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KOSTUNICA FINDS A FRIEND IN D.C

Elizabeth Sullivan *The Plain Dealer* - 05/14/01

He came to Washington, the very model of the modest citizen-politician. He had read and reread the Federalist Papers, those 1780s essays that so eloquently defend U.S. constitutional concepts of strong but limited central governance and rule by the people.

He spoke movingly of recent wars and sacrifices, of the need for patience and justice so democracy could flourish.

But this was not Mr. Adams or Mr. Jefferson.

This was Mr. Kostunica, president of Yugoslavia.

And this was not 220 years ago, but just last week, when modest, ruffled Vojislav Kostunica from the war-torn Balkans - an improbable president at the best of times - left the Washington press corps and most U.S. officials scratching their heads after his first official visit.

A legal scholar who has translated "The Federalist" into Serbo-Croatian, Kostunica spouts political philosophy the way most politicians exude sound bites. Give him a simple question, you're likely to hear an essay in response.

Yet at least one of his U.S. counterparts understood the language Kostunica spoke.

And this was the key U.S. counterpart, another modest man with a decidedly conservative view of what government should and shouldn't do.

After their meeting at the White House, a buoyant Kostunica felt he had connected with George W. Bush. Bush must have liked him, too.

The U.S. president had planned one of his classic "drop-bys" for 10 minutes or so, as Kostunica met with Vice President Dick Cheney and National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice. That's how long he did stay, the White House says.

But, according to one participant in the meeting, Bush remained for 25 minutes.

There was no bombast, and only a few lectures. Mostly, the two gentlemen listened to each other politely and attentively, then asked common-sense questions about everyday problems, such as bridges over the Danube River that

need to be rebuilt.

The cordiality was not according to script, forcing Bush aides to issue some stern words afterward about how Kostunica had to cough up strongman Slobodan Milosevic for a war-crimes trial at the Hague if he wanted to keep getting millions in U.S. aid.

Indeed, Kostunica was peppered with Milosevic questions during his 2½-day visit, which included a stop in New York to receive a "Statesman of the Year" award from ABC news anchor Peter Jennings, on behalf of the nonprofit East West Institute.

He sidestepped them all. How do you pin down a guy who heaps on the legal and political philosophy in answer to the simple question: When are you planning to turn Milosevic over to the U.N. tribunal at the Hague?

Kostunica never answered the question. First things first, according to him.

In truth, he'd rather build bridges and democracy than cough up Milosevic or any other alleged miscreants to a tribunal he considers fundamentally flawed. But he rarely says so flat-out.

First, he says, draft the extradition law; wrap up the internal probes into Milosevic's possible involvement in murder, theft and corruption; satisfy Yugoslav public opinion by trying the strongman in Yugoslavia.

Be ever mindful of the need to maintain stability and avoid bloodshed in a nation that still stands like a watchtower on Europe's main north-south artery to the Middle East and Central Asia.

It will all take so much time. But does Kostunica have the time? It doesn't look like it.

He became Yugoslavia's president just last October, when Milosevic was ousted. He's already a lame duck.

If Montenegro, the tiny second republic in Yugoslavia, goes ahead and votes itself out of the federation, as it has threatened to do later this year, there goes Kostunica's job. There will no longer be a Yugoslavia.

Russia condemns U.N. 'appeasement' Says self-rule plan for Kosovo threatens sovereignty of Yugoslavia

By Toby Westerman

Official Russian sources are condemning the U.N.'s "policy of appeasement" toward militant ethnic Albanians in Kosovo, claiming that Western influence has resulted in the "escalation of terrorism" in the strategic -- but volatile -- Balkan region. Moscow is denouncing the recently adopted provisions for self-rule for U.N.-administered Kosovo -- nominally still part of the Yugoslav Federation. Russia and Yugoslavia both denounced the U.N. move as preparing Kosovo for outright independence, a move every government in the region opposes.

The Russian Foreign Ministry ominously warned the chief of the U.N. Mission in Kosovo, or UNMIK, Hans Haekkerup, that he "should be in complete understanding" that he bears "great responsibility" for any further military clashes in the region, and expressed continuing support for the "sovereignty and integrity" of Yugoslavia.

The statements were carried by the Voice of Russia World Service, the official broadcasting service of the Russian government. NATO itself is at risk in the clash between Serbs and ethnic Albanians. Greece, a NATO ally and traditional friend of the United States, recently reaffirmed its close ties with Yugoslavia -- including military ties.

Turkey, another NATO member, although technically a secular state, shares religious ties with the Muslim ethnic Albanians. Observers note that a sudden eruption of warfare in the region could pull the Greeks and the Turks, who for centuries occupied the entire Balkan peninsula, into the fighting -- but on opposite sides.

Kosovo has been administered by UNMIK since the end of NATO's 78-day air war against Yugoslavia in 1999.

Moscow has consistently and bitterly accused NATO and UNMIK of favoritism toward the ethnic Albanians, who seek to separate Kosovo from Yugoslav control. Russia has never wavered in its support of Yugoslavia's claims to Kosovo -- even after the fall of the Milosevic regime last October.

During the mid-April visit of Yugoslav Prime Minister Zoran Zizic to Moscow, Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov reaffirmed that Russia is "an old friend of Yugoslavia." Zizic responded that Yugoslavia places "special emphasis on Moscow's support." Russia "offered broad cooperation" to Yugoslavia during Zizic's visit.

Another old Milosevic friend, the Peoples Republic of China, is continuing its friendship with Yugoslavia. While Zizic was in Moscow, the Yugoslav Vice Premier, Mirosljub Labus, was in Beijing, ensuring continued economic relations between China and Yugoslavia.

"Concrete steps for continuing earlier commenced cooperation" were agreed upon during the talks, according to Radio Yugoslavia, the official broadcasting service of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Both Russia and Yugoslavia quickly expressed anger at UNMIK' self-government plan. The new Kosovo constitutional framework includes an executive with a president and prime minister, an elected assembly and a court system independent of the Yugoslav judiciary. Elections to fill the posts provided in the self-rule document will be held in November.

Moscow claims that the self-rule provisions will evolve into "full-fledged constitutional organs," resulting in Kosovo finally declaring independence. No regional government now in power in the Balkans supports any change in the region's borders, the product of years of bitter ethnic strife.

While both Moscow and Belgrade charge that the new Kosovo charter runs counter to U.N. Resolution 1244, which affirms Kosovo's ties to Yugoslavia, UNMIK states that it is acting within proper guidelines for the establishment of an autonomous Kosovo, as previously stipulated in agreements ending NATO's air war. One of the Albanian representatives attending the charter signing was Ibrahim Rugova, a long-time advocate of ethnic Albanian political power in Kosovo.

In March 2001, Rugova traveled to Germany seeking to explain "the reality of Kosovo" to German political leaders, while advocating "the independence of Kosovo as soon as possible," as reported by Deutsche Welle, the official broadcasting service of the German government.

×áèà%žè àí í àòí ðá

Èçáí ðè í Èí -à èàèò àà %á ó Àí àðèèè ñàá ààèí ààèí àà%èí àèòí àí +àñà èààà %á í í òí ðáá- ñàáí èè ñàááçí á àèàáá Ì èðí Ñ óá Èááóñ àèðáèòí òí èòáí àí àðè+èí á àðæááí í á ñàèðáòáðá Èí èèí à í àóáèá àà èè %á í áááçàèá í ðááñááí èèá Èí ðóóí èòá í ñèí ðí Ì òñàà%èò ñàááçí í á çàèí í á í ñàðáàèè ñà Óááí Ì àí àí Ñ í í àà í ááçááàè àí àðè+èí ó-áðžá í á àí í àòí ðñèí %èí í Óáðáí òè%è çà Èóáí ñèááè%è. Í á, àèí %á %áñáí í àóáè. Í àáí àí ð í á èáóžá Èááóñí àí í èòáèá (òòá àè àèèí àí àí Ñ í í) àèí %á í áí àðá•áí, ó ñòèè: ðáí ðáèá Ì èèí ðááèžá í Ì í àèí í áí %á àà 31. í áðòá í àèò+èí í àà í ðáòçí àí í í ðáðèè Èóáí ñèááè%è... ðáó àí àðè+èá àèí èí Ì àòè%á í è%á àèí ñí ðáí àí àà í í ñòááÑ á í í áà òèèè àòóí á è àèèèèðá òñèí áá Èí ðóóí èèè, àèè %á í àòáí í á+èí àà àèí èí Ì àòñè Ì àèí ñóááèèðá àí ñòèí à èç Ááí àðááà èàèí àè àáñò ñèè+áí ðáí ðáèè Ñèí àí àáí á Ì èèí í ááèžá ó Áàòèí àòí í ó àèí ðááí í ðèí Ñ áí. Í àóáè %á í í òí Ì Ñ óááçí í í á%áñí èí èàèí ñó Ì ó ðòèá ááçáí á ðèí á ðòí %á í í +áòèí Ì àí ðèèá í í òí èñáí àèò í ñàðòèèèèèèèèè èí èí %áí í èèðá àà žá àí àðè+èí ó-áðžá í á àí í àòí ðñèí %èí í Óáðáí èò%è çààèñèèè í á ñàðáàèá ñà Óááí Ì . È í àáí àí ð í á í èòáèá í èí èñòðá ñí í Ñ í èò í í ñèí àà Áí ðáí á Ñàèèáí í àèžá: ñàááòó%è èè Àí àðèèáí òè í èèááàèá àí í àòí ðñèá èí í Óáðáí èò%á, àèí %á èñòí ðáèí àèí èí Ì àòñèí í áæáí í á+èí àà ñà ñáçí à èí á%è èè Àí àðèèáí òè í áí àðó àà çááðžó ðòèá ñàááçí èòèí à è Ì èí èòá%è í àñòí %áèá Ááðí í Ñ áí á àà í Ì í í áí ó Èóáí ñ+èááè%è. Í àóáè %á í í àò í àáí àí ðèí í áðá+í í, óç òñí ðóóí ó í í àèèò òèí à: í àñòáàèèá àà í èáí èòáòá èí í Óáðáí èò%è, ó+èí èòá òòá Ì í àèòá í èí í àèèò òñèí àà... Áèí èí Ì àòñèí ðá+èí à, í áí çí á+è: í á í +èè%á%á í àà èñí í ðó+èòá Ñèí àí àáí á Ì èèí ðááèžá í ðá àí í àòí ðñèá èí í Óáðáí í èò%á, àèè àè ñí í àí èáèè àà í áí í ñáí %í í áí àðè àà óáóáóžá ñàðá•ò%áòá ñà Óáèñèèí ñóáí Ì áàòá í áèè Ì àèí í í èí Ñ èàè%è àí èáç í á í àí èðí àòí á, í á í àèáð í á òí Ì í àí èðó àèí í àòòáí í áí çàèí í í ñèè àèò. Èàèí òí í á àí àí ðá, %áí ñèí àáí ñèá àèàñòè ñèáóðí í çí á%è èàèè àè òí àí èáçè í í áèè àèèè. Í á èèñòè àí àðè+èèò çáòóááà èç Ì áðòá, àèñí èí ó áðòó, í á áðòáí Ì í àñòó, í áí àð èçá çáòóááà àà ñà òòáí ñè Ì èèí ðááèž, í èòá àà òðááá í á%ááèèè èàèí žá ÑÈÈ ó èòá%èí %èí ñòáí òè ñàðá•èááòè ñà Óááí Ì ó ááçè ñà í í òóáí èòí Ì í ðí èèá Ì èèí ðááèžá. Í è Àí àðèèáí òè í ážá òí %áñí í àà èàèò, ááð í á Èí ðóóí èèè ñà èí %èí ðáçáí áàðá%è ñ í í òí èèí àèí í èí Ì àòñèí òáááááàèáí, àèè ó ðáçáí àí ðèí à èçá èèèèèá àà ñá í àñèèèèèèè àà àè Ì í àèá çá àí àðè+èí ó-áðžá í á àí í àòí ðñèí %è í í Óáðáí èò%è àèí àí àí Ñ í í %ááí í í ááážòè àà žá Ì èèí ðááèž, èàá-òáá, çááðèèèè ó Óááó. Èóáí ñèí àáí è í á àí í àòí ðñèá èí í Óðáí èò%á í +àèí%è Ì èèè%áðáó àí èàðá: ó òí %í èèè%áðáè í ážá í è í áàèí í è í í àèí àèèè Ì ðááèèðá àí àðè+èí á í í àòá, àèè ááç àí àðè+èí á àèááí ñèí àà òí %ááí í ñòááí í í è%á í í áóžá í ðèèòí èèè. (Í Èí 05/18/01)

From our members & friends

Èaí à •aí eí - ñàáàòí èè Ì eí èñòðà çà áí áðãáòèèó



Í àø +eáí ,
Ðaáá Ñèí í aez eç
Óí ðí í òà ðá àáz +áøèðè
ì àñàòà ñí àòè ðá eí e,
ñòðó+í e ñàáàòí èè
Ì eí èñòðà çà áí áðãáòèèó
è ðáááðñòáí, Áí ðáí á
Í í á à è í á è ÷ á .
Í ðáí í ðó+eí àà ðá è
í í çááí àð. Í è ðí ÷ ó á
Èááóñ, í òò í ðááñáí eí è
Óáááðáeí á àeááá,
çí à ðòè eááí áà ñòðó+í á
ñí í ñí áí í ñòè eáí è
í á ðáááá áí á í á ò+í á
ðááí áá. Ñèí í aez ðá

í ðèóááòèí í í çéá à eáí á áñèá àeááá ðá, í ðáeí Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA, Óeí áí ñè ñèè í í áòè eéá í á ó eí í á ðáòè ðè è í á òá í á -eí eí í eðáòí á áeá í á ðáí ÷ ó í í áòòó í í í ÷.

Í í áe í eí èñòð Æí ðáí Í í ááeí aez ðá àeááí +áòðí ááñò áí aèí á ó Áí aèáñeí ðè Áí áðèòè, á eááí á çáí áí eè, Áeí eòðè ðá Áòe+áaez ó Èáeè-óí ðí eðè í ðáeí áááááñáò áí aèí á. Èáá ñá eéí á í ðèáðòè è Ñèí í aez óò ðá ááeèeí eñèóñòáí, áeñí eá í ðí Óáñeí í aèí á ñòðó+í ñò, óçá ðá í í ðáçòí áááeá è çá ðááí e-eá í ðèááòè ðá àà ñá Ñðáe ðáí ðááí eçò ðá òáeí áà ñá í ñeáòðá áááá í áí áðáí ááeá ñeñòáí à ñòáeí í á eðeçí í á í áí á ðá. Í í áí í eí èñòðòñòáí ðá áí ááeí ááeí ñòðó+eáeá ñá í áðí í í eí ðááí eí eñèóñòáí ó í ááe áà, eí ðeñòáè e eéòí áá áeñí áðòí á áí áeèçá è ñáááòá, ó í áí ðááe óí ðáeí í óí ðí í áòçáí ó í ðèáðòáá Ñðáe ðá.

Çáðá-áí í ðá ñòðáòí ñòáeá: ñáá óí ðí áòçáí í, í ðáçí í, ááç Óí í áí áá, ñá í áñòðó+í eí, í í eèðe-eè í í ñòáááá áí eí ÷ óáeí á í á áí ááèè í í eí áe ðá e. Í áòeí á è ñòðí ðááe ñó ó ñòáeó ðáñí áááeá, ñòáeí á í í ðááeá, à áí í ááðáí ááeá ðá áí í ðeí áeí ðá àázáí ðáñòðí ðáòó è

í í áeí ááz ðáòeí óáðí áeí í á ñòáeá. Ðááe ñá ó í áí í áòèè óñeí aèí á, í á í eí eí aèí eí í ðí Óáñeí í aèí eí ñòáí ááðáeí á, ñá áááí eí í eáòáí á. Í ðáá í aèí í eí eñòðòñòáí ðá í áðí í áí í í ñáí áà áðáñe-eí í ðí í áí e ñeóóáòè ðá è áá í í ñòááe í á ðááeí e ðá eí áóñòðè ðáeá áðáí á: áeáeòðí ðèáðòááó, ðóááðñòáí, í á Óóò è ááñ, í á çáðááá áeí í í ñeá í ñí í áá, áà í ááçááe áááá Óóí eóeí í eñáeá è ðáí ðááeéí ñò, áà ñá áeèí eí eóò ñòáeí á í áñòáòèòá áí áðááòèeá, eí ðá ðá í á áeóáeí í á çí á-á ðá çá ðáeí eóí í e í áí ðáááe çáí ÷ á.

Ðááá Ñèí í aez eí á ááí í á í ááí áí ðí ó è ááeí ó eéí áò áà ó í ðááí áí ðeí á ñá ñááòñeí è ááòí í eèí eí ñeóeóòè ðá í áðáòè eóáí ñeááe ðá ó ñáá í á •ó í áðí áí á í ðááí eçáòè ðá eç eí ðè ðá áeéá eçáá-áí á í í eáeéò ááñáò áí aèí á. Áà í í í í áí á ó eçáðááeé í í áeó í ðáeí í í ððááí eó çáeí í á è ðááóeáòèeá eí ðá çá í í áòè eè ðáeí í ñòðóeòè ðá áeáeòðí ðèáðòááá. Óáeí •á, Ðááá Ñèí í aez ðááe í á í í ñòááòè í ñí í áí eó ñòðáòáòèeó ááí ðí +í eó í eáí í áá è í ðí áòeéáí í á ðááá. Í á ðááeí e ðá ðá, í í í eóááeó Ñèí í aez á, áà ñá áí ááeó ðá í eááe, í áðáçí ááí e, ñòðó+í e ÷ óáe è áà ñá í á í í ñòáááá ðá í á í áí áðí á Óóí eóe ðá í ñí áá í í ááçáí á eèè í í í áeí ðá áðè ðáeí ðá eéí e ðe.

Ñèí í aez ðá í í í áí ððáeí áí ñááá, í áðí +eóí í á í í ÷ ó ñáðáeá ñá ááòí í eèí í ðááí eçáòè ðá í á, áeè ðá àeáeéí í á ðí áá áà í í áeá áà áóáá ñáñáeí çááí áí ÷ á í á áà ñá í eðí í áðáòè ó Èáí ááó, áááe í áò+í eí ðááí è óæeáá ó ñáí ðá çáñeóáeí í ðá í áí e ðe. Í ñáçáeá áóáí í ñòè í ðáí á ðí áí í çáí ÷ e, í ðáí á í eááí ðá ááí í eðáòè e çá eí ðá ñá áeóeáí áí aèí áí á çáeáááí è í ðáí á ñòí ñeí í í áðí áó ðá ðá-á í á áeáá çá í eðí í e í áí í ðí í .

Ðááá Ñèí í aez, í í áeá ñeóáeèè eáí í áeè-eáí í ðeí áð çá ñáá í áñ Ñðáá. Í í ðá ðáááí í á í í eó ðeòèò, í áí áí áòáeáò, eçóçáòí áðááí eó ÷ óáe, eí ðá áeóá áí eè áà ðááe è ááeó ðá í ááí áà í ðe-e. Áà ðá ðáeáeó áeóá Ñðáe ðá áe í í áeá áðáeá áà ñòáí á í á í áá è áà eðáí á í óðáí í ðí ñí áðèòáòá.

Èç í eñí à í eááeó ðí e ðáááá, eí áeóáðá eç í óááá - "Í ðí ááeè ñí í eóçó è áðáçáí í ñá ó Ñðáe ðá 31 í á ðá. Áí ðèè ñí í í ááá í ðá í ñáí áí aèí á, ñá \$4,000 í í çá ðá ÷ á í eó í áðá, eáðòáí á ó ðááí í í ðáááó, ñá ááí ðá í eéá ááòá, ó çáí ÷ ó eí ðá í eñí í í í çí áááeè è ó eí ðá í eñí í í í çí áááeè í eéí áá. Áðáçáí í ñá ó Ñðáe ðá ñá eñeóñòáí ó ñòðóe, í áòòí í í áòá áà í ááçááeí í ñááe í ñí í áí á í í ðáááá, ááç eèóçè ðá í óí í á òðá í áñ í +áeó ðá, è ñá ñáçí áeáí áà ðá Ñðáe ðá í áñòí ááá í ðeí áááí í. Í áeó+eèè ñí í áà ááeèí í ñòááeí ó çáí ÷ á eí ðá í ðeí áááí í ðí •áeáí è áà ñá ððóáeí í áà ðá ó-eí eí í áí ÷ í "

In war, be wary of judgment
Former Sen. Bob Kerrey has done America a service by speaking honestly about his Vietnam War Experiences. He did whatever he did in Vietnam, but we sent him there to do it. Kerrey was a decent man caught in a terrible war. Most of us have asked ourselves how we would have behaved in a similar situation. If we are honest, most of us would answer, "I'm not sure."
Remembers that the United States has set itself up as a judge of people from other countries caught in wars. We have initiated the Hague Tribunal and demanded that indicted people be brought up before it as criminals, particularly people from

the Balkans - Serbs, Croats and Muslims. Up until now, many Americans tended to regard the Balkan people as fundamentally different from Americans. We are supposedly decent, kindly people; they are primitive savages."
Let Bob Kerrey's story serve as a reminder to us all. War, by its very nature, is cruel.
Rather than a vindictive Hague Tribunal, I would like to see a Truth and Reconciliation Commission such as the one in South Africa. The Balkan people should preside just as Bishop Desmond Tutu, a South African, has presided. Let Americans get out of the role as the judges of all the world. We are just human, and we can also err.
Suzanne Jenkins, Mountain View, CA

This report was submitted to the Foreign Affairs Committee of the British Parliament by S.U.C. director Radomir Putnikovich from London. We will reprint the Report in two parts.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
Fourth Report
K O S O V O
Volume II
Minutes of Evidence and Appendices
Ordered by The House of Commons to be printed 23 May 2000

APPENDIX 38 - Memorandum submitted by the Serbian Unity Congress

1. The main reason for the continuing crisis in the former Yugoslavia is because a great number of the leaders and decision makers in the West, including the media, were ill informed and generally ignorant of historical or geopolitical facts of the Balkans. This has been proved time and again, both in direct and indirect contact with this organization. These very leaders and decision makers are now entrusted in finding a solution to the problems in the Serbian Province of Kosovo.
2. It is not only the ethnic Albanians who suffered in the recent civil war in Kosovo. The Serbs and Montenegrins have been ethnically cleansed from Kosovo throughout the century. At the beginning of the 1900's the demographical ratio in Kosovo was three to one in favor of the Serbs. Between 1880 until 1905 the Austrian-Hungarian Empire encouraged the Albanians to uproot the Serbs and an estimated 150,000 Serbs and Montenegrins were expelled from the region of Kosovo in 1921 revealing that the number of Albanians and Serbs were nearly equal. In fact in favor of the Serbs 52 per cent - 48 per cent. The demographical ratio first became unbalanced during the Second World War when under Italian occupation around 10,000 Serbs and Montenegrins were murdered by Albanian fascists and further 17,000 were expelled. Secondly in 1945-46 when Tito's Communist Government opened the border between Kosovo and Albania and an estimated 320,000 Albanians came from Albania and settled in Kosovo.
3. Albanian extremists had separatist aims well before 1989, when the autonomous status was taken from Kosovo. The ethnic Albanians refused to take part in a census since 1971, as they want the world to think that there are more of them in Kosovo than there actually are. In demonstrations in Pristina between 1972-74 Kosovo separatists asked for a "Kosovo Republic", with great hostility and in a provocative manner declaring that they would take Kosovo from Serbia by any means possible, including overwhelming the Serbs by their birth rate. In the 1970's the Albanian birth rate in Kosovo was much higher than anywhere in the former Yugoslavia, and indeed, the highest in Europe.
4. Tito's Communist Government made a number of unjust decisions against the Serbs in favour of the Schiptars. One of these was that Serbs who had been expelled from Kosovo by Albanian extremists during the Second World War were not allowed to go back to their homes. Since the 1960's the ethnic Albanians in Kosovo had their own schools, universities, publishing houses, their own radio and television station which broadcast in the Albanian language, a Society of Albanian authors, they even had their own Academy of Art and Science. Despite all this they wanted their own republic, their own state. Notwithstanding the above, from the very beginning of the tension in Kosovo the American and present British Government unreservedly took the side of the Albanians.
5. Before the civil war in the former Yugoslavia started in 1991, 24 different nationalities lived in Yugoslavia. That situation remains today. While NATO bombs were falling on Serbia not less than 56,000 Albanians were living amicably alongside the Serbs in Belgrade. For this reason it is absurd to maintain that the Serbian Government and Serbs as a nation planned and executed "ethnic cleansing" on a grand scale in Kosovo or anywhere else. It was a civil war, and as in any war, sadly, one extreme brings another.
6. The international community failed to detect the ethnic nationalism and aims of the Kosovo separatists. Their strategy was to provoke the Serbian Security forces to such an extent that they had to retaliate, which meant that a humanitarian crisis ensued, and NATO intervention became called for. Albania has been politically unstable since 1995, the northern part bordering with Kosovo was out of control of the Government of Tirana. An extensive and continuous flow of arms, ammunition, and terrorists went from Albania into Yugoslavia. Nationalistic tension and separatist aspirations in Kosovo were fuelled by this.
7. UN security Council Resolution 1160 sanctioned the supply of weapons to all sides in this conflict. The embargo was not applied to Albania. Albanian's diaspora were sending arms and substantial funds to the terrorists in Kosovo, some being proceeds of drug trafficking, with the full knowledge of the American Government. Mr. Carl Bildt, the former peace mediator in Bosnia Hercegovina, in January 1999, said: " One of the main preconditions to stabilise the situation in Kosovo is to establish complete control of the Yugoslav-Albanian border and northern Albania where the bases of Albanians separatists are".
8. American Intelligence agents have now admitted what was recently publicised in the media, that they helped to train the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) before NATO bombed Yugoslavia. Mr. William Walker, previously the American Ambassador in El Salvador, who once organised shipment of arms to Nicaraguan Contras under cover of humanitarian aid and was implicated in connection with Oliver North, on 24 February 1999 wrote a letter to our Organization as the chief of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo: "... I do have great respect for the men and women who serve in the United States

Intelligence Community. It, like other governments' intelligence services has a role in development of a government's foreign policy." Events prior to the bombing of Yugoslavia in particular the alleged "massacre" in Racak, and other under cover activities, of Mr. William Walker in Kosovo, have shown that the American Government from the beginning of the civil war in Yugoslavia had its own agenda to de-stabilise Yugoslavia and get a foothold into the Balkans. The United States now have in Kosovo one of their biggest military bases in Europe. They are currently training former KLA activists, near Urosevac. Now only a fraction of the news of what is really going on in Kosovo reaches the public.

9. Yugoslav Government has tried over a period of time to find a peaceful and long-lasting solution for Kosovo. Indeed months before negotiations in Rambouillet the former Yugoslav Government sent delegations to Pristina 36 times to start meaningful negotiations with the ethnic Albanians. This was ignored by the Albanian separatists as they were by then already receiving moral and substantial financial support from their diaspora in Germany, Switzerland and the United States.

10. The proposals in Rambouillet were presented to the Yugoslav delegation as a "take it or leave it" package, with most parts being non-negotiable. The former Secretary of State Dr. Henry Kissinger said: "The terms negotiated in Rambouillet guaranteed huge bloodshed before it started. These demands could not have been met even by a more reasonable regime". Had the proposal been accepted it would have taken away the sovereignty from Yugoslavia. That is why the Government of Yugoslavia could not accept it, which had broad support of Serbs in the country and diaspora. The degree of autonomy proposed in Rambouillet by the West, would have meant that Kosovo after three years and a referendum would become a separate state.

11. Since NATO entered Kosovo on 12 June 1999, the border between Albania and Kosovo has not been properly guarded and in some places is completely open. We have information that a great number of Albanians, as many as 70,000 from Albania proper have infiltrated into Kosovo, and now live there. It is some of these who are involved in the criminal activities and drug trafficking in Kosovo.

12. Intervention in Yugoslavia by the British and NATO Governments was illegal. The United Nations Charter, Clause 2. makes it clear that if there is a threat to peace, the Security Council is the only body who can authorize the taking of military action. Bombing commenced, and only then was the matter brought to the Security Council for full consideration. The North Atlantic Treaty in its constitution pledges to uphold the United Nations Charter. In addition to breaking the United Nations Charter, the British Government and the countries of NATO are in violation of the 1980 Vienna Convention of the Law of the Treaties, which forbids coercion and forces to compel any state to sign a Treaty Agreement. Also, NATO was in violation of the Helsinki Accords Final Act of 1975 which guarantees the territorial borders of the states of Europe. The Security Council Resolution 1160 sanctioned the shipment of arms and ammunition into Kosovo. Enforcement of that Accord would have been the stabilising factor on the border with Yugoslavia which the British Government did nothing to enforce. Most people in Yugoslavia of whatever political persuasion regard the intervention of NATO and the bombing of Yugoslavia as an act of aggression and criminality.

(To be continued in our next issue)

◆ IN MEMORY ◆



Nick A. Lalich, 85, helped OSS rescue airmen in Yugoslavia

Nick A. Lalich (member of S.U.C.) an unsung hero of World War II who repeatedly risked his life to rescue downed Allied airmen in Yugoslavia, died Friday in Baltimore. Lalich, 85, who grew up in Cleveland, is credited with leading a secret operation that evacuated at least 500 Americans and 250 other Allied servicemen from German-occupied Yugoslavia while serving with the Office of Strategic Services, the forerunner of the CIA. Lalich flew on C-47 transport planes that made night landings in farm fields to pick up the stranded airmen. He worked with the Chetnik resistance fighters and was close to Gen. Draza Mihailovich.

In 1995, Lalich returned to Serbia with two pilots who have been rescued by the Chetniks, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the German surrender. As they traveled through towns, people heard American flyers were returning cheered them from the roadside. They celebrated the anniversary with a crowd of 50,000 on a mountaintop where Mihailovich had declared his resistance to the Germans in 1941

Over the years, Lalich gave many speeches across the country about the contributions Serbian-Americans made to the war effort. He credited the Serbian resistance with tying up 30 Nazi divisions that otherwise would have been used elsewhere against the Allies

Lalich is survived by a daughter, Stephanie L. Adams; a brother; two sisters; and a granddaughter.

SUC MISSION STATEMENT

Serbian Unity Congress is an organization of Serbs and their friends, created to:

- Garner the talents, skills and capabilities of Serbs and their friends in Diaspora in order to assist and facilitate positive economic, social and cultural change in Serbian Lands.
- Inform and influence the public opinion at large and decision makers world wide about the true goals and aspirations of Serbian people.
- Assure the future of Serbian people and their descendents by preserving Serbian heritage.

Bulletin Editorial Committee: M. Milenkovich, R. Putnikovich, J. Kolarovich
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PMB 352 - 17216 Saticoy St. - Van Nuys, CA 91406 - Fax (818) 902-9891

E-mail: jknapa@pacbell.net - visit SUC Home Page: <http://www.serbianunity.net>

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EMIL VLAJKI LECTURE - Santa Monica, CA

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Community Room, 3rd Floor, Santa Monica Shopping Center, corner Colorado & 4th

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Serbian Unity Congress
 PMB 352 - 17216 Saticoy
 Street
 Van Nuys, CA 91406