

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

To: Milan Panich
From: Helen Delich Bentley
Date: August 26, 1992
RE: URGENT REQUEST FOR HOLOCAUST MUSEUM

The Serbian Community stands a good chance of being forever excluded from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, but there is still a way of preventing this from happening.

This Washington Museum -- only one of three like it in the world (the others are Yad Vashem in Tel Aviv, and in Los Angeles) -- is completing its permanent displays within the next 30 days. Despite numerous requests to the Yugoslav Government for help, to date there is little or nothing among these displays pertaining to Yugoslavia.

We have 30 days to supply the Museum with these materials, and preserve this vital history for posterity. Otherwise, nothing that we may ever contribute in the future will be made part of the permanent displays. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE. Dr. Radu Ioanid, Director of the Photo Research Department, asserts that the permanent displays will be expanded to include film and pictures from Yugoslavia if received in time.

Dr. Ioanid believes that such materials are available from UDBA, the Yugoslav Secret Police, but that they have not been released so far because of the former, Titoist policy making this subject a taboo. As noted above, the Museum has approached the Yugoslav Government on many occasions for these materials but with no success. The Yugoslavs, aside from some artifacts obtained by Clara Mandich, have been nonresponsive.

WE NEED AN EXECUTIVE ORDER (OR WHATEVER OTHER PAPERS ARE APPROPRIATE ACCORDING TO YUGOSLAVIA'S FEDERAL RULES OF PROCEDURE) FROM YOU TO UDBA AND ANY AND ALL OTHER APPROPRIATE GROUPS OR PARTIES DIRECTING THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF ALL WAR-ERA FILM FOOTAGE AND PHOTO STILLS PERTAINING TO SERB VICTIMS OF THE HOLOCAUST. Radio Television Belgrade may also be able to help. I will speak to you about transport and other details -- in the future we will also need books, articles, records of personal stories, private pictures, etc...

We also need to arrange funding for Dr. Jovan Mirkovic, former director of the Holocaust Museum in Jasenovac (now a refugee in Belgrade), to come to Washington and make sure that all these materials are correctly identified.

For now, the release of this film footage and pictures is the only detail which requires IMMEDIATE ATTENTION.

I think that you will agree that this is of vital importance.