

FOIA MARKER

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Original OA/ID Number: 2732				
Document ID: 9904160				
Stack: V	Row: 46	Section: 4	Shelf: 6	Position: 3

UNCLASSIFIED
NSC/RMO PROFILE

RECORD ID: 9904160
RECEIVED: 28 MAY 99 17

TO: BERGER

FROM: HURLEY
SCHULTE

DOC DATE: 28 MAY 99
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: KOSOVO
CO

MILITARY POSTURE

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE ON KOSOVO

ACTION: SEE 9903550 FOR FINAL ACTION

DUE DATE: 09 JUN 99 STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: HURLEY

LOGREF: 9902911 9903197

FILES: PA

NSCP:

CODES:

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:

DISPATCHED BY _____ DATE _____ BY HAND W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSTSM

CLOSED BY: NSTSM

DOC 2 OF 2

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED
ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

RECORD ID: 9904160

DOC ACTION OFFICER

001 HURLEY
002 BERGER
002 HURLEY
002

CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

Z 99052818 PREPARE MEMO FOR BERGER
Z 99052819 FWD TO PRESIDENT FOR SIGNATURE
Z 99060810 FOR REDO
X 99062213 SEE 9903550 FOR FINAL ACTION

UNCLASSIFIED

Package 3550 answers the following letters/packages:

3198

4160

3827

3674

*kill these
packages*

**NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
THE WHITE HOUSE**

PROOFED BY: _____ LOG # 4160
 URGENT NOT PROOFED: _____ SYSTEM PRS INT ARS
 BYPASSED WW DESK: _____ DOCLOG EW/VO

TMA

	SEQUENCE TO	INITIAL/DATE	DISPOSITION
JACOBSON	_____	_____	_____
POWELL	_____	_____	_____
RICE	_____	_____	_____
DAVIES	<u>1</u>	<u>G 5/28</u>	_____
KERRICK	_____	_____	_____
STEINBERG	<u>2</u>	<u>JS/NH</u>	_____
BERGER	<u>3</u>	_____	_____
SITUATION ROOM	_____	_____	_____
WEST WING DESK	<u>4</u>	<u>TR 6/8</u>	<u>JH Hurley</u>
RECORDS MGMT.	_____	_____	_____
<u>Hurley/Schulte</u>	<u>5</u>	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

A = ACTION I = INFORMATION D = DISPATCH R = RETAIN N = NO FURTHER ACTION

99 MAY 28 PM 7:46
CC:

COMMENTS:

Congressional correspondence
re Kosovo

EXEC SEC OFFICE HAS DISKETTE yes

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20504

4160

May 28, 1999



ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR SAMUEL R. BERGER

THROUGH: GREG SCHULTE *DS*

FROM: MICHAEL HURLEY *cmh*

SUBJECT: Congressional Correspondence on Kosovo

Attached at Tab I is your memorandum to the President forwarding a draft response to Representative Bob Clement who, along with 27 colleagues, wrote to request the President call a 72-hour bombing pause in the FRY.

Concurrence by: Miles Lackey *ML*

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the memorandum to the President at Tab I.

Attachments

Tab I Memorandum for the President
Tab A Proposed Response to Representative Bob Clement
Tab B Incoming Correspondence

NEED TO
UPDATE
AFTER THIS
FLURRY

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: SAMUEL BERGER
LARRY STEIN

SUBJECT: Congressional Correspondence on Kosovo

Purpose

To respond to a letter from Representative Bob Clement and 27 House colleagues urging a bombing pause in Yugoslavia.

Background

Representative Bob Clement and 27 House colleagues wrote to request that you call a 72-hour pause in the bombing of Yugoslavia. They stress that NATO action is justified and they support its efforts to reverse ethnic cleansing, but they argue that a pause would give Milosevic the opportunity to withdraw his forces from Kosovo. Should he fail to take advantage of the opportunity, NATO would be able, they maintain, to resume bombing. They conclude that it is in our best interest to resolve the conflict.

Your response thanks them for their support for American forces and for NATO's role in reversing ethnic cleansing. You explain that Milosevic's pattern makes clear he would exploit even a short pause to consolidate further his gains and to resupply and reinforce his forces in Kosovo -- developments which would increase risk to NATO aircrews. You point out that should Milosevic not begin to withdraw his forces during a pause, it would be difficult to gain allied consensus to resume bombing. You explain that the NATO air campaign is working and detail growing dissent and fissures in Serbia. Finally, you also summarize progress on the diplomatic track.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the letters at Tab A.

cc: Vice President
Chief of Staff

Attachments

Tab A	Outgoing Letters
Tab B	Incoming Correspondence

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Bob:

Thank you for your letter on Kosovo. I appreciate your strong statement of support for the courageous efforts of American troops engaged in the conflict and for NATO's vital role in seeking to reverse the ethnic cleansing so brutally carried out by Milosevic's forces there. I want to assure you that I share your concern about finding a speedy resolution to the conflict.

Given the terrible suffering the Kosovar Albanians have endured and the enormity of the crimes Milosevic has committed against them, there can be no lasting resolution until certain basic conditions are met. I have thought hard about your proposal for a 72-hour pause in the bombing of Yugoslavia. The question, it seems to me, is whether a pause would advance our shared objective: to allow the refugees to return with safety and self-government. I am not convinced it would.

I think it is essential NATO continue its campaign without pause, even as we push forward on the diplomatic track. Were we confronting an adversary other than Milosevic, such a pause might be appropriate. But we have a long history of dealing with Milosevic, whose hate-filled nationalistic policies have sparked four wars in the last decade, causing unspeakable suffering and misery to hundreds of thousands. He has violated every obligation he has undertaken, and for more than a year he rejected every overture toward peace in Kosovo. Last October, we agreed not to carry out threatened air strikes following his commitment to withdraw his troops and within a short period of time, he violated his comments.

My concern is that Milosevic would use even a three-day pause to consolidate further the gains from his campaign of ethnic cleansing, resupply and reinforce his forces in Kosovo, and move in additional weapons and systems that would pose a serious threat to NATO aircraft and crews. He might also withdraw the minimum number of troops he judged necessary to create the illusion of compliance, hoping to undermine the Alliance's will to resume military operations.

That is why NATO must maintain the air campaign until Milosevic clearly and demonstrably accepts NATO's conditions to end the bombing. Those conditions will be met when Milosevic withdraws his forces, allows the refugees to return unconditionally, and permits the deployment of an international security force to protect all Kosovars, both ethnic Albanian and Serb.

There is strong evidence we are succeeding. The air campaign is exacting an ever higher price from Milosevic. Each day NATO air strikes cause further damage to Serb forces deployed in the field.

In recent days, we have seen growing indications NATO's air campaign and Milosevic's self-destructive policies have created rising dissent in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY). Demonstrations have occurred in several cities. Serb police used heavy-handed tactics to disperse a crowd protesting the government's silence about the human cost of the conflict. More than 1,000 Yugoslav Army (VJ) reservists deserted their units in Kosovo. The recent indictment of Milosevic by the ICTY should help to widen these fissures.

I want to assure you that we are pressing forward on the diplomatic front as you urge and we are actively engaging the Russians in this effort. Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott has met repeatedly with Russian Special Kosovo Envoy Chernomyrdin and Finnish President Ahtisaari, and some reports now indicate that the FRY has accepted the basic principles of the international community, although we continue to seek clarification of Belgrade's position. We would welcome any progress in bringing FRY officials to accept NATO's conditions.

I firmly believe that NATO's air campaign is not only justified, it is necessary, and it is working. I will continue to consult closely with you and your colleagues as we proceed with our effort. Thank you again for your thoughtful letter.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Bob Clement
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

306401

4160

JUN 2 PM 7:00

May 26, 1999

President William Jefferson Clinton
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

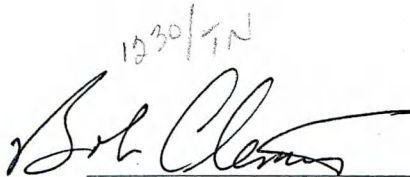
As the air strikes in Yugoslavia and NATO efforts to halt Slobodan Milosevic's brutal campaign against ethnic Albanians in Kosovo enter their tenth week, we believe it is now time for NATO to open the door to a peace settlement. In an effort to encourage all sides to reach a viable peace agreement, we write to urge you to call for a 72-hour bombing pause in Yugoslavia.

Make no mistake, we support our troops, and we support NATO. Ethnic Albanians in Kosovo have suffered greatly. NATO is right to oppose ethnic cleansing and to work to reverse it. The innocent people of Kosovo who have been driven from their homes by the inhumane policy of ethnic cleansing must be allowed to return. It is time, however, to take a step back, revisit our options and focus on achieving a viable peace agreement consistent with NATO's goals.

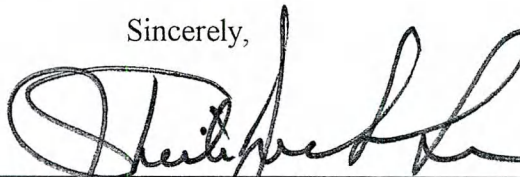
Slobodan Milosevic has said he wants to pull his forces out of Kosovo. Let's give him the opportunity to prove he is serious. If Milosevic fails to embrace this opportunity and withdraw Yugoslav troops, the bombing could resume after 72 hours. Milosevic's failure to accept this peace initiative will show that he is not serious about reaching a political solution and will confirm to our NATO allies and Russia that a continued bombing strategy is necessary. If Milosevic seizes this opportunity to end the crisis, however, we should be ready to embark upon an aggressive search for a negotiated solution.

Thank you for your attention to our concerns and we look forward to hearing from you. It is in all of our best interests to find a resolution to this conflict and begin the rebuilding of Kosovo and the return of Kosovar refugees.

Sincerely,

1030/TN


Bob Clement
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson-Lee
Member of Congress



Rod R. Blagojevich
Member of Congress

Paul Peterson Tom Tan

Neil Abernethy Ernie Miller

Jeff J. Corbett

Charles C. Kelpatuk

Paul T. Drink

Danny H. Davis

Michael P. McIntyre

Michael E. Gorman

Gerry Klezka

Mark Udall

David Phelps

Elly E. Cummings

Chadwick C. Rush

Julia Carson

Myron L. Jones

Ann G. Shoo

David R. Bruce

Robert L. Watts

Donald W. Payne

Harold E. Smith Jr

~~Gregory L. Mueck~~

Carrie P. Mueck

Lynn Clebolsey

J. Barcia

phulomys.

Jim McDermott

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: JUNE 02, 1999

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE BOB CLEMENT

SUBJECT: URGES THE PRESIDENT TO CALL FOR A 72-HOUR
BOMBING PAUSE IN YUGOSLAVIA

		ACTION		DISPOSITION	
ROUTE TO:		ACT	DATE	TYPE	C COMPLETED
OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	CODE	YY/MM/DD	RESP	D YY/MM/DD
LARRY STEIN		ORG	99/06/02		___/___/___
REFERRAL NOTE:			___/___/___		___/___/___
REFERRAL NOTE:			___/___/___		___/___/___
REFERRAL NOTE:			___/___/___		___/___/___
REFERRAL NOTE:			___/___/___		___/___/___
REFERRAL NOTE:			___/___/___		___/___/___

COMMENTS:

cc: Chuck Brain

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: 26 MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 1230

MAIL USER CODES: (A) D TN (B) (C)

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*ACTION CODES:          *DISPOSITION          *OUTGOING          *
*                        *                      *CORRESPONDENCE:   *
*A-APPROPRIATE ACTION  *A-ANSWERED          *TYPE RESP=INITIALS *
*C-COMMENT/RECOM       *B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL  *          OF SIGNER *
*D-DRAFT RESPONSE      *C-COMPLETED          *          CODE = A   *
*F-FURNISH FACT SHEET  *S-SUSPENDED          *COMPLETED = DATE OF *
*I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC*                      *          OUTGOING  *
*R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY *                      *                      *
*S-FOR-SIGNATURE       *                      *                      *
*X-INTERIM REPLY       *                      *                      *
*****

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REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE
(ROOM 75, OEOb) EXT-2590
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING
LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS
MANAGEMENT.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 3, 1999

MEMORANDUM FOR GLYN T. DAVIES
NSC Executive Secretariat

FROM: JANET MURGUIA
Legislative Affairs

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Attached are copies of letters sent to the President by various Members of Congress. Since these letters address national security issues, we would appreciate your assistance in drafting the responses.

Thank you very much for your assistance. If you have any questions, please call Eli Joseph at x67500.

The following is a brief description of the letters:

- 1) Sen. Jon Kyl (R-AZ) and nine other Senators, concerning the Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995;
- 2) Rep. Bob Clement (D-TN) and thirty other Members of Congress, concerning the current situation in Kosovo;
- 3) Rep. Lindsey O. Graham (R-SC), concerning the Russian space launch quota; and,
- 4) Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA), concerning the current situation in Kosovo.

Enclosures

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Bob:

Thank you for your letter on Kosovo. I appreciate your strong statement of support for the courageous efforts of American troops engaged in the conflict and for NATO's vital role in seeking to reverse the ethnic cleansing so brutally carried out by Milosevic's forces there. I want to assure you that I share your concern about finding a speedy resolution to the conflict.

Given the terrible suffering the Kosovar Albanians have endured and the enormity of the crimes Milosevic has committed against them, there can be no lasting resolution until certain basic conditions are met. I have thought hard about your ~~request to~~ ^{proposal} ~~call~~ for a 72-hour pause in the bombing of Yugoslavia. The question, it seems to me, is whether a pause would advance ~~NATO's~~ ^{our shared} objective: to allow the refugees to return with safety and self-government. I am not convinced it would.

I think it is essential NATO continue its campaign without pause, even as we push forward on the diplomatic track. Were we confronting an adversary other than Milosevic, such a pause might be appropriate. But we have a long history of dealing with Milosevic, whose hate-filled nationalistic policies have sparked four wars in the last decade, causing unspeakable suffering and misery to hundreds of thousands. He has violated every obligation he has undertaken, and for more than a year he rejected every overture toward peace in Kosovo.

My concern is that Milosevic would use even a three-day pause to consolidate further the gains from his campaign of ethnic cleansing, resupply and reinforce his forces in Kosovo, and move in additional weapons and systems that would pose a serious threat to NATO aircraft and crews. He might also withdraw the minimum number of troops he judged necessary to create the illusion of compliance, hoping to undermine the Alliance's will to resume military operations.

NATO is ~~determined~~ ^{must} ^{must} to maintain the air campaign until Milosevic clearly and demonstrably accepts NATO's conditions to end the bombing. Those conditions will be met when Milosevic withdraws his forces, allows the refugees to return unconditionally, and

That is why

proposal

our shared

Last Oct. we agreed not to carry out strikes following his commitment to withdraw his troops within a short period of time he violated his commitment

Last October we agreed not to carry out threatened air strikes following

his commitment to withdraw his troops and within a short period of time he violated his commitment

permits the deployment of an international security force to protect all Kosovars, both ethnic Albanian and Serb.

There is strong evidence we are succeeding. The air campaign is exacting an ever higher price from Milosevic. Each day NATO air strikes cause further damage to Serb forces deployed in the field.

In recent days, we have seen growing indications NATO's air campaign and Milosevic's self-destructive policies have created rising dissent in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY). Demonstrations have occurred in several cities. Serb police used heavy-handed tactics to disperse a crowd protesting the government's silence about the human cost of the conflict. More than 1,000 Yugoslav Army (VJ) reservists deserted their units in Kosovo. The recent indictment of Milosevic by the ICTY should help to widen these fissures.

I want to assure you that we are pressing forward on the diplomatic front as you urge and we are actively engaging the Russians in this effort. Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott just met with Russian Special Kosovo Envoy Chernomyrdin and Finnish President Ahtisaari. Following that round of meetings, Chernomyrdin went to Belgrade for talks with Milosevic. At this time, reports indicate that the FRY accepted the basic principles of the international community and agreed to comply with a resolution in accordance with the United Nations charter that would be issued by the Security Council. We would welcome any progress in bringing FRY officials to accept NATO's conditions.

I firmly believe that NATO's air campaign is not only justified, it is ~~demanded~~, and it is working. ~~In recent days I have met with many Americans who expressed the conviction that America's moral leadership in this crisis is a defining moment as the world prepares to enter the new millennium. Thank you again for your thoughtful letter, and I appreciate your support.~~

Sincerely,

The Honorable Bob Clement
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

I will continue to consult closely with you + your colleagues as we proceed with our effort

necessary

I will continue to consult closely with you and your colleagues as we proceed with our effort

4160

That is why NATO must maintain the air campaign until Milosevic clearly and demonstrably accepts NATO's conditions to end the bombing. Those conditions will be met when Milosevic withdraws his forces, allows the refugees to return unconditionally, and permits the deployment of an international security force to protect all Kosovars, both ethnic Albanian and Serb.

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I want to assure you that we are pressing forward on the diplomatic front as you urge and we are actively engaging the Russians in this effort. Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott ~~just met~~ ^{has met repeatedly} with Russian Special Kosovo Envoy Chernomyrdin and Finnish President Ahtisaari, ~~and following that round of meetings, Chernomyrdin went to Belgrade for talks with Milosevic.~~ ^{some new} reports indicate that the FRY ^{has} accepted the basic principles of the international community and agreed to comply with a resolution in accordance with the United Nations charter that would be issued by the Security Council. We would welcome any progress in bringing FRY officials to accept NATO's conditions.

I firmly believe that NATO's air campaign is not only justified, it is necessary, and it is working. I will continue to consult closely with you and your colleagues as we proceed with our effort. Thank you again for your thoughtful letter.

Sincerely,

*although we can't to
sub change of
Belgrade's position*

The Honorable Bob Clement
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

*although we
continue to seek
clarification of
Belgrade's position*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: SAMUEL BERGER
LARRY STEIN

SUBJECT: Congressional Correspondence on Kosovo

Purpose

To respond to a letter from Representative Bob Clement and House colleagues ~~on Kosovo~~. *27* *urging a bombing pause in Serbia¹ Yugoslavia.*

Background

Representative Bob Clement and 27 House colleagues wrote to request that you call a 72-hour pause in the bombing of Yugoslavia. They stress that NATO action is justified and they support its efforts to reverse ethnic cleansing, *but* they believe, *argue* ~~however~~ that a pause would give Milosevic the opportunity to withdraw his forces from Kosovo. *to resume bombing.* NATO would be able, *they maintain* to resume the campaign should he fail to take advantage of the opportunity. ~~His failure to grasp it would also confirm to our allies and to Russia that bombing is necessary.~~ They conclude that it is in our best interest to resolve the conflict.

Your response thanks them for their support for American forces and for NATO's role in reversing ethnic cleansing. *you* It explains that Milosevic's pattern makes clear that he would exploit even a short pause to consolidate further his gains and *to* resupply and reinforce his forces in Kosovo *developments* ~~measures~~ which would increase risk to NATO aircraft and crews. *you* ~~It also points out that should Milosevic not seize the opportunity presented by a pause and begin to withdraw his forces, it would be difficult to gain allied consensus to resume bombing.~~ *

during a pause

cc: Vice President
Chief of Staff

Finally, * Your ^{explain} ~~response makes clear~~ that the NATO air campaign is working and details ^{growing dissent and fissures in Serbia.} ~~It~~ also summarizes progress on the diplomatic track.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the letter^s at Tab A. *finally, you* ✓

Attachments

Tab A *Outgoing Letters* ~~Proposed Response to Representative Bob Clement~~ ✓
 Tab B Incoming Correspondence

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Bob:

Thank you for your letter on Kosovo. I ~~deeply~~ appreciate your strong statement of support for the courageous efforts of American troops engaged in the conflict and for NATO's vital role in seeking to reverse the ethnic cleansing so brutally carried out by Milosevic's forces there. I want to assure you that I share your concern about finding a speedy resolution to the conflict.

~~In my estimation,~~ given the terrible suffering the Kosovar Albanians have endured and the enormity of the crimes Milosevic has committed against them, there can be no lasting resolution until certain basic conditions are met. I have thought hard about your request to call for a 72-hour pause in the bombing of Yugoslavia. The question, it seems to me, is whether a pause would advance NATO's objective: to allow the refugees to return with safety and self-government. *I am not convinced it would.*

~~I would~~
~~I'd like to explain why~~ I think it is essential NATO continue its campaign without pause, even as we push forward on the diplomatic track. Were we confronting an adversary other than Milosevic, such a pause might be appropriate. But we have a long history of dealing with Milosevic, whose hate-filled nationalistic policies have sparked four wars in the last decade, causing unspeakable suffering and misery to hundreds of thousands. He has violated every obligation he has undertaken, and for more than a year he rejected every overture toward peace in Kosovo.

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his forces, allows the refugees to return unconditionally, and permits the deployment of an international security force to protect all Kosovars, both ethnic Albanian and Serb.

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~~take over?~~ *stet*
I want to assure you that we are pressing forward on the diplomatic front as you urge and we are actively engaging the Russians in this effort. Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott just met with Russian Special Kosovo Envoy Chernomyrdin and Finnish President Ahtisaari. Following that round of meetings, Chernomyrdin went to Belgrade for talks with Milosevic. At this time, reports indicate that the FRY accepted the basic principles of the international community and agreed to comply with a resolution in accordance with the United Nations charter that would be issued by the Security Council. We, of course, would welcome any progress in bringing FRY officials to accept NATO's conditions.

I firmly believe that NATO's air campaign is not only justified, it is demanded, and it is working. In recent days I have met with many Americans who expressed the conviction that America's moral leadership in this crisis is a defining moment as the world prepares to enter the new millennium. Thank you again for your thoughtful letter and I appreciate your support.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Bob Clement
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515