

Union of the Republics of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Croatian Republic of Herzeg-Bosna

Defence

Command of the Ban Josip Jelačić Brigade

Military secret

Strictly

confidential

Kiseljak

29 October 1993

To the assistant commander for SIS /Security and
Information Service/ of the Vitez ZP /Military District/
To Mr. Anto SLIŠKOVIĆ personally

Subject: Zvonko DUŽNOVIĆ and Ivica GAVRAN

Sends Report

Re: Your letter dated 27 October 1993

With respect to your letter dated 27 October 1993, we are informing you that the reason for bringing the above-named individual from Vareš was his attempt to prevent the carrying out of combat operations in the territory of Vareš. The above-named individual /? Zvonko DUŽNOVIĆ/ gave serious announcements, as did the president

of the HVO /Croatian Defence Council/ in Vareš Ivan PEJČINOVIĆ, that they would use their special units to prevent the said operations. However, all of those statements mostly turned out to be hollow words. During the combat operations, the above-named individual, Ivica GAVRAN and another two members of the HVO Presidency requested that the Commander of the OG-2 /Operative Group/ come to the meeting at the municipal building where they were even though he was performing some very important tasks at the time. An interview was conducted with the above-named individual. We are hereby forwarding to you the official report on the interview in its entirety.

OFFICIAL REPORT

Compiled on 25 October 1993 in the premises of the Ban Josip Jelačić Brigade Headquarters in Kiseljak following an interview conducted with Zvonko DUŽNOVIĆ, son of Ante and Kata neć Josipović, born on 27 July 1941 in Vareš, permanently residing in Vareš, Kraljice Katarine St. MS /expansion unknown/, a technologist by occupation, was employed at the Vareš steelworks, married, member of the Bobovac Brigade in Vareš, assistant commander for SIS /Security and Information Service/ at the Brigade.

On 24 October 1993 the said individual was brought to the premises of the Ban Josip Jelačić Brigade Command in Kiseljak for the purposes of an interview. The interview focused on the relations within the Bobovac Brigade Command, as well as the relationship between the Brigade Command and civilian authorities, and also the contacts of the Vareš HVO with the representatives of the MOS /Muslim Armed Forces/.

During the interview it emerged that there had been contacts with the MOS representatives from Tuzla. Those who most frequently participated in the contacts of the Vareš HVO were Brigade Commander Emil Harah, HVO President in Vareš Ilija PEJČINOVIĆ, and occasionally other members of the Command would take part in contacts too, including Zvonko DUŽNOVIĆ himself and Ivica GAVRAN, chief of civilian police in Vareš. General of the former JNA /Yugoslav People's Army/ and Corps Commander ŠADIĆ most often represented the Second Corps, as did the BH Army commander from Olovo - Fadil KARAIĆ. According to Zvonko DUŽNOVIĆ, the first two meetings were held at the initiative of the Second Corps Commander ŠADIĆ. They were held in Careva Ćuprija in Olovo Municipality and Vijaka in Vareš Municipality. At the meetings representatives of the MOS suggested that the HVO in Vareš be resubordinated to the MOS Command. From the very first contacts, according to DUŽNOVIĆ, he firmly rejected that proposal and walked out from the meeting so that he did not take part in any further contacts with the Muslim side. After that, the Brigade Command tasked him with maintaining contacts with the Serbian side, which is what he did. He initiated contacts whenever there was a need for that, either to facilitate the passage of convoys through the Serb territory or the travel of individuals and sometimes he had contacts relating to military cooperation. According to him, it became known that the 2nd Battalion in Vijaka had package line communication with the businessmen in Tuzla. He says that he was upset by that contact and was opposed to it from the beginning, so that at his initiative, this communication line was disrupted a month ago. As for trade between Vareš and Tuzla, that was mostly handled through the director of the Office for Economy, that is to say Kruno RIDŽIĆ, who was the director. Based on his information, mostly cigarettes and liquor were sold. He also knows that a passenger vehicle - a *Mercedes* -

was obtained from Tuzla through Ante PEJČINOVIĆ, who was president of the Vareš HVO, for the needs of the HVO in Vareš and that in exchange they gave four to five tons of sugar. The vehicle is being used by the HVO.

President of Vijaka MZ /local commune/ Mihovil MILETOVIĆ, an activist of the HDZ /Croatian Democratic Community/ in Vareš, also had contacts with the Muslim side at his own initiative and had certain commercial arrangements without the knowledge and consent of the commanders. There were also requests to create a municipality in Vijaka and Mihovil MILETOVIĆ even procured an HVO seal in order to facilitate trade with the Muslim side. DUŽNOVIĆ says that immediately upon learning of this, he confiscated the seal. Miroslav FRANKIĆ, Brigade Chief of Staff, upon orders from the Brigade Command very frequently took part in negotiations with the Muslims so as not to sever communication with them; he was not authorized to make any official decisions. Before there were any armed conflicts between the HVO and Muslims, Boro MALBAŠIĆ had good relations with Fadil KARAČIĆ from Olovo.

For a while, the man calling the shots at the Brigade Command was Kruno JELIĆ, assistant commander for logistics. He had been an officer of the BH MUP /Ministry of the Interior/ DB /State Security Service/ and DUŽNOVIĆ assumes that he came to Vareš on assignment; he was appointed to the Brigade Command at the proposal of Commander Emil HARAHA and DUŽNOVIĆ knows that they are family friends.

When Stjepan ŠIBER came to visit Vareš, says DUŽNOVIĆ, the brigade commander had a purely military attitude in all his contacts with him, he saluted him in proper military manner and maintained a military attitude throughout ŠIBER's visit.

Commander of the 1st Battalion Marcel DUSPER from Dugoštica, Vareš Municipality, a former JNA officer, worked on JNA intelligence affairs /unclear/. According to some information, he was convicted for committing a war crime against Croatian population in ... /illegible/ in Gospić area and was sentenced to 12 years in prison.

At the time he was hired this information was not available and has not been officially confirmed to date. In contacts with reconnaissance troops DUŠNJEVIĆ /as printed, ? DUŽNOVIĆ/ learned that it was vital to re-establish the link-up of our positions between Kopjari and Liješnica because in that area the Muslims from Kakanj region could openly communicate with the Muslim villages in Vareš Municipality, Kopjari and Dragovići, and then through these villages gain access to Dragovički Vis and Površje, elevations above Vareš, from which they could threaten the safety of the city itself. On several occasions he requested from Commander Emil HARAHA and Battalion Commander Marcel DUSPER that our positions in that area be linked-up so as to shut down the passage used by the Muslims. However, they procrastinated on this issue justifying it by alleged lack of manpower. In talking to Assistant Commander for VOS /Military Intelligence Service/ Zdravko MIJATOVIĆ, he learned, or rather MIJATOVIĆ complained about Krešo BOŽIĆ, commander of ONP /Operations and Training/, and Commander of the 1st Battalion Marcel because of the fact that at the 1st Battalion HQ they had a wiretapping centre, but they kept all information collected there for themselves without informing anyone else about it. MIJATOVIĆ mostly collected intelligence information through reconnaissance activities on the ground. When the convoy was sent to Herzegovina, Chief Quartermaster Mladen MAROŠEVIĆ brought to Vareš 10 cartons of cigarettes for his

own use, which he sold and kept the money for himself. Upon learning of this misconduct, and prior to that there had been allegations about MAROŠEVIĆ's fraudulent transactions relating to livestock, he was replaced and this post is now held by Ranko PETROVIĆ who was appointed by Emil HARAHA.

Mrs Ozrenka JELIĆ from Široki Brijeg was engaged for the needs of Vareš HVO in Široki Brijeg. They maintain telephone contact with her conveying to her all the assignments that need to be carried out for them, ensuring aid from *Caritas* and the Red Cross, ensuring that there are goods in the shops for the convoys arriving from Vareš. They also use Ozrenka JELIĆ to find buyers for their products (lumber, woodwork, casts and decorative stone). Through this lady they also establish contact with the President of the Croatian Republic Mate BOBAN. According to DUŽNOVIĆ, he personally took part in the talks with President BOBAN; representatives of political authorities mostly abided by the instructions received from the President. As for national symbols of BH in the territory of Vareš, that was mostly done to gain time and maintain some sort of contacts with the Muslims while at the same time working on reinforcing defence lines in Vareš Municipality.

The following people were among those involved in civilian organs: Rusmir BERBEROVIĆ – civilian defence, Edhem AŠĆERIJA – commissioner for health and social services and Džindo MUFIDA – commissioner for education. In the territory of Vareš a municipal staff of the BH Army was established

Chief of Staff was Avdo ZUBAČA and their headquarters is located in Dabravine. According to DUŽNOVIĆ, they have no contact with them, nor have there been any significant combat operations so far. For a while there was some smuggling activity in

the Mala Rijeka area between the villages of Višnjica and Vrgula, mostly involving cigarettes.

The smuggling route between the Serbs and Muslims in the area of Budoželj is still active.