

November 27, 2001

His Excellency Stipe Mesic
President
Republic of Croatia
Zagreb, Croatia

Via Fax: + 385 1 45 65 159

Your Excellency,

Once again your government has publicly requested that Serbia renders an apology to Croatia for "aggression and sufferings" committed in the civil war during the 1992 -1995 period. According to Beta News Agency (November 22, 2001), the Croatian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Tonino Picula made this demand, echoing previous ones issued by Your Excellency.

In view of inconvertible facts about Croatian atrocities against the Serbs during World War II and killing and ethnic cleansing in Krajina and elsewhere during this last civil war, these repeated demands are simply an affront to human decency and fairness.

Only two weeks ago, the United States Holocaust Museum published documentation about "one of the lesser-known but most brutal concentration camps of World War II" (New York Times, November 14, 2001). The museum's chief historian, Mr. Peter Black, stated, "nearly 100,000 people had been killed in Jasenovac, the largest number being Serbs, followed by Jews and Gypsies."

Therefore, Your Excellency, it would seem that more Serbian civilians were apparently murdered in Jasenovac alone in a few years than were Croatian civilians killed by the Serbs in a few centuries!

It is also now an inconvertible fact that the Croatian Government planned and conspired to ethnically cleanse Serbs from Croatia. At present, the minutes from the September 12 and 19, 1993 meetings of the Council of Defense and National Security of the Republic of Croatia are public ("Planning Croatia's Final Solution," Harper's Magazine December 2001, pages 20-22). They are undeniable proof that the Croatian State through its leadership "planned and directed ethnic cleansing and other war crimes." We are compelled to state that at that time Your Excellency was follower and supporter of President Tudjman. By far the largest and most premeditated single action of ethnic cleansing of the Yugoslav civil war occurred in August of 1995. Croatia expelled 200,000 of its citizens of Serbian origin from their ancestral land in Kraijina and Slavonia.

Recently, while on visit to Israel, Your Excellency appropriately expressed regrets and apologized to the Jews for wartime Croatia's role in the Holocaust. In view of historical evidence and for the purpose of honestly endeavoring to heal the wounds and memories of the past, Your Excellency indeed faces a profound moral, human and political obligation to also act decently and correctly on the matter of Croatian and Serbian relations. Instead of obfuscating the real issues and historical evidence by casting stones at the Serbs, it is high time that you and your government make the first move by apologizing to the Serbian people.

We hope Your Excellency rises to this historical challenge and opportunity.

Sincerely yours,
Michael Djordjevic
President
Serbian Unity Congress

cc: His Excellency Vojislav Kostunica, President of Yugoslavia
The Honorable Colin L. Powell, Secretary of State, United States Department of State
Ms. Sara J. Bloomfield, Director, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Who's Counting?

The number of American Muslims varies widely depending on source

By Bill Broadway

With a spotlight cast on American Muslims since Sept. 11, one seemingly simple question has defied a clear answer and became the focus on a politically charged dispute, What is the size of the U.S. Muslim population?

Four major Muslim organizations released a study in April that estimated the population at 6 to 7 million. Based in part on that report, most media organizations as well as the White House and the State Department, have said in recent weeks that there are at least 6 million Muslims in the country.

But two studies released in October, including one commissioned by the American Jewish Committee, concluded that the total is much lower, no more than 3.4 million and perhaps as few as 1.5 million. (*The Washington Post National Weekly Edition*, 12/09/01)

San Francisco chapter of the Serbian Unity Congress celebrated its Slava, St Archangel Michael, at the San Francisco St. John the Baptist Serbian Orthodox Church. Besides many members, the president of the Serbian Unity Congress, **Miroslav Djordjevic**, participated in the traditional cutting of the Slava cake. The president of the local chapter, **Savo Prica**, welcomed the guests. Refreshments were served during the informal hours.



Editor's Note:

Harper's Magazine (December 2001) had two notable articles relating to the September 11 tragedy in New York and Washington. Here are certain thought provoking paragraphs.

From: **"WHERE THERE IS NO COMMON POWER"** By John Gray

The dozen years between the fall of the Berlin Wall and the assault on the Twin Towers will be remembered as an era of delusion. The West greeted the collapse of Communism - though it was itself a Western utopian ideology - as the triumph of Western values. The end of the most catastrophic utopian experiment in history was welcomed as a historic opportunity to launch yet another vast utopian project - a global free market. The world was to be made over in an image of Western modernity, an image deformed by a market ideology that was far removed from any human reality as marxism had been. Now, after the attacks on New York and Washington, the conventional view of globalization as an irresistible trend has been shattered. We are back on the classical terrain of history, where war is waged not over ideologies but over religion, ethnicity, territory, and the control of natural resources.

We are in for a long period - not months but years, perhaps decades - of acutely dangerous conflict. It will be a type of conflict with which many regions of the world are all too familiar but which overturns many of our preconceptions about war and peace. Its protagonists are not the agents of states but organizations whose relationships with governments are oblique, ambiguous, and sometimes indecipherable. The men who struck the Pentagon and the World Trade Center, using box cutters and passenger jets as weapons, were soldiers in a new kind of war.

A monopoly of organized violence is one of the defining powers of the modern state, achieved slowly and with difficulty. Now war, like so much else in the age of globalization, has slipped out from the control of governments, and it has done so, moreover, with astonishing speed over the past decade. The world is littered with collapsed states in much of Africa, in Afghanistan, in the Balkans, and in a good deal of Russia, there is nothing that resembles a modern state. In these zones of anarchy, wars are fought by irregular armies commanded by political and religious organizations, often clan-based and prone to sav-

age internecine conflicts. No power is strong enough to enforce peace.

The results expose the weaknesses and contradictions of the global free market constructed after the Cold War. Rich societies cannot be insulated from the collapsed states and new forms of war. Asylum seekers and economic refugees press on the borders of every advanced country. But while trade and capital move freely across the globe, the movement of labor is strictly limited - a very different state of affairs from the late nineteenth century, a period of comparable globalization in which barriers to immigration hardly existed. That is a contradiction rarely noted by tub-thumpers for the global market, but it will become more acute as travel is monitored and controlled ever more stringently by governments.

Over the coming years, the transnational institutions that have built the global free market will have to accept a more modest role, or else they will find themselves among the casualties of this great upheaval. The notion that trade and wealth creation require global laissez-faire has no basis in history. The Cold War - a time of strict controls on capital and extensive intervention on the economy by national governments - was, in Western countries, a time of unprecedented prosperity. Contrary to the cranky orthodoxies of market liberals, capitalism does not need a worldwide free market to thrive. It needs a reasonable secure environment, safe from the threat of major war, and reliable rules about the conduct of business. These things cannot be provided by the brittle structures of the global free market.

On the contrary, the attempt to force life everywhere into a single mold is bound to fuel conflicts and insecurity.

The lesson of September 11 is that the go-go years of globalization were an interregnum, a time of transition between two epochs of conflict. The task in front of us is to forge terms of peace among peoples separated by unalterably divergent histories, beliefs, and values.

IN THE RUINS OF THE FUTURE - *Reflections on terror and loss in the shadow of September* - By Don DeLillo

In the past decade the surge of capital markets has dominated discourse and shaped global consciousness. Multinational corporations have come to seem more vital and influential than governments. The dramatic climb of the Dow and the speed on the Internet summoned us all to live permanently in the future, in the utopian glow of cyber-capital, because there is no memory there and this is where markets are uncontrolled and investment potential has no limit.

All this changed on September 11. Today, again, the world narrative belongs to terrorists. But the primary target of the men who attacked the Pentagon and the World Trade Center was not the global economy. It is America that drew their fury. It is the high gloss of our modernity. It is the thrust of our technology. It is our perceived godlessness. It is the blunt force of our foreign policy. It is the power of American culture to penetrate every wall, home, life, and mind.

The terrorists of September 11 want to bring back the past.

The sense of disarticulation we hear in the term "Us and Them" has never been so striking, at either end.

We can tell ourselves that whatever we've

done to inspire bitterness, distrust, and rancor, it was not so damnable as to bring this day down on our heads. But there is no logic in apocalypse. They have gone beyond the bounds of passionate payback. This is heaven and hell, a sense of armed martyrdom as the surpassing drama of human experience.

He pledges his submission to God and meditates on the blood to come

The people who died on September 11 are their own nation and race, one identity, young or old, devout or unbelieving - a union of souls.

Two forces in the world, past and future, with the end of Communism, the ideas and principles of modern democracy were seen clearly to prevail, whatever the inequalities of the system itself. This is still the case. But now there is a global theocratic state, unboundaried and floating and so obsolete it must depend on suicidal fervor to gain its aims

Ideas evolve and de-evolve, and history is turned on end.

SERBIAN HERITAGE CREDIT CARD

The Serbian Unity Congress is pleased to announce that it has formed an agreement with MBNA Bank to produce a Master Card credit card directed specifically at Serbian people. The card will be known as the *Serbian Heritage* credit card. For every new account that is opened and charged at least once, our organization will receive monetary compensation from source of funds will be used to help us to finance new programs for the benefit of Serbia and the Serbian Diaspora. Thus, by using this card, you will be helping the Serbian people, as well as proudly proclaiming your heritage.



WE hope you too will be and use this new credit

have already received applications from MBNA without any background information as to why. We apologize to our membership for the late announcement of this program, which was scheduled to start around the time of our September convention in Belgrade.

However, the tragedies of the 11th in New York and Washington intervened and, regrettably, the whole process had to be postponed from the first available slot in MBNA's marketing campaign. We wish we could have told you about this, but events took the matter out of our hands.

pleased with this concept card. Some of you may

Excerpts from article "How bin Laden Used Money to Privatize Terrorism - Bosnia Link" By Kurt Eichenwald (*International Herald Tribune*, 12/11/01)

..... In Afghanistan, the hunt for Osama bin Laden is narrowing. But on the war's financial front, investigators are only now beginning to come to grips with Qaida's money-raising apparatus, which they say is so far-flung and diversified that it could survive even if Mr. bin Laden is captured or killed.....

..... The Bush administration's attempt to break up this financial network is as vital as the military action in Afghanistan, experts say. "A military success would not be sufficient without an attack on the financial infrastructure," said Michael Zeldin, former head of the money-laundering section at the Justice Department. "If that stays in place, then you may chase them from one geography to the next, you may be disruptive, but you haven't gotten to the root of the problem."

Success in this fight will be hard-won, experts say, primarily because Mr. bin Laden has fundamentally changed the nature of terrorist financing. As state sponsorship for terrorism was in decline, he privatized terror, creating a far more diffuse network than any in the past.....

..... It all began with the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan in 1979. As devout Muslims trooped there to defend the Islamic country, wealthy Saudi businessmen funneled millions of dollars to support the effort through assorted charities. Mr. bin Laden was among them.

With the Afghan war playing out on the geopolitical chessboard of the Cold War, the CIA was directing even larger sums of cash toward the Afghan rebels, or mujahidin. When the Afghan

war ended in 1989, officials said, Mr. bin Laden tapped fund-raising contacts to support his idea of a wider jihad against the West. By 1991, he had a base in Sudan, and Qaida's financial operation took root.....

..... Qaida produces and profits from mayhem. After its creation in Afghanistan, Mr. bin Laden recognized that global unrest gave his organization opportunities to expand its influence as well as fuel its financial machine.

Years of bloodletting in Bosnia, for example, allowed Qaida to establish a beachhead in Central Europe, government officials said.

A former intelligence official said that "various very militant groups who were mujahidin-connected were involved in the Bosnia campaign and took advantage of the Dayton peace accords to set up shop" in the Balkans. When a portion of Bosnia was placed in Muslim hands, he said, these groups "found a very hospitable environment."

According to officials who have been informed of intelligence information on the matter, charities around the Arab world proclaimed that they were raising money for humanitarian purposes in Bosnia, but in fact portions benefited radical fundamentalist groups in the area, including Qaida.

After Mr. bin Laden was expelled from Sudan in 1996, he moved to Afghanistan and ingratiated himself with the ruling Taliban by pouring millions of dollars into the country. His group gained new financial powers.....

YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT SETS UP DIASPORA COUNCIL

Belgrade - At its Thursday session, chaired by Prime Minister Dragisa Pesic, the Yugoslav government decided to set up a Diaspora Council. This advisory body will consist of 22 elected

members, 11 of them from the Diaspora and 11 others from Yugoslavia, the government said in a statement.

The council will promote cooperation and strengthen ties between Yugoslavia and the Diaspora in all fields of mutual interest. (*Tanjug*, 7 December 2001)



Serbian Unity Congress 12th Annual Convention June 20-22, 2002 Belgrade, Serbia

More information will be available later

IMPORTANT INFORMATION RELATIVE TO THE POSTPONED CONVENTION FOR REGISTERED DELEGATES AND GUESTS

The Serbian Unity Congress Board and the Convention organizing Committee have decided on the following:

SPONSORS

Current Sponsors and Benefactors will remain as Sponsors for 2002.

REFUNDS

Members and guests who have registered for the September 2001 Convention, will have three options:

- (a) They can request a full refund
- (b) They can keep this registration for 2002
- (c) They can make this a donation

If you were in Belgrade last September and you participated in some of the SUC activities and took advantage of some printed material, you are entitled to 50% refund or you can leave it for next year's registration

NEXT YEAR the Registration Package will be \$250

AD BOOK

A new edition will be printed.

Your ad will be included at 30% of the ad price.

We are aware that June 2002 is high season for travel, but June was selected because we feel more people will be involved. School will be out and a special program will be organized for the children

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WILL BE AVAILABLE IN OUR FUTURE BULLETINS

West haunted by Balkans blunder

As the war in Afghanistan goes on, the ghost of interventions past sits in a courtroom in The Hague.

America can drop tons of explosives and send in the Marines to fight Taliban terrorism. But when the Serbs confronted a similar menace, they were demonized and bombed for 78 days, and had a province wrested from them and presented to Osama bin Laden's Balkan brigade.

Slobodan Milosevic has been charged with complicity to commit genocide and crimes against humanity. Before the travesty is over, he will doubtless be convicted of running the rail line to Auschwitz.

The former Yugoslav president is a thug whose brutality played into the terrorists' hands. Even so, the trial of Milosevic before a U.N. tribunal is intended to justify our Balkans blunder and discourage serious consideration of its consequences.

If what happened to Kosovo Albanians and Bosnian Moslems was genocide, what of the treatment of Orthodox Serbs? After NATO's air war, 200,000 were driven from Kosovo. Most who remain cower behind barbed-wire barricades in Mitrovica.

Altogether, 2 million Serbs were expelled from Bosnia, Croatia and Kosovo, and 240 of their churches were destroyed. When this happens to anyone else, it's called ethnic cleansing and cultural genocide.

The tragedy has its roots in the early 1990s, when the West decided Bosnians and Croatians were entitled to their own states. Fine, said Belgrade, but why should 2 million Serbs living there

be forcibly expatriated? Who would protect their rights – the Bosnian Muslims who committed genocide against Serbs in World War II?

When local Serbs tried to secede from the secessionist states, they were reviled as racists who hated all non-Serbs and lived to rape and plunder.

After Bosnia and Croatia came Kosovo. Albanian Muslims became a majority in Serbia's ancient heartland through illegal immigration. They started when the Kosovo Liberation Army (on the State Department's terrorist list as late as 1998) began murdering Serb policemen.

Milosevic overreacted. At Rambouillet, then-President Clinton and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright gave him an ultimatum (surrender of sovereignty over all of Yugoslavia) no self-respecting nation could accept. After the Gulf War, Washington was determined to prove its human-rights commitment by coming to the aid of persecuted Muslims. The result was the creation of a second de facto Islamic republic in Europe.

In October, NATO's secretary general, Lord Robertson, warned that the Balkans must not become another "black hole" of terrorism, like Afghanistan. He was referring to the operations of our erstwhile allies.

On Oct. 3, the Los Angeles Times reported, "Hundreds of foreign Islamic extremists who became Bosnian citizens after battling Serbian and Croatian forces present a potential security threat to Europe and the United States."

Bin Laden, who's been

Don Feder



heavily involved in the region since 1992, was reportedly presented with a Bosnian passport for services rendered. The same international legion that's fighting with the Taliban earlier served the Islamic cause in Bosnia and Kosovo.

In his Islamic Declaration, former Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic (celebrated in the West as a multiculturalist) claimed, "There can be no peace or coexistence between the Islamic faith and non-Islamic societies and political institutions."

The Kosovo "freedom fighters" (as Sen. Joe Lieberman once called them) are equally grateful for Western support. In one of the al-Qaida camps overrun in Afghanistan, Americans found an entry application from a Kosovo Albanian that read, "I have Kosovo Liberation Army combat experience against Serb forces. ... I recommend suicide operations against parks like Disney." After the subjugation of Kosovo, Muslims moved on Macedonia. Despite a NATO-brokered ceasefire, on Nov. 11 terrorists killed three Macedonian policemen who were trying to guard a mass grave said to hold the remains of civilians killed by the guerrillas.

Is the Albanian area of Macedonia destined to become Europe's third Islamic republic?

The circus surrounding Milosevic's trial is meant to distract us from the reality of our Balkans misadventure – when we went to war not against terrorism, but in its behalf.

The Boston Herald
Dec. 3, 2001

Serbian Unity Congress is the organization of Serbs and their friends in the Diaspora.
It was established in 1990. Its main goals are:

1. To sustain and nurture the Serbian heritage, culture and identity of Serbs in the Diaspora;
2. To garner the talents, experiences and abilities of all Serbs and their friends abroad in order to help economic, social, cultural and other positive changes towards a free political system and a moral society in Serbian lands;
3. To inform public opinion and key policymakers in the world about the true goals and aspirations of the Serbian people, as well as to endeavor to re-establish the Serbian good name and image damaged by the events of the past decade of relentless defamation.

S. U. C. Bulletin - Printed by the Central Office
Jelena Kolarovich, Director

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>

Some articles provided in this bulletin do not have the permission of the copyright by owner, but are being offered for comment, criticism, and research under the "fair use" provisions of the federal copyright laws.

The SUC Bulletin is distributed in the following countries:

Argentina, Australia, Belgium, BiH, Brazil, Canada, Montenegro, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, England, France, Finland, Germany, Greece, Holland, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Macedonia, Mexico, Norway, Peru, RS, Serbia, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, Venezuela & USA

S.U.C. yearly membership: Single \$50 & Family \$75
Make a gift - sign up a family member or friend.
Help us increase our membership!

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