

December 2nd, 1992

Dear Helen,

Please make copies and distribute them
among all of your colleagues.

Many thanks.

John

A group of prominent Irish-American physicians, organized by the Irish Red Cross (Eireann) have visited Bosnia-Herzegovina last August. In their neutral report, they describe unspeakable atrocities committed by Bosnian muslim soldiers, against captured Serbian soldiers and innocent villagers, civilians. Like f.e. savage genital mutilations (castrations), cutting off the Serbian heads on people alive, e.t.c. American politicians and journalists keep silent about it, bribed by oil-money from muslim world. What is a great shame! People of conscience, PLEASE SPEAK UP about it!

3300 Wolcott Common #212
Fremont, CA 94538-3591
7 October 1992

Serbian National Defense Association
5782 N. Elston Street
Chicago, ILLINOIS 60646

Gentlemen:

Originally, I had planned to contact Mr. Nicholas Trkla of the Serbian-American Media Center, but I have been unable to obtain the address of that organization. As you probably know, Mr. Trkla was interviewed on the PBS network news program, "The MacNeil/Lehrer Newshour", on Tuesday, 6 October. I wanted to commend Mr. Trkla for his very balanced and objective account of the Serbian position in Bosnia-Herzegovina. It is very rare that the Serbian perspective on these events is even depicted on major news programs broadcast within the United States.

You may also be aware that the "CBS Evening News" (with Dan Rather) broadcast of Friday, 2 October contained a segment dealing with a number of atrocities allegedly committed against Serbian soldiers by Muslim irregulars. This particular broadcast featured an interview with an international relief worker who reported that captured Serbian soldiers in Bosnia-Herzegovina had been subjected to some particularly gruesome mutilations, either while still alive or subsequent to their deaths. According to the relief official, these atrocities had been committed by Muslim irregulars operating within Bosnia-Herzegovina. Since I wasn't able to recall the name of the British relief worker who was interviewed, I have contacted CBS to request a complete transcript of that particular broadcast.

This past summer, in August, I was briefly in Sarajevo with a group of Irish medical professionals organized by the Eireann (Irish) Red Cross and accompanied them to the Kosevo Hospital complex. While there, I was shocked and appalled to learn of the systematic brutality directed against ethnic-Serbian military personnel by the Muslim and mujahedin irregulars, known as the Muslim Forces. I was amazed that, until these two network news broadcasts were aired, that there has not been wide-spread media attention to this aspect of the civil unrest. I have attempted to contact Mr. Momo Starcevic, the Serbian Military Liaison Officer, at Headquarters, UN Truce Supervisory and Peace-Keeping Force, Sarajevo, to tell him some of the outrages I witnessed first-hand during my two weeks in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

While it is true that the situation in the environs of Sarajevo was especially unsettled during my brief time there (i.e. artillery and mortar fire), the violence and mayhem to which captured Serbian militia members had been subjected by Muslim Forces were absolutely unspeakable. While I did not witness these atrocities as they were being committed, the medical evidence (as well as the anecdotal information provided by the Serbian patients) is overwhelming and incontrovertible that these injuries and mutilations were deliberately

(cont.)

inflicted by Muslim and mujahedin irregular military personnel. It has been my earnest desire, since my return, to bring this situation to the attention of the American political authorities, as well as to support organizations such as yours.

For example, are you aware of the fact that members of the Muslim Forces (remnants of the former Bosnian Army), and their mujahedin allies from Afghanistan and Saudi Arabia, regularly inflict rather savage genital mutilations upon captured Serbian militiamen? I was truly appalled and deeply shocked when I was confronted by these unnecessary, gratuitous, and brutal acts of mayhem. In my twelve years as a practicing urological surgeon, I have never before encountered such deliberately-inflicted and disabling genital mutilations of otherwise healthy young men.

During my visits to the wards at Kosevo Hospital and to the Eireann Medical Trauma Unit (sponsored by the Irish Red Cross), I provided remedial surgical protocols for 29 cases of Serbian militiamen who had been subjected to crude, disfiguring, non-medical circumcisions following their capture by Muslim Forces. It is my understanding that Muslim and mujahedin irregulars routinely circumcise Serbian soldiers in their captivity. This is an abhorrent and absolutely uncivilized practice which needs to be brought to the attention of the world community. Many of the victims of this practice, to whom we could at best provide only palliative treatment and basic types of reconstructive repair, will be sexually dysfunctional and suffer genital disfigurement and prolonged psychic trauma as a result of these crude procedures inflicted by the Muslim forces. In fact, some of the mutilations I saw resembled acts of butchery; it would be euphemistic to label them as non-medical circumcisions.

In addition (and as finally reported on the "CBS Evening News" broadcast of 2 October), I personally observed the post-mortem examinations of the remains of five (5) Serbian militiamen who had been castrated following their deaths by gunshot wounds. In these cases, their genitals had been excised and then encased in the mouths of the victims. I realize that some of this information may be distressing to learn (as it is painful for me to recall); but, in my view, these are atrocities which are routinely committed against ethnic Serbs by Muslim fundamentalists and religious fanatics. The American media has been remiss in not reporting such incidents until recently. It is a truly tragic chain of events. One of the Serbian militiamen treated by our team had been so brutally circumcised that eventually the entire organ required amputation; this youngster was only eighteen years-old.

On the basis of what I witnessed in Sarajevo, I would now very much like to provide whatever support I can to the Serbian independence movement. In fact, I would be more than happy to become affiliated with your organization and its aims. Could you send me an application for membership? Do you require financial support or contributions of any kind? If your organization does sponsor assistance

(cont.)

7 OCT 92

Page Three

and re-location projects for Serbian refugees or assists in their travel to the US for medical treatment, I'd be quite happy to render whatever financial or other support may be required.

If you are able to contact Mr. Trkla, please convey to him my appreciation for his very articulate and compelling presentation on "The MacNeil/Lehrer Newshour". Until my visit to Sarajevo, I myself had a very inadequate comprehension of the history and the issues involved in this question. I was extremely distressed to have witnessed the aftermath of atrocities of this nature perpetrated against young Serbian men by Muslim Forces. These were outrages that I will not soon forget; I feel it is incumbent upon me to now render whatever assistance I can to the Serbian cause.

Thank you very much for your assistance and cooperation. I shall look forward to hearing from your organization at your earliest convenience.

Yours Sincerely,

Kenneth F. McNamara

Kenneth F. McNamara, M.D.

JAN 7 1992

VERY REVEREND BOZIDAR DRAGICEVICH
17215 Roy Street
Lansing, Illinois 60438

December 30, 1991

Congresswoman Helen Delich Bentley
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Bentley,

Please find enclosed a copy of my letter (and an article) sent to Mr. Sam Donaldson of ABC News Network in conjunction with his hosting the Croatian Christmas Program on ABC's NIGHT LINE, December 26, 1991.

Sincerely

V. Rev. B. Dragicevich

V. Rev. B. Dragicevich

VERY REVEREND BOZIDAR DRAGICEVICH
17215 Roy Street
Lansing, Illinois 60438

December 30, 1991

Mr. Sam Donaldson
ABC PRIMETIME - LIVE
1965 Broadway
New York, New York 10023

Dear Mr. Donaldson,

On December 26, 1991, I watched ABC's Night Line program, presented by Croatian clergy and youth, relating to Medjugorje.

Since you hosted that program, I'm taking the liberty to write this letter directly to you, hoping that it will not disturb you.

There are sometimes presentations of purely religious programs with non-religious motivations. I am afraid that this was the case with the Croatian program presented during the Christmas holidays this year. It was presented during the time of the ensuing crisis, a most terrible war, between Croats and Serbs in Yugoslavia; therefore, many people, including myself, believe that behind the Croatian Christmas holiday program are political motives.

From the very beginning of the Serb-Croatian conflict, the news media has been unfair to Serbs. The Serbs have had no chance to present their point of view. So I have decided to write you this letter.

In the Croatian Christmas program, Medjugorje was exalted as a place where the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared. Some people believe (others do not believe), that the VISION indeed occurred; as for myself, I do not exclude the possibility of such a miracle; but the appearance of the Blessed Virgin on the hillside of Medjugorje is only one aspect of Medjugorje.

We Serbs remember another, very dark, aspect of the Medjugorje area. We remember the most horrible atrocities that happened at the foot of the hillside where the Blessed Virgin appeared.

Enclosed, please find an article which will tell you, Mr. Donaldson, a very sad, but true story. Please read it.

In the context of what happened by, and in, Surmanci's pit, as well as by, and in, many other pits and concentration camps within the territory of the so-called "Independent State of Croatia" (1941-45), we might be able to better understand why the Blessed Virgin Mary made her appearance in this sinful world at that particular location.

The knowledge of the tragedy, unparalleled in the history of mankind, through which the Serbian Nation suffered during its recent past, might help our media to have a different perspective of the present war between Croats and Serbs.

THE TRAGEDY THAT STRUCK THE SERBIAN VILLAGE OF PREBILOVCI
(AREA OF MEDJUGORJE)

It was August 2, 1941. The villagers of Prebilovci had gathered in the cemetery for the funeral service and interment of a child Jelena Bulut, daughter of Gojko and Mara Bulut. Then two motor trucks, filled with Croatian "Ustashi" (Croatian Naziists) arrived in the village. A shepherd-girl, named Danica, noticed them and immediately informed the people in the cemetery: "The Ustashi have come..." The villagers ran into the mountains. All of them ran.

The next day, August 3rd, the Serbian women of Prebilovci went to their Croatian neighbors and asked them for protection from the Ustashi. They first turned to a Roman Catholic priest, Fr. Ilija Tomas, pastor in the neighboring village of Klepa, and then, to the head man of the village of Hotanj, Pero Bena; and pleaded for help. They expressed to them their fears and concerns. Both of them calmed down the upset women and sent them home: "Stay at your homes in peace and don't be afraid." The women believed them; but the men were doubtful.

It came - August 4th - the dawn. The Ustashi had already besieged the village of Prebilovci. Most of the Ustashi were Croatians from the neighboring Croatian villages - Ustinja, Medjugorje, Trebizat, Surmanci, Bijakovic (the village where, it is claimed, the Blessed Virgin appeared). The Serbs were shocked when they recognized among the Ustashi, their neighbors.

The Ustashi had come from five directions. In one place they arrived late, so 170 Serbs took advantage of that small, still open area and escaped into the mountains; but, unfortunately, for only a short time. Almost all were later captured.

The besieged villagers were ordered to go to the school building. The Ustashi promised them that they would be transported to Serbia soon. The people believed them. What else could they have done? To escape? How and where?

That night in the school (between August 4th and 5th) was a "night of vampires." And much worse. The children were killed; the girls were raped, their teacher Stana (unmarried) was raped, also. She was raped and killed by her former students of the village of Gobeles, where she was teaching.

Twenty eight emptied cradles, covered with blood, were left in the emptied school building... All that was not enough. The Ustashi asked (mockingly) if there was still someone hiding in the corners, or someone who "had no desire to leave for Serbia."

Then the Ustashi began searching in the village. They entered the house of Bogdan Medan and found his wife Mileva in bed, delivering a baby. The Ustashi gave her no chance to deliver the baby. They opened her womb with a knife and took out a male baby, and performing a mockery-baptism, gave him the name "Jovan" (the Serbian name for John), then killed him, wrapped him in rags, and returned him to his mother's womb. The mother was, of course, dead.

Tripko and Stana Ciric had nine daughters and one son,

Slobodan. The Ustashi killed both father and son. While being slaughtered, they embraced each other... The mother and daughters were later massacred and pushed into the Surmanci's pit.

Those who survived the night of horror in the school building, were taken to Capljina (August 5th). About 500 men, women and children were crowded together into six wagons (wagons intended for animals) where they spent the night. In the morning they were told by the Ustashi: "Today you will be going to Serbia."

From Capljina, the fearful people were taken to Surmanci, the second station from Capljina (on August 6th, 1941). "There, over the hill, is your Serbia," the Ustashi told the half-dead mothers with children, and led them toward the Surmanci's pit - "Golubinka" (Golubinka is a very deep pit; its opening is 5 meters in diameter; its vertical dimension is 27 meters deep; then its wall extends on the bias - 100 meters, when it reaches the large underground room: 45 meters long, 20 meters wide and 12 meters high).

When the desparate mothers found themselves before the deep pit, they began crying, falling to the ground, begging the Ustashi for mercy, not to push them and their children down into the pit. But the Ustashi had no compassion for them. They violently took the children from their mothers' arms and threw them into the pit. When the mothers realized that their children were no longer with them, they gave up their resistance. The Ustashi now had no problem pushing them down into the pit... Among many children massacred that day, there was a little baby, firmly held in its mother's arms. The Ustashi snatched it away from its mother and threw it into the air above the pit, sadistically laughing: "See how the little Serb is spinning around," while the body of the little angel of God was disappearing in the abyss... The mother waited not for the Ustashi to push her into the pit. She jumped into it after her baby...

The massacre started at 7:30 a.m. and lasted until 1:00 p.m. (August 6th). The Ustashi's commander was Ivan Jovanovic-Crni. Over 500 Ustashi, under his command, participated in torturing their victims and pushing them down into the pit.

After the last cry died out in the dark abyss, the Ustashi began throwing stones into the pit to kill those who still might have been alive. To be sure that every victim was dead, the Ustashi rolled heavy stones (a half ton) and pushed them into the pit. They did so for two full days. On the third day, to be even more sure that there were no survivors, they threw a number of bombs which exploded in the bottom of the pit.

Thus, in only one day, August 6, 1941, about 500 Serbian martyrs disappeared in the dark abyss of the Surmanci's pit "Golubinka." Among them were a great number of children. All together there were 830 Serbian victims of genocide in the village of Prebilovci. Of the entire population (over 1000) the genocide survived: 156 men, 5 women, 8 teen-aged girls, and 3 children. Only 3 children of 300 children (up to the age of 14) survived! Fifty-six families of Prebilovci were totally exterminated.

The survivors make a pilgrimage every year to the school building in Prebilovci and to the Surmanci's pit and pay tribute to

their loved ones... There are 38 pits like "Golubinka" in Herzegovina with the bones of Serbian martyrs within them. There are many, many more on the, at that time, territory of the "Independent State of Croatia." Hundreds of thousands of Serbs were victims of the genocide committed by the Croatian Ustashi. Why? The Serbian martyrs had two "mortal" sins: they had a SERBIAN name and they belonged to the SERBIAN EASTERN ORTHODOX CHURCH.

The enclosed photographs show skulls and bones of the Prebilovci martyrs, which were taken out of the Surmanci's pit last year. They have been laid into coffins and will be buried in a common crypt in the newly erected Memorial Church in Prebilovci upon its completion.

The above article is based on the following sources, as translated by the Very Rev. Bozidar Dragicevich/ 17215 Roy St./ Lansing, IL. 60438:

1. "Prebilovci i Prebilovcani - Zlocin i Nezaborav, Jun-Avgust 1941-1991"; Odbor za izgradnju spomen - Crkve Kosturnice, Prebilovci.
(Village and Villagers of Prebilovci - Crime that must not be forgotten, June-August 1941-1991; the Memorial Church committee, Prebilovci.

2. "Pakao u Podnozju Gospe"; Jovan Antonijevic, snimio Srboljub Vranic; Illustrovana Politika br. 1674, 4.XII 1990.
(Hell at the foot of Blessed Lady; Jovan Antonijevic, photographs by Srboljub Vranic; Illustrovana Politika, No. 1674, 12-4-1990.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Mr. Donaldson, I've presented to you that sad and most tragic story of the village of Prebilovci and Surmanci's pit (along with my brief letter), so that you may, through it, see the tragedy of an entire nation; a tragedy of a nation which is again today, fifty years after the first genocide, exposed to a new holocaust by the same enemies - the Croatian extremists, who were the first time under the leadership of Ante Pavelich, and today under the leadership of the neo-fascist Franjo Tudjman, a new advocate and champion of genocide... The Serbs are forced to defend themselves and fight for their survival. What other choice do they have?

It has been reported that the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared on the hillside of Medjugorje, near the Surmanci's pit, forty years (almost to the day) after the massacre. Also, it has been reported that she was seen weeping on the hillside. It is no wonder that she wept!!! Her tears told us why she appeared.

Mr. Donaldson, thank you for your patience in reading my letter. Concluding this letter I would like to emphasize that we, Serbs, do not ask the news media for mercy. We only ask that we be treated with fairness and justice. Thank you.

Sincerely Yours,



V. Rev. B. Dragicevich

Enclosures

BD:ndc

cc: Mr. George Bush, President of the United States of America
Mr. James Baker, Secretary of State
Mr. Dalen Tabbicoff, Producer
Mr. Ted Koppel

THE PIT OF SURMANCI FINALLY SPEAKS OUT
BONES & skulls taken out of the pit



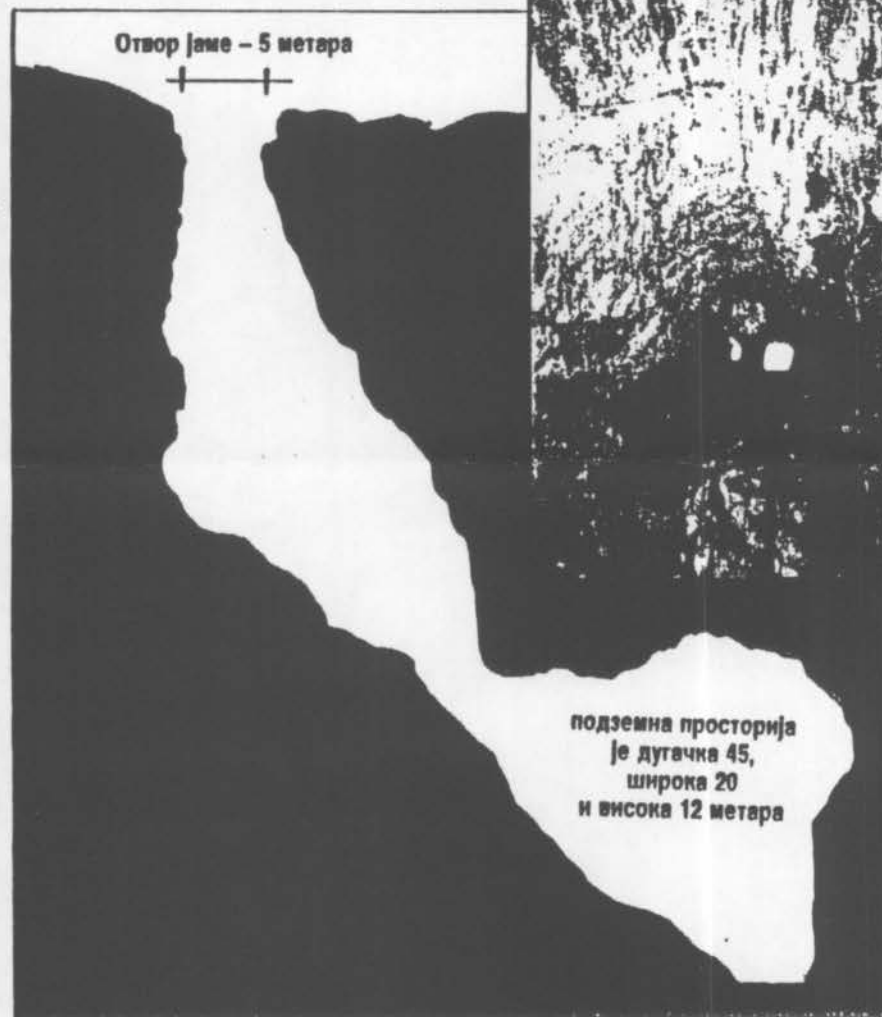
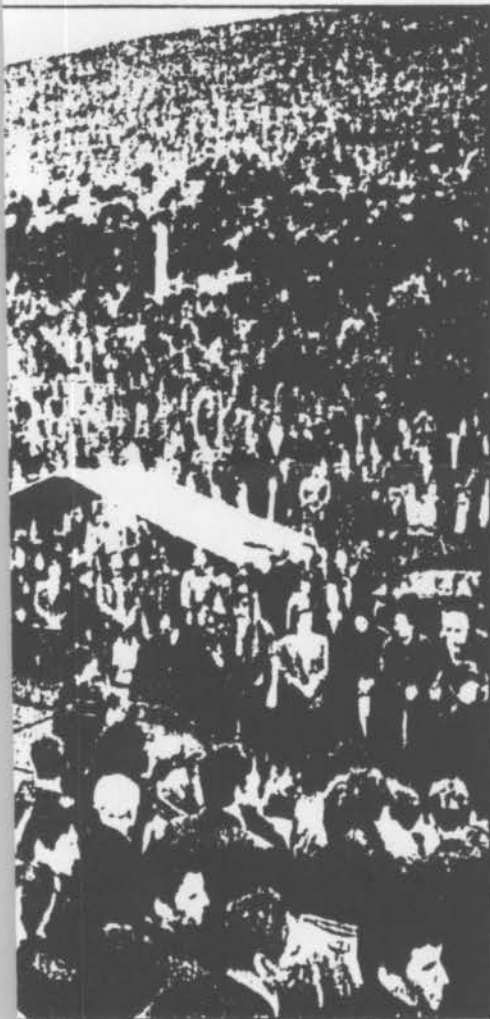
Део костју
извађених
из пакла јаве.
Доле: пролазак
камиона с костима
жртава кроз село
Шурманце исклићено
паролама нове власти.

Пакао у подножју Госпе

HELL AT THE FOOT OF BLESSED VIRGIN



орила Шурманачка јама код Међугорја



Опроштај
од
најдражих.
Улаз
у Јаму
је десно
од белог
стуба на
падини
брда.
Цртеж
унутраш-
њости
пећине.

AFTER HALF A CENTURY THE BONES HAVE BEEN FINALLY BROUGHT TO LIGHT AND, TOGETHER WITH THEM THE TRUTH OF THE HORRIBLE MASSACRE OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN THE VILLAGE OF PREBILOVCI BY THE USTASI

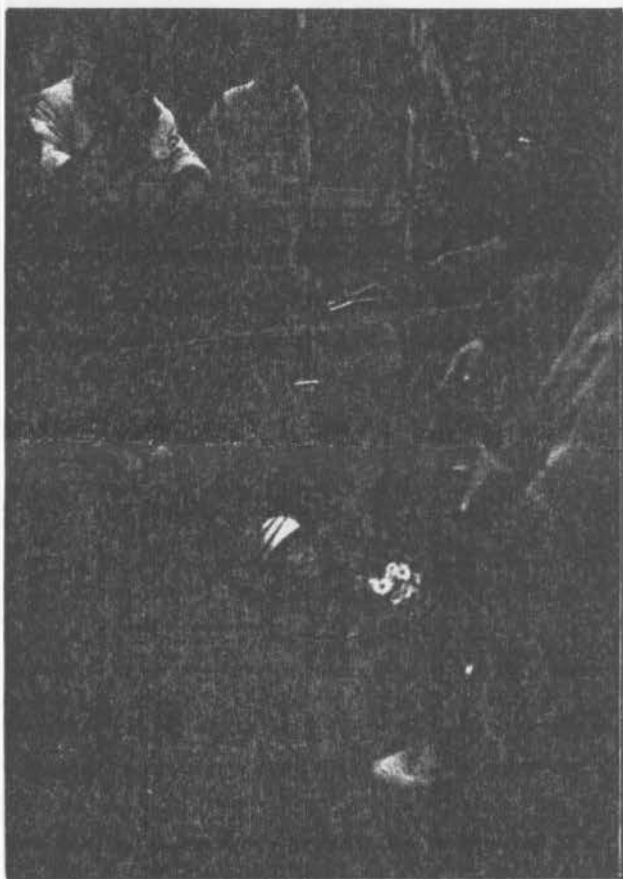
Opening of the pit - 5 M

Vertical wall of the pit - 27 M

The wall on the bias - 100 M long,
descending to the first undreground
area under 45° angle

Thr underground area is
45 M - long
20 M - wide
and 12 M - high

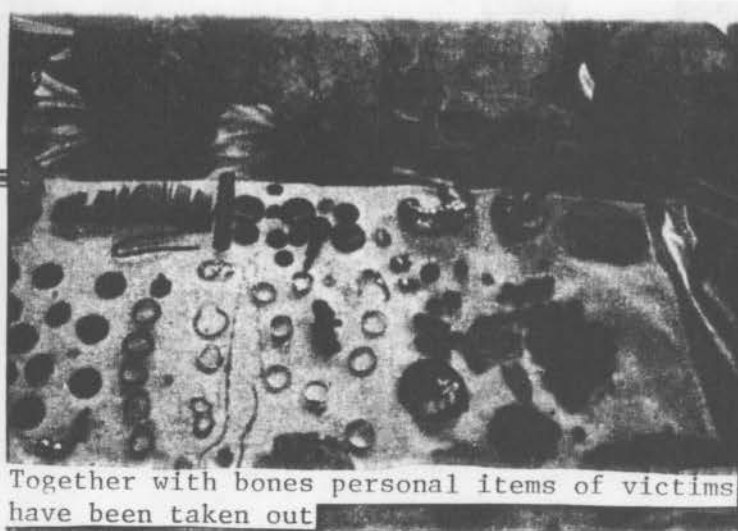
Проговорила Шурманачка јама код Међугорја



Милена, кћи убијеног Стево Булута, слази у јаму са цвећем за све мртве. Улаз у понор је заштићен најлоном од и

Milena, daughter of the killed Stevo Buluth descends into the pit with the flower for the dead. The entrance of the pit is protected from rain by plastic cover





Together with bones personal items of victims have been taken out

Поред костију извађени су и лични предмети жртава



The Ustasi judged and sentenced little baby, whose head fits in the palm of the hand

Усташе су пресуђивале и деци чија главница стаје у шаку



Пластичне вреће пуне костију невиних Пребиловчана

Plastic bags full of bones of innocent Prebilovcians



У плавим сандучићима налазе се остаци три стотине деце

In small blue coffins are remains of 300 children



RECEIVED SEP 12 1991

WILLIAM G. SALATICH
77 BRANDON ROAD
NORTHFIELD, ILLINOIS 60093

Tuesday Sept 10

Dear Helen,
As you well know the Croatian
propaganda continues - the Chicago Tribune
runs a favorable picture of the Croats almost
every day - enclosed is yesterday's front page
photo. When they do have a picture
of a Serb or Serbians they are carrying
guns and referred to as the "Serbian
Rebels". I know you are doing
all you can - but of the good work.

Kind regards
Bill

POŠTOVANA GOSPOĐO DELIĆ - BENTLI

MNOGO CENIM VAŠ TRUD I RAD PO
PITANJU ZAŠTITE SRPSKIH INTERESA.

ŠAKEM VI OVAJ TEJPA, NISAM SIGU-
RAN DA GA IMATE.

AKO NEMATE OVAJ TEJPA SIGURAN SAM
DA ĆETE GA VOLITI I ISKORISTITI.



Zarko & Stana Savic
3729 N. Ashland
Chicago, IL 60613

RECEIVED NOV 2 1991

PUNO POZDRAVI
ŽARKO I STANA SAVIĆ
3729 N. ASHLAND
CHICAGO, ILL. 60613



CONGRESSWOMAN HELEN BENTLEY

408 CHAPEL WOOD LANE
LUTHERVILLE
MARYLAND

21093

OCT 15, 1992

OCT 19 1992

HELEN DELICH BENTLEY
1610 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON D.C.
20515-2002

DEAR CONGRESS WOMAN:

THIS IS IN REGARD TO A LETTER I MAILED
TO YOUR OFFICE ON JULY 8, 1992

THE LETTER WAS IN REGARD TO A MATTER
PERTAINING TO MY MOTHER --

ZORKA BEGICH

11554 AVENUE H.

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60617

THE LETTER WAS MAILED BY CERTIFIED MAIL
RECEIPT (# P 903 860 174). THE LETTER WAS
RECEIVED AT YOUR OFFICE ON JULY 13, 1992, BY
PEGGY BRADY.

I HAD HOPED THAT YOU COULD ASSIST IN
THIS MATTER. NEVER THE LESS, I RECOGNIZE
THE GRAVITY OF THE CURRENT SITUATION IN THE
FORMER YUGOSLAVIA. I ALSO RECOGNIZE THAT
YOU ARE A PERSON; YOUR TIME AND RESOURCES
ARE NOT UNLIMITED.

NEVERTHELESS, I WOULD HAVE APPRECIATED AN
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FROM YOUR OFFICE THAT MY
LETTER WAS RECEIVED.

THANK YOU

Paul Begich
PAUL BEGICH
11554 AVENUE H.
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
60617

(312)646-3060 Zorka!

11-20-92

talked to Paul- he'll send another copy
of the letter. I didn't see the original
did you?

10/20/91

Zora Jerema,

Thank you for your letter. We have been watching the news of Maryland's redistricting process and being both Serbians and Republicans, we share this unfortunate turn of events. We are also disturbed by the news releases coming out of Yugoslavia, nearly all of which depict the Serbs as aggressors with little or no mention of the Serbs trapped in Croatia or Croatia's historical track record. We do appreciate your impressional voice in congress.

We have been modest financial supporters of the Republican party in Virginia, but more aggressive in supporting the GOP in other ways.

Should you decide to strive for the office of U.S. Senator from Maryland, we would be glad to make further contributions.

Good Luck and Good Health

Sincerely,

(Lumovich)

Jim
and
Daisy

Alum