



8, rue Saint-Sabin - 75544 Paris Cedex 11 - France - tél. (33) 1 - 40 21 29 29

Sir David Hannay
President of the United Nations Security Council

Paris, October 13th 1994

Dear Sir,

The international humanitarian organisation Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) has been present in former Yugoslavia since the beginning of the conflict that has been ravaging the country for the past two years. More than 50 MSF expatriate volunteers have been helping, without discrimination, the civilian victims of this war.

I would like to draw your attention to the difficulties our organisation is facing in getting relief aid to the civilian populations in eastern Bosnia's Muslim enclaves (Srebrenica, Gorazde and Zepa) following resolution 943 adopted by the Security Council on September 2nd 1994.

As you are aware, this resolution details measures intended to ease international sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) .

It approves the decision of Belgrade to close the border between the FRY and Bosnia Herzegovina .

It restricts all transit of commercial or military material through the FRY destined for Serb-held Bosnia, with the exception of "clothes, food and medication" necessary to cover the humanitarian needs essential for the survival of the civilian population.

However, it must be noted that the list of materials, drawn up by the Security Council, that are exempt from the embargo does not include "logistical and sanitation material". With the oncoming of a third winter under siege, this type of material is of the utmost necessity for the shelter-repair programmes carried out by our teams in the enclaves of Šrebrenica, Gorazde and Zepa.

.../...

For this reason we request that, as is in your power, **the list of humanitarian materials exempt from the embargo be extended to include the materials necessary to give shelter to the populations in need.** These materials are essential for the survival of the enclaves' civilian populations who are currently living in war-torn shelters. These programmes are of an exclusively humanitarian nature, seeking to help 2000 families who are still living in precarious shelter in Gorazde as well as 1000 others in Srebrenica.

Our Belgrade-based team is unable to transport the logistical material that it has stocked in hangars there (see list annexed). As a result of the inadequate arrival of supplies, our programmes in the enclaves have been at a standstill for weeks.

Awaiting the vote of a new resolution detailing a more appropriate definition of the humanitarian materials exempt from the embargo and considering the urgency to resume this programme before winter, directives could be addressed to the United Nations' monitors in Ex-Yugoslavia authorising a more flexible application of resolution 943 in the field with regards to logistical material destined for eastern Bosnia's Muslim enclaves.

The future of the enclaves' 100 000 inhabitants is uncertain and depends on the help of the International Community for survival.

Please do not hesitate to call us for any further information.

In the hope that our request will be given serious consideration,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'M. R.', followed by a horizontal line and a period.