The United States, France and the United Kingdom each anticipate providing roughly a division sized combat force. Each nation will tailor that force to reflect the specific geographic and ethnic characteristics of the region in which they will operate. Other nation's will contribute units ranging from company to battalion size, based on mission requirements.

For the United States, the call-up of approximately 1,500 to 2,000 reserve component personnel is likely. These units will participate primarily in combat support, service support, medical, civil affairs and military police functions. The reserve components have been heavily taxed over the past three years supporting U.N. and humanitarian relief missions in Rwanda, Somalia, Haiti and now Bosnia. Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard units are an essential element of the on-going airlift to support the Bosnian people.

COST ESTIMATES

Officials at the U.S. European Command were unable to provide any specific estimate on the cost of U.S. operations. Discussions with senior officials at the Department of Defense indicate that the likely incremental cost for fiscal year 1996 of the ground force component of a NATO peace implementation force will total approximately $1.5 to $2.0 billion. This amount does not address the costs of the on-going ''no fly'' enforcement mission or the naval embargo in the Adriatic Sea.

More detailed estimates are expected upon completion of the peace agreement, and the finalization of NATO operational plans.

TIMETABLE FOR POTENTIAL DEPLOYMENT

Officials at the U.S. European Command estimated that NATO force would be tasked to deploy to Bosnia and Croatia within 96 hours of the formal adoption of a peace settlement. What will constitute the ''formal adoption'' of an agreement is not yet known. NATO leaders concurred with this estimate.

NATO leaders had not yet defined what mechanism would trigger the Alliance's participation in the mission, and the timetable for consideration by the North Atlantic Council of a request for NATO involvement. NATO officials anticipated that the military mission would be predicated on a United Nations Security Council resolution, authorizing such a mission pursuant to Chapter 7 of the U.N. Charter.

NATO officials did not articulate the mechanism by which individual nations would determine and affirm their participation in the mission.

COMMAND AND CONTROL/RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

Central to the role of U.S. military forces in a deployment to Bosnia will be the command relationships and the rules of engagement that would govern their participation. In every discussion, the Delegation found that all parties believed the utilization of NATO would obviate the problems encountered by the United Nations command structure. The flawed ''dual-key'' control by the United Nations of military force limited the usefulness of that force, and caused all the combattant parties to doubt and mistrust the commitment of the United Nations to securing peace in Bosnia.

U.S. military officials stated categorically that U.S. forces would serve under the command of U.S. military officers through the NATO chain of command. They affirmed that the rules of engagement will provide wide latitude to respond with disproportionate force to any attack or threat to U.S. or NATO personnel.

Less clear is how those rules of engagement will deal with threats to local populations, whether Bosnian Muslim, Croat or Serb, by any military, guerilla or terrorist force. Again, the peace agreement is expected to provide guidance on the role of the military peace implementation force, and how they might respond to such situations.

PARTICIPATION OF NON-NATO FORCES

A point of sensitivity and uncertainty in discussions with U.S. military, NATO, Bosnian and Croat leaders was the participation of non-NATO military units in a peace implementation force. This applied both to the potential role for Islamic nations and Russia.

NATO leaders believed that the inclusion of Russian military forces would contribute to the stability and likely success of the mission. Officials in Croatia and Bosnia believe that the Serb parties will insist on a Russian presence. U.S. military officials stated that on-going discussions with the Russian military were addressing command, control and funding issues associated with any Russian participation. U.S. officials anticipated that each participant in the NATO-led peace enforcement mission would pay their own costs. Again, this issue is expected to be addressed in the anticipated peace settlement.

CLOSING OBSERVATIONS

While reaching no conclusion about what action the Senate might take regarding the potential deployment of U.S. military forces to Bosnia as part of a NATO peace implementation force, the Delegation believes that several critical and vital issues must be resolved before a full and complete understanding of the mission can be reached.

From the perspective of the use of U.S. military units, the following issues must be addressed:

(1) The end state or ''exit strategy'' for U.S. forces.
(2) Funding for U.S. operational costs.
(3) Funding for non-NATO participants.
(4) Demarcation of U.S. and allied zones of deployment.
(5) Composition of U.S. and allied military forces.
(6) Logistics support for U.S. and allied military forces.
(7) Transit/air access in Bosnia.
(8) Air defense responsibilities.
(9) Transition for current U.N. mission to NATO control.
(10) Rules of engagement.
(11) Transition to civilian aid/recovery program.
(12) Specific tasks U.S. forces will perform.

These outstanding issues are not intended to negatively reflect the discussions and meeting by the Delegation—they simply represent the unknown factors surrounding this mission.

FLAG DESECRATION CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of Senate Joint Resolution 31, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 31) proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to grant Congress and States the power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.

The Senate resumed consideration of the joint resolution.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for 12 minutes in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. THOMAS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

PERCENTAGE DEPLETION ALLOCATION

Mr. MURKOWSKI. I thank the Chair. I will share with my colleagues a little known fact concerning the effect of the Clinton administration's new proposed 7-year balanced budget and the effect it will have for thousands of working men and women in Western States, those men and women working specifically in the mining industry.

This is a $1 billion budget bombshell that will cost thousands of domestic jobs, and it will increase our domestic balance of payments, because buried in the details of the Clinton budget alternative is a provision that would hike taxes on many mining operations on Federal land.

The administration is proposing an elimination of the percentage depletion allowance for nonfuel minerals mined on public lands where mining rights were obtained by the patent process. ''Patent process'' can be construed to mean patents, as well as the process of applying for a patent.

This is extraordinarily far reaching, Mr. President. According to the administration, this would save—they use the word ''save''—$954 million over 10 years, placing a $1 billion burden on our Nation's miners.

You can imagine the significance of trying to be competitive in a world market, suddenly faced with a reality of losing the depletion allowance, which in many cases allows our mining industry to be competitive internationally.

Why the White House has singled out the mining industry for punishment is anyone's guess. It appears to be the latest assault by Secretary Babbitt, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Clinton administration on the West.

The administration seems to want to paint the miners as some kind of corporate guru, the exception rather than the rule as far as the reality is concerned, because many of the operations are small mom-and-pop operations that are clearly in jeopardy by this proposal.

It would provide a war on hard-working people and their jobs. Why they are singled out as the only industry for termination, one can only speculate.

Oil, gas and coal jobs are not put in jeopardy by this move by the administration to lose the depletion allowance. However, one should reflect on the fact that this may be the camel's nose under the tent. It is only a matter of time until this administration will again use the Tax Code to go after oil and gas and the coal industry.

Having heard my friend from North Dakota express his concern over the deficit balance of payments, I again remind the President and my colleagues, this Nation grew strong on the development of our natural resources, our oil, our coal, our gas, our timbering industry, our mining industry, our grazing industry. All these appear to be put in jeopardy. In fact, the development of resources from all public lands appears to be on the administration's blacklist.