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HELEN DELICH BENTLEY
2D DISTRICT, MARYLAND

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1418 GERMAN HILL ROAD
DUNDALK, MD 21222
301-285-2747

6 NORTH MAIN STREET
BEL AIR, MD 21014
301-879-2517

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

January 28, 1992

COMMITTEE ON
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MARITIME
ENERGY TASK FORCE

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL


The Honorable Slobodan Milosevic
President
Republic of Serbia
Belgrade, Yugoslavia

Dear Mr. President:

Allegations have come to my attention that you have recently announced the formation of a Communist Youth Corps with 2 young persons from each Yugoslav ethnic group. It is important that you confirm or deny this. If it is true, you are endangering all efforts I, and other Serbian-Americans have put forth to this date to defend the Republic of Serbia, both in Congress, and to the general public of the United States.

In addition, I would urge you to remove all red star insignia in use by the military and the Republic of Serbia, not just by statute, but also physically. The continual appearance of the red star is not only a public relations bonanza for the Croats, but it also has been seized on by the international media, both who use it to justify their claims of communist Serbian leadership.

Sincerely,


Helen Delich Bentley
Member of Congress

HDB:wvk

February 26, 1992

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

The Honorable Slobodan Milosevic
President
Republic of Serbia
Belgrade, Yugoslavia

Dear Mr. President:

I have given your desire to visit Washington much thought. To be frank, however, I must say that after consulting with a number of key people in Washington power circles, there is still resistance to meetings with you.

Although Serbia is backing the Vance peace plan, which definitely is a positive step in salvaging Serbia's international reputation, Serbia is unfortunately still perceived in the west as a "Bolshevik" or "Communist" state. The individuals with whom I spoke expressed reluctance to your visit because they did not want to be connected with a regime that could be considered even partially totalitarian.

The recent Helsinki Watch reports also went far in exposing problems with both the Serbian and Croatian governments. Now, at least, the Croatian regime does not appear as "innocent" as its proponents have espoused for the last year. However, the reports also exposed some continuing concerns that the west has with the record of human rights in Serbia.

I would strongly urge you to do the following to bolster Serbia's international reputation:

1. Publicly denounce communism and any desire to return to communism after the cessation of hostilities.
2. Remove the red star from official use on flags, uniforms, vehicles, or any other equipment used in an official capacity by the Republic of Serbia, and Yugoslavia if possible.
3. Remove any and all restrictions on the press.
4. Return Shayna Lazarevich's children to their mother. Every court in the U.S. and Serbia has upheld her right to custody.

APR-03-1992 20:00 FROM CONG BENTLEY

TO

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The Honorable Slobodan Milosevic
February 26, 1992
Page 2 of 2

I realize that lifting press restrictions in Serbia may be undesirable for you, but I believe that it is vital, and that it will have a positive effect in the long run. One of the most, if not the most visible, sign of a true democracy is a free press, with both the good and the bad that comes with it.

I am coming under increasing fire from Congress and from the American public, as are some of my other colleagues, for supporting a country that is considered the last bastion of communism in Europe. These few steps would go far in defusing current criticism and reassuring the west that democratic reform is continuing in the Republic of Serbia.

At the same time I want to assure you we understand that Serbia is ahead of Croatia in the so called free-market economy. However, the perception of a "communist" Serbia is still so strong that that is all people focus on.

With warm regards,

Sincerely,

Helen Delich Bentley
Member of Congress

HELEN DELICH BENTLEY
2D DISTRICT, MARYLAND

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
March 6, 1992

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MARITIME
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PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

The Honorable Slobodon Milosevic
President
Republic of Serbia
Belgrade, Yugoslavia

Dear Mr. President:

As you know, an opposition rally in remembrance of the two individuals who died in last March 9th's protest is scheduled for next Monday.

It has come to my attention, that there has been no official guarantee for protection of the protesters from other individuals who could disrupt the protest and cause further bloodshed.

I would urge you to do all in your power to insure that the protest be peaceful and free of any violence. A repeat of last year's violence could be a death blow to any claims of democracy by Serbia in the international community.

Please take this to heart. There have been enough deaths without those caused by father against son or brother against brother.

With warm regards,

Sincerely,

Helen Delich Bentley
Member of Congress

HELEN DELICH BENTLEY
2ND DISTRICT, MARYLAND

COMMITTEE ON
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SELECT COMMITTEE ON AGING

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-2002

CAUCUSES
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ENERGY TASK FORCE

April 7, 1992

The Honorable Slobodan Milosevic
President
Republic of Serbia
Belgrade, Yugoslavia

Dear Mr. President:

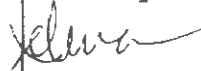
As you know, the United States extended diplomatic recognition to and lifted the sanctions against Slovenia, Croatia, and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In his statement read today, President Bush states, "We will lift sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro contingent on Belgrade's lifting the economic blockades directed against Bosnia-Herzegovina and Macedonia."

Therefore, I am urging Serbia to drop the economic sanctions against those republics. I ask this in order that the U.S. and the European Community not be able to use them in a discriminatory manner against Serbia as the current situation reaches a final settlement. In addition, it will be impossible to block the passage of any anti-Serbian legislation in Congress without such an action on your part.

With warm regards,

Sincerely



Helen Delich Bentley
Member of Congress

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BUY U.S.A. SAVE AMERICAN JOBS!

April 22, 1992

Helen Delich Bentley, M.C.
408 Chapelwood Lane
Lutherville, Maryland 21093

The Honorable Slobodan Milosevic
President
Republic of Serbia
Belgrade, Yugoslavia

Dear Mr. President:

As per our conversation this morning, I am forwarding to you what I believe, as a member of the Serbian-American community, must be done to salvage Serbia's reputation in the international community.

As you are no doubt aware, the international press has labeled Serbia as the aggressor in the fighting in Bosnia. More recently, the United States government, the European Community, and the Helsinki Commission have adopted the same position. As the attached "Dear Colleague" indicates, this same position is rapidly taking hold among a growing number of Members of Congress as well.

Although you raise a number of points to counter the criticism directed at Serbia, this is not enough, even for a beginning. Serbia's position has never been more precarious, and the time for extraordinary measures has arrived.

You advised me that tomorrow the Serbian Assembly will have under consideration the new Yugoslav constitution. As explained to me, this legislation essentially reconstitutes the nation of Yugoslavia as comprising the republics of Serbia and Montenegro. I urge that at the same time, you publicly adopt the following recommendations to deflect further criticism from Serbia:

1. Publicly appeal, if possible joined by Patriarch Pavle and other political and religious leaders, for an immediate cessation of all hostilities, to be followed by negotiations to ensure the human rights of citizens of all ethnic groups.
2. Call upon the United States, the European Community, and/or the United Nations to participate in these negotiations as unbiased arbitrators for the purpose of ensuring guarantees for the protection of minority rights.
3. Proclaim your support for the inviolability of Bosnia's borders through use of force.
4. Proclaim that the army of the new Yugoslavia has no existence outside the borders of the new federation.

The Honorable Slobodan Milosevic
April 22, 1992
Page 2 of 2

5. Call upon all citizens of the Republic of Serbia serving in the Yugoslav Army in Bosnia to return to Serbia as well as all citizens of Croatia involved in the current unrest in Bosnia to return to Croatia.

6. Renounce any Federal Army units that claim to be the Yugoslav Army, but remain on Bosnian territory. And in the same vein, the Bosnian border should be sealed with respect to movement of troops or armaments from any other republic or state.

7. Invite the people of Bosnia to choose participation in the new federation of Yugoslavia through a plebiscite of voters of all ethnicities.

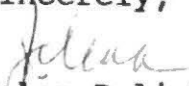
8. Proclaim that the right of self-determination should apply to Serbs in Bosnia and the Krajina region of Croatia.

9. In conclusion, state that the Republic of Serbia offers and agrees to do the above in a sincere effort to once and for all perfect a peaceful resolution of all problems, in Yugoslavia and/or its parts, by immediate recognition and removal of all embargoes, sanctions of any and all kinds, on it or its parts.

This is what must be done. Time is of the essence, and unless the Republic of Serbia enacts these recommendations as a package in conjunction with the adoption of a new constitution, I believe that Serbia will pay an even heavier price.

I look forward to discussing the points with you as soon as possible.

Sincerely,


Helen Delich Bentley
Member of Congress

P.S. Does a Constitution only approved by a Parliament have the same hold and strength as one approved by a full blown voters' referendum?

HELEN DELICH BENTLEY
2ND DISTRICT, MARYLAND

COMMITTEE ON
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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-2002

CAUCUSES
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ENERGY TASK FORCE

April 30, 1992

The Honorable Slobodan Milosevic
President
Republic of Serbia
Belgrade, Yugoslavia

Dear Mr. President:

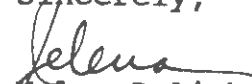
Hopefully the formation of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is a first step on the long path of forging a lasting peace and bringing true democracy to the Balkans.

While the long term goals of such an action are laudable, the first and foremost goal of the Yugoslav leadership should be the establishment of a lasting peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina. I cannot stress this enough. Regardless of the reality of the situations, Serbia still is continuing to be viewed as the "guilty" party in this latest outbreak of violence.

Without continuing dedication to the peace-process, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia will face increasing isolation in the international community, including the possible loss to any claim of being heir to the former Yugoslavia's international assets. This is not desirable for either Yugoslavia or for Americans of Serbian descent.

Please do all in your power to ensure that Yugoslavia continues to be actively supportive of the on-going peace process. Anything less will lead to the downfall of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Sincerely,


Helen Delich Bentley
Member of Congress

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HELEN DELICH BENTLEY
2ND DISTRICT, MARYLAND

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2002

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ENERGY TASK FORCE

May 5, 1992

The Honorable Slobodan Milosevic
President
Republic of Serbia
Belgrade, Yugoslavia

Dear Mr. President:

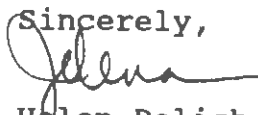
It was with profound disappointment that I learned of recent events in the Shayna Lazarevich child custody case.

As you may recall, I wrote you on March 24th, and then again in an appeal with 14 members of Congress on April 7th, urging you to insure that Ms. Lazarevich gain actual physical custody of her children, in accordance with the ruling of the courts in both Serbia and the United States.

Ms. Lazarevich was in contact with my office today, and informed me that her children were not in school for the past two days. She feels, and I cannot help but believe, that her ex-husband has either fled the country, or is in hiding.

I would urge you once again, to do all in your power to resolve this case, which I now have been involved in for over two years.

Sincerely,



Helen Delich Bentley
Member of Congress

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BUY U.S.A. SAVE AMERICAN JOBS!

May 13, 1992

The Honorable Slobodan Milosevic
President
Republic of Serbia
Belgrade, Yugoslavia

Dear Mr. President:

It is with a heavy heart that I am writing you today. The hostilities in Bosnia-Hercegovina are continuing unabated.

Serbia has no friends, no allies, in this senseless killing. The economy of Serbia is in shambles. Serbia is at an all time low, and unless change comes rapidly, Serbia will have no chance to emerge from the ever deepening grave into which it is falling.

From what I understand, extremists from all sides are acting completely outside of government control. Continuation of the hostilities in Bosnia-Hercegovina very probably will lead to an explosion in Kosovo and other majority Muslim areas, and spread war throughout the Balkans.

I am not here to assign blame, there is more than enough to go around. However, all hands are pointing to Belgrade, saying you are the individual that has the power to stop this insanity.

I urge you to do all in your power to encourage Serbian forces in Bosnia-Hercegovina to cease hostilities, and to participate actively in the current forums that exist in order to bring peace to the Balkans. Anything less would be to the detriment of the Serbian people, not only in Balkans, but throughout the entire world.

Sincerely,

Helen Delich Bentley
Member of Congress

HELEN DELICH BENTLEY
2D DISTRICT, MARYLAND

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

June 3, 1992

COMMITTEE ON
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The Honorable Slobodan Milosevic
President
Republic of Serbia
Belgrade, Yugoslavia

Dear Mr. President:

Contrary to your assertion in your recent discussion with Shayna Lazarevich, Dragisa Lazarevich has not fled to Germany with the Lazarevich children. Both German authorities and Interpol have indicated that he is not and has not been in that country.

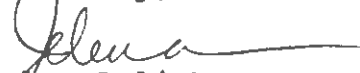
In addition, sources in Belgrade have indicated that Dragisa Lazarevich is still hiding in Nis, and has been in contact with Belgrade via telephone.

I cannot stress how enraged I am over this state of events. You are knowingly harboring a criminal and kidnapper, and are unnecessarily placing the Lazarevich children in danger. Considering this display of callousness -- if not outright deception -- it is no wonder that Serbia is viewed as a world pariah.

I demand that you arrest Mr. Lazarevich and arrange the return of the children within the next two days. Anything less is unacceptable.

I hope I do not have to make another trip to Serbia to go to Nis myself and find what your people can't seem to. Is someone being paid off by this callous obstruction of justice?

Sincerely,


Helen Delich Bentley
Member of Congress

HELEN DELICH BENTLEY
2ND DISTRICT, MARYLAND

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House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2002

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ENERGY TASK FORCE

June 11, 1992

The Honorable Slobodan Milosevic
President
Republic of Serbia
Belgrade, Yugoslavia

Dear Mr. President:

It was with great relief that I was informed today that the U.N. Convoy sent out from Belgrade to attempt to open the airport in Sarajevo reached the city, although the convoy was fired upon.

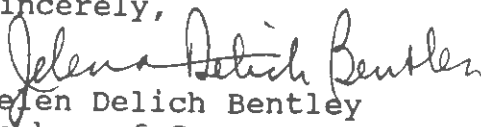
I am contacting you to stress that it is vital that the airport be opened for the delivery of relief supplies. The situation in Sarajevo is grave, and these deliveries must be made.

I also would stress that any other relief convoys from Belgrade also must be allowed into Sarajevo. I would impress upon you to use your influence with Mr. Karadzic and other Serbian leaders in Bosnia-Herzegovina not to hinder any of these future convoys. If personal intercession is required to convince these leaders, I would expect you to be riding at the head of the convoy.

The feeling of ill will towards Serbia due to the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina - specifically the airport and the inability of relief organizations to deliver supplies - continues to grow. Statements like Arkan made on television Wednesday are very disgusting, even to all Serbian-Americans.

It is vital that the humanitarian situation in Sarajevo improve. This rests on your shoulders alone. Serbia could redeem itself in the eyes of the world by leading the way to a cessation of hostilities. Given the current situation, is this too much to ask?

Sincerely,


Helen Delich Bentley
Member of Congress

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HELEN DELICH BENTLEY
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Congress of the United States
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Washington, DC 20515-2002

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DIRECT LINE - (202) 225-3061

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TO: HON. SLOBODAN MILOSEVIC

FROM: HELEN DELICH BENTLEY, M.C.

TOTAL PAGES INCLUDING COVER SHEET: 3

MESSAGE: PERSONAL AND URGENT

TIME REC'D: _____

OPERATORS INITIALS: _____

TIME SENT: _____

OPERATORS INITIALS: _____

If any questions, or illegible, please call: 225-3061. Thank you.

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HELEN DELICH BENTLEY
2ND DISTRICT, MARYLAND

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September 22, 1992

The Honorable Slobodan Milosevic
President
Republic of Serbia
Belgrade, Yugoslavia

Dear Mr. President:

I made several attempts to telephone you today, but was unable to get through. I am contacting you via facsimile instead.

The House today passed a bill withdrawing Most Favored Nation (MFN) status from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. This may not seem much on top of the current sanctions that the international community and the United States have already placed on Yugoslavia, but it is going to make life in Serbia and Montenegro just that much harder for the people, and make new Yugoslavia's economic recovery that much more difficult.

Congressman Phil Crane and myself spoke in opposition to this bill, but current Congressional sentiment is overwhelmingly anti-Serbian, and there was no real chance of defeating this bill. It seems that everyday, here and in other legislative forums, that Serbia is taking harder and harder hits. It has reached a stage where it is becoming impossible for me to defend Serbia's actions.

When I visited in May, I came for a specific purpose, and I backed off. Now, however, for the sake of the Serbian people, and of Yugoslavia, I am joining the chorus to request that you step down as President of the Republic of Serbia. The destruction of Serbia must stop, and this is the only way that is acceptable to the international community.

I will do all in my power to ease your transition from power, and to push for removal of sanctions from Yugoslavia. If it is your wish, I am willing to travel to Belgrade to discuss this with you. I understand your concern for the Serbian people, and I share that concern, but now it is time for a radical change to ensure their continued health and viability.

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BUY U.S.A. SAVE AMERICAN JOBS!

The Honorable Slobodan Milosevic
September 22, 1992
Page 2 of 2

Please think of the people. With winter approaching, the international sanctions on Serbia will bite even harder, compounding the suffering that the Serbs are already experiencing. Please take this to heart.

Sincerely,

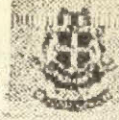


Helen Delich Bentley
Member of Congress

oct/9, "БОРБА"

КАРИЋ БАНКА

Ваш новац је наша брига



БОРБА

„БОРБА“ САЗНАЈЕ: ПИСМО ХЕЛЕН ДЕЛИЋ БЕНТЛИ
СЛОБОДАНУ МИЛОШЕВИЋУ

„Повуците се за добро народа“

Како је наш лист сазнао у добро обавештеним изворима, у чију смо се поузданост више пута уверили, госпођа Хелен Делић Бентли, конгресмен из савезне државе Мериленд у Конгресу САД, 22. септембра је личним писмом Слободану Милошевићу предложила да он поднесе оставку на положај Председника Републике Србије „за добробит српског народа“.

Наша трагања за овим текстом у међувремену су уродила плодом, па смо данас у прилици да читаоцима „Борбе“ искључиво понудимо писмо у целини.

Поштованом Слободану Милошевићу, председнику Републике Србије, Београд, Југославија, Септембар 22, 1992.

Драги господине Председниче, покушала сам неколико пута током данашњег дана да вас добијем телефоном, али у томе нисам успела. Уместо тога, шаљем вам ово факсом.

Данас је у Представничком дому прошао закон којим се Савезној Републици Југославији ускрађује статус најповлашћеније нације (МФИ). Можда ово не изгледа толико битно ако се узму у обзир постојеће санкције које су међународна заједница и Сједињене Државе већ предузеле према Југославији. Али, и то ће живот у Србији и Црној Гори учинити још мукотрпнијим за народ, а новој Југославији отежаће економски опоравак.

Конгресмен Фил Крејн и ја лично смо се томе успротивили, али тренутно преовлађујуће осећање у Конгресу је анти-српско и није постојала никаква реална шанса да закон не прође. Изгледа да свакога дана, овде али и у другим законодавним телима Србије била изложена све тежим и тежим ударцима. То је достигло овај степен на којем мени постаје немогуће да браним акције Србије.

Кад сам била у мају месецу, дошла сам са сасвим одређеном намером, али сам од ње одустала. Сада, међутим, за



ОЛАКШАЛА ВИХ ВАМ СИЛАЗАК С ВЛАСТИ: Хелен Делић Бентли и Слободан Милошевић

добро српског народа и Југославије, придружујем се хору гласова који захтевају да се повучете са положаја Председника Републике Србије. Разарање Србије мора да престане и то је једини начин који би био прихватљив за целу међународну заједницу.

Учинићу све што је у мојој моћи да олакшам ваш силазак с власти и борићу се свим снагама да се скину санкције са Југославије. Ако је то и ваша жеља, спремна сам да допутујем у Београд да бисмо о томе разговарали. Ја разумем вашу забринутост коју и ја делим са вама за српски народ, али сада је време за радикалне промене да би се осигурало да настали да живи у здрављу и виталности.

Молим вас, мислите о народу. Како се приближава зима санкције које је поставила међународна заједница Србији биће још теже поднети, ако се зна ова сложеност путњи које су Срби досад због тога искусили. Молим вас прихватите ово свим срцем.

Искрено, Хелен Делић Бентли, члан Конгреса“.

Занимљиво је да је овај текст, иначе написан на званичном меморандуму Америчког конгреса, потписан руком једноставно са „Јелена“.

Госпођа Хелен Делић Бен-

тли, чији су родитељи српског порекла, позната је нашој јавности не само као политичар који је покушавао у Конгресу САД да објашњава и најделикатније позиције Србије и положаја Срба изван Србије већ и као активан учесник домаће политичке сцене.

Међу многобројним посетама које је учинила Београду, свакако се највише памти она из 1990. године, непосредно пред прве вишестраначке изборе у Србији. Том приликом, у специјалном интервјуу за „Борбу“ госпођа Бентли је апеловала на опозиционе странке да уђу у изборну трку и тврдила да је господин Милошевић обрвао „поштене и фер“ изборе. Исто је поновила сутрадан на конференцији за штампу у београдском „Интерконтиненталу“.

У америчком политичком животу, баш због чињенице да су сви Американци, некако другог порекла“ извесна посредничка улога са значајним пацијента и државама није никаква реткост. Понскад у почетку саме личности на себе преузимају ту улогу добровољно, али ретко када то касније остаје само у сфери личних подухвата и без утицаја и одјека тамо где се политичке одлуке доносе.