Boutros-Ghali says U.N. will not be blackmailed

Reuters, April 15, 1994

MADRID, April 15 (Reuter) - U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said on Friday the United Nations would not give in to pressure from Bosnian Serbs in the former Yugoslavia.

"The United Nations will not give in to blackmail. It represents the will of the international community and if the international community demands the use of force, the United Nations will use force," Boutros-Ghali said in Madrid.

Bosnian Serb forces have detained or placed under house arrest about 200 U.N. personnel and a U.N. spokesman said on Friday the detentions might be aimed at deterring further NATO air raids.

"We are negotiating with the Bosnian forces and we hope to find a solution quickly. I am quite optimistic," Boutros-Ghali said after talks with Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez as part of a three-day official visit.

The secretary-general reiterated his determination to call for air strikes again if U.N. forces were in danger. NATO planes fired on Bosnian Serb positions around the besieged Moslem enclave of Goradze on Sunday and Monday.

"If it is necessary, we will not hesitate to call again on NATO to use force to protect the U.N. forces. This is a clear warning to all those elements in Yugoslavia who are trying to oppose the U.N.," he said.

Boutros-Ghali also referred to Russian discontent with the NATO air strikes, expressed by President Boris Yeltsin during his visit to Madrid earlier this week.

"The Russian authorities in New York were told about the planned strikes before they took place," Boutros-Ghali said.

But he agreed with Yeltsin's comment that military action would not bring peace in the former Yugoslavia.

"I think that the role of the U.N. is to encourage dialogue and find a peaceful solution."

Boutros-Ghali said the United Nations agreed with Belgium's decision to withdraw its 420 troops from Rwanda and added he was in daily contact with Belgian Foreign Minister Willy Claes.

Asked whether the rest of the 2,500-strong U.N. contingent would be withdrawn, he said: "The Security Council will decide if it should maintain a military presence in Rwanda."

He said the Council would also decide whether to replace the Belgian forces with others and said he had included changing the current U.N. mandate and

sending more troops as one option in a letter he sent to the Security Council earlier this week.

The United Nations would also continue to work towards a ceasefire and would try to get the Hutus and Tutsis to agree an accord based on the Arusha agreement of August 1993, if this was what the warring factions wanted, he added.

Earlier, students calling for greater U.N. intervention in Western Sahara confronted Boutros-Ghali as he entered the Carlos the Third University in Madrid to receive an honorary doctorate.

He was handed an open letter, calling for a greater effort by the United Nations to solve the conflict between those seeking an independent Western Sahara and the Moroccan authorities. The area is a former Spanish colony.

Boutros-Ghali flies to Barcelona on Friday evening where he will spend a day before leaving on Saturday afternoon.

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