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**Testimony of the Orthodox Bishop of Hercegovina  
Dr. Atanasije Jevtic, Professor of Theology  
September 28, 1992**

Our Diocese of Zahumlje-Hercegovina exists without interruption since the 13th Century. The river Neretva divides Hercegovina into Eastern and Western Hercegovina. Eastern Hercegovina: Orthodox Serbs are 85% of population. Western Hercegovina: Orthodox Serbs are 10-15%. The Adriatic coast around Dubrovnik: Orthodox Serbs are 5-6% of population. The total Orthodox Serb population is 75 to 80 thousand (Imprecision in figures reflects an undetermined number of atheists among the Serbs). Of the rest of the population in Hercegovina, a greater number are Croatian and a smaller number are Muslim. The Diocesan See is in the capitol of Hercegovina, Mostar, on both sides of the river Neretva, where there were 24 thousand Serbs before the civil war, 30 thousand Croatsians, and about 32 thousand Muslims. The majority of Serbs in Mostar are settled on the eastern side of the Neretva.

When the ethnic conflicts began in March of 1992, the Croatsians began persecuting the Serbian population on the western side of the Neretva, and surrounded the barracks of the Yugoslav army. The Yugoslav army bombarded Mostar, as well as other areas where there were concentrations of Croatian population. (The previous year that same army occupied the coast around Dubrovnik, and bombarded Dubrovnik, which falls in the borders of Croatia as determined by Tito's Communist regime.) May 19, 1992 the Yugoslav army pulled back from the area of Hercegovina and the Croatian coast, with the exception of the Montenegro border called Prevlaka. Immediately after that the regular army of the republic of Croatia from the coast, and Croatian armed forces from Western Hercegovina (after they had already expelled all the Serbs from Western Hercegovina) attacked the Serbian majority in Eastern Hercegovina, and from the beginning of June, 1992, until the present, they have occupied close to one fourth of Eastern Hercegovina; all of Mostar on both sides of the Neretva, and all Serbian settlements in the Neretva valley along both sides of the river, and to the South and South-East, across the river Bregava, the city of Stočar, to close to the city Ljubinje, one third of Popovo Polje, the region of Bobani, and the surrounding area of Trebinje. where currently the Croatian forces are directly attacking Trebinje. Trebinje and the surrounding area has 22 thousand inhabitants, of which 1,800 are Muslim, and barely a thousand Croatsians. In the

North eastern part of Hercegovina, there are currently local armed conflicts between Serbian and Muslims, in the central and upper sections of the Neretva.

To date in my diocese fifteen (15) church centers have been completely destroyed:

1. Mostar and surroundings: three parish communities, the large Cathedral Church and Episcopal Headquarters have been leveled to the ground (June 15 and 16, 1992), as well as three smaller churches, the majority of the people have fled, and some are imprisoned in camps, several hundred killed; villages on the western side of the Neretva: Rastani, Bogodo, Raska Gora, Dobric, Biograci, Medjine, Vihovici, Slipcici, Bacevici, with two churches destroyed, the majority of the people have fled, some have been killed, the rest imprisoned in camps;

2. Duvno (Tomislavgrad) in Western Hercegovina, one parish with 2 churches, people imprisoned in camps or have fled;

3. Konjic on the northern bend of the Neretva (Serbs 16%, Croatians 22%, and the rest the Muslim majority) and Bradina and surrounding 25 villages North of the Neretva, (around 3 and a half thousand Serbs, where Muslims are the majority and Croatians are small minority) completely destroyed settlements along with the Serbian villages (Brdjani, Zukici, Djepi (or Cepi), Blace, Vrdolje, Zagorice, Zivanje, Ljuta, Ovcari, Ribari, Sitnik, Donje Selo, Cerici, Bjelovcari, Celebici, Pokojiste, Obri, Nevizdraci, Idbor, Ostrozac, Dobrigosce, Paprasko, Repovac, Shunje, and Hondici) 3 churches destroyed, more than 100 men, women and children killed May 25 and 26, around 3 thousand imprisoned first in a railroad tunnel in the Ivan mountain, and latter moved to camps of Celebici, Butrovic Polje, Konjic and Ljuta, (attached list of 412 captives from Celebici and Konjic, which we received at the end of August from the International Red Cross.) The villages are set fire and completely destroyed, the older Serbian inhabitants are being killed by the Muslims, as we have recently learned regarding the village Djepi (Cepi);

4. Bjelo Polje above Mostar, with surrounding villages (Potoci, Salakovac, Vrapcici, etc) with one church, recently burned down and demolished with bulldozers by Croatian forces, the people have fled;

5. Blagaj and 4 villages below Mostar (Gnojnica, Buna, Hodbina, Pijesci, etc), the people have fled, the villages are being destroyed by Croatian forces, fate of church building in Blagaj unknown;
6. The village of Zitomisljic and the 16th century monastery Zitomisljic (Byzantine architecture), completely destroyed and the monastery has been looted and burned down, the people have fled;
7. The city of Capljina with its church, leveled to the ground; some of the people imprisoned in camps (Dretelj, the former army barracks) and some have fled;
8. Tasovcic, Klepci and Prebilovci on the East bank of the Neretva River, South of Mostar, totally Serbian villages, 2 churches destroyed, about 30 men and women killed, the rest have fled, the villages demolished with explosives and bulldozers by Croatian forces (June 7 and 8, 1992), all the homes and cemeteries have been leveled, the church with the bones of almost 2 thousand Serbian martyrs from the genocide of 1941-1945 was burned down and plowed into the ground;
9. The city Metkovic and the old town of Gabela with 2 churches destroyed and another 2 churches with fate undetermined, some of the people imprisoned in camps and some have fled;
10. Stolac with 10 surrounding Serbian villages: Dracevo, Recice, Burmazi, Paprati, Opljicici, Osanici, Donji and Gornji Poplat, Pljesevac, Prenj), the Serbian people were expelled, 4 churches damaged, the villages were partially burned and destroyed;
11. Gornje Hrasno and three villages in Lower Popovo Polje: Cava, Dvrnsnica, Orasje, occupied by the Croatian army and set afire, the people have fled, the fate of the church is undetermined;
12. The 15th Century Monastery Zavala (Byzantine architecture and frescoes) and village of Zavala , with the surrounding villages: Cvaljina, Orahov Do, etc.) occupied by the Croatian forces, were heavily damaged by mortars, some people killed, the rest of the people have fled;
13. The region of Bobani plateau, with 16 completely Serbian and Orthodox villages: Golubinac, Belenici, Kijev Do, Gorogaze, Dobromiri, Pozarno, Baljivac, Rapti, Scenica, Suse, Misite, Copice,

Podosoje, Slivnica, and Lopoc, all destroyed, houses demolished, 3 churches destroyed;

14. Zaplanik, Ivanjica, Zacula and several other villages in the Trebinje forest: Kaladjurdjevici, Slavogostici, Vukovici, Nevada, Orah, etc., with 2 churches Zalanik and Zacula, and completely Serbian settlements, all destroyed and set afire, currently being leveled to the ground with bulldozers by Croatian forces, who at the same time are firing rockets on all the Serbian villages in Popovo Polje (Velicane, Dracevo, Drljenjani, Tulje, Zakovo, Dobromani, Mrkonjici, Police, Sedlari, Grmljani, Diklici, Jasenica Lug, Hum, Cerovac, Mesari, Staro Slano, etc.), from which the civilian population has had to escape, and in recent days there are also human and livestock casualties ;

15. Dubrovnik, with one old Orthodox church and 2 church houses in the center of the old city, damaged, and one house demolished and gutted, the majority of the 4000 Serbs have fled.

For the sake of truth, the Serbs in Hercegovina did not persecute the Croatians anywhere, and all the Croatian Roman Catholic churches on Serbian held territories are still standing.

The relations between the Serbs and Muslims in the villages around Nevesina and Gatsko, in northern Hercegovina, and in upper area of the Neretva, are not good, but because of the surprise attacks of the Muslims, and terrible massacres of the Serbian population in some villages (Podvezlje above Mostar, Zaborani by Nevesinje, Izgori above Gatsko) prompted revenge taking by the Serbs and expulsion of Muslim population. The majority of the Muslim mosques are standing, but some have been damaged by bullets, and some have been demolished.

The condition of Serbian captives in the Croatian and Muslim camps in Hercegovina:

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The captive Serbs have been, and not just the soldiers but also women, the old and infirm, placed in several concentration and detention camps: Dretelj near Capljina, Celovina near Mostar, Ljubuski, Butrovic Polje between Lake Jablanica and Prozor. The Croats and the Muslims together have opened these camps for the Serbian population in Celebici, Konjic (Sports Hall), Ljuta and Bradina (we enclose a list of 412 Serbs held captive in Celebici and Konjic which we have received from the International Red Cross).

Some of the captive Serb men and women have managed to escape from the above named camps (through partial group exchanges or by paying high ransoms in German Marks) and have since told us of the abominable tortures and atrocities committed on them. We possess eyewitness reports and affidavits of the Serbian woman Olga Drasko (born 1956) from Tasovcici near Capljina, a graduated Microbiologist, who spent in the concentration camp Dretelj, 4 months, from the 5th May to the 18th August, 1992. We also have the eyewitness affidavit from Stevan Antic, Serb, (born 1903) from Konjic, who spent in jail Ljubuski 122 days (April 19-August 18, 1992).

Likewise, we have received oral eyewitness reports from Djordjo Cecez, (born 1967) from Konjic, who spent 10 days in the concentration camp Celebici, and then 4 months in confinement in Konjic from where, with the help of Croatian friends and German Marks, he was released in the beginning of August, 1992.

All of these eyewitness reports tell of the physical beatings of themselves as well as of all captured Serbs. Stevo Antic lost 23 kilograms of body weight in 3 months and now has broken ribs on his right side and scars and contusions on his whole body. Dr. Olga Drasko tells of how the women were beaten and repeatedly raped, such as Andja Vojinovic, Vera Brstina, Jelena Mrstic and others. To her they forced nails and pins under her fingernails and with a knife repeatedly cut her face and breasts. In front of her, they beat with sticks Rade Bulot from Prebilovci, Dragan Rudan from Stolac, Srecko Maric from Klepc, and Bozo Balaban from Mostar who died from physical beatings and others.

Stevan Antic, aside from the daily beatings, was purposefully humiliated as a man, a Serb and as an Orthodox by the Roman Catholic Croats and the Islamic Muslims. There are many examples of group raping of Serbian children, women and elderly, as well as forced inhuman sexual denigrations and degradations.

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Many are the reports of deaths and suicides of the captive Serbs as a direct result of these bestial practices. In particular, it is known that in army encampments, both Croatian and Muslim soldiers (e.g. in Mostar, Konjic, Ravno-Popovo Polje) have taken Serbian women and children and are using them for bestial practices.

The relationship to the churches, the monasteries, the cemeteries and other Serbian holy places from the Roman Catholic Croats and the Muslim fundamentalists is barbaric and insults the Orthodox religiousness and human consciousness.

In Konjic, our Orthodox church, as told in the eyewitness testimonies of escaped refugees, has been transformed into a public toilet. In other places, like Bradina, the captured Orthodox Serbs, were forced by the Muslims to shed their clothes and in the garden of the Serbian church to abase themselves and perform Muslim religious practices. In Trnovo, the Muslim fanatics were dancing like dervishes while demolishing the Serbian church and singing "Allah, Allah".

HELEN DELICH BENTLEY  
2ND DISTRICT, MARYLAND

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ENERGY TASK FORCE

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

September 24, 1992

Mr. Robert V. Rota  
Postmaster  
U. S. House of Representatives  
Office of the Postmaster  
Washington, D. C. 20515


Dear Postmaster Rota:

Enclosed is a "Dear Colleague" letter to be distributed to all Members of the House and Senate.

If there are any questions concerning this letter, please contact Alexandra Brkic of my staff at 225-3061.

Thank you very much for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

  
Helen Delich Bentley  
Member of Congress  
Second District, Maryland

PLEASE REPLY TO:

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1610 LONGWORTH BUILDING  
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SEP 24 1992

*Bentley*

**DEAR REPRESENTATIVE:**

**THIS IS TO ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF**

**YOUR "DEAR COLLEAGUE" LETTER**

**DATED** 9-23-92 **THE**

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HUMAN RIGHTS  
ENERGY TASK FORCE

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-2002

September 23, 1992

Dear Colleague:

You are invited to attend a hearing on Yugoslavia featuring the Most Reverend Atanasije Jevtic, Bishop of Hercegovina, from 2:00- 4:00 on Tuesday, September 29, 1992 in Room 210 of the Cannon House Office Building.

Bishop Atanasije, a highly respected and well-known figure in the Eastern Orthodox Church, has been a staunch defender of human rights and a fierce opponent of Communism and the Milosevic government. As Bishop of Hercegovina, he is the spiritual leader of the Serbian Orthodox population and will be able to provide a first-hand account of events in Hercegovina.

Please plan on attending this important meeting. If you need additional information, please contact Alex Brkic at 5-3061.

Sincerely,



Helen Delich Bentley  
Member of Congress

HDB:ab

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## Biographical Sketch of the Most Reverend Atanasije Jevtic, Bishop of Hercegovina

His Grace, Bishop Atanasije Jevtic, is a prominent figure in the world of Orthodox Christendom, and is a widely sought after speaker on Orthodox Christian and Serbian affairs. Born in 1938 in Western Serbia, he graduated from St. Sava Seminary in Belgrade, Yugoslavia and the School of Divinity at the University of Belgrade. He obtained his doctorate in theology from the University of Athens, and engaged in further studies in Paris and Constantinople.

Bishop Atanasije has been a professor of patristics and church history at the School of Divinity since 1973, and was dean there prior to becoming a bishop. He also has taught at the Orthodox Spiritual Academy in Paris.

He has participated in the ecumenical movement, many international meetings, symposiums and conferences dealing with religious and philosophical issues as a representative of the Serbian Orthodox Patriarchate. He also has testified before the United States Congress regarding Yugoslav affairs.

A prolific author in the domains of theology, philosophy and history and a member of the prestigious Serbian Academy of Writers, he has written ten books and over one hundred scholarly essays which have been published in 15 different languages.

In 1991, Archpriest Atanasije was elevated to the rank of Bishop and served as the head of the Diocese of Banat, Vojvodina, in Serbia. His Grace became the bishop of Hercegovina in May 1992, where he presently serves amidst the brutal civil war, destruction and general misery.

As a staunch anti-communist and defender of Christian and human values, he has been an outspoken opponent of communism and the government of Slobodan Milosevic, and has publicly called upon Slobodan Milosevic and his government to resign. He has been attacked frequently in the press, which has labeled him "the most destructive element in the Serbian Orthodox Church" and "the destructive force on the Serbian public scene."

HELEN DELICH BENTLEY  
2ND DISTRICT, MARYLAND

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Sincerely,



Helen Delich Bentley  
Member of Congress

HDB:ab

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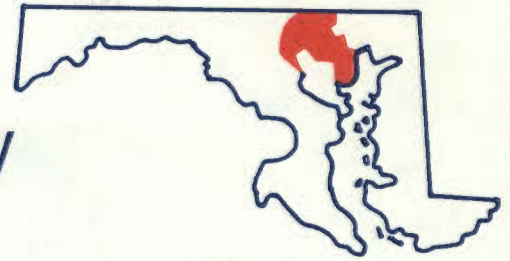
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Congresswoman  
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2nd District of Maryland



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**NEWS**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
SEPTEMBER 28, 1992

CONTACT: ALEX BRKIC  
(410) 337-7222

MEDIA ADVISORY

ALL MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA ARE INVITED TO ATTEND A HEARING ON THE SITUATION IN YUGOSLAVIA FEATURING REVEREND ATANASIJE JEVTIC, BISHOP OF HERCEGOVINA, FROM 2:00 TO 4:00 PM ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1992, IN ROOM 210 OF THE CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING.

BISHOP ATANASIJE, A HIGHLY RESPECTED AND WELL KNOWN FIGURE IN THE EASTERN ORTHODOX CHURCH, HAS BEEN A STAUNCH DEFENDER OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND A FIERCE OPPONENT OF COMMUNISM AND THE MILOSEVIC REGIME CURRENTLY IN POWER IN BELGRADE. AS BISHOP OF HERCEGOVINA, HE WILL BE PROVIDING A FIRST HAND ACCOUNT OF THE CURRENT UNREST IN THAT FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC.

From: Milorad Kerezovic

Zarkovo - Ive-Lole Ribara 8/7

Tel.: 512-678

TO THE HOLY SYNOD OF BISHOPS

A message from the Serbian Inmates in Camp Odzak

On June 20, 1992, I heard from Mira Stojcinovic, who was born in the village of Ritesic and was a lawyer in Doboj but is now a refugee in Dragalovci in the region of Banja Luka.

Mira says that an inmate from Novi Grad has escaped from Camp Odzak where some 4,500 Serbs are held. He maintains that tortures inflicted upon the Serbs exceed anything that was known in Auschwitz. Parts of bodies are cut off from living inmates; women are raped by the Ustasha; fathers are forced to rape their own daughters. They are given salt water to drink. They are tortured by thirst and by hunger. Every inmate has lost 30 to 40 kilograms.

The inmates ask Serbia to send a plane to bomb this camp so that the sufferings of the Serbs in Odzak may come to an end.

Mira Stojcinovic has also informed me that in the villages Ritesic and Majevac some 30 people were killed, including soldiers, children, old people. The Church in Majevac is destroyed. Near the church a little girl had her throat cut and her body put on a tank which was then blown up by the Ustasha. The Ustasha were able enter the area because they were wearing the uniforms and insignia of the Serbian army. Using this ruse, they carried out the massacre in Ritesic and Majevac.

The telephone of Mira Stojcinovic is (078) 766-173. You can reach her on Saturdays and Sundays.

June 22. 1992

Milorad Kerezovic

## **H.RES. 566--CALLING FOR U.S. TO HOST 1998 PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION**

Committee on Foreign Affairs (no report issued)  
Introduced by Mr. Fascell on September 15, 1992

**SUMMARY:** The International Telecommunications Union (ITU) sets global telecommunications standards, frequency allocation, and regulation of the use of geostationary orbit slots for satellites. ITU's conferences bring together many of the world's most influential government and private sector telecommunications officials and would provide U.S. businesses with an opportunity to showcase American products. Therefore, H.Res. 566 expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States should extend an invitation to host the 1998 International Telecommunications Union Plenipotentiary Conference at the earliest appropriate opportunity.

**COMMITTEE ACTION:** At press time, the Committee on Foreign Affairs had taken no formal action on H.Res. 566.

**ADMINISTRATION VIEW:** The administration does not take positions on House Resolutions.

## **H.RES. 557--REGARDING REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS IN YUGOSLAVIA**

Committee on Foreign Affairs (no report issued)  
Introduced by Mr. Sawyer et al. on August 12, 1992

**SUMMARY:** The conflict within the former borders of Yugoslavia has resulted in a huge number of refugees, particularly from Bosnia-Herzegovina. Serbia and its ally Montenegro are considered to be primarily responsible for the refugee crisis. Noting this, H.Res. 557 resolves that the House of Representatives urges the President to (1) assist the United Nations in intensifying measures to address the plight of refugees in this area; (2) reaffirm the right of all refugees to return to their former residences and receive appropriate compensation; (3) authorize the use of seized assets of the former Yugoslav government to assist the international relief effort (as consistent with international law); and (4) declare null and void any documents signed under duress which transfer property of members of one ethnic group to members of organizations of another ethnic group.

**COMMITTEE ACTION:** At press time, the Committee on Foreign Affairs had taken no formal action on H.Res. 566.

**ADMINISTRATION VIEW:** The administration does not take positions on House Resolutions.

**STAFF CONTACT:** Mark Evans, 226-0378



TESTIMONY OF OLGA DRASKO OF TASOVCIĆE

REGARDING THE TIME SHE SPENT ON THE USTASHA CAMP DRETELJ

"I was born on January 17, 1956 in Capljina. When I married I went to live in Tasovciće from where I commuted every day to work in Capljina. I have three children: a thirteen year old daughter Zora, an eleven year old son Zoran and a four year old son Miroslav.

I am an MD, and my field of specialization is microbiology. I worked in my profession at the Chapljina Clinic every day until I was arrested. On April 15 of this year I was forbidden by the Croatian Army and the ruling HDZ (Croatian Democratic Community) Party to leave Capljina. I had an apartment in Capljina but I spent almost all my time at work because I felt safer there. I had to report at the commune administration building every day exactly at noon. Sometime I was kept there up to 2 hours being interrogated about my immediate family and other relatives.

On May 5, 1992, I was arrested by Paraga's Black Shirts (HOS). I was accused by my next-door neighbour, whom I have known since childhood, ZLATKO VEGAR of Tasovciće, the most fanatical of four Ustasha brothers, Davor, Filip, Zlatko and Jozo, the last two being particularly infamous. (Based on his accusations, my colleagues NIKOLA and DUSANKA KUZMAN, a married couple, both physicians, stomatologists, were arrested on the same day as I was. After four days they were released but were found later with their throats cut on MUMINOVACA, about 3 kilometers from Capljina on the way to STOLAC.)

I was taken to **DRETELJ**, a garrison fuel storage facility transformed into a camp. The existing premises with barred windows, which had no doubt been used once as detention quarters for soldiers, were first used for this purpose. When the number of inmates grew, we were transferred to storage sheds also in Dretelj. There were two storage sheds -- one for women and one for men. There were 64 female and 110 male detainees.

All men were mercilessly beaten at arrival and during all interrogations. They were hit with hands, feet, night sticks, two-by-fours and rifle butts. They were slashed with knives and degraded in every conceivable manner.

**RADE BULUT**, born in **PREBILOVCI**, could not stand up for 7 days after the beating.

**DRAGAN RUDAN** (called **HONDA**) from **STOLAC**, owner of several catering establishments, heavily over-weight was supposed to be transferred to another prison but was not because he literally could not be moved: he was so badly beaten.

**SRECKO MARIC** of **KLEPCI** received about 50 blows to his head which was badly gashed. he was beaten by **ZVONIMIR BJELIS** of **OPUZEN** who was 16 years old. Bjelis would frequently hold a knife to Maric's throat threatening him. Maric was saved from certain death by an older guard. Female fighters, **MARINA** and **GOGA GRUBISIC** assisted in the beating of Bjelis by kicking him.

**BOZO BALABAN** of Mostar died after being beating.

I remember the name of another torturer. He was **IVAN MEDIC** of **DONJI RADISIC** near **LJUBUSKO**.

**MIRSAD REPAK** of Stolac, about 20 years old, was the investigating officer in this camp. During interrogation, at his orders prisoners would be slapped, the tips of their fingers would be cut off, their fingers would be crushed. Some of the tortures I have already mentioned, some I shall mention later. (The brother of our investigating officer, a soccer player **VELEZA**, is in Belgrade, free and hoping to be picked by one of the Serbian soccer teams.)

I would help the camp medical officer to sort out medical supplies sent by **CARITAS**. These were mostly sedatives, disinfectants and other medical supplies needed for emergency interventions. As a reward for my help, I was allowed to take some of the medicines for myself. I took mostly vitamins which I shared out among other prisoners.

On one occasion I was asked to render assistance, under escort, to "a chetnik suffering from an inflammation of the throat," which enabled me to see several of the wounded prisoners.

When I attended **RADOMIR ZUZA**, who was allegedly suffering from "an inflammation of the throat," I discovered that his tongue was slashed with a kama [a type of knife preferred by the Ustasha]; his lower lip was slashed; he had a gash on his head; a large cross carved into the flesh on his chest; and a capital letter "U" on his back.

**CEDO SKORO** of **SLIPCIC** had a wound on the left side of his chest in the shape of a rectangle (3 x 5 cm) where his skin was peeled off. The wound was infected and an approximately 10 x 10 cm pustule was formed reaching to the bone. Immediate surgical intervention was imperative. After four days he was taken to the medical officer. (He was probably transferred to **SPLIT**. He never returned.)

A certain **BOGDANOVIC**, whose first name I do not remember, had his tongue and his lower lip slashed with a kama, while on his left hand there was a 2 x 4 cm area covered in cigarette burns. There was also **N.N.** whose tongue was also slashed

**PERO BRKIC**, over 70 year old, of **Tasovcice**, suffering from a hernia, had a broken rib on the left side of the rib cage and the back covered in bruises.

The torturers carried out their work with the zeal which produced casualties even among them (broken hands, fingers etc.) The investigating officer **Repak** was dissatisfied because so much beating had made the Serbs lapse into silence and complete indifference to death. The camp commander ordered the beatings to stop. He was known by the nickname of **DIDA**. The beating stopped for about 10 days. But worse things than beating took place during that time. For instance, a young man doing military service was travelling in the area when he was caught. A rope was put around his neck and he was forced to crawl on all fours and bark like a dog while being kicked by his

"handlers". Then he was forced to drink half a liter of lubricating oil and eat to packets of cigarettes.

There were no children in this camp. For a long time, I was the youngest woman there. Although they were not beaten to the same extent as the men, they were beaten nonetheless. They were slapped, hit with sticks, kama handles etc. as was experienced by: **ANDJA VOJINOVIC, VERA BRSTINA, JELENA MRKIC** and others. As far as I was concerned, needles were driven under my nails, I was cut with a kama over the face and breasts.

The treatment of women was in no way less inhuman than that of men. On the contrary, several women were raped, even some very old ones.

There is one thing that I need to single out and emphasize. The focus of interrogations seemed to be directed to **PREBILOVCI**, to the disinterment of the bones of the martyrs, their subsequent Christian burial and the visit of Patriarch Pavle to Prebilovci. This was the thorn in their flesh. It was clear at every interrogation. At the very mention of Prebilovci they would appear afraid, disturbed, angry and then furious. The thought of the bones of the martyrs drove them to insanity. That they were haunted by it was more than obvious. They had a video cassette and a large number of photographs of Prebilovci which could be found in every Serbian household in Capljina and its environs. At interrogation, they would show these photographs to the prisoners and would threaten those who appeared on the pictures. They asked about people photographed; they asked about the Patriarch, other priests, politicians etc.

During the entire time of our imprisonment, the inmates would pray: "God and Saint Basil help us." And truly, the faith helped us to endure all. It was then that I made a vow that I would go to OSTROG [where the shrine of St. Basil is]. Believe me, I did not feel the needles under my nails, nor the cuts on my face and breasts. I just kept repeating "God and Saint Basil help me."

On August 18, 1992 I was part of a prisoner exchange. The first place I went to was Ostrog. I received my faith from my grandmother. And my faith saved me. Glory be to God and to Saint Basil."

In the Monastery of Ostrog. On the eve of the Assumption of the Most Holy Mother of God and Ever Virgin Mary.

August 27, 1992

Recorded by: Archimandrite Simeon Biberdzic and theologian Gajo Gajic.

Confirm

BISHOP ATANASIJE'S AGENDA

Sunday, September 27, 1992

Daytime Contact: Myles Costich, 703-641-8930.

7:00 p.m. Vespers and speech--St. Catherine's Greek Orthodox Church, Falls Church, Virginia, off of Route 7. There will be a gathering in the Church hall immediately following the service.  
Contact: Achilles Adamantiades, 301-656-5267 (HP) or 202-473-2417 (WP).

Monday, September 28, 1992

Nothing planned as far as I know, although Mr. Costich mentioned possible meetings with the press.

Tuesday, September 29, 1992

9:30 a.m. Closed meeting with Helsinki Commission staff members at Ford House Office Building, 2nd Street SW and D Street, Room 237.  
Contact: Bob Hand, 202-225-1901.

10:45 a.m. Brunch break.

12:00 noon Meeting on Senate side with Senator Gordon. *Gi Dirkson*  
Contact: Jim Jatros, 202-224-2773. *Contact: Bruce Cordingly*  
*224-3631*

2:00 p.m. Hearing on House side sponsored by Congresswoman Helen Delich Bentley, Cannon House Office Building, Room 210.  
Contact: Alexandra Brkic, 202-225-3061 or 410-337-7222.

*4:30 pm*  
Wednesday, September 30, 1992 *Sen. Sarbanes.*

morning Depart for New York.

2:30 p.m. Meeting with National Council of Churches.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
OCTOBER 1, 1992

CONTACT: ALEXANDRA BRKIC  
(202) 225-3061

CONGRESSWOMAN HELEN DELICH BENTLEY SPONSORS HEARING FOR BISHOP  
ATANASIJE JEVTIC OF HERCEGOVINA (FORMER YUGOSLAVIA)

Congresswoman Helen Delich Bentley invited Bishop Atanasije Jevtic of Hercegovina to discuss the crisis in his homeland with members of Congress and staffers Tuesday, September 29, 1992.

Bishop Atanasije discussed the occupation of much of Hercegovina by Croatian forces, instances of ethnic cleansing and the committing of atrocities for which all three sides were guilty, and the destruction of Serbian Orthodox churches by Croatian and Muslim forces.

He also discussed possible steps for peace which the West could take, such as promoting dialogue on a local level between the different ethnic groups, providing concrete assistance in assuring fair, democratic elections in Serbia, and insisting that dialogue and negotiations continue between the leaders of the warring parties.

Both Bishop Atanasije and Congresswoman Bentley expressed their dissatisfaction with the actions of the three parties' leaders, and with the West's response. "Mr. Milosevic, Mr. Tudjman and Mr. Izetbegovic are all to blame for the tragic situation in former Yugoslavia," said Bishop Atanasije. "None of them are true leaders of their respective ethnic groups. However, the West also is to blame for accepting to meet with only those leaders, and for making policy decisions based on biased and undocumented information."



Facts in Brief

- I. Serbs' written history dates back to the middle of the first millenium. From Vlastimir (850 A.D.) Serbs had their rulers. They received Christianity sporadically earlier but, as a whole nation, in the 9th century. With the Nemanja Dynasty (Stephan Nemanja, 1113-1389), Serbs had their kingdom, a well organized and established country. Christian (Orthodox) Faith flourished. Churches and monasteries still stand that are 800+ years old.
- II. Serbs conquered by Ottoman (Moslem) Turks at the Battle of Kosovo in 1389. Bosnia's and Hercegovina's Serbs also fought on Kosovo. Turks eventually occupied all Serbian Lands, except for mountainous Montenegro. During 500 years of occupation by the Turks, Serbs yearned for freedom and unity.
- III. Finally, in the 19th and early 20th centuries, Serbs liberate themselves from Turkish oppression. First, a small part of central Serbia, then further, and eventually, in Balkan Wars, all Serbian Lands become liberated.
- IV. Bosnia, however, gets occupied (annexed) by Austria in 1908. Serbs could not tolerate it. Archduke Ferdinand is killed in Sarajevo in 1914. World War I begins. Serbs fight once again for freedom and against foreign occupation. This time, Serbs are not alone. They are allies of the U.S.A., England, France, etc. War is won. Serbian sacrifices include a loss of one-third of its population and one-half of its male population. But finally, all Serbian Lands are free.
- V. Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenians (Yugoslavia) is born. As early as the beginning of the 19th century, the idea existed of uniting all southern Slavs into one common state. Croatian Roman Catholic Bishop Juraj Strossmayer advocated it, as did Croatian Ban Jospi Jelacic (1848).
- VI. Croatians, now on the side that lost the War (Austria and Germany), seek common state. Serbs take it that it is just another way of fulfilling its dream of an all-Serb nation living in one country, and now they see it strengthened by brother Slavic nations of Croats and Slovenians. Allies, however, advise Serbia to form its own new country with all the Serbian Lands: Serbia proper, Vojvodina, Bosnia and Hercegovina, Montenegro, and Krajina (parts of today's Croatia). Against their advice, especially France and U.S. President Wilson, Serbs go for the common state - Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenians. The Three Peoples (nations) enter in a union which will later be called Yugoslavia. But, there were no republics - only one country.
- VII. World War II. Yugoslav government signed an agreement with Germany in 1941. March 27, 1941, Serbs lead puch (coup d'etat); abolish the agreement. Nazi Germany attacks and overruns Yugoslavia in a matter of days; bombards Belgrade on Easter Sunday and occupies the country. Croatians welcome Nazi Germany, collaborate and establish the Independent State of Croatia under Nazi protection. Yugoslavia gets dismembered: a great part of it, Slavonia, Bosnia and Hercegovina, is given to Croatians; Dalmatia, to Italians; Vojvodina, to Hungarians; Kosovo, to Albanians; Eastern Serbia, to Bulgarians. What do Serbs do? Do they welcome Nazis? NO! They uprising. Draza Mihailovich leads guerilla resistance. Hitler, infuriated, sends several divisions to "take care of the Serbs." Gets delayed with his Russian Front. (Some ascribe his loss, among other things, to this delay.) Later, Communists-Tito come into action. England-Allies leave Draza Mihailovich, Serbian National Democratic Resistance, and give their support to Tito.

- VIII. During occupation of Serbian nation by Germany and its allies, Serbs lost over 1,500,000 people. Nazis killed 100 Serbs (first ones taken, children too) for one German soldier killed. Independent State of Croatia has its own state-government program of extermination of all Serbs from all the territory given them by Nazis. It is publicly announced that one-third of Serbs would be deported, one-third converted to Roman Catholicism and assimilated into Croatian nation, and one-third killed. The most gruesome genocide is carried out - people locked into their churches, killed and burned, pregnant Serbian women bayoneted and babies ripped out of their bellies and killed, etc., etc. Much material is now available on this. Serbs lost more lives in World War II than the U.S., England and France COMBINED, and they fought on the side of the Allies - of the U.S.A.
- IX. World War II over. Communists installed in power. The only people that fought both Nazis and Communists are the Serbs. Now they are to be punished, weakened, divided, etc. Tito creates republics in Yugoslavia - six. He locks over one-third of Serbian population outside of the Republic of Serbia. Chops Republic of Serbia itself by creating autonomous provinces (on Serbian territory) of Kosovo and Metohija and of Vojvodina. Tito explains that these are only administrative borders - country is Yugoslavia - one country, one law, one constitution. Serbs accept, for they are again in one and the same country and see no threat and danger.
- X. 1991 - Yugoslavia is dismembered at large by efforts of Germany. Yugoslav citizens are not allowed to have a national referendum-vote to declare themselves, whether they want to preserve Yugoslavia. It is left to Individual Peoples themselves to declare what they want - in or out. Thinking of Slovenians, this is a good thing, for it insures that they would not be locked into Yugoslavia against their will.
- XI. This creates mini Yugoslavias. Bosnia and Hercegovina, the best example; Croatia, too. Yugoslavia was founded as a country of three nations. Right now, Bosnia is a "country" of three nations: Serbs, Moslem (Moslem Serbs\*) and Croats. Serbs as a People (as Orthodox Christians) want to have the same right to self-declaration as Slovenians and others have, and as every nation in the world should have and enjoy.
- A. Serbs in Krajina (within Communist Republic borders of Croatia) had a referendum and voted unanimously that: as long as Croatia is in Yugoslavia, they will stay in Croatia, but when Croatia secedes from Yugoslavia, they will leave Croatia and either stay in Yugoslavia or form their own Republic of Serbian Krajiñna." This is not Serbian minority in Croatia, these are Serbs of Serbian Krajina, the land that was never under administration of Croatia except during 1941-45 and during Communist rule in Yugoslavia. The Serbian minority in Croatia is more than 100,000 Serbs in Zabreb itself and many more elsewhere in Croatia proper--other than Krajina. Krajina Serbs did not just remember the genocide of 1941-45, but experienced that genocide's revisit through Croatia's new constitution of 1990 and persecutions that followed. For instance, Serbs in Krajina were dismissed from the police force if they could not prove being four-generation Croatian; other Serbs were dismissed from other professions such as professorships; and the harassment began. Serbs said, "Never again," and they meant it. That is what the war in Croatia last year and now is about - allowing 1,000,000 plus Orthodox Serbs of Krajina to decide on their future to have a right to self-declaration, and not to be forced into countries and states of their sworn enemies.
- B. Serbs in Bosnia and Hercegovina. Serbs lived in Bosnia and Hercegovina from the time of the Serbian migration to the Balkan Peninsula. They, too, were conquered by Ottoman Turks and held in captivity for almost 500 years. Many, during

- continued -

\*Moslems in Bosnia and Hercegovina are Serbs (and some Croats) who converted to Islam during Turkish occupation.

that time, converted to Islam under pressure and/or for privileges. Those are today's Moslems in Bosnia. They, together with Turks, were local masters and ruled over Serbs, collecting half of the harvest, etc. To learn about this period, one should read Ivo Andrich's Nobel Prize book, Bridge on the River Drina. After Turks were conquered and left Bosnia, Moslems stayed. They still were a minority group and remained a minority until now. In new Yugoslavia they had a choice (when filling in one's nationality on an application for citizenship papers, ID cards, work papers, etc.) to declare themselves as Serbs or Croats or undecided. Then, in the 1970s, Tito declared that Moslems can declare themselves as Moslems by nationality as well. Through the oppression of Serbs (they were most oppressed during the years of Communism) and their leaving Bosnia and through their higher birth rate, now for the first time, Moslems became a marginal majority over Serbs in Bosnia, 43% versus 34%. Croatsians 16%.

C. Serbs consider it unfair, unjust, etc., that the Moslem majority should lock them into a Moslem fundamental state. That is what Moslems want - (see Appendix excerpts from Izetbegovich's book, The Islamic Declaration.) Moslem fundamental countries (Saudi Arabia) are aiding them. Turkey, as a former occupier of Serbs, is especially interested in creating a Moslem state in Bosnia. Serbs, who are one-third population, declared that, if Bosnia stays in Yugoslavia, that's fine, we'll live together as in the past years. But, if Bosnia and Hercegovina leave Yugoslavia, the three ethnic groups: Serbs, Moslems and Croats should decide by negotiations what the future course will be.

D. Backed by Germany and Western countries, including the U.S.A., Moslems opted for a vote. Serbs refused to vote and had a vote of their own where they decided, if Moslems and Croats want to leave Yugoslavia, they can't take them along - and they declared their own Serbian Republic of Bosnia and Hercegovina. They want to decide their destiny. The West (U.S.A. leading) does not want to hear this, but wants Serbs to submit and become citizens of a Moslem fundamental country.

E. To Serbs this is turning back the clock hundreds of years, to the years of the Ottoman Empire, making them again subjects to Moslem masters. Who is fighting in Bosnia and Hercegovina and what for? My cousins, my nephews are fighting for their freedom, for justice, for their human rights and the right to self-determination. They are fighting for their very survival. How long will they fight? To the end. They have nothing to lose. To them it is better to die than to be locked in a state of their eternal enemies - whose slaves their ancestors were for centuries.

F. What is the solution? Who did most harm and who can help? The solution is negotiations with according justice and the same rights to every ethnic group - the same to Serbs as to Croats, Moslems, Slovenians, etc. Cease fire with no justice for all will never work, even if imposed. Most harm was done initially by Germany, but lately by the U.S.A. Most help could come from the U.S.A. If they would want to serve as an impartial broker for negotiations. Recognition of Bosnia should be revoked, and all three Peoples sat down at a negotiating table. With recognition of Bosnia in place, no negotiations could work, for Moslems would have to be either the most benevolent or the most stupid people to want to negotiate with Serbs, when they have the Western countries, especially the great U.S.A., guaranteeing them that they can have what they want. And they are neither of the two. Recognition of Croatia should have been granted with a provision that the interior borders be negotiated - that is that Serbian Krajina be left out for negotiations. Cyrus Vance and Lord Karington advised the same, along the same lines. But Cyrus Vance was removed from working on this. One wonders why. U.S. Congressman Jim Moody, who lived in Yugoslavia prior to the war and knows the country, the people, and their present day leaders, advises the same. The former U.S. Ambassador to Yugoslavia, John Scanlan, also thinks along these lines.

- XII. How do Serbs see themselves in the present situation? Serbs saw and see themselves victimized at first by Germany, through their push for dismembering Yugoslavia in the worst way and as soon as possible. Serbs now feel victimized by all Western countries that obliged Germany on this subject, especially by the U.S.A. which changed its stand from being for preserving the union to prematurely recognizing the individual republics; now completely isolating and punishing the Serbian people. Serbs see now that dismembering Yugoslavia was only an introductory chapter in dismembering and dividing the Serbian nation - not allowing Serbs as a nation to have a right to self-declaration, but locking one-third of them into different unfriendly new states-countries. Serbs cannot understand why the only legacy of Tito and Communism in Yugoslavia that the U.S. wants to preserve is the arbitrary border lines of the Communist Republic of Yugoslavia, by recognizing these as new country borders, and so keeping the Serbian nation dismembered. The sanctions against Serbs only are seen as unjust, a crime and terror imposed upon Serbian people by mighty Christian "brothers" from Western countries.
- XIII. Serbs feel very much victimized by; at first, one-sidedness and now, one could say, malicious one-sidedness of the Western news media against Serbs. What is happening now was prepared for by the news media last year and this year too, stereotypes were being created. Remember, for months certain paragraphs were repeated almost verbatim, almost daily in most of the major newspapers. It ran something like this: Croats are Roman Catholic ... they belong to the Western culture, are our kind of people... democratic people and they deserve our aid... On the other hand, Serbs and their lands are more backward, they are Eastern Orthodox, their culture is Eastern and Byzantine; they do not belong to us and do not deserve our attention... Just check the papers on the subject from September 1991 on. After this drill, other moves followed. Hundreds of Serbian Orthodox churches have been destroyed, some on Orthodox Christmas Day, close to a hundred or more Serbian villages completely destroyed, hundreds of thousands of refugees created, thousands of Serbs killed, many in the most gruesome ways, mutilated, etc., thousands of Serbian women and children placed in concentration camps in Croatia, Bosnia and Hercegovina - and none of it ever gets reported in the Western news media.

A young American of Serbian descent from Pittsburgh's South Side, a free-lance writer, after spending several weeks in Belgrade writes: "I have been here long enough to know that so much misinformation has been spread about Serbia - really a highly organized smear campaign - that it will be damn hard for this gallant state (an ally of the U.S. in both World Wars) to regain its good name."

And now, everything is almost in place to bomb the Serbian people in Serbia, in Belgrade, in Bosnia, in Krajina. By who? By these United States of America.

Do we care at all? Do we have anything to say? And do we want to say anything?

The enclosed materials will help you understand the true issues.

Outline of a speech given by  
Fr. D. C. Malich to the  
Pittsburgh Leadership Foundation  
on June 19, 1992

by Fr. D. C. Malich  
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