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RECORD ID: 9902974
RECEIVED: 20 APR 99 15

TO: BERGER

FROM: ISAACSON, JASON

DOC DATE: 16 APR 99
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: KOSOVO
SPEECHES

NATO
AP

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: AMER JEWISH COM REQUESTS POTUS AS KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT 93RD ANNUAL MTG
ON 6 MAY

ACTION: NO FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED

DUE DATE: 26 APR 99 STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: HURLEY

LOGREF:

FILES: PA

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D O C U M E N T D I S T R I B U T I O N

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

COMMENTS: SEE NOTES FROM MONA

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ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

RECORD ID: 9902974

DOC ACTION OFFICER

001 HURLEY
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CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

Z 99042015 APPROPRIATE ACTION
X 99052715 NO FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED

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HURLEY

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DOC 1 OF 1

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The American Jewish
Committee

OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

1156 FIFTEENTH STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005 Telephone (202) 785-4200 Fax (202) 785-4115 Email OGIA@AJC.ORG

2974

To: GOBUSH
KOSOVO
PLS. RESPOND
OBR SRB.

April 16, 1999

The Honorable Samuel R. Berger
Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20504

Dear Mr. Berger:

The American Jewish Committee today is launching an international public education effort intended to support NATO's decision — consistent with the principled position of our Government — to take decisive steps against brutality in Kosovo.

Concerned that the strains of continued prosecution of the air campaign against Yugoslavia may contribute, over time, to domestic opposition in NATO member states and weaken the coalition, the American Jewish Committee is initiating a series of newspaper advertisements with the purpose of rallying public support. Our ads bolster the case for confronting Belgrade, express our admiration for NATO, and urge the public to join us in thanking the individual member states.

Enclosed is a copy of the AJC ad. It appeared in this morning's editions of *The International Herald Tribune*, and will next run in prominent positions in the Sunday, April 18, *New York Times*, the Friday, April 23, *Washington Post* — timed to coincide with the NATO 50th Anniversary Summit — and the May 10 *New Republic*. Our chapters around the United States are publishing the same or similar messages in local newspapers, and we have made the ad available to fellow Jewish communal organizations in other NATO member states.

AJC's stance on the NATO action is consistent with our longstanding support for NATO's mission — and our public advocacy for NATO enlargement, including testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee by AJC Executive Director David Harris in November 1997.

The future of NATO will be a topic of discussion in the American Jewish Committee's 93rd Annual Meeting, in Washington, from May 4 to 7, 1999. It will be a particular focus of our big Annual Dinner on Thursday, May 6, at the Ronald Reagan Building — to which we have invited the President as keynote speaker, and in which we will be joined by the foreign ministers of Germany, Poland and Bulgaria. I look forward to discussing this matter with your office.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Jason F. Isaacson
Director

APR 19 15:20

WHEN HISTORY ASKS WHO STOOD UP TO EVIL IN KOSOVO, THE ANSWER WILL BE: NATO.

The world could see the slaughter coming. Diplomats worked furiously to prevent it — and, for a time, succeeded.

But when Yugoslavia's Slobodan Milosevic, in the name of a nationalism run amok, once again led Serbia to betray its proud anti-Nazi legacy and set an army and police at the throat of the Kosovo Albanians, one international force had the resolve to stand up to Belgrade's policy of barbarism.

NATO, the guarantor of European security for half a century, rose to the challenge of defending Kosovo's ethnic Albanians. Nineteen countries acted in unison to stop the violence against the Kosovars and seek their safe return under international protection.

In this noble mission, NATO must prevail. What is at stake in Kosovo isn't oil or commerce or trading routes. What is at stake are basic principles: human rights, human dignity, the credibility of deterrence, collective security. With determination and courage, NATO weighed the difficult choices and chose to act — because it was right, because the alternative would give

tyrants a green light to terrorize civilian populations and destroy the fabric of international order.

We recognize the sacrifice made by each NATO member to arrest evil in

Kosovo. In this dark century, witness to unspeakable acts of inhumanity, we applaud the alliance for taking a principled stand.

To join us in expressing appreciation to the 19 NATO members — Belgium, Canada, the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece,

Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States — write their Permanent Representatives, c/o NATO Headquarters, Brussels, Belgium. Tell them how much you value their efforts and urge them to stay the course.

History has taught us — or should have taught us — that diplomacy and reason have their limits in dealing with a Milosevic. Sometimes conscience demands the application of force. In these times, as always, we are grateful for NATO.

**Sometimes
conscience
demands the
application of
force.**

The American Jewish Committee

Bruce M. Ramer
President

David A. Harris
Executive Director

165 East 56th Street, New York, NY 10022 • www.ajc.org

AJC is joining in efforts to provide emergency relief to the Kosovar refugees. Please send tax-deductible contributions, in the name of the **AJC KOSOVO RELIEF FUND**, to the above address.

All proceeds will be distributed to appropriate aid agencies.