

## COPYRIGHT / USAGE

Material on this site may be quoted or reproduced for **personal and educational purposes** without prior permission, provided appropriate credit is given. Any commercial use of this material is prohibited without prior permission from The Special Collections Department - Langsdale Library, University of Baltimore. Commercial requests for use of the transcript or related documentation must be submitted in writing to the address below.

When crediting the use of portions from this site or materials within that are copyrighted by us please use the citation: *Used with permission of the University of Baltimore.*

If you have any requests or questions regarding the use of the transcript or supporting documents, please contact us:

Langsdale Library  
Special Collections Department  
1420 Maryland Avenue Baltimore, MD 21201-5779



## **Holocaust Memorial Foundation Of Illinois**

**4255 West Main Street, Skokie, Illinois 60076-2063 / 708-677-4640**

**President**  
Erna I. Cans

**Vice Presidents**  
Edward Fox  
Judy Lachman  
Adam Starkopf

**Secretary**  
Bela Kora

**Treasurer**  
Nathan Helberg

**Executive Board**  
Lisa Derman  
Karlo Grenton  
Al Lachman  
Jack Silber  
Barbara Steiner

**Executive Director**  
Lillian Polus Gerstner

**Administrative Assistant**  
Myrte Figman

**Educational Director**  
Dr. Leon Stein

**Board of Directors**  
Fay Aron  
Gerald Bender  
Lisl Bogart  
Felicia Brenner  
Aron Derman  
David Figman  
Burton Friedman  
Fritz Fritzsche  
Sol Goldstein  
Otha Grenton  
Lawrence Heinrich  
Henry John  
Ida Karsz  
Margit Karsz  
Abe Kogan  
Ann Lampert  
Dr. Elliot Lefkowitz  
Netti Myers  
Stanley Myers  
Joseph Neumann  
Alan Nisenbaum  
Rose Phillips  
Sharon Resot  
Liza Silber  
Pela Starkopf  
Mark Weinberg

**Honorary Board**  
Hyman Abrams  
Association of Children of Holocaust  
Survivors

Hon. Sen. Arthur Berman  
Rabbi Neil Brief  
Hon. Mayor Jacqueline B. Gorell  
Dr. Theodore L. Gross  
David Grand  
Holocaust Association of Child  
Survivors

Marshall Korshak  
Hon. Lt. Gov. Bob Kustra  
Rev. Arthur J. Landwehr  
Hon. Rep. Louis Long  
Hon. Judge David Linn  
Hon. Judge Abraham Marovitz  
Hon. Rep. Lee Preston  
James P. Rice  
Dr. Carole Rzewny  
Peggy Shapiro  
Hon. Mayor (Ret.) Albert J. Smith  
Manfred Steinleid  
Maynard Wisner  
Rabbi Carl Wolkin

**Scholarship Fund Contributors**  
National Council of Jewish Women

August 11, 1992

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Holocaust Memorial Foundation of Illinois deploras the tragic situation in former Yugoslavia. As Holocaust Survivors we do not approve of detention camps, regardless of who the victims might be. However, we strongly object to the comparison of detention camps to the Nazi death camps of Auschwitz and Treblinka.

We call on the United States government to get all the facts, not to rely only on the news media who sometimes give only the information which they were allowed to obtain.

The United Nations and the United States have the responsibility to see to it that inhumane treatment of any people should never occur. If we have learned anything from past history, we should acknowledge that silence and inaction only encourage the perpetrators to greater crimes against mankind.



THE JEWISH-SERBIAN FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY OF AMERICA  
CHICAGO CHAPTER  
1872 North Clybourn, Chicago, Illinois 60614  
(312) 327-8521

August 10, 1992

The American Jewish Committee  
American Jewish Congress  
Anti-Defamation League

RE: THE NEW YORK TIMES open letter, dated  
August 5, 1992

Dear Sir or Madam:

The Jewish-Serbian Friendship Society (JSFS) shares in your condemnation of the alleged existence of "concentration camps" and the concept of "ethnic cleansing" in the former Yugoslavia. We vigorously support investigation into all reports and call for all those found guilty to be held accountable. We categorically denounce all acts of inhumanity on all sides - Serbian, Croatian and Bosnian.

However, we are extremely disappointed that your letter singles out the Serbs. For months we have repeatedly attempted to have a meaningful dialogue with various representatives of the Jewish community. All such attempts have been met with the same response: The American Jewish community has decided not to enter into a public posture.

We are disturbed by the form in which your ultimate position was presented. On the basis of unconfirmed reports about Serbian "death camps" and in light of the number of reliable sources who charge all sides with atrocities, why does the language of your open letter all but convict the Serbs without conclusive evidence or a trial?

Of course we must remember Auschwitz and Treblinka. We must also remember Jasenovac, the Croatian death camp, in which hundreds of thousands of victims, including Serbs, Jews and Gypsies perished. We have heard that many Jewish Holocaust survivors, including one of our members, are outraged at the suggestion that there is a meaningful parallel between the Nazi death camps of WWII and the current Serbian P.O.W. and detention camps.

The general tenet of our society is to preserve, strengthen and further the historical friendship and cooperation between Jewish and Serbian people. This relationship should not be carelessly disregarded. The Jewish community should not forget the succor and protection that Serbs have historically bestowed upon them.

One of the principal aims of our society is to lead a constant battle against racism as well as national, religious, and political discrimination and hatred. The foremost Yugoslav writer and dissident against the former Communist regime, who is now the President of Yugoslavia, Dobrica Cosic, was the founder of JSFS. We have approximately ten thousand members with chapters in Belgrade, Israel, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago and Toronto.

Enclosed is material that points to another side of the story. Should you wish to learn more, we would welcome a meeting with your representatives.

Very truly yours,



Betsy Lalich, President



Susan M. Klein, Vice-President

Endorsed by:

Misha Milosavljevic, Chairman - Los Angeles Chapter  
Dusica Benghiat, President - Los Angeles Chapter  
William Porazic, President - San Francisco Chapter  
George Popadic, President - Canadian Chapter

# Ustasha, the evil force

By Herb Brin

**B**anya Luka (Special) — In this dirty, dirty, dirty war, truth is evil for the Western press. United Nations' sanctions against Serbia are working very well. Against children. And speak softly about the source of all evil here in Bosnia: the murderous Ustasha.

For the uninitiated, the Ustasha, a creation of the nazi puppet interior minister, Andrija Artukovic, slaughtered some 700,000 Serbs and an estimated 60,000 Jews and Gypsies during World War II.

The present Croatian government is a direct inheritor of the nazi puppeteers. The Croatian flag has adopted the checker-board symbols of the Ustasha. When the

new Croatia declared its independence, the first government to recognize the state was Germany.

Austria was not far behind.

After adopting a program of sanctions against the Serbs for responding to what Serbia perceives as aggression against its survival, the United Nations declared itself at war with the Serbian nation. The war is a terrible confrontation with Serbian children. The Serb soldiers in the field are not affected by the sanctions.

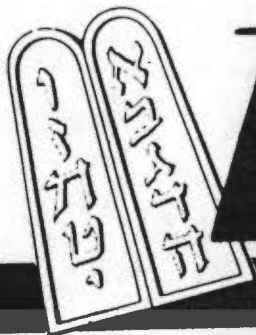
Sanctions or not, the Serbian army that I visited in the piping hot "corridor" separating Serb fighters from Bosnian Muslims and Croatian Catholics is fighting for its life.

A battle lost may end the Serbian experience for all time.

*Continued on Viewpoint B*



**CROSSROADS** — HERITAGE publisher Herb Brin pauses during his Yugoslavian tour.



# heritage

PUBLISHED SINCE 1914

## SOUTHWEST Jewish Press

VOL. 5753  
No. 25

Heritage Combined Paid Mail Subscriptions are First in California  
Second Class Postage Paid at Los Angeles, CA

Friday, March 12, 1993

Single Copy **60¢**



Herb Brin

# Across the City Desk

Continued from Page 1

"That is not acceptable," said Mayor Pedrag Radic in an unusual meeting with HERITAGE at the city hall in Banja Luka.

He was outraged at the Western media for seeking to halt a Serbian army in the field by describing the Serbians as "gangsters."

"There is a war going on" he said. "The guns are pointed both ways."

As to supplies going to embattled Bosnian towns, he said: "Lines are open through Serbian territories to middle Bosnia. Now there are two corridors for supplies to reach Sarajevo. I informed the UNHCR (the High Commission for Refugees) that the lines are open through Serbian territories."

The mayor said that his city has some 17,000 refugees who are being punished by UN decisions not to offer refugee supplies to them.

"These people are innocent victims of war," he said.

About charges that the Serbs were setting up concentration camps:

"There were two places which used to be gathering centers for prisoners of war. One was called Trnopolje, the other Manjaca," he said. "There were 7,000 prisoners kept there, and all humanitarian agencies, including the International Red

## The battle for survival

Cross, the European Community and other delegations took care of them.

"The Serbs released 7,000 POWs, both Muslim and Croatian, while the other side released only 450 prisoners — regardless of the fact that they operate concentration camps in Livno, Tomislavgrad and a village called Rascani, where 250 Serbs are held.

"The worst place is the train tunnel called Bradina, near Konjic. The tunnel is closed at both sides. Within 200 meters, they are holding more than a thousand people. There is no Red Cross inspection. A French minister tried in vain to reach the tunnel.

"Usually, when prisoners of war are exchanged, Serbs give them real soldiers only to get back women and children in the exchange."

Mayor Radic sent a message to Elie Wiesel, inviting him to return to Banja Luka and see for himself.

Elie, a longtime dear, dear friend of mine, has written an important op-ed

piece for the New York Times, criticizing the Serbs and saying they had lied to him.

"It is much better for a journalist to be here for a short period of time than for lies to be written about us by reporters who make false reports out of Zagreb and who have never been seen in Banja Luka," the mayor said, adding:

"Dear Mr. Wiesel, I invite you kindly to come back and stay a bit longer and see whatever you want to see."

The first reporters from papers such as the Los Angeles Times and New York Times were very fair to the Serbian people, Radic said. "But they were later replaced by reporters who came in with preconceived notions, and that is unacceptable."

I asked: "Is Serbia being satanized the way Israel was perceived in the world press on the Palestinian issue?"

"Absolutely!" he responded bitterly.

"In this place called Bosnia there are 60,000 regular Croatian troops fighting against us. Particularly in southeast Herzegovina and northern Bosnia. But Serbia is accused of promoting the war. There are sanctions that affect Serbian families, women, old folks, children. But there are no sanctions against Croatian forces.

"We have cases where 100-year-old

Continued on Viewpoint D



Friday, March 12, 1993

"Justice, Justice Shall Thou Pursue . . ."  
DAN BRIN, Editor HERB BRIN, Publisher  
BOB LUPO, Executive Editor  
TOM TUGEND, Senior Associate Editor

HERITAGE PUBLICATIONS: Heritage-Southwest Jewish Press (serving Greater Los Angeles), Orange County Jewish Heritage, San Diego Jewish Press Heritage, and Central California Jewish Heritage.

AWARDS: ADL Communications Award; four Smoler Awards; two Sigma Delta Chi and California Newspaper Publishers Association news excellence awards; seven Simon Rockower awards for news excellence; Jewish War Veterans award; Zionist Organization of America Louis D. Brandeis award; City of Hope Torch of Merit award; California Mental Health Association Three Ball award.

D  
E  
F  
G  
H  
I  
J  
K  
L  
M  
N  
O  
P  
Q  
R  
S  
T  
U  
V  
W  
X  
Y  
Z

# City Desk

Continued from Viewpoint B

people have died in geriatric centers of the cold temperatures, lack of food and lack of medicines.

"Newborn babies have died when they couldn't be cared for. In one case, there was no oxygen to support a baby's life. People with kidney problems have died. This territory is not under sanctions, but for all practical purposes, it has become a war against our old folks and our children. The United Nations is playing a heartless game with us."

Mayor Radic showed me a list of people held captive in Croatian camps at Rascani. "You can see who are their prisoners of war," the mayor said. "The oldest one was born in 1902. The youngest is three years old.

I had spent the night in Banja Luka's main hotel, unheated during temperatures that move down to 16 degrees Fahrenheit in a raging blizzard which engulfed the area. No electricity. No hot water.

"Mr. Mayor," I asked. "What's going to happen?"

"Bosnia must be cantonized," the mayor said. "This is a proposition closest to being acceptable by all three parties. All three signed the proposal, but in the final moment, the Muslims turned it down."

Radic said that the Serbs "are authentically here."

"Serbs were born here, and we have no intention of pulling out," he said.

When the Hitlerian "Independent State of Croatia" was formed, Bosnia was incorporated into Croatia while the Ustasha killers roamed the countryside in one of the most brutal "ethnic cleansing" efforts directed at the Serbian people.

Men, women and children were slaughtered at the Jasenovac camp south of Zagreb. The Serbian people have not forgotten. The Ustasha is still the society of killers. And that's what is so appalling about the events taking place in what was Yugoslavia. The world refuses to understand.

At one time, there were 353 Jews living in Banja Luka. Now the city is home for some 50 Jews. Nobody knows what happened to the Jews of Banja Luka. They just disappeared.

When the Germans bombed the ancient Serbian Orthodox Church, a magnificent structure in downtown Banja Luka, Jews were used as slave labor to clear away the debris caused by the German bombing.

The mayor said the most notorious Ustasha member were those who possessed some Serbian blood." Two of the

worst Ustasha killers were Victor Gutic, who had a Serbian grandfather, and Felix Nedjelski, whose maternal grandfather was a Serbian Orthodox priest.

The Croatian Ustasha killed more people at Jasenovac on Dec. 24 and 25, 1941, than any time in the mass slaughters of humanity.

Under the auspices of Andrija Artukovic, the Ustasha organized a competition among 10 of the most brutal killers. The game was, who among the 10 would kill more victims. And there were rules. The killers were given "one shot or one slash" — and the victim had to be dead to be counted.

And there was a commission set up by the Ustasha to inspect the corpses. If a victim were still alive, someone else would finish the job. But he wouldn't be counted in the competition.

The Ustasha winner scored 7,000 plus.

One killer among the 10 was a Muslim. After the terrible slaughter, the killer's father refused to hear about his son any longer. When the son learned of the father's decision, he returned to the Muslim village and killed his father in a mosque.

One of the Serbia's leading literary critics, Mladen Sukalo, told HERITAGE that there was no containing the brutalities of war as Serb armies are confronting the Croats and Muslims.

Did Serbian soldiers force Muslims to lower their trousers to show that they were circumcised? (This was a practice used by the nazis and Ustasha to learn

who among the victims was Jewish.)

"During a war, anything is possible," Sukalo admitted. "No war happens without crime. If it happens now on any side of the fighting, that is deplorable."



# Heritage

Friday, March 12, 1993

"Justice, Justice Shall Thou Pursue . . ."  
DAN BRIN, Editor HERB BRIN, Publisher  
BOB LUPO, Executive Editor  
TOM TUGEND, Senior Associate Editor

# heritage

Friday, March 12, 1993

"Justice, Justice Shall Thou Pursue . . ."  
DAN BRIN, Editor HERB BRIN, Publisher  
BOB LUPO, Executive Editor  
TOM TUGEND, Senior Associate Editor

... get me by my side as we drive.

## World War II never ended in the Balkans

By Herb Brin

**W**orld War II never ended in the Balkans. That's what the troubles are all about in Bosnia, Croatia and Serbia. And the guns of terror are still pointing in all directions.

After visiting the war zones of Bosnia-Herzegovina, my advice to the West is this: Don't turn away from the Serbs, whose civilization, often frightful for the Jews — and often beautiful — parallels much of the course of Jewish history on the continent.

Ah, but where were Jews ever accorded unimpeded golden moments of peace? Spain. England. France? Lithuania? Ukraine? Russia. Russia. Russia?

Germany?  
Austria?  
Poland? Poland?

Radoslav A. Artukovic, whose father, Andrija, was the supreme individual slaughterer of mankind as founder of the Ustasha in Hitler's puppet state, Croatia,

is carving out a special niche for himself as a hater of the Serbs.

As part of a Croatian apparatus, Rad monitors HERITAGE weekly. Subscribes to HERITAGE for two years at a time. Often he says nice things about us. That's the way it is.

Inspired by news events reported over Belgrade TV last week, which had Herb Brin soaring on prime time television via world satellite, Rad sent in a batch of faxes showing that an article in Midstream magazine spent most of its 3,500 words in a blast at the Serbs. Rad thus concludes by *reductio ad absurdum* that Croatia is a great and peaceful nation and that Rad's murderous father didn't do it.

Which, of course, he did.

Dr. Philip J. Cohen, a dermatologist and immunologist, writing in Midstream places much of the responsibility for the huge Serbian and Jewish losses in Croatia during World War II on the Serbian people themselves.

A twisting of history.  
Andrija Artukovic, as interior minister,

of the Independent State of Croatia, masterminded the deaths of more than a million Serbs and 60,000 Jews and Gypsies.

It doesn't take a magnum leap of logic to realize that survivors of that terrible genocide would not take too kindly to another Croatian state which uses the Ustasha banner for its flag.

And perhaps it is also understandable, that Germany would be the first European nation to recognize Croatia. As it was.

And it's also understandable that, with a legacy of such terror, the Serbs would not take it all very lightly.

That's what the shooting in the Balkans is all about.

And now in Rome there are those who propose making the Pope of Silence into a saint.

Will it come to pass, one day, that Germany will return the black swastika to its red banners over Berlin?

World War II never ended in the Balkans.



pg. 5



**WHO ARE THE VICTIMS?** — Children are the victims. This child, an Ustasha victim of the Croatian genocide in 1941, is remembered only on a museum wall in Belgrade.



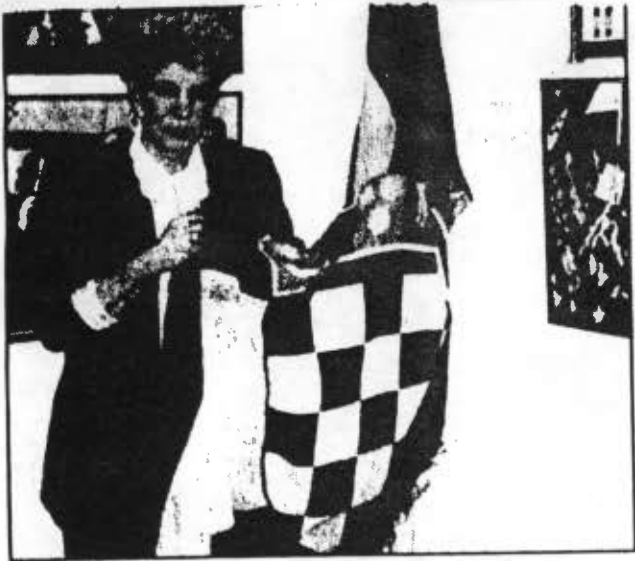
**CROWDED PRESS CONFERENCE** — Herb underscores reasons why he accepted invitation to visit the war zones in Bosnia. "Hitler must not be allowed to win another victory," he said. His prime time TV message was carried by world satellite.

## Why Herb went to Bosnia

"... In this country no one but the Croats can live any longer, for this is the state of Croatia, and those who will not succumb, we know what to do with them. In those upper parts of the country, I have cleansed everything from the chick to the old man, and if necessary I shall have that done here as well, for today it is not a sin to kill a small child of 7 years of age, who is in the way of the Ustashi order. Don't think that just because I am wearing a priest's vestment that I wouldn't take a machine gun and slay everything to the crib, everything that is against this state . . ."

*Friar Dionizije Juricev, in the Serbian village of Staza, summer of 1941*

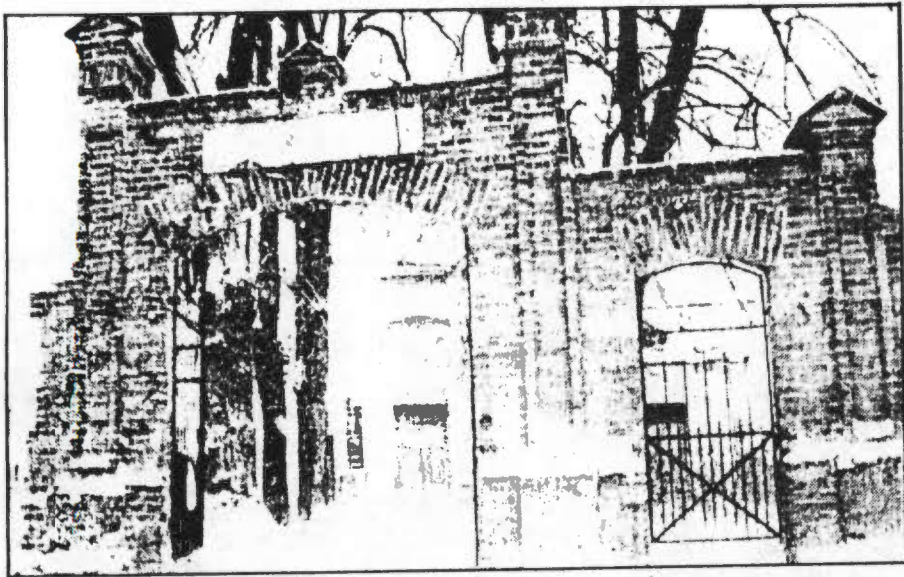
19-6



**BANNER OF DEATH** — Jewish Serbian leader, Dr. Clara Mandic, unfurls Ustasha flag under which Croats are still fighting to cleanse Serbs and Jews from the Balkans.



**THE CROATIAN KILLERS** — Hitler puppet Ante Pavlic encourages the Ustasha in 1941 to press forward with the genocide killing of more than a million Serbs, Gypsies and Jews in the days of German power.



**DESTROYED SYNAGOGUE** — When Vukovar in Bosnia came under sharp attack, the ancient Jewish house of worship was caught in the crossfire and left in ruins. Herb recited prayers in the adjoining Jewish cemetery which was covered by blanket of snow.



**MAYOR OF BANJA LUKA** — Mayor Pedrag Radic wants more western journalists to visit his city and learn why Serbian forces are fighting so bitterly for survival. He told HERITAGE that UN sanctions are not acceptable and are working only against elderly civilians and children.



# INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF GENOCIDE

at John Jay College of Criminal Justice  
(The City University of New York)  
899 Tenth Avenue, Room 623, New York, NY 10019

Contact: Helen Fein  
617 354-2785

Julia Bryant  
212 237-8628

## MEDIA RELEASE

### INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE URGES STOP GENOCIDE NOW

New York, NY April 22, 1993 -- Serbs, Croats, Muslims and members of other ethnic and religious communities in all the states of former Yugoslavia, recognized that the Serbian authorities in Bosnia and Serbia are perpetrating genocide in Bosnia, and asked the United States, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and the United Nations to act immediately to create safe havens in Bosnian cities protected by sufficient force to deter attacks at an international conference convened by the Institute for the Study of Genocide at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York with Simon Wiesenthal yesterday.

### THE OPPOSING SIDES AGREE

The conferees agreed on resolving ways to protect Bosnian Muslims and others at risk for further genocide and to deter future genocides.

### MORE

Judith Bronfman Executive Board Secretary (212) 237-8631  
Helen Fein Executive Director (914) 255-7546

"The obligation of the United States, the states of western Europe and other signers of the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide is to stop genocide now," said Helen Fein, Executive Director of the Institute for the Study of Genocide. "Genocide is not only mass killing. It also includes causing serious bodily or mental harm to member of the group and deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part.

The mass rape of Muslim women, causing enduring harm to the victims and their families can also be seen as part of a deliberate and organized plan of destruction of the Muslim people and is an act of genocide," Fein said.

#### PREVENTION AND PUNISHMENT

The conferees also call on Croatian authorities to do whatever is needed to prevent conflict between Croatian and Bosnian forces, including attacks against civilians which may escalate to genocide. "The authorities can and should suppress not only physical assaults but also suppress the use of genocidal symbols which instigate people to attack groups," Fein said.

There was also consensus that international trials of genocide and war crimes (by all parties) are needed as soon as possible to establish the responsibility of individuals,

to punish them appropriately, to prevent private reprisals instigated by the absence of law, and to deter future genocides.

#### THE RECOMMENDATIONS

The conferees recommended that perpetrators of genocide and war crimes (and of murder, rape and other crimes against humanity) be prohibited from becoming police officers and other officials in the local and central government of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The Vance-Owen plan should be amended to specify this. In order to clarify the record of the past and to achieve a moral consensus among ethnic groups, the conferees recommended there should be an independent historical tribunal to review the genocide and massacres against ethnic and political groups by states and organizations in Yugoslavia during and after the Second World War.

#### THE UNITED STATES CALL TO ACT

The conferees also recognized that the growth of ethnic groups' fears and hatred which led to the war and genocide was in part caused by the bias and distortion of incidents by government-sponsored or controlled mass media. They call on the United States to help fund independent mass media in Serbo-Croat, media based on respect for truth and human rights--possibly located outside the former states of Yugoslavia.

The Institute for the Study of genocide also recommends several steps to protect Bosnians now: assure safe passage out for civilians who want to flee, open up places for 25,000 Bosnian refugees in the United States, aid the countries of first asylum caring for over two million refugees, release all prisoners and detainees and open all camps to human rights monitors for ongoing inspection to oversee the protection and release of persons held.

Further, Fein says that "The United States should do more to press all parties through direct or indirect negotiations to insure the humans rights of all people and the civil rights of minorities. It should also talk to leaders of human rights groups and the democratic opposition in Serbia and Croatia. It could promote incentives among groups to respect each other and support cooperative ventures spanning national and ethnic lines."

#### THE INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF GENOCIDE

The Institute for the Study of Genocide is an non-profit educational organization with offices at John Jay College of Criminal Justice (899 Tenth Avenue, New York, NY 10019, Room 623). It was started in 1982 with the aid and inspiration of Simon Wiesenthal (Dokumentationszentrum, Vienna.) Simon Wiesenthal served as the Honorary Chairman of the conference from April 18-21 of the ISG on "The Path Beyond Genocide: Constructing Civil Society in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Former Yugoslavia."

END



The American Jewish Committee  
Office of Government and International Affairs  
1156 Fifteenth Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
Phone: (202) 785-4200  
Fax: (202) 785-4116

DATE: April 27, 1993  
TO: Area Directors  
FROM: Jason Isaacson  
RE: Bosnia

TOTAL PAGES: 3  
[incl. cover]

---

MESSAGE

Following is a two-page joint statement on Bosnia by AJC and 12 other national Jewish organizations, which was issued yesterday by NICRAC. This is the latest in a series of statements and actions instigated or endorsed by AJC in support of more forceful action by the world community, with U.S. leadership, to save the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina. We will continue to press for a decisive response by our government to the plight of the Bosnian people.

As a consequence of -- and follow-up to -- our efforts in this matter, our Annual Meeting next week will be addressed by the Foreign Minister of Bosnia, Haris Silajdzic. It promises to be a dramatic moment in our convention. The Foreign Minister's appearance is scheduled for Wednesday at 2 p.m.

---

---

# NJ CRAC NEWS

**National Jewish Community  
Relations Advisory Council**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

443 Park Avenue South  
New York, New York 10018.7322

**CONTACT: KENNETH BANDLER,  
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INFORMATION**

212.684.6950  
212.686.1353 Fax

**ORGANIZED JEWISH COMMUNITY CALLS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION  
TO HALT GENOCIDE IN BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA**

(New York, April 26) -- Thirteen national Jewish organizations and 117 Jewish communities, comprising the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council, today announced the launching of a major national campaign to urge the Clinton Administration to act immediately to stem the "ethnic cleansing" being committed largely by Serbian forces against Muslim and other civilian populations in Bosnia-Herzegovina. In their joint statement the Jewish organizations called for the immediate lifting of the arms embargo imposed against Bosnia-Herzegovina, and for the immediate and appropriate application of military force designed to stop the Serbian aggression.

The full text of the statement follows:

**Statement of the Organized Jewish Community on Bosnia-Herzegovina**

Thirteen national Jewish organizations\* and 117 Jewish communities, comprising the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council, announce the launching of a national campaign to urge the Clinton Administration to act immediately to stem the "ethnic cleansing" being committed largely by Serbian forces against Muslim and other civilian populations in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Clearly, the limited measures taken by the international community thus far, including the imposition of economic sanctions against Yugoslavia and the enforcement of the no-fly zone over Bosnia-Herzegovina, have not succeeded in protecting civilians or promoting an effective peace process.

As we commemorate the Holocaust this month by resolving that "never again" will we stand by and allow genocide to go unopposed, the organized Jewish community calls



**Memorandum****National Jewish Community  
Relations Advisory Council**443 Park Avenue South  
New York, New York 10018.7322

DATE: April 23, 1993

212.684.6950  
212.686.1353 Fax

TO: NJCRAC Member Agencies

FROM: Maynard Wishner, Chair  
Abraham J. Bayer, Director, International Concerns  
Michael Greenberg, Senior Community ConsultantRE: IMMEDIATE COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN TO HALT SERBIAN GENOCIDE

An NJCRAC consultation on the Bosnia situation involving over 20 national and community agencies was unanimous in calling for an immediate, concerted national campaign by the Jewish community to convince our government to take further steps to halt the genocide by Serbian forces against Bosnian Muslim and other civilians populations.

Political factors in the United States and on the ground in Bosnia-Herzegovina dictate the need for immediate action. It is possible that by receipt of this memo, our government may have already proposed greater measures. That does not mean they will not meet resistance in the Congress. Regardless, it is vital to communicate your support for a stronger policy to the White House and your members of Congress.

**Background**

From a bi-partisan consensus that is beginning to emerge in the Congress, to an increasing chorus of columnists, editorial writers and pundits, to the report of 12 State Department officials calling for military action, support is clearly building for our government to take more decisive measures to protect innocent civilians in Bosnia-Herzegovina and stop Serbian aggression.

Meanwhile, the situation on the ground in Bosnia is rapidly deteriorating in which largely unchecked Serbian forces continue committing atrocities including the mass rape of women and the slaughter of civilians.

**Our Position**

Consistent with the Resolution on Bosnia passed on February 15 at the NJCRAC Plenum, we recommend that in your activities and communications, you call for:

- A lifting of the arms embargo to provide Bosnia Muslims with the means to defend themselves.

"The Path Beyond Genocide:  
Constructing Civil Society in Bosnia-Herzegovina  
and the Former Yugoslavia"  
April 19-21, 1993

MESSAGE TO CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS  
from Honorary Chairman Simon Wiesenthal

Dear President Lynch  
Dear Professor Fein  
Dear participants:

I am deeply sorry that some health problems have prevented me from coming to New York to participate in this important and urgently relevant conference. And so, unfortunately, I have to express my thoughts in this written message.

I am a survivor of the Nazi Holocaust who lost 89 members of my and my wife's family, I have spent my entire life remembering and reminding the world of the consequences of indifference and silence. And now I ask myself: can it be that all my efforts in over four decades of work have been in vain? In the course of these forty years I have spoken to millions of people - in Europe, the U.S.A., and other countries - and have written twelve books on the subject of remembering, and in order to prevent a repetition of a disaster such as the Holocaust in which so many innocent people have to pay with their lives.

Of course, one cannot compare what is happening now with Nazi times. But even if only a part of what we hear through the newsmedia or what I have learned by talking to trustworthy people who have been in Bosnia-Herzegovina and in Croatia and have been directly affected by what is going on there, even if only a part of all that is true - and although I don't want to generalize - it appears to me that soldiers with the tacit permission of their commanders have committed acts that seem to come from a school of bestiality. The drive towards evil together with a sense of impunity has led to veritable orgies of brutality that remind me of the occurrences in the Nazi concentration camps.

I remember the many lonely nights in the concentration camps wondering, is there anyone out there that knows, that cares, is there anyone out there prepared to do something. I am sure those are the thoughts conjured up in the hearts and minds of the thousands of innocent civilians caught up in this quagmire.

Those of us who heard no voices of protest when we were suffering under the Nazis were convinced that the world had written us off, that it was assumed that we would not survive, that we would no longer be there. And this involved millions of people - Jews, Poles, Serbs, Russians, Czechs, Gypsies and others.

That was a world war, however, and there was then no news reporting across frontiers as there is now, when every bestiality is brought

into our homes via television, radio and newspapers. Have we become so callous that we merely take note of all the atrocity? Of children being killed and thousands of people being deliberately starved out? Of the deliberate holding back of medical supplies for the ill and of the expulsion from their homes of people whose families have lived there for centuries? Is not the reaction of the world to everything we have heard and which has been verified by the reports of reliable persons such as the former prime minister of Poland, Professor Mazowiecki, a disgrace? A disgrace especially for Europe but also for the rest of the world?

Even though the U.N. has posted troops in former Yugoslavia and in the newly independent republics to keep order, the world's reaction nevertheless demonstrates impotence. Is it not a sign of impotence when the world is not even able to prevent the explosion of grenades among playing children in Sarajevo (as has just happened while I am writing these lines)?

Was the Convention for the Prevention and Prosecution of Genocide, of December 9, 1948, just a freak thing, a worthless piece of paper - as it seems although it was ratified by all civilized nations? The earlier and later conventions, such as the 4th Hague Convention of 1907 and the 4th Geneva Convention of 1949 also have had no influence on the terrible occurrences on the Balkans, and they are thus worthless for the suffering people there.

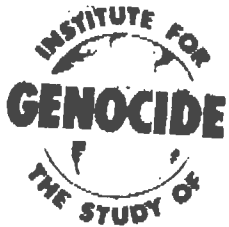
We have all heard of Bosanski Samac, Broko, Omarska, Maniacha and Visegrad, to name only a few of the places where large-scale crimes, such as first and second degree murder and the rape of women, have taken place. Other places are being deliberately destroyed, such as the city of Sarajevo with its population of half a million people. For over 500 years this Sarajevo was a model of a multicultural society, where different nationalities and religions lived together in harmony. Today its citizens are without water, electricity and heating materials, exposed to hunger and cold, just like the people in Bosnian towns of Srebrenica and Gradacac. Should there be peace, we will be appalled by the actual number of victims.

As a survivor of the greatest massacre in the history of mankind, I considered it my duty to initiate this conference as an outcry against an indifferent world that tolerates such crimes.

I hope that after hearing the witnesses and the experts, this conference will direct an urgent appeal for action to the world, to the United Nations and to the national governments.

We declare our solidarity with the innocent, suffering victims and their right to just punishment for those who have committed crimes or who have permitted or tolerated them.

Simon Wiesenthal



# INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF GENOCIDE

at John Jay College of Criminal Justice  
 (The City University of New York)  
 899 Tenth Avenue, Room 623, New York, NY 10019

Contact: Helen Fein  
 617 354-2785

Julia Bryant  
 212 237-8628

## ISG URGES STOP GENOCIDE NOW AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

New York, NY., April 21 -- The Institute for the Study of Genocide (ISG) at John Jay College of Criminal Justice called for a seven-point program to stop genocide in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Former Yugoslavia at a two-day international conference it sponsored with Simon Wiesenthal on "The Path Beyond Genocide: Constructing Civil Society in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Former Yugoslavia."

## THE INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF GENOCIDE CALLS FOR THE UNITED STATES AND ITS NATO ALLIES TO:

1. create safe havens now in Bosnian cities not yet conquered, protected by US and NATO troops;
2. assure safe passage out for civilians who want to flee, open up 25,000 places for Bosnia refugees in the US, and aid the countries of first asylum which are now caring for over 2 million refugees;
3. open all camps in the former states of Yugoslavia to human rights monitors and permit on going inspection;
4. work toward an interim solution in Bosnia guaranteeing physical security of all parties;

Judith Bronsman Executive Board Secretary (212) 237-8631  
 Helen Fein Executive Director (914) 255-7546

5. press all parties through direct or indirect negotiations to insure the human rights of all people and the civil and cultural rights of minorities;
6. support international trials of perpetrators of genocide and war crimes; and
7. promote incentives to respect rights among all groups and to support cooperative ventures through governmental and nongovernmental institutions.

The details of this program are spelled out in the following pages.

The ISG is a non-profit educational organization with offices at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, 899 Tenth Avenue, New York, NY 10019, Room 623. Simon Wiesenthal, Honorary Chairman of the Conference, helped start the ISG in 1982 and inspired the organization of this international conference. The conference brings together over fifty human rights activists, political figures, professors, officials, and others from Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, England, Germany, Slovakia, the United States and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

ДРУШТВО  
СРПСКО  
ЈЕВРЕЈСКОГ  
ПРИЈАТЕЉСТВА

THE JEWISH-SERBIAN FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY OF AMERICA

310 282 Trino Way, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272  
(213) 451-2203; 877-1704; 459-2433; (818) 984-0113

אגודת  
ידידות  
סרבית  
יהודית



VICE-PRESIDENT

Misha Mikosavijevic

VICE-PRESIDENT

Dr. Aaron Hess

Masha Loen

Dr. Sherman Z. Zacks

Dusica Savic Benghiat

RECORDING SECRETARY

Vasa Kostic

TREASURER

Betty Patsia

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

George Grujic

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Benjamin Woods

Ivan Trifunovic

ADVISORY BOARD

Lidia Budgor, Chairman

Leon Alkalaj

Raphael Benghiat

Fredy Diamant

Renee Firestone

Anna Fisher

Bernie Fisher

Dr. Samuel Goetz

Lela Kostic

Cornelius Loen

Branko Matetic

Branko Maljkovic

Dr. Michael Nutkowitz

Mike Sujdovic

Frances Zacks

HONORARY MEMBERS

USA

Prof. Alex Dragnic

Dr. Mile Draskovic

Dr. Dimitrije Djordjevic

Mihailo Djordjevic

Major Richard L. Felman

Nikola Kosanovic

Ilije Lubarda

Dr. Bogdan Maglic

Veroljub Radivojevic

Zlatomir Simic

Slavko Stankovic

Bob Stone

Miomir Tasic

George Vid Tomasevic

David Vujić

Zvonko Vuckovic

Dusko Zdravkovic

Predrag Zelenkovic

CANADA

Branko Djeletovic

YUGOSLAVIJA

Dr. Milan Bulajic

Brane Crncevic

Dr. Andrija Gams

Dr. Klara Mandic

Dr. Ljubomir Tadic

Director  
U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum  
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20024-2150

April 21, 1993

Dear Sir/Madam,

Information has reached us that, in a most comprehensive exhibition of the Nazi Holocaust, the Serbian Holocaust, has been completely omitted. We know that it is not due to lack of information, and therefore, we would like to know the reasons for such gross negligence.

Omitting one innocent victim can only lay down the ground for future Holocausts, and desecrate all the victims of this most tragic time.

If a Museum such as this one, does not have the courage to name the victims, for whom it was supposedly built, on the onstart it has lost its purpose and the dignity it should have had.

Our amazement was compounded when we heard that MR. Franjo Tudjman was invited to attend the opening ceremonies. A known anti-semitic attends, he who justifies genocide!!!

Is the opening of the Museum the beginning of the cleansing of Holocaust?

While unspeakable slaughter rages in Bosna, Croatian troops are joined by 15,000 neo-nazis from throughout the world, and the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum extends an invitation to the Croatian leader.

WHY?

We feel that it takes courage, honesty and integrity to stand up to the truth, irrespective of expediency. Your invitation to Franjo Tudjman is an admittance that you have failed those principles and therefore you have no right to the name: The Holocaust Memorial.

Your failure in this respect is no different to the erosion that took place in Nazi Germany when complacency and expediency, by the Jewish strata in the German society led eventually to what we are now memorializing.

*Dusica Savic Benghiat*  
Dusica Savic Benghiat  
President