

Yugoslavia *The Milwaukee Journal*, Saturday, April 4, 1992

US lawmaker says recognition will take time

By TINA CURRISIN
of the Journal staff

One of Serbia's strongest backers in Congress says US recognition of four Balkan Yugoslav republics is a "no-win" proposition.

US Rep. Frank Lautenberg (R-N.J.) said that until all four of the republics — Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Macedonia — receive international recognition of their independence, the US won't recognize any of them.

"The White House feels very strongly that there should be full recognition of all of the segments that were Yugoslavia at the same time," said Bentley.

The 12-nation European Community, which led the way in recognizing Croatia and Slovenia last year, will meet Monday to consider recognizing Bosnia-Herzegovina and Macedonia.

Bentley was in Milwaukee on Friday for a luncheon with leaders of the local Serbian-American community, and with some local business leaders.

"Greece has stopped them from recognizing Macedonia," Bentley said of the EC. Greece considers Macedonia to be the name of a Greek region, not a Slavic one, and there are worries that an independent Macedonia would claim territory now under Greek control.

"They just are not going to allow



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that republic that was part of Yugoslavia to get away with having the name of Macedonia and being recognized as an independent nation. They might compromise on something like Slavic Macedonia or something that. That has thrown a stumbling block in all the plans for the recognition of Slovenia and Croatia by the United States."

Bentley also warned that fighting in Bosnia-Herzegovina — which recently declared independence — could rival the fighting between Serbians and Croatsians.

[Serbian irregulars backed by Yugoslav army contingents clashed with Muslim Slavs and Croatian forces Friday in Bosnia-Herzegovina, The New York Times reported. Western diplomats said the attacks were aimed at heading off diplomatic recognition of Bosnia by the

EC. US officials have been pushing for early recognition of Bosnia-Herzegovina in an attempt to head off partition of the republic, which would almost certainly result in a *titodržav* because the ethnic groups are so intermingled, diplomats said.]

CRITICAL OF CROATIA

Bentley, who is of Serbian descent, is critical of the Croatian government. Many Serbians worry that Croatian nationalism may result in a repeat of the excesses of the World War II Nazi puppet regime in Croatia.

"In Serbia, they have taken all the communist, all the Tito names off the streets and schools," she said. "Whereas, in Croatia, they have removed the names of even some of the heroes and they put all the old fascist names back in."

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Yugoslavia

To the Editor:

It was with great interest that I read Morton Kondracke's article in the May 18 issue of Roll Call regarding the United States's "policy failure" in Yugoslavia. Even though some of Mr. Kondracke's facts were wrong, I agree that there has indeed been a policy failure.

There is no simple solution to the problems in the Balkans. However, one thing is clear: The killing must stop — on all sides and in all republics — and a negotiated settlement, taking into account the concerns of all groups, must be reached.

In reflection of the renewed interest of the United States in the Balkans, the failure of EC policy, and the stalemate in the current United Nations initiative, it is the US that should act as negotiator.

All of the republics of Yugoslavia respect the US, which has had no historical designs on the area. I think it is clear that the United States is the only entity that could facilitate such action acceptable to all parties involved.

Mediation will cost the United States nothing; aid, embargoes, sanctions, and peace-keeping forces will cost much more.

Unless a solution is reached soon, the spread of hostilities to the whole of the Balkan peninsula, not just former Yugoslavia, is a very real possibility.

Rep. Helen Delich Bentley (R-Md)

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