

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

Letter to
Macedonia

Macedonia

T

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

will be sent as a cable

Dear Mrs. Meidani:

Thank you for your heartfelt letter. I appreciate your thoughtful comments.

The world has watched the heroic and selfless efforts of the Albanian people to open their hearts and homes to the Kosovar refugees. Your generous response to the crisis is an example for all people.

I understand how difficult it must be to take in so many refugees and want to assure you that Albania will not be left alone. We will do everything we can to help and remain confident that the war will end on terms that allow the refugees to return home safely.

I am hopeful that a visit to Albania
With appreciation and best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

Mrs. Kidra Meidani
First Lady of the
Republic of Albania
Tirana

in the
near future
may be
possible
and
until
then, I
will look
forward to
seeing you.

UNCLASSIFIED

Printed By: Andrew G Hyde 04/21/99 12:36:03 PM

TIRANA 1413

From: AMEMBASSY TIRANA
 Subject: LETTER TO FIRST LADY HILLARY
 CLINTON FROM ALBANIAN FIRST LADY
 LIDRA MEIDANI

MRN: 1413
 ICNbr: TED3556

Date/Time: 211409Z APR 99
 Precedence: IMMEDIATE

Cable Text:

TED3556

ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	AID-00	ACQ-01	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	INL-01	DODE-00
	SRPP-00	DS-00	FBIE-00	UTED-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00
	L-01	ADS-00	MOFM-04	MOF-03	M-00	AC-01	NSAE-00
	OMB-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	F-00	SCT-00
	SP-00	SSO-00	TRBE-00	USIE-00	SA-01	SNIS-00	NISC-00
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-----BEDICE 211559Z /38

O 211409Z APR 99
 FM AMEMBASSY TIRANA
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8230
 WHITE HOUSE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
 INFO NSC WASHDC

UNCLAS TIRANA 001413

DEPT FOR EUR/SCE - HYDE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL, PGOV, AL, SR

SUBJECT: LETTER TO FIRST LADY HILLARY CLINTON FROM
 ALBANIAN FIRST LADY LIDRA MEIDANI

1. FOLLOWING IS A LETTER SENT TO THE EMBASSY APRIL
 21 BY ALBANIAN FIRST LADY MEIDANI TO BE FORWARDED
 TO FIRST LADY CLINTON. THE LETTER WAS WRITTEN IN
 ENGLISH AND IS DATED APRIL 19.

BEGIN TEXT:

DEAR MRS. CLINTON,

IT HAS BEEN WITH SPECIAL PLEASURE I HAVE HEARD OF
 YOUR PERSONAL ACTIVITY TO ALLEVIATE THE SUFFERINGS
 OF THE DEPORTEES FROM KOSOVA THROUGH COLLECTION OF
 AIDS FOR THEM AND THE SENSIBILIZATION OF THE PUBLIC
 OPINION ON THEIR DRAMA.

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THIS CONTRIBUTION OF YOURS HELPS MILLIONS OF PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD TO BECOME AWARE OF THE DIMENSIONS AND NATURE OF THE CONFLICT TAKING PLACE IN THE BALKANS, WHERE YOUR COUNTRY IS LINED WITH THE GOOD, THE HIGHEST HUMAN VALUES OF DEMOCRACY AGAINST THE BAD, THE VIOLATION OF THESE VALUES AND THE DICTATORSHIP.

THIS CONTRIBUTION REVEALS ALSO THAT THIS CRIMINAL REGIME WHICH IS BEING HIT BY AN ALLIANCE PROTECTIVE OF PEACE AND STABILITY, IS BRINGING ABOUT A MASSACRE SEVERE AND BASE AGAINST WOMEN, CHILDREN AND THE ELDERLY. YOU HAVE HAD THE CHANCE TO LEARN MORE ON IT AT THE MEETING YOU HAD WITH TWO REPRESENTATIVE WOMEN OF KOSOVA CIVIL SOCIETY WHO HAD JUST ESCAPED THE WAR.

DEAR LADY,

MY PEOPLE AND I ARE EXTREMELY GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR THE SENSITIVITY YOU HAVE COHERENTLY SHOWN TO THIS HUMAN TRAGEDY WHICH OCCURS AT THE VERY HEART OF THE DEMOCRATIC EUROPE. I PERSONALLY BEAR TESTIMONY TO THIS SENSITIVITY DEMONSTRATED IN THE "WOMEN OF THE 21ST CENTURY" CONFERENCE IN SOFIA. MY COUNTRY WHICH IS RECENTLY UNFOLDING THE HIGHEST HUMAN VALUES IS CLOSELY FEELING THE SUPPORT OF YOUR COUNTRY AND ESPECIALLY OF PRESIDENT CLINTON.

FINALLY, I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY HOPE THAT THE CONFLICT WHICH FINDS ON THE SAME SIDE OF THE FRONT THE USA AND MY COUNTRY - THE OPEN ALBANIA ASPIRING FOR DEMOCRACY - WILL PUT AN END TO THE ATROCITIES, THE ETHNIC CLEANSING AND WILL ENABLE THESE PEOPLE TO GO BACK TO THEIR HOMES TO REBUILD A NEW LIFE IN A DEMOCRATIC MULTIETHNIC SOCIETY IN THEIR KOSOVA.

((LOOKING FORWARD TO HOSTING YOU IN MY COUNTRY,))

SINCERELY,
/s/
LIDRA MBIDANI
END TEXT.

LINO
NNNN

End Cable Text

Printed By: Andrew G Hyde 04/21/99 12:36:03 PM

UNCLASSIFIED

MACEDONIA

1. REFUGEE CAMPS AND COLLECTIVE CENTERS

There are eight refugee camps/transit centers, including the new camp that will open on April 29. Of these, Stankovic I and Stankovic II, the largest and closest, are the best options for a visit. Stankovic I, with 27,900 people, is run by the U.S. PVO Catholic Relief Services and the majority of its tents are from USAID. CARE/Australia runs Stankovac II, with 16,000 people. Both are about 20 minutes outside the city. The next closest camp, Radusa, is smaller and is a 40 minute drive from the capital.

We will begin May 5 to process refugees for entry into the U.S. at a facility located between Stankovac I and II. A visit to that facility and a discussion with refugees would be possible.

2. HOST FAMILIES

Almost 80,000 Kosovar refugees (of the total 142,650) are living with host families. A visit to one such family would highlight the important role host families have played in accommodating refugees.

3. NATO TROOPS

There are no U.S. troops in Macedonia, but British, French and German NATO forces have been instrumental in providing assistance. A visit to either transit center would allow contact with the small contingent of British and French troops who remain in the camps. Also, a visit to NATO base, about 20 minutes from the capital, would be a possible.

4. SKOPJE MEETINGS

Meetings in Skopje could be arranged with the President and other government officials. Such a meeting could be used to highlight our efforts to move refugees from Macedonia to the U.S., Albania and other European countries, and to encourage the government to allow additional transit centers. Meetings could also easily be arranged with UNHCR and NGOs.

U.S. aircraft have not been flying into Skopje for security reasons. A visit to Macedonia may require driving from Thessoliniki, a 3-4 hour drive.

*Leaders
of the
Coalition
Parties*

ALBANIA

1. REFUGEE CAMPS AND COLLECTIVE CENTERS:

There are apparently two camps in the Tirana area, in relatively close proximity to the capital. Both sound like possibilities.

* One, the Lakeside Refugee Camp, is at a municipal sports facility, is close to the Embassy, and was visited by Atwood. It holds several thousand persons in tents, 60 of which were supplied by the U.S.

Another, "Mullet," is about 20 minutes from the Embassy. It was initially conceived as a transit center, but now has become a regular refugee camp with an estimated 4000-5000 refugees. Senator Inhofe visited this facility, which I am told is tented.

There are also collective centers -- smaller institutions, like schools, where refugees are housed.

Finally, the port of Durres, probably a 10-15 minute helicopter ride, has several camps, and also is an important transit point for relief supplies. However, logistical and security concerns may well mitigate against consideration of sites there.

* 2. HOST FAMILIES.

Many Kosovars are hosted by Albanian families in the Tirana area. A visit to one such family might highlight the generosity of the Albanian people.

* 3. JTF SHINING HOPE *airport*

At Rinas Airport in Tirana, a visitor could meet with the Comander of our JTF Shining Hope, the U.S. military humanitarian relief operation. A visitor could be briefed on (and could witness) procedures for receiving and transporting supplies, flight control operations, etc.

Ronald Reagan Building Suite 6.10-05
Washington, DC 20523
Phone: (202)712-4300
Fax: (202)216-3035

USAID facsimile transmittal

To: Melanne Verveer From: Liz Notma
Fax: 456-6244 Date: _____
Phone: _____ Pages: _____ including this page
Re: Albania/Macedonia CC: _____
deliverables



Please see the attached deliverables
paper - this is updated
from the version sent earlier
today.

I am unclear on who the appropriate
person is to discuss what we've
presented - please let me know
what you all would like us
follow-up on.

Liz 712-4011

**OUTLINE OF DELIVERABLES:
MACEDONIA AND ALBANIA**

DRAFT

CORPORATE

A. *Scholastic Inc. donations*

- Scholastic Inc. has donated toys and books for newly arrived children. In total, they have pledged 7,000 books for early childhood development written in both Albanian and English, 10,000 puzzles for infant through grade school age children, 10,000 plush toys, teachers kits, and "Big Books" for group learning situations.

MACEDONIA

A. *Small Business Micro-Lending*

- There have been over 800 loans issued. Outstanding loans are valued at \$2 million. A significant number of loans have been provided to ethnic Albanians. Women entrepreneurs hold 35% of the loans. Recently a third loan office has opened near the Albanian border, and is managed by a woman. At this point, \$750,000 from approved performance funding will be provided. Another \$750,000 from funds announced by Deputy Secretary Talbott are still pending Congressional approval.

B. *Motrat Quiriazhi Refugee Recreation Center project: \$22,000*

- Grant of \$22,000 going to the Motrat Quiriazhi Albanian-Kosovar woman's NGO to buy goods from Macedonian vendors including chess-sets, toys, volleyballs, guitars, and other recreation supplies to community centers in 3 of the largest Macedonian camps.

C. *School infrastructure improvements*

- USAID will be awarding \$50,000 grant directly to the Dizhon community located outside of Skopje. Dizhon's population of 20,000 is hosting 15,000 refugees. Funding will go to improvement ranging from installing new plumbing, upgrading facilities, and providing supplies. All commodities will be purchased locally—including windows, doors, paint, and educational supplies.

D. *\$7.6 Million of reprogrammed funding—Talbott money*

- Labor Re-deployment (\$2 million) to be implemented by the US Department of Labor to develop a labor adjustment model at the request of the Macedonian government in response to pressure on the massive unemployment crisis that it faces.
- Community Self Help Initiative (\$ 2 Million) An initiative supporting citizen's outreach and community self help initiatives promoting local economic development.
- Micro-lending (\$1.5 million) —includes funding highlighted at proposed micro-lending event
- Parliamentary Assistance (\$1.5 million)

- Media Assistance (\$300,000) to support the development of an effective media association that could support training, provide access to on-line services and protect the media from political purges and work towards better media legislation.
 - Civil Society Development Grants (\$300,000) to support the Democracy Network (DemNet) program in providing subgrants particularly in support of NGOs in the private sector, media and agricultural areas.
- E. *Stankovic One Community Service-Vulnerable Center: \$100,000 grant***
- The International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) runs the Center at Stankovic One to mobilize women as service providers in the psychosocial and community service sectors. Initiatives in this area include providing a childcare service for refugee mothers to allow these individuals time to take care of other personal needs, as well as the development of support groups for women.

ALBANIA

- A. *\$4 Million of reprogrammed funding—Talbott money***
- Combined Basic Urban Service Provisions and Short Term Employment Generation (\$1 million) targeting municipalities with the largest refugee related needs in repairing local roads, water, electricity.
 - Micro-lending (\$750,000) Just starting up.
 - DemNet Program (\$1 million) to assist local NGOs in community building and conflict resolution skills.
 - Education (\$750,000) Support for local schools that absorb refugee children living with host families as well as support for educational facilities in refugee camps.
 - Food Production (\$250,000) To increase food output to ensure that over the intermediate run humanitarian relief efforts are not over-taxed and that relief efforts do not undermine Albania's fledgling private sector food production and distribution sectors.
 - Primary Health Care (\$250,000)
- A. *\$5 MILLION GRANT TO CRS***
- The grant announcement introduces funding for a CRS program offering an integrated and flexible response to the humanitarian crisis. The distribution program addresses community service needs as well as live-saving requirements through immediate emergency response. Support includes food and relief items for up to 100,000 Kosovar refugees at border crossing points, and provides emergency shelter and relief supplies for 150,000 refugees living in collective centers in Kukes and South-Central Albania. The new grant also provides community services for 150,000 refugees
- C. *\$1 MILLION GRANT TO SAVE THE CHILDREN***
- Save has identified 520 Kosovar schoolteachers to start primary education for up to 15,000 children in the camps. Many of the refugee school curriculums

not only continue traditional education, but also address trauma concerns and strive to bring normalcy to the refugee's day to day lives.

**United States
Information
Agency**

WASHINGTON DC 20547-0001

Office of the Associate Director
for Information
and
Chief Information Officer



May 6, 1999

MEMORANDUM FOR JULIA TAFT

FROM: Jonathan Spalter 

SUBJECT: USIA's Kosovo Refugee Internet Initiative

Julia,

I wanted you to know the President announced yesterday in his speech in Germany the Information Bureau's Kosovo Refugee Internet Assistance Initiative. We are now up and running in Skopje, and are moving equipment in to refugee centers in France, Germany, Poland, and at Fort Dix. I think this is a very valuable model not only for future collaboration with the private sector on humanitarian crises, but also for how technology can be employed to address the needs of refugee populations. I appreciated your support as we worked to get this program off the ground, and I will continue to keep you posted on our progress.

Attachment

**BUREAU OF POPULATION, REFUGEES, AND MIGRATION
ROOM 5824
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20520**

FAX: (202) 647-8162

DATE: May 7, 1999

Please deliver the following pages to:

TO: Melanne Verveer

FAX TELEPHONE: 456-5199

THIS MESSAGE IS FROM:

NAME: Julia V. Taft

TELEPHONE: 202 - 647-7360

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER SHEET:

THIS IS AN ACTION REQUEST* _____
Warning: anyone using the Fax to send action items
MUST ensure that all clearances have been received.
DATE DUE: _____
FOR INFORMATION ONLY: _____
FOR CLEARANCE: _____

NOTE: See Attached.

Thanks. Allifa

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 6, 1999
Release No. 025-99

CONTACT: Kelly Lees/Theresa Markiw
E-MAIL: kleees OR tmarkiw@usia.gov
PHONE: (202) 619-4355



United States Information Agency

NEWS RELEASE

President Clinton Announces USIA-Led Public/Private Partnership Initiative Providing Technology Support to Kosovo Refugees

Washington, D.C. — President Clinton announced today during his visit with Kosovar refugees in Ingelheim, Germany, the establishment of the **Kosovar Refugee Internet Assistance Initiative**, a public/private partnership to provide refugees with independent, objective, and reliable Albanian-language news and information from various reputable news sources such as the Voice of America, Radio Free Europe, and WORLDNET. This partnership also will provide the refugees with access to the Internet at interactive information centers in refugee sites in Poland, France, Germany, the Balkans, and Fort Dix in New Jersey.

Spearheaded by USIA's Information Bureau, the partnership links U.S. government agencies with innovative information technology companies, NGOs, and foundations in a coordinated effort to bring refugee communities more than US\$500,000 of donated technology hardware, software, and related equipment and services. This partnership also is working to provide international relief organizations with appropriate technology to support their continuing and vital humanitarian efforts in the Balkans.

"Meeting the pressing and real information needs of the refugees is a critical task. We are doing so in partnership with innovative technology companies, non-governmental organizations, and foundations by harnessing the powerful new tools of the information age," said Jonathan Spalter, USIA Associate Director for Information and Chief Information Officer.

The organizations taking the lead in this partnership include SGI and Cisco Systems, Inc., The Document Company, Xerox, Gateway and the Waitt Family Foundation, RISO, Inc., MVS USA, Hewlett-Packard Company, International Data Group, the National Technology Alliance, 3M, the David Sarnoff Corporation, Autometric, Inc., Apple Computer, Inc., and the Markle Foundation. This partnership will deliver hardware, software, connectivity, and technical and financial support directly to international relief organizations working with Kosovar refugees.

"Bringing modern technology to the aid of the refugees of Kosovo through the Refugee Internet Assistance Initiative is one of the great ways that the information technology community can help the relief effort. This public/private partnership is an important step forward in our effort to help the Kosovars," said Gateway Chairman and CEO Ted Waitt.

United States Information Agency, 301 4th Street, SW, Washington, D.C. 20547

Tel: (202) 619-4355, Fax: (202) 619-6988

www.usia.gov

USIA, Page Two

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The United States Information Agency, headed by Acting Director Penn Kemble, is an independent foreign affairs agency within the executive branch that explains and supports U.S. foreign policy and national security interests abroad through a wide range of information programs. The Agency promotes mutual understanding between the United States and other countries through a series of educational and cultural exchange activities.

USIA's programs include the Voice of America, Radio and TV Martí, the WORLDNET satellite television system, the daily Washington File newswire, the Fulbright scholarship program, the International Visitor Program, the Speakers and Specialists Program, three Foreign Press Centers in the United States, and a network of overseas resource and cultural centers. The Agency has 190 posts in 141 countries.

The USIA domestic server can be accessed through <http://www.usia.gov> or through most search engines on the Internet.



(L) 011 44 171 267 33

(W) 011 44 171 930 4433

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

PRESS OFFICE FACSIMILE MESSAGE**TO:** MELANNE VERVEER .**FROM:** ALASTAIR CAMPBELL .**MESSAGE:**

PLEASE ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT

BY PHONING 00 44 171 930 4433
x 3074**DATE:**

11/5

OR FAXING BACK ON

00 44 171 930 7919

**NUMBER OF PAGES
TO FOLLOW:**

2



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Chief Press Secretary

11 May 1999

Dear Melanne

FIRST LADY'S VISIT TO LONDON

I know that time is very short when you are in London, and that the First Lady is already due to do a major event with Cherie. However, given that she will be going on to see refugees in the Balkans, and given that Tony and Cherie made a very powerful visit there last week, I wondered whether it might be worth organising a brief refugees event in London. This would both set up your onward journey, and from our perspective show Cherie's continuing commitment and underline the key message we have been seeking to communicate, namely:

- it is because of the refugees that we are engaged in the conflict;
- they are not being properly heard because there are no pictures inside Kosovo;
- the international community is working together to help them;
- we will not stop pushing their case until they are home.

Fiona tells me there may be a spare hour in the programme. If the idea appeals, it seems to me there are various options:

1. Kill two birds with one stone, and invite Kosovar Albanian children to the Childline Conference – no greater child abuse than seeing your father shot, your mother raped, your home burnt down.

- 2 -

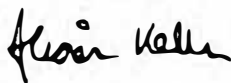
2. First Lady and Cherie visit the Foreign Office exhibition of refugee children's pictures (easy but not very powerful).
3. We bring down from Yorkshire or Scotland some of the children who have been re-settled here, and set up a separate event.
4. They meet representative leaders of the Kosovar Albanian community in London.
5. They visit a well-known Albanian café in the West End.

My own preference would be 3, followed by 1. This would obviously require a lot of work to pull off at short notice, not to mention liaison with the Home Office, Scottish Office, etc. If the idea appeals, perhaps you could let Fiona know. I am in Brussels and Germany until Thursday, but if I'm not contactable you can speak to Hilary Coffman in my office, to whom I am copying this letter.

I hope we can organise something. Your trip to the region is hugely important, and if we can get three days publicity out of it, with a UK angle, then from our perspective it would be very worthwhile.

I am copying this letter to Fiona, and to Magi Cleaver.

Yours sincerely



Ap **ALASTAIR CAMPBELL**
Chief Press Secretary

The Honourable Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to the First Lady