

to greg rico golf and cathy igor edwin sierra
fm team pale pierre mario alessandra stephane laure

Hello everybody

hope everything is ok, and happy to know that one convoy succeed to enter in sierra, and that it was a relatively quiet day in golf... from our side, today we were contacted by the vice pdt of RS, Steph saw him. and we met with dr kalinic from MOH. Actually, not really good news. we have still a close contact with them, but the level of discussion has changed.

According to them, there is a strong opposition from the military side to allow our rotations because of the military situation in the country (offensive in Sarajevo area but not only). They pretended not to be able for the time being to change the mind of the military side.

Their proposition was that MSF E/F asks the french government to contact Ni in Pale to pressure him to have the rotation. This contact will give him the opportunity to have contact with the representatives of the french diplomacy. They hope that it will open new channels of negotiations and contacts.

Imagine our surprise to hear this speech even if we can understand that there is a crisis between civilian and military authorities in RS. To be clear, they are trying to involve us in political matter out of our principles. The whole thing is touchy as you can imagine. We must have new meetings tomorrow with them. After discussions with HQs, we are thinking that this blackmail is hardly acceptable.

At the same time, UNHCR is going under the same blackmail, this is also confidential of course.

What to do ?

There are 2 ways of solving this.

First, the unacceptable one, which is to put our teams in the enclaves, that's you, as a kind of merchandise between Serb negotiators and French #occidental# diplomatic intervention on which we have no control at all, knowing that the Serbs will play this game very professional - as they did with the blue helmets - and even more, putting an additional constraint on all future activities in the enclaves, as they can use this manipulation every time they want...for any event they want.

Second, a difficult one, which is to refuse this burglar type of bargain and say that we stick to our position : ask for acces, a normal team rotation and continuation of all humanitaraiian activities knowing that ... this could very quickly have a boomerang effect on different levels : in and out clearances for enclaves and Pale teams, not probable but possible security constraints, maybe taken as temporary hostages, maybe even expulsion from the enclaves and Serb Republic, you just name it.

If there would follow an unacceptable Serb reaction to this proposal, then we might have to take other measures, which have not to be discussed here and now, but which we are already preparing.

We want to defend the second proposal tomorrow and keep you updated on any new development which follows during the day.

This implies also that we would ask you to play this business tough, as we are doing it here and that there is no dissociation in the official message. We know this is quite a hard bottom line for you all, we know that you are tired, fed up with all the shit, but can you still hold on for a week, or more...?

We will do everything what lies in our power to back you up as much as possible.

What are your first reactions ???

Anyway, we think the Pale team is in the same situation as you now... we too, we need clearances to leave, you know, although we completely understand that your working/living conditions cannot be compared with ours.

Take care, have nice dreams - if possible - and cross your fingers for tomorrow.

Hugs and kisses.

Stephan, Laure, Alessandra, Pierre, Mario.

Especialy for Rico/Greg, answers to questions.

1. Letter Djurdjic : we said we had already sent it, but we have sent it again by fax and by hand mail...

2. shared responsability : no, we have the decisional responsability for our teams, while they have to respect certain principles.

3. drugs : are in warehouse pale