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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 10, 1991

PRESS STATEMENT REGARDING
CRISIS IN SERBIA

by

CONGRESSWOMAN HELEN DELICH BENTLEY

Many Serbian-Americans are very disturbed to see the rioting scenes and use of military weapons taking place in Belgrade, and hope that a peaceful resolution can be achieved immediately. We also are very saddened by the deaths resulting from the Saturday turn of events.

As a journalist in the newspaper and television worlds for more than twenty-five years and who, these days, is a subject for the media, I always have felt that openness in the press works best for all concerned.

Hopefully, the government of Serbia will see the wisdom of allowing assets like Studio B to function freely, and also to provide equal and fair treatment for all parties throughout the government controlled media - such as radio and television Belgrade and Politika.

I also would hope that the opposition would be willing to sit down and discuss these issues without further demonstrations while the tanks and the military forces are withdrawn from the streets and surroundings of Belgrade.

Many Serbians fled to the United States after World War II because of the communist dictatorship of Marshall Broz Tito. We pray that suppression will not ^{rise} its dirty head again and force others to flee their homeland.

Amore

In this day and age, when there is instant viewing of events everywhere in the world, freedom of speech and press has become institutionalized in many parts of the globe as free multi-party elections are held. It is a necessary part of that process. We want Serbia to become a true pacesetter in this arena in Yugoslavia.

In closing, let me repeat that my dearest wish is for a free and responsible press in a democratic Serbia - as well as a peaceful and successful resolution to this crisis.

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