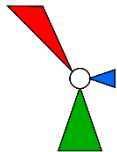


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<1342/c>	the million franc (£128,000) loan to Mr Beregovoy. But a justice ministry spokesman said yesterday: 'The state prosecutor found no evidence to suggest the loan was of a fraudulent nature and the ministry decided there were no grounds to extend the (judge's) mandate.' - Reuter UN in battle of wills with Serbs over relief convoys UN aid officials said yesterday they were prepared for a battle of wills with rebel Serbs in an attempt to get trucks loaded with emergency supplies through to starving Muslims in eastern Bosnia. 'We are not going to take no for an answer,' said Lyndall Sachs of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees' (UNHCR) office. One UN convoy was still stranded at the Drina river frontier between Bosnia and Serbia after Bosnian Serb militia stopped it crossing on Sunday. Although a second group of trucks was allowed over the river by the Serbs yesterday, UN officials fear it may be halted short of its destination. But Ms Sachs said in Belgrade that the UNHCR was determined to get the supplies through and both convoys would remain at Serb checkpoints until they were allowed to pass. 'We are firm in our resolve,' she said. 'We'll sit it out if necessary.' An estimated 100,000 Muslims have been cut off in eastern Bosnia since Serbs rebelled against the declaration of independence by Muslims and Croats. The first of the two ten-truck convoys was due to spend its third night just inside the Serbian border. It was intended to go to Cserka, where 25,000 Muslims are trapped by besieging Serbs. The second has Gorazde, also under siege, as its destination. It was allowed through the Bosnian Serb frontier checkpoint. But previous UN convoys to Gorazde have also been permitted to cross the border, only to be stopped short by the Serbs at Rogatica, 20 miles from the besieged town. Ms Sachs said the Gorazde convoy left Belgrade too late to reach Rogatica by nightfall. It would stop along the route and attempt to pass the Serb blockade in the morning. The Muslim-led Bosnian government came under criticism from the UNHCR for its decision to boycott distribution of aid in Sarajevo until the Muslims in the east are fed. 'Until the authorities in Sarajevo decide to stop playing politics with humanitarian aid and decide to stop depriving their own people of food, we won't be able to deliver,' UNHCR spokeswoman Sylvana Foa said in Geneva. But UNHCR officials in Sarajevo denied a statement by Ms Foa that people were running after the agency's trucks in the city and begging. Muslim-controlled Sarajevo radio reported that Serb forces launched heavy attacks for the sixth day running on
 <p>Key: Footprint ConEn1 Footprint ConEn2 Footprint ConEn3</p>	<p>the city's western suburbs of Stup and Azici</p> <p>, using tanks and infantry. The two strategic suburbs are the last Bosnian-held areas west of the main highway linking Sarajevo with the airport and if they fall the Serbs will control the vital road. The city was also blacked out. The electricity authority said the only high-voltage power line had been brought down but it did not say how or by whom. Sarajevo's main bakery, relying on generators because of power interruptions since the siege started ten months ago, said it had stopped producing bread. It had run out of diesel fuel for the generators because of the aid boycott. - Reuter UNITED STATES Barbara Bush 'in hospital' BARBARA Bush</p>

	<p>was admitted to hospital in Miami yesterday after being taken ill on a Caribbean cruise, a local radio station reported. It quoted a hospital official at the Jackson Memorial Hospital as saying that the former first lady was not in a life-threatening condition. - Reuter Every day a little older, wiser and stronger Michael Portillo has been little known outside Westminster, but that is now changing, for he is the minister with the welfare state in his sights, says Joy Copley YOUNG Michael Portillo's cherubic face smiled out sweetly from the television set. The prophetic words uttered in reassuring tones were: 'Each day a little older, a little wiser, a little stronger.' Since those days - when he starred as the original Ribena Kid at the age of eight - Michael Denzil Xavier Portillo has taken that motto to heart and gone from strength to strength. As Chief Secretary to the Treasury, he is the youngest member of the Cabinet and its fastest rising star. He has never been in a stronger position since he entered Parliament in 1984 - and he is not 40 until May. Now openly tipped as a candidate to succeed Norman Lamont as the next Chancellor in a summer reshuffle, the bookies have also cottoned on to him as a possible future leader of the party and cut his odds from 33-1 to 16-1. Portillo is one of those infuriating types to whom mud never seems to stick. Ultra-confident, dashing and with a swashbuckling air he is the archetypal head boy or captain of the rugby team. The original Teflon man. Who remembers or cares that it was he, who as minister of local government, introduced the poll tax and defended it passionately to the death? In a classic piece of political misjudgment he even told his party conference in a speech that the poll tax would win the Tories the next election. 'If he can survive dropping the poll tax, he can survive anything,' said one admiring Tory MP. Instead MPs and the media showed far more interest</p>
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