PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC   PARIS, November 15, 1993

The General
President's Chief of Staff

N O T E
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to the attention of
the President of the Republic

S U B J E C T: Your meeting with Mr. Léotard on November 15 at 17:00.

1. Ex-Yugoslavia

        The clashes between Muslims and Croats continue in central Bosnia. After the successes that were obtained at Vares last week, the Muslims suffered their first reversal at Fojnica yesterday.
        Violent encounters have also been taking place between Muslims and Serbs in the region north of Sarajevo.
        After the failure of the negotiations in Oslo, the Serbs of Krajina and the Croats organized a meeting in Knin, on November 11, to show that the negotiations had not been severed.
        There was some diplomatic action in Sarajevo over the weekend, with the visit of Mr. Tchourkine and the foreign affairs ministers of Turkey and Croatia.
        The humanitarian convoys in central Bosnia have been suspended for three weeks as a result of the death of a Danish conductor. The United Nations' special envoy, Mr. de Mello, declared that the convoys could restart this week but excluded the use of force to access the routes.

2. Somalia

        The first elements of the French contingent of the United Nations force (UNOSOM) were drawn back to Djibouti. Retreat operations will continue until mid-December. Responsibility for the Baidoa Zone was officially conferred November 14 to the Indian brigade charged with the succession. The French detachment of 100 men, which will remain until March 31, will be placed under the control of this unit, whose fine quality General Quadri emphasizes.

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        The disengagement of French means will not be without risk, because of the worrying development of the situation in Mogadishu. We are, in effect, waiting for American operations to

pick back up, to try to limit the consequences of rearming the militias, who will control the sector from now on.

Also, the capital's port is a necessary point of passage for the loading of vehicles and equipment from our contingent, which will be repatriated via a sea route.

3. Rwanda

Belgium has announced the imminent arrival of a contingent of 370 men, who will provide a framework for the United Nations battalion deployed to Kigali.

This unit could become operational in one month, which would allow the withdrawal, before Christmas, of the Noroit detachment.

All the same, the opposition to the Arusha Accords, within the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) as well as within the Rwandan army, has been strongly reinforced by the tragic events in Burundi.

The arrival of Belgian troops, in particular, will be taken very badly by those in the governmental forces who openly denounce the links between Brussels and the Tutsi aristocracy.

4. Burundi

The hate and lack of understanding between the two communities is so deep that the chances of the legitimate government succeeding seem very slim.

The Organization of African Unity (OAU) announced the next dispatch of a mission of 200 people, including 80 soldiers, charged with protecting the government and monitoring the neutrality of the armed forces.

Its deployment, at this stage, is hypothetical, to say the least.

5. Cambodia

The French contingent returned to France last week. Our soldiers, first to arrive in Cambodia in November 1992, were the last to leave the country.

At the request of the Cambodian government, and in order to apply the intergovernmental accord of July 6, 1993, we will remain in Cambodia, where a military assistance mission will help the country organize its national armed forces and create a police force.

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6. Miscellaneous

Mr. Léotard will propose, at the next ministerial council, a communication from the government on the Defense Minister's participation in operations to maintain peace in Cambodia and Somalia.

The defense budget was voted on last week in the National Assembly. Mr. Léotard affirmed, from different speeches, that the government was opposed to any change in nuclear doctrine and that the current debate should not lead to trivialization of nuclear weapons.

Concerning the tests, the minister declared that the question was not to know <u>if</u> but <u>when</u> we should restart them.

General QUESNOT