

Go right command Hungary

Hungary-IFOR Chronology

1995

LTG Abrams & MG-Peterson

November 2 CINC USAREUR General William Crouch (~~and~~?) meets with Ambassador and Country Team to discuss possible need to use Hungarian facilities for logistical support of U.S. Forces participating in IFOR. (I was absent from this meeting -- on leave in the U.S.)

How? Peace was logical base

November 3(?) PolCouns Siefken, Acting DATT Martinson brief Hungarian MOD and MFA on possible U.S. request for use of facilities for logistical support.

November 10 USEUCOM Director of Operations RADM Charles Abbot led delegation to Budapest to begin initial talks with GOH on use of Hungarian facilities. U.S. BG James Wright, BG Samuel Kindred, Charge James Gadsden, Siefken, Szurgyi, Martinson, Volker. GOH: MOD Deputy State Sec'y Laszlo Borsits MOD Deputy State Sec'y Karoly Janza, Military Chief of Staff Gen. Nemeth MFA Deputy State Sec'y Istvan Pataki.

Hungaries cautious - did not know what to expect WARY

November 13 Team of approx 40 USAREUR planners (civilian clothes) arrives in Hungary for 3-4 day visit to scout out options for Hungarian facilities that may be suitable for providing logistical support. Led by BG Wright. *Hungaries first push western area - in more rural area. But Peace lack infrastructure - railway road heads*

November 13 MOD Keleti briefs National Security Cabinet.

November 14 GOH briefs leaders of the 6 parliamentary parties.

November 16 MOD Keleti briefs the full GOH Cabinet. Cabinet approves and drafts parliamentary resolution to provide support for IFOR and U.S. use of facilities.

November 16 BG Wright, BG Kindred, USAREUR planners brief GOH on results of fact-finding visit. Begin to focus on Kaposvar and Taszar.

November 17 Embassy provides Washington a "checklist" of steps to be completed before deployment can begin.

November 22 Acting Foreign Minister Istvan Szent-Ivanyi meets with Ambassador (and Siefken) to confirm Hungarian willingness to proceed with IFOR preparations and request that the U.S. make formal request for assistance from Hungary.

November 22 LTG Abrams visits Hungary for survey of Taszar/Kaposvar facilities. (BG Wright, Volker, Martinson // Borsits/LTG Bela Biro (Hungarian Military Deputy Chief of Staff and IFOR Coordinator) present.)

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November 23 Thanksgiving

November 24 Second team of ⁵⁰~~35~~ USAREUR military planners, led by BG Wright arrives in Hungary for detailed surveys. Remains continuously from this point on. *met with SZURGYI, VOLKER*

November 25 Volker and Acting Air Attache meet with planners at Taszar. USAREUR lawyers / MG Wright (now promoted) present first draft of Acquisition agreement to Hungarian military. Dinner at Martinson's house in Budapest with Wright/Martinson/Volker Feher/Borsits/Biro. *Bohrt is - established formal relationship with Hungarians. XX*

November 27? Embassy (under instructions) submits diplomatic note to GOH requesting Hungarian support for U.S. use of Hungarian facilities for logistical support of IFOR

November 27 Hungarian Parliament approves resolution supporting use of Hungarian facilities for IFOR.

November 27 Hungarian Parliament ratifies NATO Status of Forces Agreement (had been provisionally applied for PFP exercise in July and was to be provisionally applied to IFOR pending ratification). (Published in Hung. Parl. Digest November 28.)

November 29 (?) Amb. Sends letters to Goncz, Horn, Kovacs, Keleti to express appreciation for resolution of support for IFOR

November 29 Gen. Crouch briefs Ambassador on USAREUR plans at Ferihegy airport and visits facilities at Taszar and Kaposvar. (Abrams, Wright, Siefken, Volker, Szurgyi, Martinson present.)

November 30 GOH receives draft texts of NATO Transit and Stationing Agreement and Host Nation Support Agreement from NATO.

December 1 GOH and NATO officials meet to discuss Transit and Host Nation Support agreements.

December 4 USAREUR and Hungarian MOD sign Acquisition Agreement to permit U.S. contracting for logistical support in Hungary.

December 4 IFOR Liaison Team established at Embassy. Originally led by LTC Andras (Karakas?).

XX US desired some of the logistical support including Helicopters with armaments.

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December 4 Mrs. Blinken and over 100 Hung. And Intern'l journalists visit Taszar.

December 6 Complete U.S.-Hungarian IFOR working group meets for first time -- divides into subgroups -- to staff out operational issues. Continues for about 3 days, then ad hoc as necessary.

December 6 Kovacs / Solana sign NATO Transit and Stationing Agreement

December 8 RSO (Kelly) meets with chief of police in Kaposvar

December 9 Deployment order issued.

December 10 LTG Abrams takes command at Taszar

December 11 C-130's arrive at Taszar. MG Wright, Amb., Szurgyi, Martinson, Volker present for arrival (w/ international press).

December 11 RSO and Consul General (Taylor) meet with local officials/police in Kaposvar and vicinity

December 13 MG Wright, Borsits approve "Points of Agreement" on behavior of U.S. contractors (Brown and Root) in Hungary following numerous bilateral incidents. *Brown & Root lack experience in an unstable security*

December 14 Embassy makes initial request for Circular 175 Authority to negotiate supplemental agreement to the NATO SOFA for status of forces issues in Hungary.

December 15 Embassy sends diplomatic note to GOH requesting tax exemption for U.S. military forces in Hungary

December 18-19 COL Richard Thomas takes over IFOR liaison team at Embassy.

December 20 Amb. Blinken becomes first U.S. Ambassador to address a committee of the Hungarian parliament by briefing Defense Committee on IFOR and thanking them for Hungary's support.

December 29 (and Jan. 3) Meetings with Feher/Borsits/Biro to review Hungarian "complaints" about lack of U.S. responsiveness on issues such as joint facilities inspections, weight limits on vehicles on roadways, documentation of U.S. goods/vehicles, damage claims, contracts for services/utilities Col. Thomas present.

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1996

January 2? Secretary Perry visits Taszar (w CJCS Shalikasvili, SACEUR Joulwan, Gen. Crouch, LTG Abrams, MG Wright.) *ambassador with them*

January 9 LTG Abrams, MOD Admin State Sec'y Feher meet to discuss range of IFOR issues

January 13 President Clinton visits Taszar

January 16 Trade Fair held in Kaposvar to introduce Hungarian businesses to U.S. military contractors

January 17 First Hungarian troops cross into Croatia

January 18 U.S. soldier dies of heart attack at Taszar

January 18 NATO-Hungarian "Host Nation Support" Memorandum of Understanding Signed

January 20-21 Russian troops cross Hungarian en route to Bosnia

January 20 Car accident involving Brown & Root Employee (killed girl)

January 24 Hung. NATO Amb. Simonyi and SYG Solana sign Hungary's "IFOR Participation Document in Brussels"

late Jan. (?) Claims Agreement signed between USAREUR and MOD

February 8 Technical arrangement signed with Hung. Police on police procedures for handling U.S. Forces personnel

**Range of Issues Dealt with by Embassy and IFOR Liaison
During 30 Days Before and After Start of IFOR Deployment**

- Logistical Consultations / Coordination
- Rental Agreement for Facilities
- Setting Up Embassy Task Force - Daily 5pm
- IFOR Liaison Team Set Up in Embassy
- Political Process (Briefings, Parliamentary Resolution)
- NATO SOFA Ratification
- Acquisition Agreement / Contracting Matters / Business Contacts / Brown and Root
- NATO Transit, Host Nation Support Agreements
- GOH Internal Coordination (setting up interagency working groups)
- Consular Preparations
- Police Coordination
- Customs Authority Coordination
- Airspace Mgmt, Blanket Air Clearances
- Local Govt Contacts
- U.S. Military Financial Arrangements
- Taxation Matters
- Security Services Coordination
- Public Relations / Press
- Claims for damages
- Effects of Railroad strike
- Effects of possible oil and gas strike
- Permission for AAFES to operate
- Permission for Armed Forces Radio and TV to Operate
- Circulation permits, other documentation for convoys
- Radio frequency usage
- Coordination with Nordic Battalion

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