

= Daruvar Agreement =

The Daruvar Agreement (Croatian , Serbian : Daruvarski sporazum) was a document negotiated by Croatian and Republic of Serbian Krajina (RSK) local authorities in the United Nations Protected Area (UNPA) for the SAO Western Slavonia , also known as Sector West on 18 February 1993 , during the Croatian War of Independence . The agreement provided for the improvement of water and electrical power supply , the return of refugees to their homes and the opening of transport routes spanning Sector West and connecting Croatian Army @-@ controlled areas near towns of Nova Gradiška and Novska . It also provided a framework for the further improvement of living conditions of the population both in the Croatian- and RSK @-@ controlled portions of Sector West . The agreement was named after Daruvar , the site of its signing .

The Daruvar Agreement , mediated by the head of the United Nations (UN) Civil Affairs in Sector West Gerard Fischer , was negotiated in secrecy . When the central RSK authorities in Knin learned of the arrangement , the signatories on behalf of the RSK were sacked from their official posts and arrested . The agreement itself was labeled as treasonous by the central RSK authorities . Fischer and other UN officials , who were involved in mediation of the agreement , were criticised by the UN for being excessively assertive in the matter . Fischer soon left the area .

= = Background = =

In November , Croatia , Serbia and the Yugoslav People 's Army (Jugoslovenska Narodna Armija ? JNA) agreed upon the Vance plan , designed to halt combat operations in the Croatian War of Independence and allow the negotiation of a political settlement . Besides the ceasefire , the plan entailed protection of civilians in specific areas , designated as United Nations Protected Areas (UNPAs) , and UN peacekeepers in Croatia ? United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) . The ceasefire came into effect on 3 January 1992 . Shortly after the Vance plan was accepted , the European Community announced its decision to grant diplomatic recognition to Croatia on 15 January 1992 , while the Serb- and JNA @-@ held areas within Croatia were organised as the Republic of Serbian Krajina (RSK) .

Despite the Geneva Accord requiring an immediate withdrawal of JNA personnel and equipment from Croatia , the JNA stayed behind for seven to eight months . When its troops eventually pulled out , JNA left their equipment to the RSK . As a consequence of organisational problems and breaches of ceasefire , the UNPROFOR , did not start to deploy until 8 March . The UNPROFOR took two months to fully assemble in the UNPAs . The UNPROFOR was tasked with demilitarisation of the UNPAs , ceasefire maintenance , monitoring of local police and creating conditions for return of internally displaced persons and refugees . Those comprised more than 300 @, @ 000 Croats who were exiled from the RSK @-@ controlled territory , and 20 @, @ 000 Serbs who fled the areas of western Slavonia captured by the Croatian Army (Hrvatska vojska ? HV) in Operations Swath @-@ 10 , Papuk @-@ 91 and Hurricane @-@ 91 in late 1991 .

A part of western Slavonia , encompassing an area extending approximately 90 by 45 kilometres (56 by 28 miles) , was designated as the UNPA of Western Slavonia or Sector West by the peace plan . Unlike other UNPAs , the RSK controlled only a part of the area ? approximately a third of the UNPA located in the south ? centred on the town of Okučani . The RSK @-@ held area included a section of the Zagreb ? Belgrade motorway . The UNPROFOR deployed to Sector West thought the HV would attack the area to control the motorway . In response , the UNPROFOR developed Operation Backstop aimed at defending against the HV attack , assuming that its main axis would be aligned with the motorway .

= = Cooperation schemes = =

Division of Sector West into Croatian- and RSK @-@ controlled areas fragmented the market for locally grown agricultural produce , and produce processing plants were rendered inaccessible to most farmers . Furthermore , the RSK @-@ controlled area of Sector West suffered from severe

shortage of fuel and electricity , while the Croatian @-@ held Pakrac was cut off from water supply systems fed by springs in the RSK @-@ held area to the south of the town . The situation led the head of the UN Civil Affairs in Sector West , Gerard Fischer , and Argentine General Carlos Maria Zabala , commanding officer of the UNPROFOR in Sector West , to propose a degree of cooperation between local authorities on both sides in the area .

Their efforts resulted in a scheme where grain crops grown in the RSK @-@ held part of Sector West were milled in the Croatian @-@ controlled areas , and the supply of potable water to Pakrac was exchanged for electricity supplied from Croatia to the southern portion of Sector West . Fischer also obtained approval for the limited return of refugees from local authorities . The scheme involved up to 2 @, @ 500 refugees who would be allowed to rebuild their homes , funded by the Austrian government . The funds , in the amount of 1 @. @ 3 million dollars , were obtained through Michael Platzer , Special Assistant to the Director @-@ General of the United Nations Office at Vienna .

= = = Formal agreement = = =

Fischer attempted to gain wider support for the cooperation schemes already in place and extend their scope in Sector West . Fischer also assured the local authorities of the RSK that such a move would prevent renewed fighting in the area . The result of Fischer 's efforts was the Daruvar Agreement . The agreement , signed in Daruvar on 18 February , encompassed the reconstruction of water and electrical power supply networks , the reopening of the Zagreb ? Belgrade motorway section in Sector West for non @-@ commercial traffic , the facilitation of the Novska ? Nova Gradi?ka railway , the repair of telecommunication lines , the establishment of a joint commission tasked with normalisation of living conditions in Sector West , the return of all refugees to their homes , the access to property owned by civilians across the ceasefire line , and further meetings with local authorities to discuss further cooperation .

On behalf of the RSK local authorities , the agreement was signed by Veljko D?akula , Du?an E?imovi? , Milan Vlasisavljevi? , Mladen Kuli? , ?or?e Lovri? and Milan Radakovi? . At the time , D?akula held the position of deputy prime minister , while E?imovi? was a government minister in the RSK . Signatories on behalf of the Croatian local authorities were Zlatko Kos , Zdravko Soki? , Ivan Volf , Vladimir Dela? and ?elimir Malnar . Fischer signed the agreement as a witness . According to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia testimony given by D?akula at the trial of Milan Marti? , Ivan Milas was present at the signing of the agreement as a representative of the Government of Croatia , accompanied by Jo?ko Mori? , Croatian Deputy Interior Minister . According to D?akula , no effort was made to conceal the signing of the agreement , even though the negotiations beforehand were kept secret .

= = Aftermath = =

The central RSK authorities in Knin learned of the agreement through a report filed by the 18th Corps of the Army of the Republic of Serb Krajina on 26 February , eight days after it was signed . The main opposition to the agreement came from Milan Marti? , the RSK Interior Minister . Leadership of the ruling Serb Democratic Party accused D?akula of handing the RSK territory to Croatia . The RSK leadership considered the Daruvar Agreement tantamount to admission of economic unfeasibility of the RSK and an act of treason . District council of the RSK @-@ controlled western Slavonia condemned the agreement because it was enacted only in the Croatian language , and failed to note the existence of the RSK or its administrative divisions .

D?akula and E?imovi? were sacked from their government positions , and from the positions of regional authority in the RSK @-@ held western Slavonia . The other three RSK signatories were dismissed from their official posts as well . At local elections held in May 1993 to fill the vacated posts , D?akula was elected to serve as the Mayor of Pakrac municipality . On 21 September , D?akula and E?imovi? were arrested , and taken to Knin prison and then to Glina while the investigation was in progress . On 3 December , they were released only to learn that the arrest of the two , and Kuli? , was ordered days later . In order to evade the arrest , the three fled the RSK to

Serbia . On 4 February 1994 , Džakula was abducted in Belgrade by the RSK agents and taken back to the RSK .

The RSK 's response to the agreement ended Fischer 's efforts . Moreover , Fischer , Zabala and Platzer were criticised by the UN , citing their excessive assertiveness in the matter . Fischer left Croatia , and Jordanian General Shabshough replaced Zabala in March . The Zagreb - Belgrade motorway was reopened in December 1994 through an agreement between the governments of the RSK and Croatia . However , a series of armed incidents in late April 1995 led to a Croatian military intervention and the capture of the portion of Sector West previously controlled by the RSK in Operation Flash in early May .