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

March 24, 1990

COMMITTEE ON
THE BUDGET
COMMITTEE ON
PUBLIC WORKS AND
TRANSPORTATION
(ON LEAVE)
COMMITTEE ON
MERCHANT MARINE
AND FISHERIES
SUBCOMMITTEES
MERCHANT MARINE
PANAMA CANAL OUTER
CONTINENTAL SHELF
COAST GUARD & NAVIGATION
SELECT COMMITTEE ON AGING
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH
AND LONG TERM CARE
TASK FORCE ON WOMEN
AND SOCIAL SECURITY

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

The Honorable Slobodan Milosevic
President
The Republic of Serbia
Belgrade
Yugoslavia

Dear Mr. President:

I was very pleased to hear in Washington this week that the multi-party elections which we discussed in our conversation have been scheduled for the Republic of Serbia for November 10th. Although I have not been able to confirm this information, I hope that it is indeed correct.

My efforts to tell the world the truth about the situation in Kosovo have been hampered by the international view of the Serbian leadership as "hardline Communists" in the Western press. Attached are some recent news clippings as an example.

I think you know that I have gone out on a limb to defend the Serbs in this regard in the United States Congress and in the American press. I have done so because my pride in my Serbian heritage has compelled me to stand up for the truth. It is this same heritage -- a democratic one -- that the Serbs fought for in two world wars.

That is why I am very concerned to hear that the political party of Vojislav Seselj is not being allowed to hold public meetings or compete in a meaningful way in the electoral process. I must emphasize that any taint on Serbian elections not only will negate the good of holding an election, but put the Serbs in a worse position in world opinion.

I see two things as being most important at this juncture. First, a totally open and free election in which the people of Serbia choose their destiny must be held. Only a free and democratic people will have the zeal to accomplish what I know are the goals you have expressed to me for Serbia.

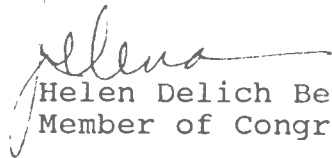
Second, every effort must be made to allow independent observers to certify that every party and group did indeed have a fair opportunity to compete in these elections.

(more)

The Honorable Slobodan Milosevic
May 24, 1990
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I look forward to discussing the upcoming electoral process with you. Another spate of anti-Serbian resolutions are working their way through the Congress even now. Whatever positive news you can communicate to me in this matter will be of great benefit to my efforts on behalf of the name of the Serbian people.

Sincerely,



Helen Delich Bentley
Member of Congress