

JOY & CAUTION IN CITY ON BOSNIA AGREEMENT

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Byline: By ROBERT GEARTY

Body

Immigrants from war-racked **Bosnia** voiced cautious optimism yesterday as they hailed a long-sought **agreement** that promises an end to the bloody, 31/2-year civil war dividing their homeland.

But New York-area Serbs, Muslims and Croats, while saying all sides were ready for peace, warned that the accord could come undone with renewed fighting.

"We are hoping this will be a real peace, but the concern is there still seems to be so many loose ends that need to be tied up," said Mila Lazarevich, president of the Serb Unity Congress in Manhattan.

Those loose ends, she said, include the precise division of Bosnian territory.

"We have great reservations because there is so much that is unclear in terms of how it can all be resolved," Lazarevich said.

The Rev. Anton Bozanic, a Croatian-born priest at Most Precious Blood Church in Astoria, Queens, said he and Croat parishioners frequently "prayed that peace would come, and it did."

"Nobody agreed with this war," Bozanic said. "Now we have to find a way to live together."

Nenad Peleksic, a counselor at the Bosnian government mission to the United Nations, said he and other Bosnian Muslims hope the **agreement** signals a permanent end to the fighting.

But Peleksic said his optimism was dampened by **agreement** terms that would stop many refugees from eastern **Bosnia** from returning to their homes.

"We have already seen many peace **agreements** and ceasefires which didn't hold up much," Peleksic **cautioned**.

Graphic

REUTER PRINT IT: A Sarajevan reads paper with a headline that translates: "America at the end of patience" outside cafe sporting American flag.

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