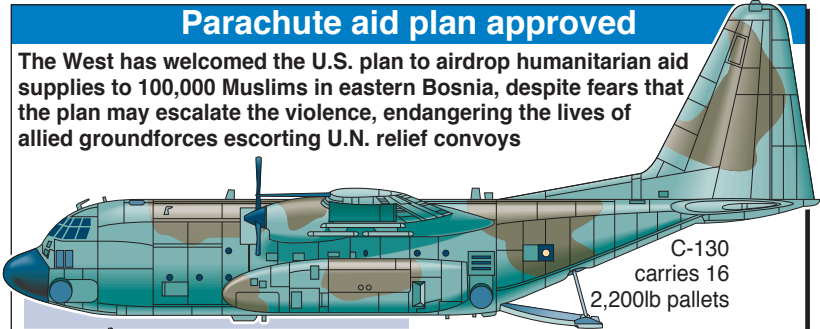


Parachute aid plan approved

The West has welcomed the U.S. plan to airdrop humanitarian aid supplies to 100,000 Muslims in eastern Bosnia, despite fears that the plan may escalate the violence, endangering the lives of allied groundforces escorting U.N. relief convoys



C-130
carries 16
2,200lb pallets

High level



U.S. wants to make drops from 12,000ft to avoid risk of anti-aircraft fire. Accuracy from this height is unpredictable

Standard level



RAF standard parachute-drop from 1,200ft comes within small-arms range of up to 1,500ft

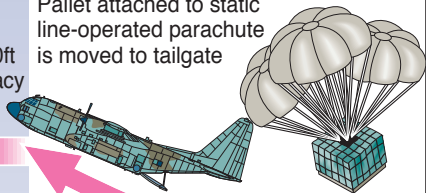
Ground level



Bosnia's terrain and the threat of attack rule out the possibility of ground level approaches – under normal conditions made from as low as 80 feet

Container delivery method

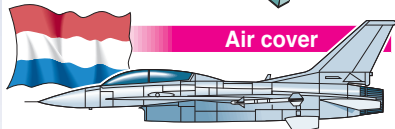
Pallet attached to static line-operated parachute is moved to tailgate



Aircraft climbs steeply using force of gravity to pull pallet off tailgate



Air cover



The Dutch government has offered F-16 fighters to protect the planned mission, provided its U.N. allies with troops in Bosnia take similar action