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 DEFENCE COMMAND
 DUBROVNIK MUNICIPALITY
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 8 December 1991
 DUBROVNIK/

Report on enemy b/d /combat operations/ on 5-6 December 1991

To: Mr Rudolf DAVORIN, Minister of Maritime Affairs

- 1) During the afternoon of 5 December 1991, the enemy commenced tactical movements in the general Srđ sector.

One tank /illegible/ from Žarkovica was sent to the Bosanka sector, two tanks were sent from the Graca sector to the Strinčijera and Mulni Dol sector, and two lorries carrying soldiers were sent to the village of Bosanka.

During the nights of 5-6 December 1991, the enemy deployed forces on a semi-circular axis: Bosanka – Mulni Do – Strinčijera, from which he manoeuvred reinforced companies during the night, cleared mines from the minefield around the Srđ feature and at dawn came almost to within 200 metres of the fortress itself.

At about 0550 hours, the enemy started heavy artillery fire using 105 mm howitzers, 120 mm MB /mortars/, tanks, 82 mm BsT /recoilless guns/, POVR /anti-tank guided missile systems/ and other weapons against Srđ, and all areas of the town. With direct support from four tanks and mortar and howitzer fire, they continued a concerted attack on the Srđ fortress and managed to ascend to its eastern and western parts, where the fighting on both sides entailed solely the use of ROBs /hand grenades/.

At about 0800 hours on 6 December 1991, an attack was launched on the Gradci – Gornja Lokvica – Donja Lokvica axis using one platoon. This was repulsed through vigorous action by our forces in the Nuncijat sector.

The fiercest fighting took place between 0900 and 1000 hours when the enemy directed all artillery pieces to fire on the old and new towns, which inflicted serious damage on the old town.

The *Libertas* hotel and area around it were subjected to particular fire and many civilians were wounded and killed. Although we obtained guarantees from the Boka VPS /Naval Sector/ that the fire would stop, it continued against these positions and the town until 1700 hours, particularly against Sustjepan at around 1600 hours, where the fire lasted until 1715 hours.

As a result of the fierce resistance of our forces on Srđ and their artillery fire, the enemy began to withdraw at about 1100 hours, having suffered serious losses in ž/s /manpower/ and TMS /materiel and technical supplies/. One tank was disabled and we believe that between 25 and 30 were killed.

There were no naval or aerial combat operations.

- 2) Based on the movements during the afternoon of 5 December 1991 and the night of 5-6 December 1991, and the axes and methods of operation, it can be concluded that this was an attack planned in advance and intended to conquer at

all costs the Srđ feature and create conditions that are as favourable as possible for the continuation of negotiations.

The remains of equipment, weapons and MES /mines and explosives/ found indicate that the enemy used special forces on the front line, equipped with AG /expansion unknown/ and AF /expansion unknown/ grenades.

As a result of the enemy artillery fire, significant damage was inflicted on the old town, the *Belvedere* and *Libertas* hotels, Lapad, Sustjepan, on commercial and residential buildings, causing fires in five buildings in the old town, Lokrum, the *Libertas* hotel and the Inter-University Centre for Post-Graduate Studies. Of the other major buildings, two or three projectiles fell on the Church of St. Blaise, the Franciscan Monastery, Church of St. Nicolas, Church of St. Joseph, Church of St. Rocco, the Sponza Palace, *Rupe* Museum, Archives, Convent of the Sisters of Sigurate, Stradun /main street in Dubrovnik old town/ (more than 100 missiles), and all the most valuable cultural monuments were hit by at least one missile.

Fourteen civilians were killed and 30 were wounded (unofficial information).

Cvijeto ANTUNOVIĆ distinguished himself in particular. At about 0630 hours, he set off on his own initiative for Srđ, threw an ROB into an enemy trench, disabled a tank and when the situation had calmed down somewhat, he came back with a seriously wounded soldier.

COMMAND