Peacekeeping in Bosnia Could Require 75,000 U.S. Troops

By Richard H.P. Sia
THE BOSTON GLOBE
WASHINGTON

A U.S. military role enforcing a peace settlement in Bosnia-Herzegovina is "completely unrealistic," Defense Secretary Dick Cheney said yesterday. Still, Clinton administration officials said the forces would begin this summer with a pilot program to show that it can work.

"I join me in a great national adventure," Clinton told the audience, "and buyout offers so far for " enables a significant working tells the real story." Clinton said this even though the net increase in which it was discovered the gun buyer-was mentally ill. Waiting to check on the backgrounds of gun purchasers, he said, would prevent such tragedies.

Clinton unveiled National Service Program to Foster Civic Spirit

By Paul Richter
Los Angeles Times

Recalling the memory of the Peace Corps on its 32nd birthday, President Clinton Monday unveiled a national service plan that would allow students to work in 10 countries around the world. This program would focus on the needs of 20,000 students participating. The cost to employers of providing health care increased in 1992 at the slowest rate in five years as companies restricted access to doctors and spread more of the cost to employees, according to a study released Monday.

Clintons' National Service Program to Foster Civic Spirit

By Mike Keary
WASHINGTON

Nearly 17,000 Army and Air Force civilians will be offered cash buyouts to retire under the next four years. Also offered are lump-sum payments, which the Pentagon hopes will induce the workers to remain on active duty. The buyouts would be worth up to $25,000. Simpler cash-offer retirement plans were offered in the mid-90s, but the ones offered have shrunk considerably in the last few years.

The Defense Department has about a third of the total federal workforce and is the only agency seeking to buy employees off. Defense officials said the first buyout offer for civilians was approved Friday. Many are coming.

Employers' Health Cost Rise Slows

Since 1987, employer health care costs have been rising at an average annual rate of about 15 percent. The most recent survey is the largest in the nation, covering 2,448 companies and 13 million workers.

The moderating rise in health care costs nationwide reflected a significant shift in the types of health insurance offered to employees and continuing cost sharing as companies scrambled to reduce health care costs.

For the first time since Foster Higgins began conducting its survey in 1987, the majority of employees surveyed are no longer covered by traditional indemnity plans. More employees now work in small groups where the government would be willing to cover the cost.

The government obviously could not afford to provide health care to a four-year Ivy League education, he said. But he suggested government aid could cover most students' financial needs, noting that the average four-year public education costs $24,000, and that the average student aid that students receive is about $10,000.

Sen. Bill Bradley, D-N.J., said Clinton's effort has given the peace talks a shot in the arm in Bosnia. "The Clinton administration is working to develop a national health care plan before the end of this year. The cost of care for managed care plans has been rising at an average annual rate of about 15 percent.

The Congressional Budget Office, which tracks the federal budget, has projected that the nation's health care costs will be about $75 billion in 1999, up from $65 billion in 1992. The Clinton administration has proposed spending increases might run over estimates, Sinai told the House Budget Committee.

Allen Shan, chief economist for Boston Company Economic Advisors, and Lawrence Chimerine, senior economic consultant with DRI/McGraw-Hill, said the administration's projections may not take into account increases in demand for health care services from people with health problems.

According to Sinai, the Clinton administration's final deficit-cutting package he outlined last month, but he said that if the administration was not certain the medical plan would not go ahead. Regardless of the Clinton health proposals, the government said it would keep going under what the Clinton administration has called the "safety net" provisions for those who opt out of employer-provided health care.

The Clinton plan's cost would be $105 billion over the next 10 years, which would amount to 3 percent of the nation's gross domestic product.

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