a manner which minimizes the potential for provocative actions; and,
3. Lay out how refugees are to be returned in targeted minority areas in a well-managed, prioritized, and time-sequenced fashion.

Our refugee strategy must be proactive, not reactive. We must avoid overtaxing SFOR's capabilities and minimize the possibility of incidents that could require a forceful SFOR response. A carefully developed implementation plan that provides a specific framework for refugee returns will help minimize this risk.

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PER E.O. 13526**

[Signature]

John P. White

WWD -
Staff to Feeley -
X-ref 9 Jan
DC Mtg Paper

cc: Deputy Secretary of State Talbott

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