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SUBJ: THE Z-4 PLAN AND ITS INITIAL RECEPTION IN KNIN

1. Representatives of the international community visited Knin during the evening of Monday 30 January 1995, in order to present the "Z-4" plan to the "RSK" authorities.
2. The visiting party seems to have been led by US Ambassador GALBRAITH and are reported to have included French Ambassador GAILLARD, representing the Presidency of the EU, and Russian Ambassador KERESTEDZHUYANTS, together with the ICFY Deputy Co-chairmen, Ambassadors AHRENS and MATACOTTA.
3. The delegation met the "RSK" senior leadership, "President" MARTIC, "Prime Minister" MIKELIC and "Foreign Minister" BABIC but they recieved a firm rebuff, since the "RSK" declined to receive the plan. There was some discussion but no acceptance of the plan even as the begining of a negotiating process. "President" MARTIC is reported to have done most of the talking, although in more discrete meetings last week Dr BABIC had been more forthcoming.
4. "President" MARTIC is reported to have welcomed the recent progress with the Economic Agreement but to have said that it was too early to start discussions on political matters, until there was more confidence between the communities. It is also understood that Ambassador GALBRAITH admitted that the Z-4 plan was being presented earlier than had been expected, because of the pressure that President TUDJMAN was applying to speed up negotiations, as part of the UN mandate debate.
5. "President" MARTIC has been interviewed for Radio Knin, today, and has said that "RSK" will not consider the Z-4 plan until the UNPROFOR mandate has been extended. "Foreign Minister" BABIC, in a recent statement, said that the future status of the "RSK" must be decided by the population of the "RSK".
6. HRC KNIN has, this morning, had a meeting with "RSK" "Minister of Defence" Mr TANJGA (an ex-Zagreb academic, member of the SSP and Milosevic supporter) who also said that it was too soon for substantive political negotiations to take place and the Economic Agreement must be allowed more time; four

items have been agreed, there are another 15 to be discussed. He accused the international community of playing President TUDJMAN's game. It is understood that there was not a good personal rapport between the leader of the visiting delegation and the "RSK" "Ministers" with whom he had talks. There is even some resentment at the partial nature of the name of this plan - why Z-4, not K-4!

7. An initial opinion, from very limited interviews with "RSK" "citizens", is that some form of highly independent autonomy for the "RSK", albeit within Croatia, might very reluctantly be considered better than continued hostility, isolation and poverty.

8. An unscheduled meeting of the "RSK" "government" has been called for today. We assume that this is to discuss the most recent developments

9. It is understood that the Z-4 delegation had planned to go on to Belgrade, from Knin. However, they have now decided against this visit.

10. RADIO KNIN. The normal pattern of Radio Knin news bulletins has been drastically curtailed. It is believed that this might be associated with the current political and negotiating situation. Radio Belgrade has been transmitted at some times, instead of local material.