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Giampiero Diminich
Post Office Box 3943
Davidson, N.C. 28036

April 15, 1992

Representative Helen Bentley
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Bentley,

As I am sure you well know, Croatia, Slovenia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina were recognized by the United States on April 7, 1992.

YOU LOST!!!

APR 22 1992

Cordially yours,

Giampiero Diminich

Giampiero Diminich

MAY 20 1992

Milena Salehar
2808 Mayfield Rd
Cleveland, OHIO 44118

May 14, 1992

The Honorable Helen Delich Bentley
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative:

This evening, on PBS, I saw you and listened to your version of historical events of 50-years ago. From what I have heard you saying, it is clear that you have gathered your information from Serbian political propaganda literature rather than from impartial history books.

Ante Pavelic was a war-criminal, and he did persecute Serbs; some 50-60 thousand were executed at Jasenovac. The figure of 750-thousand was never confirmed by historians. Most Serbs killed at Jasenovac and in some villages were mistakingly regarded as communists because several "generals" and political commissars in Tito's entourage were Serbs.

But, during the interview, you have omitted or forgotten to tell that, prior to the end and immediately after WWII, tens of thousands of Moslems and Croats were slaughtered in Bosnia by Serbs. I am giving you the benefit of a doubt that as an American-Serb from Slavonia, raised in Maryland, you knew nothing about it.

It is true that Serbia payed dearly in WWI, but because of her faulty politics, Serbia pulled the whole Yugoslavia into WWII. Between 1939-41, two Serbian premiers - Stojadinovic and Cvetkovic - flirted with Hitler's Germany. The regent Prince Pavel signed the Axis non-aggression Pact. The Pact allowed Germany to transport weapons across Yugoslavia to Germany's ally -- Bulgaria. Those weapons were later used in the invasion of Crete and for attacking Serbia on April 1, 1941.

Germans stayed in Belgrade until the USSR army entered the city in 1944 and "liberated" it for communism.

To maintain that the main resistance forces -- the Partisans -- were Serbs, is another tale. In Slovenia, all resistance was in Slovenian hands. In Bosnia-Herzegovina and Dalmatia, the resistance was composed of anti-Pavelic Croats, Serbs, Moslems and Jews.

Tito had his headquarters in Jajce, Bosnia, rather than in Serbia proper. In Montenegro and in Kosovo Polje, the most effective resistance came from indigenous Albanians.

Mrs. Delich-Bentley, I am appealing to you as one woman to another, help stop this war. I beg you in the name of all women and Children in the Balkans and in the name of Serbian mothers as well, for they too are losing their loved-ones in this war brought upon them by men --- extremists.

I know that with the exception of Milosevic, his generals and gangs, all the remaining 90 percent of Serbs are good people. Today's Karadjic (Radovan?) has nothing to do with the famous poet, folklorist and linguist Vuk Karadjic of a century ago.

As a Serbian-American leader in the House, you should rise above the communist politicians in Belgrade. Try to preserve the honor of the real Serbia and her heroic past in the struggle against the Turks, by denouncing the communist regime of Milosevic. In so doing, you will do much to save the Serbian population in Bosnia and in Serbia herself from hunger and possible deaths. For, the momentum of this war is such that war may spill even east of River Drina.

By denouncing Milosevic, you will also be saving the Serbian nation from the contempt of world-opinion for Serbia. What other but negative opinion of Serbia should the world have after having seen the pictures of Vukovar, Dubrovnik and Sarajevo?

I know it is easy to idealize the countries of our forefathers and difficult to have our idealized portrayals shattered. Please accept reality and stop working for the preservation of communists at the helm in Belgrade. Instead, steer your efforts towards the future reconstruction of Serbia and the Balkans.

Sincerely yours,

Milena Salehar

Milena Salehar

MAY 21 1992

424 Plainsboro Road
Plainsboro, NJ 08536
May 14, 1992

REP. HELEN BENTLEY
US HOUSE OF REP.
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

Dear Ms. Bentley:

Last year after Iraq crushed the US inspired and instigated rebellion by the Kurds in northern Iraq, the United States imposed a zone of exclusion to prevent the needless killing of Kurds by the Iraqi forces.

A somewhat similar situation now prevails in the newly independent State of Bosnia where the Chetniks and the Serbian dominated army of the former Yugoslavia are engaged in a genocide against the Bosnians. The Serbians butchered over 300,000 Bosnians during World War II and they must not be allowed to do so again.

I would like the United States as the sole remaining superpower, which now also controls the United Nations to lend legitimacy to its actions, take whatever actions are necessary to safeguard the independence of the State of Bosnia and the safety of its inhabitants. Recalling the ambassador from Belgrade is not enough.

Sultan A. Aslan

Mary J. Repar
MP 0.25L Frank Johns Rd., #2
Stevenson, WA 98648
Tel: (509) 427-7153

15 May 1992

Rep. Helen Bentley
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Rep. Bentley,

Yesterday evening, MacNeil/Lehrer News Hour broadcast a discussion, with you and Rep. Tom Lantos, about the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina in particular, and the situation in what was once known as Yugoslavia, in general.

Although I appreciate the fact that you, being of Serbian descent, must attempt, in some way, to justify and excuse the actions of the Serbian-led Yugoslavian army and the Serbian paramilitary and militia forces that are slaughtering, with their tanks, airplanes, and other sophisticated weapons, thousands of peasants (Serbians among them) and forcing hundreds of thousands more to flee their homes, I really have to disagree, very strongly, with your views--as expressed last evening.

There can be no justification for the brutal land-grab that the Serbians are attempting.

Your defense, stemming from the fact that, during WWII, alarming numbers, hundreds of thousands of Serbians, were massacred and slaughtered by the Croats, is a poor defense. How can you justify, nearly 50 years later, the Serbians doing the same thing? And not just to the Croats, but also their own Serbians, Slovenians, Bosnians, Macedonians, Dalmatians, etc.

And I would be very careful in throwing around the 750,000 fatality figure, as you did last evening. The figure seems to grow with each media story.

During WWII, the Serbians killed their own, in order to justify retaliation against the Croats. Just as they are doing now, in 1992.

Do you also take into consideration the mass graves, of Croatian dead murdered by Serbians in WWII, that have been discovered recently, in Croatia?

Tit for tat is a poor legal and moral defense.

Both sides committed atrocities during WWII, except Serbians are still bloodying their hands.

What the Serbs did to Vukovar, in Croatia, shows clearly the

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brute mentality that drives the Serbs. Razing cities to the ground is something one expects of Syria's Assad or Iraq's Hussein. Are the Serbs still practicing Ottoman barbarity?

The excuse, that the Serbs, being minorities in Croatia, Slovenia, and Bosnia-Herzegovina, felt that they would be persecuted, if these new countries were allowed to secede from Yugoslavia.

That is a bunch of B.S. and the whole world knows it.

The Serbs hope to extend their borders and grab some of the richest agricultural land around. Since WWII, the government has raped the provinces of natural resources, and they do not wish to do without these resources now.

For years, the Serbians have sent their people to the other provinces, to colonize them. Now, 50 years later, it's "their" land.

Quietly, slyly, weapons have been filtered to the Serbian nationalists in the provinces, in anticipation of the conflict that is now going on.

If I were a Serb right now, I would not care to admit to the fact that I bear any connection to the rapacity and brutality being so openly flaunted.

It would serve the Serbians right, if Hungary decided to come across the border, as they are threatening to do. Perhaps, such an action would serve to wake the Serbs up to the consequences of their own brutal actions.

With weapons and ammunition coming into Croatia, and Croatian industry gearing to make tanks and artillery, the Serbs may be in for more than a little surprise. Instead of a Greater Serbia, they may find themselves in a Lesser Serbia.

I cannot see how you can justify the brutality of the Serbian attacks, using tanks and airplanes, against a mostly unarmed peasant population. And, at least in the beginning of this war, even those people who were armed and fighting the Serbs, did not have the same quality of weaponry as the aggressor Serbs.

I would applaud any action that NATO took, as Rep. Lantos suggested they should, in order to separate the warring parties. The Serbs are not helping their cause, whatever that may be, by their single-minded brutality against Croatians, Bosnians, etc. It only serves to focus world opinion against them.

If Serbs cannot live as minorities, then they should go back to Serbia, instead of waging this brutal war of aggression--just because they have the means and opportunity to do so.

I cannot see that they should not be able to function as minorities, in the new countries, if they really wanted to, protected by laws, just as other minorities, in other countries, are, and do.

What I, and the world, do see, is that they are aggressive, brutal and are determined to extend their borders, no matter at what cost or consequence.

This does not make them sympathetic characters in the world court of opinion. What it does make them is colonial expansionists.

I hope that you rethink your position, and support Rep. Lantos' resolution, about the situation in that part of the world.

The Serbians have no justifiable or moral right to do what they are doing. If they continue on their plotted course, I believe that they will destroy their Serbia and themselves.

Croatia will not give up Krajina and the Bosnians will not give up Bosnia-Hercegovina's borders. The Serbs cannot hold what they have taken because they no longer have the resources (tax dinars, and natural) of the provinces to draw upon.

What they are doing now is just destroying as much of the industrial complex of Croatia, Bosnia, (and previously, in Slovenia), as they can, using superior military power.

They can't go on for much longer, and when they run out of men and ammunition, the retaliation against them will be tremendous, and a blood-bath will ensue.

Perhaps, this is something that their friends, if they have any left, should point out to them. Before it's too late.

Regards,

Mary J. Repar

MAY 20 1992

Roger D. Leonard 12305 Rambling Lane Bowie Maryland 20715-3211

May 15, 1992

Hon. Helen Delich Bentley (R-MD)
Hon. Tom Lantos (D-CA)
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman and Congressman;

I am writing this joint letter after having observed both of you on the MacNeil-Lehrer News Hour last evening. I found Mr. Lantos to be much better informed about the current and historical situations in the region of the former Yugoslavia.

Animosity among the neighboring parties in that region goes back so far that I do not believe that anyone is quite certain how it started! (Similar to the long-running feud between the Hatfield and McCoy families in West Virginia.)

And, Mrs. Bentley, your 'connection' of Serbia and Yugoslavia with the Germans in two World Wars is far too simplistic to be accurate. (It seems to me that two World Wars were fought at least partly to prevent what is currently, if reluctantly, accepted--the emergence of Germany and Japan as dominant economies!)

Someone once observed that war is merely an extension of diplomacy. The history of Great Britain's policies in W.W. II is substantially a projection of diplomatic efforts that were well beyond its military capacity to back it up!

About two weeks after W.W. II began in Europe, when it was becoming apparent that Poland would be soundly defeated, and the war might be a long one, the British government asked the Norwegian government for the loan of half of Norway's large fleet of merchant ships for the duration of the war. (Winston Churchill was in the British cabinet as First Lord of the Admiralty!)

The horrified Norwegians replied that they could not possibly consider such a move as it would be a major violation of their proclaimed neutrality!

Next, the British and French hatched a scheme to aid Finland, which had since Nov. 30, 1939 been fighting U.S.S.R. 'aggression'--the League of Nation's determination, which resulted in the expulsion of the U.S.S.R. from the League on Dec. 14, 1939--by landing at the port of Narvik in northern Norway and following the rail line from there across northern Sweden into Finland.

(According to my Encyclopedia Britannica: "Churchill saw in it (the U.S.S.R.'s invasion of Finland, now 'condemned' by the 'legitimate' World) a new possibility of striking at Germany's flank under the cloak of aid to Finland.")

Germany was receiving most of its iron ore from a northern Swedish mine at Galivere that was served by the railroad from Narvik. During the eight warmer months of the year the ore went by rail east to a Baltic port thence by ship to a northern German port--beyond the physical ability of the 'Allies' to interfere. During the balance of the year, when the Baltic was frozen, the ore went the other way to Narvik--ice-free because of the Gulf Stream--and thence by ship to Germany.

At that time all maritime nations recognized the three miles of ocean immediately adjacent to a country's shore as 'territorial waters'. Therefore, in accordance with recognized 'international law' the ships carrying the iron ore to Germany--even those flying the German flag--could not be touched by the 'Allies' as long as they were in Norwegian waters. And because the Norwegian seacoast drops off sharply at the waters edge large ships could sail the length of Norway's coast in territorial waters.

On Sept. 19, 1939, Churchill proposed to the cabinet that the British navy lay a minefield in Norwegian territorial waters--if necessary, without the approval of the Norwegian government. (I wonder if this scheme was in retaliation for the refusal of the Norwegian merchant ships?)

For the moment the cabinet rejected the proposal, but Churchill continued to 'push' it, until it was finally implemented on April 8, 1940--the day before the German invasion of Norway! (The fact that the idea was 'kicked around' in the British press caused nervousness in both Scandinavia and Germany!)

It was quite obvious to Germany, Norway and Sweden that part of the British-French scheme to aid Finland was to cut off the shipment of iron ore to Germany by denying use of the Norwegian-Swedish railroad for the iron ore shipments--in either direction!

All in all, both Norway and Sweden flatly denied the 'Allies' permission to land troops in their territory! (Sweden, especially, was providing much assistance to Finland, including permission for foreign assistance to come through it; but without any compromising of its sovereignty!)

On March 12, 1940 the British government finally decided to seize Narvik and the iron mines without Norway's and Sweden's permission, with the operation to be ready for implementation by March 20. However, the next day, March 13th, an exhausted Finland accepted Soviet armistice terms, which, of course, ended the fighting and removed any need for 'Allied' action to aid Finland!

On Feb. 16, 1940 a British destroyer violated Norwegian waters, threatening to fire on a much-weaker Norwegian warship if it interfered! The occasion was the presence of the German supply ship Altmark using Norwegian waters for a safe return to Germany from its mission of supplying German surface warships at sea (to save them the risk of running the British blockade to Germany).

The British believed (rightly, it turned out) that the Altmark was carrying sailors taken from British merchant ships sunk by the German warship that the Altmark was supplying. 'International law' at that time required that if prisoners were brought into a neutral country they must be turned over to the neutral country and interned for the duration of the war.

The British government asked Norway to search the Altmark for prisoners, which they did, and found none. (Whether by collusion--some Norwegians were pro-German--or whether the prisoners were carefully hidden has never been determined!)

Whereupon Churchill ordered the destroyer Cossack to seize the Altmark in Norwegian waters and 'liberate' the prisoners--killing about six German sailors in the process (some were shot in the back as they were escaping ashore). (If the British had then turned the prisoners over to Norway for internment they could have claimed a speck of legitimacy by saying they were acting on behalf of the Norwegian government. Instead the liberated prisoners were taken to Great Britain--with much publicity!)

To again quote from Encyclopedia Britannica: "The German conquest of Norway and Denmark was an unpremeditated move. Hitler would have preferred to keep Norway neutral and did not decide to invade its territory until he was provoked to do so by palpable signs that the Allies were planning a hostile move in that quarter."

"According to the German admirals the 'Altmark' affair was decisive in swinging Hitler in favor of intervention in Norway--.... On Feb. 20, 1940 (i.e., four days after the "Altmark" incident) Hitler sent for Gen. Nicholas von Falkenhorst and ordered him to command and prepare an expeditionary force for Norway. 'I am informed,' Hitler said, 'that the British intend to land there and I want to be there ahead of them'."

"On the Allied side, meanwhile, Daladier (the French Premier), on Feb. 21, 1940, urged that the 'Altmark' affair should be used as a pretext for the 'immediate seizure' of the Norwegian ports 'by a sudden stroke': 'Its justification in the eyes of world opinion will be the more easy the more rapidly the operation is carried out and the more our propaganda is able to exploit the recent complicity of the Norwegian government in the 'Altmark incident'.'" (In my judgement, the Altmark incident, in its worst possible aspects, was not a legitimate reason for a warlike action that had a good chance of getting people killed!)

At a meeting of the joint British-French Supreme War Council on March 28, 1940 (after a delay caused by the replacement of Daladier by Reynaud as French Premier): "It was agreed that the mining of Norwegian waters should be carried out on April 5 and be backed by the landing of forces at Narvik, Trondheim, Bergen, and Stavanger (all Norwegian ports): the first contingent of troops was to sail for Narvik on April 8."

Thus it turned out that the 'Allies' and the Germans, unknown to each other, had set exactly the same day for the beginning of their respective 'occupations' of Norwegian territory! As a result the two forces 'ran into' each other in Norway (with the result that the German navy lost about half of its total destroyer force!).

Unfortunately, the 'Allies' didn't do as good a job militarily as did the Germans--and Denmark (the necessary 'stepping stone') and Norway came under German occupation. However, most of the Danish and Norwegian merchant fleets 'went over' to the British--so Churchill ended up with more than he had originally sought--and the Danes and Norwegians paid for it!

In the matter of Greece and the rest of the Balkans, in 1940-41, again I quote Encyclopedia Britannica: "... the majority of the Balkan states sought German protection against Soviet designs in the east and Italian designs in the west; and at the same time, Hitler's support was desired both by the states with a program of territorial revisionism (Hungary and Bulgaria) and by those that were against any such program (Rumania and Yugoslavia and initially also Greece and Turkey)."

"After a Soviet ultimatum to Rumania, the Red Army occupied Bessarabia and Northern Bukovina on June 28, 1940."

The veteran Premier of Greece, Metaxas, strongly resisted British offers of military support--arguing that the British would send enough force to provoke a German attack but not enough to successfully resist it. (Norway all over again!)

On January 29, 1941, however, Metaxas died, and was replaced by a weaker man, who permitted a British military force of about 58,000 men to enter Greece. This force was not strong enough to resist the German invasion and 12,000 of them, all of the tanks and most of the heavy weapons were lost. ("...the establishment of British airbases in Greece had alarmed Hitler who was afraid that the air bases would be used for raids on the Rumanian oil-fields.") Thus, Greece went the way of Denmark and Norway--under German occupation!

The 58,000 troops sent to Greece were taken from their North African forces just as they were about to completely overrun the Italian forces there. As a result, the offensive against the Italians was terminated, and on Feb. 6, 1941 German general Rommel was ordered by Hitler to take a small German force to Libya and 'bail out' the Italians. The rest, as they say, is 'history' as Rommel was able to maintain Axis resistance, and closure of the Mediterranean to the Allies, for 27 more months!

"On March 4 (1941), when Hitler had agreed to wider concessions (no Yugoslav territory was to be used for the attack on Greece), Prince Paul expressed himself willing to see Yugoslavia loosely included in the German sphere of influence;"

"Against these measures a group of Yugoslav officers (i.e., primarily air force--the youngest of the military services), ... carried out a coup d' etat in the morning of March 27, 1941 This change of direction in Yugoslavia cannot be understood without reference to the fact that the British commitment to Greece had recently been strongly reinforced"

Again, the British had provoked resistance to the Germans without being able to adequately support it militarily! (And, by the way, Mrs. Bentley, Yugoslavia delayed the German timetable no more than 17 days--from April 1st, when the invasion of Greece had been scheduled to begin, until the 17th, when Yugoslavia capitulated! If anyone is responsible for the German failure in the U.S.S.R. it is Mussolini--and the mess that he made in the Balkans and North Africa! The various Yugoslavs did, however, play a significant role in the ultimate German defeat--at, unfortunately, great cost to themselves!)

In W.W. II the British tried to 'run' the World with greatly diminished resources--which, I suspect, Mr. Churchill refused to recognize, and, which I suspect is still unacknowledgedly troubling his successors in the 'Tory' party! (When John Major bluntly stated that Iraq would not be permitted to have nuclear weapons my reaction was, 'why, also, should little Britain have them?')

I recommend a book entitled "The Fall of Yugoslavia" by Ilia Jucic, a member of the Yugoslav government during W.W. II (it is in the State Department library). Among other incidents he tells of the group of about 150 Croatian schoolchildren returning from sanctuary in Austria about two weeks after the German surrender in 1945. Their train was stopped by 'partisans' and all of the children were killed! (Simon Wiesenthal Center--pay attention!)

So, as the philosophers say, there are usually two sides to every story! (Not necessarily equal, but still two!)

I now quote on another subject from Encyclopedia Britannica--the British-French-Israeli attack on Egypt in Oct.-Nov. 1956: "When in July 1956 first the U.S. and then Britain withdrew an earlier promise of aid for the Aswan dam, Nasser was provoked into a sudden nationalization of the Suez canal."

"To Britain this seemed a severance of a vital communication link and a blow at its whole position, economic and political, in the middle east. Historically and emotionally the canal was bound up with more than a century of British imperial achievement and endeavor. Eden himself saw it in acutely personal terms; the dictator Nasser was another Hitler; any concession would be another Munich." (Sound kinda' familiar? When, during the 'Gulf war' of 1991-92 t.v. news noted that the U.S. government had secured permission from the Egyptian government for the sending of U.S. warships through the Suez canal I wondered if Mr. Eden was spinning in his grave! Perhaps he was--and no one heard the sound over the sounds of the war!)

"In the Security Council Great Britain used the veto for the first time against the U.S. resolution calling on all members to refrain from the use of force, and British and French aircraft began the systematic bombardment of Egyptian airfields and other targets. On Nov. 5th British and French forces landed in the region of Port Said, in defiance of a resolution of the U.N. General Assembly, which on Nov. 2nd had adopted a U.S. resolution calling upon Israel to withdraw behind the armistice line and other states to refrain from military action. Only Australia and New Zealand voted with Britain, France and Israel against this resolution, which was one of the most solid condemnations ever issued by the assembly on a major matter."

"Egypt had suffered heavily in both casualties and material damage. The native area of Port Said was destroyed"

Question: Why, after such defiance of the U.N. and destruction of a member state, were Britain and France not deprived of their 'weapons of mass destruction'--as was Iraq? A 'double standard', perhaps (Or, as I more-usually call it: 'selective morality'!)

A fundamental rule of fair law is that it be predictable--i.e., as clear as possible in advance what is 'legal' and what isn't! Where was the 'predictability' for Iraq, especially after the British-French-Israeli invasion of Egypt, that it would be disarmed? (I know that George Bush is stupid--as he has demonstrated so many times--and I have my suspicions about Mrs. Bentley. But, maybe there is someone who can make 'sense' out of it! And, by the way, I live in Steny Hoyer's district.)

Unless I misunderstand the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia comprised some six 'autonomous' republics--who among them exercised adequate police power in every square meter of Yugoslavia! Therefore, the 'abolition' of the central government ought not to have resulted in violence as each of the former 'autonomous republics' now declared independent should have been able to maintain 'law and order'--and required to do so as a condition of recognition!

Under 'international law' a recognized 'government' must be able to enforce its authority in the territory that it claims to govern! Each former 'autonomous republic' should be expected to guarantee fair 'law and order' to all within its borders pending any negotiations to adjust borders, etc.! (Just as the 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia have adequate police powers if the Federal government should suddenly cease to exist!)

A joint European-US declaration should warn the 'Yugoslav' government that its air force will be destroyed if it again flies over neighboring territories--which would both weaken the actual projection of Yugoslav military power and its self-confidence. (I'm sure that Greece, Hungary, Rumania and Bulgaria wouldn't tolerate overflights!) If that is not enough, then, after suitable warning, its power grid might be the next selective target!

Respectfully,
Roger Leonard

MAY 22 1992

Boston, May 15, 1992

Dear Congresswoman Bentley,

Being a former Yugoslavian citizen and an ethnic Hungarian, I am watching every news report concerning my former country which is so disgracefully falling apart.

I was greatly disappointed by your bias standpoint which you expressed in the interview with Jim Lehrer on Public TV. Your only argument was the "genocide" done two generations ago. Unfortunately, there were numerous genocides throughout history and I hope everybody wishes that they will never happen again. But remember, one cannot defend cure for evil with more evil. Evil does not bring tranquility but breeds more of the same.

You might have your explanations about how this tragic situation in former Yugoslavia came to be, but let me tell you mine. I grew up in postwar Yugoslavia, studied and worked in Belgrade for eight years, and spent several years in almost all of the republics. Different nationalities lived side by side almost without any problems, especially the young people. They did not care about the ethnic differences, not particularly wanting to make the same mistakes that their parents made (in the long run all sides made terrible mistakes, just to be clear about that). It was a society where the Serbs were privileged in every part of the country, far from being threatened in any way. The Serbs may not have been fully aware of their privileges which, to them, seemed normal and took it for granted (It is true that one cannot easily see his own privileges). The other nationalities did not rebel, at least not as long as they themselves had a more or less bearable life.

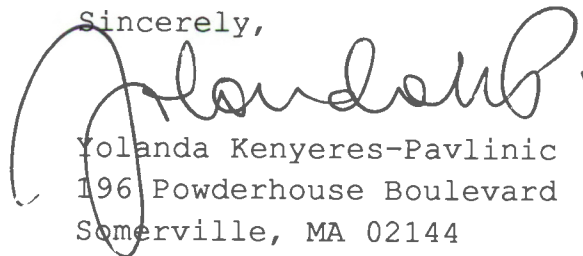
After Tito's death there was a political vacuum and as the economic situation worsened, the climate was ripe for a new leader. Slobodan Milosevic, hungry for power, used the sensitive Balkan issue of nationalism to assist his rise to power. He, with the help of the Serbian intelligentsia, convinced the Serbians that they have been oppressed, stripped of their honor in the previous years, and that he will help them restore the Serbian pride and honor etc. Big words started to be used, and hatred against other

nationalities was nurtured. One could hardly wonder that this kind of propaganda could still be effectively used in the last few decades of the 20th century. Before my eyes long time friendships and marriages fell apart.

To make it clear, the blinding rush of nationalism started in Serbia. Croatia kept silent for a while until the winds of democracy swept through Europe. It was at that time that they decided, through a democratic election, to break free (although in no way it can be justified, nobody asks why the "genocide" happened). The concept of a loose confederation, proposed by Slovenia and Croatia, was flatly refused by the Serbian government. Ironically, if the proposal had been accepted on time, there would not be 20,000 (mostly civilians) people dead, 100,000 homes destroyed, and over a million people driven out of their homes. But Milosevic needed a war. he had hoped for a "six day blitz krieg", in which he would be victorious, and would make himself leader of Yugoslavia. This new Yugoslavia would then be even more Serbian dominated, and he would have proven himself the savior of the dignified Serbian Nation. The pretext, as we have been told, was to "protect" the "terribly oppressed" (actually privileged) Serbian minorities (did not the last war in Europe started with the same pretext?). At the same time the world is unaware that Serbia oppresses one quarter of its population, namely the Albanians and Hungarians. These actions are the worst violations of human rights in Europe right now.

So, Congresswoman Delic-Bentley, right now is absolutely not the time to be proud to be a Serbian, particularly not within the context of current aggressive politics and destructive war Serbia is waging. As a righteous person and an honorable American Congresswoman, representing, I am sure, an anti war constituency, you should not defend an oppressive regime which mercilessly exploits human weaknesses.

Sincerely,



Yolanda Kenyeres-Pavlinic
196 Powderhouse Boulevard
Somerville, MA 02144

FRANZ SCHAGER
BOX 486
LOCUST VALLEY, NY 11560

MAY 20 1992

May 15, 1992

The Honorable Senator Tom Lantos
and Representative Helen Delich Bentley
Washington DC 20510 and 20515

and Mac Neil ~~Leherer~~

OPEN LETTER

Dear Senator Tom Lantos:

I wrote you about a year ago and told you that your Hungarian accent made me feel comfortable. Yet you never replied, even though my letter had covered other points.

Anyway, I thoroughly enjoyed your words and thoughts. Certainly Milosevic is a communist dictator, and most certainly he is the one who deserves to be estranged. Helen Delich Bentley is not only naive but also partial to her Serbian ancestry, and, as you correctly said, the past of two generations ago certainly can not be an objective motivating force. Too bad that the well meaning but uninformed President Wilson had created the monstrosity of Jugoslavia, a country which had been quiet until the assassination at Sarajewo of the Habsburg Crown Prince. And, when Serbs had helped the Allies, it had been of course for self-serving purposes. Mrs Bentley folded as she should have. Our government is uninformed and slow in coming to the proper conclusion. Our thoughts had been clear and correct, but, I am afraid that the sole accomplishment had been to teach Mr. Leherer how to pronounce Herzegovina, a difficult word for Americans indeed.

Sincerely



CC Repr Bentley ✓
Jim Lehrer
Dept of State

JUN 15 1992

June 10, 1992

Dear Congresswoman Bentley:

I am writing to you to request that you strongly support military action against the Serbian military bombarding the city of Sarajevo. The Economical and Political sanctions are not enough to put pressure on the Serbian leaders who are the main aggressors in a horrific war. The Serbian president Slobodan Milosevic has ignited a campaign of murder and "ethnic cleansing" of anyone not of Serbian nationality. The ethnic hatred is the means, not the cause, of the land grab by the Serbians. Milosevic's obsession with a Greater Serbia was born out of the collapse of the former centralized government of Yugoslavia.

In the past, all republics were forced to contribute heavily to the vast political bureaucracy and the Yugoslav National Army. As we saw with the break-up of the USSR, the national military has lost its means of support. In USSR, the Old Guard backed by elements of the military staged a coup to prevent their extinction. The coup failed. The same kind of phenomenon is happening in Yugoslavia with dreadfully different results: the army is destroying everything in its path.

In the name of humanity, we must take the correct action to stop the merciless bombing of a city inhabited by starving-innocent people: Croats, Muslims, Jews and Serbs. The United States Air Force can silence the heavy guns that rain missiles on the all people of Sarajevo. To turn away from the people's cries for help is unconscionable.

Sincerely,



Joseph D. Radovanic

913 Sherwood Forest Lane
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Underground in Sarajevo, the Ethnic Groups Share

By JOHN F. BURNS
Special to The New York Times

SARAJEVO, Bosnia and Herzegovina, June 9 — Above ground, Sarajevo is almost a ghost city, with a few crouching figures running in short bursts between buildings, dodging shells and snipers.

Below ground, at thousands of places like No. 2 Vase Pelagica Street in the city's old Muslim quarter, the city has gathered anew, and what is happening there is about all the hope there is that Sarajevo will one day live again.

"Welcome to Sarajevo," said Muhammad Hafizovic, a 65-year-old retired thermal plant engineer, rising from his chair at a makeshift card table down a flight of narrow stairs from the building's lobby. "Here we have Serbs, Croats, Muslims, Jews and Slovenes." Motioning about him at some of the 100 people packed into four small rooms, he added: "We're living here as a family. This is a small Sarajevo, and a small Bosnia, too."

Serbian artillery continued to pound Sarajevo today, hitting still more apartment buildings, the Holiday Inn, the railway station, a mosque and two churches, as well as hundreds of houses and shops. But life went on as normal in the subterranean world created in tens of thousands of basements and homemade bunkers.

It is a life with death at the shoulder, since the high-explosive ordnance being used by the Serbs has the power to collapse whole buildings and set them afire, trapping all who shelter there.

A Time for Plum Brandy

Shells have completely blown away the top floor of the seven-story apartment block on Pelagica Street, about a mile from some of the most powerful artillery guns and mortars. But in the basement the mood was anything but doleful.

Cards were on the table for a new hand of reml, a bridgelike game that the players at the table thought originated in the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Jokes were being traded, and before long glasses were being filled with golden-yellow slivovitz, the plum brandy that is the nectar of Balkan life.

There were occasional words of contempt for the Serbian gunners and their political masters. Sarajevans have long thought of themselves as the Balkans' most sophisticated city-dwellers, and many a round of slivovitz has been downed in recent weeks to denunciations of the gunners as uncultured brutes.

In the basement, there was also considerable bitterness toward the United States Government for failing to heed Sarajevo's anguished cries for American military intervention to stop the city's destruction. One man, an economist, was vituperative after he heard a



Bosnian defenders firing at Serbian positions in a suburb of Sarajevo as many of the city's citizens sought shelter underground in basements and makeshift bunkers from the pounding of Serbian artillery.

'So what is this nonsense about an ethnic war.'

radio news broadcast reporting the White House's latest insistence that people were not so much complaining as enduring, not weeping so much as laughing at the hand fate has dealt them. In this, there is something of London during the blitz, a straightening of the shoulders under fire.

But to outsiders, much of what is happening here seems to carry a more universal message, one rooted in Sarajevo's own idea of itself as a place where the tides of history have thrown together cultures and religions in a way that profits all.

In this there is a special defiance, since the Serbian nationalist leaders who command the hillside guns have set out to partition Bosnia and Herzegovina and to create what they call "ethnically cleansed territories," in which there are few, or none, of the republic's other ethnic groups to disturb Serbian domination.



The New York Times

Documents suggest that Serbian leaders had an ethnic-partition plan for Sarajevo last fall.

Seized documents published in Sarajevo's two surviving newspapers suggest that as early as last September Serbian leaders had a detailed plan for the ethnic partition of Sarajevo, whose 560,000 people have lived for decades in densely mixed neighborhoods.

To sustain human ideals on Pelagica Street has not been easy. Since the Serbian attacks began two months ago, people have slept end to end and side by side with barely space to walk between, the walls shake every few minutes from exploding shells, and food has dwindled to the point where a small onion from somebody's backyard is enough to cause a stir.

'The Spirit Is Good'

"Sometimes we fight, of course, because people are nervous," said Iso Papo, a 70-year-old retired mechanical engineer. "Somebody is smoking too much, there is not enough food, such things. But as you see, generally the spirit is good."

Mr. Papo is one of several Jews in the basement. In August 1941, as a 19-year-old, he crept into a railway boxcar there will be no dispatch of American troops.

Others chose sarcasm. "We are very satisfied with your military intervention," said Jasmin Hamzar, a 28-year-old gas station attendant. "Tell Bush, 'Thank you very much.'"

Laughing, Not Weeping

Otherwise, on Pelagica Street, and everywhere else that Sarajevans have become what they refer to as mice,

at Sarajevo station and fled the Nazis who had arrived in the city several months earlier, setting out on an odyssey that has left him with a strong dose of patriotism and a ready wit. When a visitor noticed that he was wearing a deerstalker hat of the kind worn by Sherlock Holmes, he laughed, lifted the hat, and replied: "Yes, but this is not a two-pipe problem. This is a two-month problem."

Many Sarajevans who are not Jews have compared what they are undergoing here to the Holocaust. Mr. Papo, whose father, mother and sister were killed by the Nazis and their Croatian Ustashe collaborators, was asked if he wasn't uneasy with the comparison between Nazi pogroms and Serbian attacks in Bosnia and Herzegovina that have killed a few thousand people. Bosnian estimates put the total for the republic at about 8,000, perhaps half of them in Sarajevo.

"No, not at all," he said, then pointed to the hills and added, "These people are fascists."

"They are too much nationalistic, these Serbs," he continued. "They are ready to kill everybody who is not of the same nation. They try to say that what is going on here is a war between Serbs and Muslims and Croats, but it is not true. It is a war between terrorist killers and ordinary people."

"Look at the people here. This gentleman is a Serb. So is this one. I am a Jew, he is a Croat and this lady here is a Muslim. So what is this nonsense about an ethnic war?"

New Sort of Commune

In reconstructing Sarajevo underground, the residents of Pelagica Street have not lost the irony the Sarajevans savor. Many of the residents were employees of Energoinvest, an energy and transportation conglomerate created in Communist Yugoslavia, and many lived in subsidized apartments and had other comforts not easily available under Communism. Now that Communism has disintegrated, they find themselves living in a new sort of commune, in which truck drivers and rock guitarists and gas-pump attendants, refugees from parts of Sarajevo that have been destroyed, share their quarters.

While adults in the basement chatted, two small girls, Maja, age 8, and Marina, 6, sat listening, occasionally giggling at Mr. Papo's jokes. Their father, Vlado Duka, a 40-year-old mechanical engineer, died of a heart attack when an artillery shell struck outside his office on Marshal Tito Street

Corrections

A chart on May 26 previewing the primaries in Kentucky and Arkansas misstated results for 1988. George Bush won the Kentucky Republican primary with 59 percent; Al Gore won the Democratic primary with 46 percent. In Arkansas, Mr. Bush won with 47 percent and Mr. Gore with 37 percent.

An article by The Associated Press in Business Day yesterday about the sale of Aetna Life and Casualty's reinsurance subsidiary included one reason erroneously among those that Aetna's chairman, Ronald E. Compton, gave for the sale. He did not cite a need to raise money.

An article on Friday about insider-trading charges against Edward R. Downe Jr. and other executives misstated Mr. Downe's past role at Argosy magazine. He was an employee, not an owner.

Because of an editing error, an

article in Business Day yesterday about the proposed merger of Entergy and Gulf States Utilities misstated the position of Paul Zimmerling, a lawyer. He said that before Louisiana's Public Service Commission could approve the merger, it would probably have to conclude that the deal would benefit customers of both companies; he did not say the commission would conclude that the merger would benefit the customers.

A dance review on Monday about the American Ballet Theater's premiere of "The Other," by Agnes de Mille, on Friday at the Metropolitan Opera House, misidentified the vocalist. He is Paul Rowe, not Peter Rowe.

An art review in Weekend on May 29 about Part I of "Gifts and Acquisitions in Context" at the Whitney Museum of American Art misidentified an artist in the show. She is Lorna Simpson, not Mona Simpson.

e the Terror and the Hope

on Saturday morning, but with their mother away arranging burial, the girls have not yet been told of their his death. For families that already pool their food and establish rosters for the hazardous journeys to a nearby mosque where water taps still flow, the care of the girls has been something else to share.

Mrs. Gerard S. Foley
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Santa Ana, CA 92705

Rep. Helen Bentley
House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C.

JUN 20 1992

June 16, 1992

Madam:

What do you really know about Serbia? It seems all you know is what your parents taught you - a hatred for Croatsians.

I am Croatian, from Zagreb, yet my parents never taught me to hate Serbs. Neither did any of my childhood friends or their parents hate Serbs. Croatsians disliked the government of Yugoslavia because it was dominated by Serbs and ruled from Belgrade by King Alexander Karadjordjevic, whose father, King Peter, had the previous king of Serbia, Alexander Obrenovic, assassinated in 1903 in order to become king himself. Did you know any of this history? Did you know that Nikola Pasic, one of the assassins, became the Prime Minister of Serbia and later of Yugoslavia? Did you know that in 1918 the new country was formed as the "Kingdom of Croats, Serbs and Slovenes" with a constitution guaranteeing equal rights to all?

By 1929 King Alexander abolished that constitution, renamed the country Yugoslavia and ruled as a royal autocrat. All taxes went to Serbia, with the biggest part remaining there and all important government posts went to Serbs. Serbia dominated from then on. When the Croatian Representative Stjepan Radic objected to this unfairness he was assassinated right in the Parliament. His assassin Punisa Racic was never brought to trial but was instead hailed as a Serbian hero!

Croatia took the chance to become independent when Germans occupied Yugoslavia, but unfortunately the Nazis and Italians installed a puppet government without any elections. The subsequent killing of thousands of Serbs by the Ustasha was not something the general population knew about and even less approved of. At the same time thousands of Croatsians were killed by the Serb Chetniks and the Tito communists. That is a fact the communist government in Belgrade never let the world know, heaping guilt for the past fifty years on the Croatsians.

Serbs want to dominate and they are not embarrassed to say so, as the fierce statements of the recent Chief of Staff Blagoje Adzic confirm. What gives them this devine right? Croatsians are peaceful people, not "warriors" as the Serbs like to describe themselves. Even though the Serbs are only great "Warriors" when they have all the heavy arms and when they attack mostly civilian populations.

Croatia wants to join in peace the rest of the European nations, of which they were historically and culturally always a part, unlike Serbia. Serbs who lived in Croatia were never threatened when Croatia declared independence. Serbs who wanted to live there peacefully had

the same rights, guaranteed by the Croatian constitution, as anybody else. There was no "ethnic cleansing" as the Serbs are doing. It was Milosevic who started continuous incitements and hate propaganda against Croatia with broadcasts over the radio and television in 1990, which I personally heard as I was visiting there at that time.

As a fellow American I am shocked to see that you as an American and as a Congresswoman at that, can defend such a Government and as a Serb don't feel ashamed (as a few Serbs do) for the massive aggression by Serbia on defenseless people, killing, destroying irreplaceable historic and cultural sites, devastating hundreds of towns and villages and forcing millions to flee from their homes. The Krajina and Slavonia regions of Croatia were never part of Serbia and just because Serbs fled to those parts of Croatia from the Turks and the Croatians let them settle there, does not give them the right to claim it for themselves. Would you consider giving part of Florida or California to the Hispanics because they are the majority in some of them? I don't think so. (Even though, historically they could have more reason than the Serbs in Croatia.)

Not a blade of grass has been stepped on in Serbia by Croats or Bosnians. Serbs have never experienced this kind of destruction and suffering, except, along with other nations, during the invasions by the Ottoman Empire. Now they are acting the same way as their conquerors from a long time ago.

As a Serb-American you should instead of spreading false propaganda as president of the Serbian American National Information network, encourage your fellow Serbs to urge Belgrade to stop this terror. If you want to lobby for the Serb government you should resign from Congress.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Gerard S. Foley