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ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC OF BiH¹
COMMAND OF THE 28th DIVISION
Strictly confidential No.01-132/95
Srebrenica, 21 June 1995

DEFENCE OF THE REPUBLIC
MILITARY SECRET
STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

Notification about measures taken
in connection to your Order
strictly confidential No.01/1-658/1, dated
19 June 1995, is hereby delivered.-

COMMAND OF THE 2nd CORPS TUZLA
T U Z L A

The problem of departure of Army of RBiH members and civilians from the protected zones of Srebrenica and Žepa in the directions of Tuzla, Kladanj, and Serbia, has been present since the first days of the demilitarisation of these areas. Throughout that entire period, the military and civilian authority in Srebrenica have been taking a series of measures to prevent those departures but all those measures did not give significant results in practice. The reason for that is that the departures are planned within smaller groups that also carry out the organising and which are difficult to expose through operative work. A certain number of people, naturally, are familiar with the intentions of individuals and groups that are preparing to depart but they mainly sympathise with them and following the line of least resistance they are reluctant to give information about them. Sometimes those groups are exposed and their attempts of exiting the protected area prevented, and disciplinary measures of military custody were taken against them. For all the persons who complained about the lack of food and who planned on leaving these areas for that reason, we managed to obtain and provide aid in that sense. However, during the summer months, it is as if a sort of strange wave simply floods the people and suddenly creates euphoria making them think the best solution is to depart towards Tuzla, due to which the entire area is literally stirred and a great majority of people is ready to move at that time. These days, we are going through such a situation. The order of the Commandant of the 28th Division Kov², strictly confidential No.01-57/95, dated 27 May 1995, forbids any movement of individuals and population groups, especially soldiers, between the enclaves of Srebrenica and Žepa without an authorisation issued by the Command of Units for members of OS³, with which the Command of the Division must agree. That same Order also states that the commands of all units within the Division's z/o⁴ are obligated to gather information through the work of intelligence bodies and bodies of the military security service about the persons who are intending to leave the protected area with the aim of crossing onto other free areas of RBiH⁵ or heading in the direction of Serbia, and are to prevent their attempts through operative work. The above-stated bodies of military units' commands are obligated to exchange information with SJB⁶ and to accomplish the most successful possible cooperation with them so as to achieve higher work efficiency.

Besides the above-stated Order, the Commandant of the 28th Division Kov also issued the Order, strictly confidential No.01-114/95, dated 17 June 1995, obligating the Command of the 285th IBlbr⁷ to, through operative work of the military security service and intelligence bodies of its Command, take all necessary operative measures and through cooperation with Žepa SJB disarm all military personnel and civilians who are found with weapons on them in the Žepa area without adequate authorisations by the superior commands, apprehend the persons, after which they would be returned to Srebrenica under escort so repressive measures could be taken against them. Sadly, despite all measures we are taking, a certain number of smaller groups still manage to get past both our and aggressor's troops and leave the protected area. We are aware of all negative consequences that a mass departure of men fit for the army and them taking away all armament and ammunition would have for the civilians of the protected area. With the aim

¹ Translator's note: Bosnia and Herzegovina

² t/n: Land Forces

³ t/n: Armed Forces

⁴ t/n: zone of responsibility

⁵ t/n: Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina

⁶ t/n: Public Security Station

⁷ t/n: East Bosnian Light Brigade

of taking more extensive and more concrete measures for preventing that from happening, today I held a meeting with units' commandants and their assistants for intelligence affairs [and] military security, which was also attended by members of the Command of the Division, [and] during which we discussed in detail the problem of leaving the demilitarised zones and agreed on a series of concrete measures for preventing that practice. Among other measures, I have decided to send one part of DIV⁸ Company -the staff unit- to Žepa, along with the Commandant of the 281st IBLber [sic], Major Zulfo Tursunović, so he could use his authority to try and return one part of people from our areas for whom we assume departed in the direction of Žepa during the past and previous nights with the aim of crossing over to the area of Kladanj, and if necessary members of DIV Company would in cooperation with the military police of the 285th IBLbr disarm those persons, apprehend them, and forcibly take them back to Srebrenica. We believe that the Command of the 2nd Corps, in cooperation with other bodies of authority, should take more stringent repressive measures against

Page 1

[Beginning of the 2nd page of original text.]

all those persons who come to your areas, which would definitely have a discouraging effect on the potential candidates ready to depart from Srebrenica and Žepa. Inform us who were the guides of the previous groups and how far they had led them.

For a unified Bosnia!

AM/BT⁹

Representing the Commandant
Chief of Staff
m a j o r
Ramiz Bećirović

⁸ t/n: Sabotage and Reconnaissance Platoon

⁹ t/n: abbreviations unknown, most likely initials