



# UNITED NATIONS

# NATIONS UNIES

## U.N. IN ACTION

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Week of 19 May 2003  
Programme No. 857  
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### **U.N. COMPLETES ITS POLICE REFORM MISSION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**

#### **VIDEO**

LOCAL POLICE CEREMONY (14")

#### **AUDIO**

#### **NARRATION**

At a ceremony in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the United Nations certifies a cantonal police force as reaching a baseline of European standards. On parade with the local police...

U.N. POLICE (13")

...members of the UN's International Police Task Force drawn from more than 50 countries. Over the seven years until its completion, the UN Mission here guided a remarkable transformation of the country's law enforcement agencies.

ARCHIVAL WAR FOOTAGE (14")

It's a far cry from the situation immediately after the 1992-95 war that killed more than 200,000. More than half of Bosnia's population became refugees or displaced persons.

#### **NARRATION**

ARCHIVAL CHECK POINT AND POLICE (14")

Checkpoints crisscrossed the country. The poorly equipped police were divided along ethnic lines. The Dayton Peace Accords gave the UN the job of reforming the police and associated agencies.

SARAJEVO SHOTS (15")

The NATO-led peacekeeping force SFOR continues its presence in the country. And Sarajevo – and other communities in Bosnia – are now peaceful. But consolidating that process is critically dependent on the introduction of modern concepts of the Rule of Law.

KLEIN INTRO SHOTS (14.5")

And it wasn't just a question of addressing the situation brought about by the war. There was also a need to tackle the long-standing tradition of politicised policing, says Jacques Paul Klein, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General.

JACQUES PAUL KLEIN ON CAMERA (13")

KLEIN:

"Local citizens could not trust the police in the sense that the police could be hired out to local political bosses. And that the politics of any given town, regardless of its ethnicity, is what dominated police behaviour."

TRAINING IN STREET (13")

NARRATION

The UN mission presided over the downsizing of police forces by nearly two thirds. All have been

vetted to ensure they are properly qualified and have had no involvement in war crimes or other offences.

POLICE (24")

A UN Trust Fund has provided vitally needed equipment to strengthen and expand police skills. The Community Bicycle patrols for example: for dealing with traffic violations, learning firearm skills, showing tactical units techniques for raiding buildings, and rescuing trafficked women trapped in night bars.

WOMAN POLICE OFFICER (18")

Twenty-one year old Dragana Simic is an example of the new look police. An ethnic Serb, she recently graduated from the Sarajevo Police Academy, one of two in the country started by the UN. She was posted at her request to her majority-Muslim, hometown of Velika Kladusa.

DRAGANA SIMIC ON-CAMERA  
(12")

WOMAN:

"I don't take any notice of who comes from where. I have no problem working and living with the people here."

FUNERAL (23")

NARRATION

Across the country, the greatly improved security is buttressed by increasingly able and skilled local police forces. It has meant that once potentially contentious public ceremonies, such as this mass

burial of victims of the war, can now be conducted in peace and dignity. And as confidence grows, hundreds of thousands of survivors have returned to their pre-war communities.

NARRATION

AERIAL/BORDER SERVICE (17")

Largely landlocked, Bosnia has long and often remote borders. As a new country, the creation by the UN, of a multi-ethnic State Border Service was an absolute necessity to clamp down on illegal migration, smuggling and organized crime and meet European standards.

UN POLICE IN CLASSROOM (18")

After almost seven years work by more than ten thousand international police officers, law enforcement in Bosnia and Herzegovina has improved beyond recognition. The task of carrying forward police reform from 2003 onwards is now the responsibility of a smaller European Union Police Monitoring Mission.

POLICE CEREMONIES (17")

The UN Mission's legacy is a solid foundation of democratic policing -- a key building block in legal, economic and institutional reform in this once war torn Balkan nations, and a model for police reform elsewhere.

LOGO (20")

This report was prepared by Steve Whitehouse

for the United Nations.