

1st SARAJEVO MOTORISED BRIGADE

INTELLIGENCE & SECURITY AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

CLASSIFIED

Date: 16/02/1994

OFFICIAL NOTE

Info regarding defector's knowledge on the situation in the town, crimes against the Serbs and some smuggling channels.

MIODRAG PETROVIĆ, a Serb; father's name PERO; mother's name MILENA, maiden name Blanuša; born in Sarajevo on 08/10/1956; Address: 3 VI Proleterske Brigade 3 street, Novo Sarajevo; BSc of Civil Engineering by occupation; employed in the "Hercegovina" Construction Company as a construction manager; married to Dobrila, maiden name RISTANOVIĆ; no children; His parents live at Grbavica, in the 4a Zagrebačka street; his sister Mirjana lives in Belgrade, served Army in 1983, in Sinj, 11701 engineering unit, limited capability for the Army service due to bad sight and multiple shoulder dislocation; he plans to join the Army of RS, if possible in Grbavica.

Miodrag Petrović crossed over to Grbavica on 14/02/1994 at about 05.30 AM starting from the Pere Kosorića Square, over the M. Đuraškovića street and the “Strojorad” company, together with four other persons. His acquaintance from the digging duty named ACO, enabled a contact with a person who organized the crossing for 2000 DM per person. Since his wife also got out of the town together with him, they did not have enough money and had to sell all valuables from their flat.

The motive for the defection is impossibility of further life amongst the Muslims, his wish to repatriate with the family that lives on the Serbian side and his wish to live again as a free man.

At the beginning of the war the defector was appointed as a trustee in charge of distribution of the humanitarian aid in his local community and as a housing association chairman in the skyscraper he lived in. On 17/05/1992 the Order for the general mobilization was issued in the Muslim part of Sarajevo and he joined the Civil Protection Unit. In October that year he was issued the Decision on the limited capability for the Army service from the Military Doctors’ Board, based on the ophthalmology findings, which was a precondition for getting the approval to be engaged in work service. Thanks to his friend STJEPAN TRLIN, a Croat, he got the work duty in the “Hercegovina” Construction Company he was already employed in. Since the end of June 1993 the Municipality occasionally engaged all employees of the company for digging. He was digging a dugout at *Mijatovića kosa* in November 1993, near the fallen electric power pole. The dugout is situated near the house with several balconies, probably planned to be used as an Outpost HQ. A trench from there leads to the bunkers, covered by round logs and soil. He found out that the guard shifts were changed at nights, every 24 hours and that there were about 15 soldiers, and that the said part of the front line was considered unsecure due to proximity of our positions. He heard there from a Muslim, who was demobilized and transferred to the labour unit, that they had been digging a tunnel in the Milinkladska street for three months and reached the school (probably Police Academy). He worked on transportation of sleepers in the area of the Ugorsko-Šaban’s house in January 1994. The sleepers were taken from the side track of the new railway station and transported with trucks to the Barice settlement and from there taken to a small hill, where the engineers took it over.

The access to the place, where the engineers installed the sleepers was not allowed, so he does not know the data regarding the location and disposal of the bunkers and firing positions and number of soldiers.

Lots of people got killed or wounded while digging and he gives an example when two men got wounded by a shell during digging toward Vogošća. They were allowed to take the casualties from there, but others were not allowed to find shelter in the trenches at gunpoint.

According to a statement of a Croat soldier, in January 1994 on the occasion of the attack to the Hrasno hill, a squad of 17 people, amongst which 2 Muslims, were ordered to take over a slope. They refused the order and were taken to the “Viktor Bubanj” prison to be interrogated there and after that transferred to the labour unit. It was later discovered that they had been sent directly to a mine field to demine it with their own bodies.

At the New Year the Muslims planned to occupy Grbavica at any cost before the negotiations in Geneva start, in order to refute the argument of dividing Sarajevo. After failing to do it, they tried to provoke the anger of the World Community against the Serbs, staging well known incidents.

Just before getting out, the defector heard that the Muslim Army leaders planned to deploy significant forces out of Sarajevo. They would be replaced by the police forces, and the police forces would be filled with the persons of limited ability and older individuals.

In some parts of the town the Serbs are not allowed to sell their personal belongings, especially in Alipašino Polje and Stari Grad, in which one could see the graffiti saying: “Do not buy from the Serbs, it will be ours anyway”.

A list with the names of SDS members and a list of the ones, who were issued the weapons, were found in the flat of PREDRAG TANASIJEVIĆ, who left the town at the beginning of the war. Tanasijević worked in the Municipality Centre as a representative of the SDS in the Cadastral Office in charge of geodetic and communal affairs.

At the beginning of the war, before the Muslims entered the “Zrak” factory, JOZO PERIĆ hid some very expensive and valuable instruments and destroyed some of them. He told Petrović that in confidence, noting that he had some very important information, since he was still in charge of security in the “Zrak” factory. Perić is married to Danica, a Serb, who lives in the 115 Lenjinova street, in Grbavica with two their children, and he wants to cross over to our side.

The defector learned that the Muslims had brought to the town through the tunnel beneath the airport runway certain amounts of nitro-glycerine rifles to be used as the anti-tank weapons, which are now stored in the “Maršal Tito” barracks. The “Stinger” and “Strela” rocket-launchers were brought in by the same channel. All the weapons are new, folded in cellophane and stored in oil. He heard this from the acquaintance MIRSAD HAJRULANOVIĆ¹, who works in the mentioned storage.

Petrović says that the “Patriotic League” for Grbavica was established even in September 1991 with the so called left and right wing. They had a test mobilization

¹ TRANSLATOR'S NOTE: surname illegible, looks like Hajrulanović

in the “Vaso Pelagić” Community cultural centre with special attention to practicing and organizing medical service. He was told that by FIKRET DIZDAREVIĆ, who was a member of the “Patriotic League” since its foundation. He lived in Grbavica before the war and his father was killed there by a Muslim sniper. He heard from the soldiers of the former Caco’s brigade that 7 soldiers of that brigade got killed and 44 wounded during the massacre at the “MARKALE” market place.

Most crimes against the Serbs were committed at the beginning of the war in the “risky” parts of the town. The defector underlines the crimes, committed by NUSRET ŠIŠIĆ “DEDO”, who boasted to had killed 400 Chetniks in Alipašino Polje. He also considered as “Chetniks” the pregnant women whose husbands escaped to the Serb side. He would just push many Serbs through the windows of the flat where he found them.

There were situations in the “Markale” market place, which was called “Chetniks’ market”, because it had never been shelled, that Caco’s men would capture some Serb, took him to a nearest courtyard and killed him.

Some acquaintance heard from a lawyer named BLAGOJA BRATIĆ, who worked in the “Viktor Bubanj” prison that he was present when one Caco’s sniper was making a statement, who gave an example that Caco used to come to the the “Viktor Bubanj” prison and would take about 40 Serbs for digging. He would take them somewhere in the foot of the mountain of Trebević and killed half of them with a sledgehammer, specially made of a missile wing and brought back the other half, explaining that the truck turned over and that they were killed by the Chetniks.

At the end of January a boy and a girl, both 17 years old, were killed in a flat in the Braće Ribara street. The boy was killed with a shot to the back of his head and the girl was slaughtered and after that they turned on the gas in the flat and locked it. The surname of the young man was MU-*illegible*-ČIĆ, and his father, who was supposed to go to Zenica as a lecturer at a military school, tried to commit suicide. The girl’s surname was VUK and was a cousin of the said young man. Her father was an official in the Muslim MoI. There were 4300 DM stolen from the flat and the police did not allow TV crews to film anything in the flat.

Just before the “Markale” event, he was supposed to be exchanged with his wife and another friend of his at the Jewish cemetery. He found out that the exchange channel existed for a year, with other two, which were recently broken. The price of the crossing over was dictated by the both sides with the possibility of combining the way of exchange. According to the first variant, they were supposed to be exchanged for an older couple and a young man aged 21, who was engaged in digging at our positions for a longer period of time and was familiar with all our firing positions. According to the second variant, Petrović or his friend were supposed to cross over

first and bring back to the Muslim side a heavy machine gun, and then all of them to cross over to the Serb side and to give 3900 DM to a man, waiting for them on the other side. The name of a man, who organized the connection, was named HAR-il-legible (he does not know the surname) asked for 300 DM apiece, but they were not supposed to speak about it at the location of the exchange. The massacre at the „Markale “market happened on the day of the supposed exchange and the crossing failed.

The defector has heard that the trade in weapons was being done in Stup. The contact at the place of smuggling is established with a sound of whistle. The smugglers on the Serbian side demand from the Muslim side not to take any ethnic Serb soldier with them at all to avoid possible identification. The organizer of smuggling on the Muslim side is ESAD PALDUM, the commanding officer of the 1st Motorized brigade.

He also heard from a Muslim, who lived in Čengić Vila and who is by origin from Stari grad, that the soldiers of the former JNA had been selling a box of ammunition for 400 DM apiece at the positions above Bistrik.

As for the specialised production facilities, he knows about “Uniklima”, “ZRAK”, “Vaso Miskin Crni”, RTV building basement. The shells cartridges are produced in “ŽICA”, just machining, and they are charged in the technical school. He heard it from a Croat, an engineer, who worked there.

The Muslims try to hide number of their casualties, but it leaked from their sources that they had lost at the time of the New Year about 70 soldiers at the position, which was held earlier by the HVO. They had a lot of casualties at Vrbanja and Hrasno hill in January.

According to him, UNPROFOR smuggled in petrol and other goods of interest, and there is a rumour that they take out the Serbs for the sum of 1000 DM.

PROPOSAL OF MEASURES: The individual is to be deployed to a unit, taking into consideration his health capabilities. If possible, we should meet his wishes to deploy him in Grbavica, where his parents live.

SECURITY OFFICER

Đorđe Kovač