

Vance-Owen peace plan runs into trouble

Following numerous broken agreements, both the UN Security Council and the Clinton administration are sceptical that the Bosnian peace plan will work but as yet have been unable to offer any more positive proposal. Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen recommend that up to 25,000 troops will be needed to ensure that the terms of their peace plan are upheld



Vance-Owen territorial plan

2,4,6

Serb areas

3,8,10

Croatian areas

1,5,9

Muslim areas

7

Mixed area

Sarajevo to become an ethnically mixed open city



Bosnian Muslims object to the plan

Alija Izetbegovic, leader of the Bosnian Muslims, has refused to meet Serb and Croat delegations at the New York peace talks. The Muslims stand to lose most from partition but may eventually accept the plan if only because it continues to recognise Bosnia as an independent state

Bosnian Serbs object to the plan

Bosnian Serbs, under Dr Radovan Karadzic, oppose the plan as it means surrendering 20 per cent of captured territory and because there is no land corridor to link the Serbian zones in east and west Bosnia. The UN has promised safe corridors but the Serbs fear these will prove ineffectual



Croats accept the plan

Croatian president Franjo Tudjman and the Bosnian Croats have accepted the Vance-Owen plan, realising that the scattered Muslim enclaves must cooperate with the Croatian economy to survive. Fighting has broken out as Croats seek to impose authority over the Muslim minorities



Serbs accept the plan

Serbian President, Slobodan Milosevic, has encouraged Bosnian Serbs to accept the plan which allows them to retain 80 per cent of their captured territory. However many regard it as outrageous that the West should in any way reward the man seen as responsible for gaining territory via 'ethnic cleansing'

