

FOIA MARKER

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Folder Title:

Chronos for December 1998 [2]

Staff Office-Individual:

Kosovo Office-Schulte, Gregory

Original OA/ID Number:

1706

Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:	Stack:
39	1	6	2	V

UNCLASSIFIED
NSC/RMO PROFILE

RECORD ID: 9807032
RECEIVED: 14 OCT 98 11

TO: ENGEL, ELIOT L
ET AL

FROM: PRESIDENT

DOC DATE: 28 DEC 98
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: KOSOVO
CO

HUMAN RIGHTS
ALBANIA

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO LTR FM REP ENGEL ET AL ON HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN KOSOVO

ACTION: FOR DISPATCH

DUE DATE: 26 OCT 98 STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: HURLEY

LOGREF:

FILES: WH

NSCP:

CODES:

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

FOR ACTION
WH STRIPPING DESK

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO
HURLEY
NSC CHRON
RUDMAN

COMMENTS: _____

DISPATCHED BY _____ DATE _____ BY HAND W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSSWD

CLOSED BY: NSGP

DOC 4 OF 4

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED
ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

RECORD ID: 9807032

DOC ACTION OFFICER

CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

001 HURLEY	Z 98101411 PREPARE MEMO FOR BERGER
002 BERGER	Z 98111915 FWD TO PRESIDENT FOR SIGNATURE
002 STEIN, L	Z 98111919 FWD TO PRESIDENT FOR SIGNATURE
002 EXECSEC	Z 98112019 FOR FURTHER ACTION
003	X 99010216 KERRICK SGD MEMO
003 PRESIDENT	Z 99010216 FOR SIGNATURE
004	X 99010510 PRESIDENT SGD LTR
004 WH STRIPPING DESK	X 99010510 FOR DISPATCH

DISPATCH DATA SUMMARY REPORT

DOC DATE DISPATCH FOR ACTION

DISPATCH FOR INFO

003	990102		VICE PRESIDENT
003	990102		WH CHIEF OF STAFF
004	981228	BERMAN, HOWARD L	
004	981228	FRANKS, BOB	
004	981228	GUTIERREZ, LUIS V	
004	981228	HALL, TONY P	
004	981228	KLECZKA, GERALD D	
004	981228	LEWIS, JOHN	
004	981228	MCCARTHY, KAREN	
004	981228	SCHUMER, CHARLES E	
004	981228	TOWNS, EDOLPHUS	
004	981228	WATTS, J C	
004	981228	WH STRIPPING DESK	

UNCLASSIFIED

National Security Council
The White House

PROOFED BY: _____ LOG # 7032

URGENT NOT PROOFED: _____ SYSTEM PRS NSC INT ARS

BYPASSED WW DESK: _____ DOCLOG Duk A/O _____

	SEQUENCE TO	INITIAL/DATE	DISPOSITION
Cosgriff			
Rice	<u>1</u>	<u>(R) 11/18</u>	<u>Ed + Done</u>
Davies			
Kerrick	<u>2</u>	<u>(R) 11/19</u>	
Steinberg			
Berger			
Situation Room			
West Wing Desk	<u>3</u>	<u>TTC 11/19</u>	<u>Greenberg</u>
Records Mgt.			

A = Action I = Information D = Dispatch R = Retain N = No Further Action

CC:

COMMENTS: Incoming arrived 14 Oct.

(R)

Exec Sec Office has diskette yes

National Security Council
The White House

PROOFED BY: _____ LOG # 7032

URGENT NOT PROOFED: _____ SYSTEM (PRS) NSC INT ARS

BY PASSED WW DESK: _____ DOCLOG DIC A/O _____

	SEQUENCE TO	INITIAL/DATE	DISPOSITION
Cosgriff	<u>1</u>	<u>kg 1/5</u>	
Rice			
Davies			
Kerrick			
Steinberg			
Berger			
Situation Room			
West Wing Desk	<u>2</u>	<u>TTC 12/5/99</u>	<u>D</u>
Records Mgt.	<u>3</u>		<u>D</u>

A = Action I = Information D = Dispatch R = Retain N = No Further Action

CC:

COMMENTS:

Date December 28, 1998
January 4, 1999

Exec Sec Office has diskette _____

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

December 31, 1998

Staff Secretary:

RE: Package 7032 - Congress **99 JAN 2 PM 2:19**
Letters on Kosovo

We have made your recommended edits to the Presidential letter and have included 11 letters for the President's signature. Other signatories of the incoming letter were also signatories of another incoming letter on Kosovo/humanitarian crisis and will receive letters under another package 7096. I have highlighted the names.

I have included a copy of package 7096; the letters have been signed and dated December 28.

Please call if you have any questions.

June Bartlett



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 28, 1998

Dear Eliot:

Thank you for your letter on the urgent need to end the humanitarian crisis in Kosovo. I share your concern and appreciate your ideas on how to resolve the conflict.

From the beginning, we have had three overriding objectives in Kosovo. First, to end the violence that threatens the fragile stability of the Balkans. Second, to prevent a humanitarian crisis from becoming a catastrophe, and third, to help the Kosovar people achieve a high degree of self-government.

We have made substantial progress on each of these objectives. NATO determination backed by the credible threat of force has led to a cease-fire, followed by a substantial reduction of Serb security forces in Kosovo. Now that the shooting has stopped and security checkpoints have been dismantled, more than 40,000 displaced people have returned to their homes. A major international relief effort, involving dozens of humanitarian organizations daily delivering vital supplies to Kosovars, is well underway.

Since the eruption of the conflict in February, we have been aggressively pushing both sides to find a political settlement. The current draft agreement, just as you recommend, will enable Kosovars to "control their own destiny." It offers them a high degree of autonomy, an indigenous police force, and complete control over education, health and other institutions that most affect their daily lives. We are working hard to convince armed insurgent groups in Kosovo that they, too, must cooperate to bring about a peaceful settlement.

In order to verify Belgrade's compliance, NATO has implemented an intrusive air surveillance regime. We are rapidly building a 2,000-person verification mission, with personnel and funds contributed by OSCE nations, headed by Bill Walker, an experienced American diplomat. In support of this mission, NATO

is establishing a force in Macedonia that will be close at hand to extract verifiers, should that become necessary.

As you point out, the United States has an important national interest in a peaceful, stable Balkans. Spillover violence threatens the fragile stability of the entire region, including Bosnia, and an already struggling Albania. Greece and Turkey could be drawn in. We need to prevent the conflict in Kosovo from spiraling out of control.

I agree with your assessment of Milosevic's motivations. We know that he ended his campaign of hatred only because he fears NATO military action. NATO has retained authority and has forces already identified and ready to act if he backslides.

Like you, I have been appalled by the atrocities committed in Kosovo against innocent civilians. We strongly support the authority of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) to investigate war crimes and crimes against humanity in Kosovo. With respect to your call for the indictment of Milosevic, we will go where the evidence developed by ICTY and others leads us. No war criminal in the Former Republic of Yugoslavia should feel beyond the reach of international justice.

I do not underestimate the difficulties that lie ahead, but I believe we are headed in the right direction. Again, thank you for writing and sharing your thoughts with me on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eliot", written in a cursive, stylized script.

The Honorable Eliot L. Engel
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 28, 1998

Dear Howard:

Thank you for your letter on the urgent need to end the humanitarian crisis in Kosovo. I share your concern and appreciate your ideas on how to resolve the conflict.

From the beginning, we have had three overriding objectives in Kosovo. First, to end the violence that threatens the fragile stability of the Balkans. Second, to prevent a humanitarian crisis from becoming a catastrophe, and third, to help the Kosovar people achieve a high degree of self-government.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Berman", written in a cursive, stylized script.

The Honorable Howard L. Berman
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-0526

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 28, 1998

Dear Representative Franks:

Thank you for your letter on the urgent need to end the humanitarian crisis in Kosovo. I share your concern and appreciate your ideas on how to resolve the conflict.

From the beginning, we have had three overriding objectives in Kosovo. First, to end the violence that threatens the fragile stability of the Balkans. Second, to prevent a humanitarian crisis from becoming a catastrophe, and third, to help the Kosovar people achieve a high degree of self-government.

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I do not underestimate the difficulties that lie ahead, but I believe we are headed in the right direction. Again, thank you for writing and sharing your thoughts with me on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Clinton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and a long, sweeping underline.

The Honorable Bob Franks
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-3007

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 28, 1998

Dear Luis:

Thank you for your letter on the urgent need to end the humanitarian crisis in Kosovo. I share your concern and appreciate your ideas on how to resolve the conflict.

From the beginning, we have had three overriding objectives in Kosovo. First, to end the violence that threatens the fragile stability of the Balkans. Second, to prevent a humanitarian crisis from becoming a catastrophe, and third, to help the Kosovar people achieve a high degree of self-government.

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I do not underestimate the difficulties that lie ahead, but I believe we are headed in the right direction. Again, thank you for writing and sharing your thoughts with me on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill", with a stylized, cursive script.

The Honorable Luis V. Gutierrez
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-1304

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 28, 1998

Dear Tony:

Thank you for your letter on the urgent need to end the humanitarian crisis in Kosovo. I share your concern and appreciate your ideas on how to resolve the conflict.

From the beginning, we have had three overriding objectives in Kosovo. First, to end the violence that threatens the fragile stability of the Balkans. Second, to prevent a humanitarian crisis from becoming a catastrophe, and third, to help the Kosovar people achieve a high degree of self-government.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill", written in a cursive, stylized script.

The Honorable Tony P. Hall
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-3503

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 28, 1998

Dear Jerry:

Thank you for your letter on the urgent need to end the humanitarian crisis in Kosovo. I share your concern and appreciate your ideas on how to resolve the conflict.

From the beginning, we have had three overriding objectives in Kosovo. First, to end the violence that threatens the fragile stability of the Balkans. Second, to prevent a humanitarian crisis from becoming a catastrophe, and third, to help the Kosovar people achieve a high degree of self-government.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill", with a stylized, cursive script.

The Honorable Gerald D. Kleczka
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-4904

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 28, 1998

Dear John:

Thank you for your letter on the urgent need to end the humanitarian crisis in Kosovo. I share your concern and appreciate your ideas on how to resolve the conflict.

From the beginning, we have had three overriding objectives in Kosovo. First, to end the violence that threatens the fragile stability of the Balkans. Second, to prevent a humanitarian crisis from becoming a catastrophe, and third, to help the Kosovar people achieve a high degree of self-government.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill", with a stylized, cursive flourish.

The Honorable John Lewis
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-1005

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 28, 1998

Dear Karen:

Thank you for your letter on the urgent need to end the humanitarian crisis in Kosovo. I share your concern and appreciate your ideas on how to resolve the conflict.

From the beginning, we have had three overriding objectives in Kosovo. First, to end the violence that threatens the fragile stability of the Balkans. Second, to prevent a humanitarian crisis from becoming a catastrophe, and third, to help the Kosovar people achieve a high degree of self-government.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill", written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

The Honorable Karen McCarthy
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-2505

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 28, 1998

Dear Chuck:

Thank you for your letter on the urgent need to end the humanitarian crisis in Kosovo. I share your concern and appreciate your ideas on how to resolve the conflict.

From the beginning, we have had three overriding objectives in Kosovo. First, to end the violence that threatens the fragile stability of the Balkans. Second, to prevent a humanitarian crisis from becoming a catastrophe, and third, to help the Kosovar people achieve a high degree of self-government.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill", written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-3209

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 28, 1998

Dear Ed:

Thank you for your letter on the urgent need to end the humanitarian crisis in Kosovo. I share your concern and appreciate your ideas on how to resolve the conflict.

From the beginning, we have had three overriding objectives in Kosovo. First, to end the violence that threatens the fragile stability of the Balkans. Second, to prevent a humanitarian crisis from becoming a catastrophe, and third, to help the Kosovar people achieve a high degree of self-government.

We have made substantial progress on each of these objectives. NATO determination backed by the credible threat of force has led to a cease-fire, followed by a substantial reduction of Serb security forces in Kosovo. Now that the shooting has stopped and security checkpoints have been dismantled, more than 40,000 displaced people have returned to their homes. A major international relief effort, involving dozens of humanitarian organizations daily delivering vital supplies to Kosovars, is well underway.

Since the eruption of the conflict in February, we have been aggressively pushing both sides to find a political settlement. The current draft agreement, just as you recommend, will enable Kosovars to "control their own destiny." It offers them a high degree of autonomy, an indigenous police force, and complete control over education, health and other institutions that most affect their daily lives. We are working hard to convince armed insurgent groups in Kosovo that they, too, must cooperate to bring about a peaceful settlement.

In order to verify Belgrade's compliance, NATO has implemented an intrusive air surveillance regime. We are rapidly building a 2,000-person verification mission, with personnel and funds contributed by OSCE nations, headed by Bill Walker, an experienced American diplomat. In support of this mission, NATO

is establishing a force in Macedonia that will be close at hand to extract verifiers, should that become necessary.

As you point out, the United States has an important national interest in a peaceful, stable Balkans. Spillover violence threatens the fragile stability of the entire region, including Bosnia, and an already struggling Albania. Greece and Turkey could be drawn in. We need to prevent the conflict in Kosovo from spiraling out of control.

I agree with your assessment of Milosevic's motivations. We know that he ended his campaign of hatred only because he fears NATO military action. NATO has retained authority and has forces already identified and ready to act if he backslides.

Like you, I have been appalled by the atrocities committed in Kosovo against innocent civilians. We strongly support the authority of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) to investigate war crimes and crimes against humanity in Kosovo. With respect to your call for the indictment of Milosevic, we will go where the evidence developed by ICTY and others leads us. No war criminal in the Former Republic of Yugoslavia should feel beyond the reach of international justice.

I do not underestimate the difficulties that lie ahead, but I believe we are headed in the right direction. Again, thank you for writing and sharing your thoughts with me on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill", with a stylized, cursive flourish.

The Honorable Edolphus Towns
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-3210

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 28, 1998

Dear Representative Watts:

Thank you for your letter on the urgent need to end the humanitarian crisis in Kosovo. I share your concern and appreciate your ideas on how to resolve the conflict.

From the beginning, we have had three overriding objectives in Kosovo. First, to end the violence that threatens the fragile stability of the Balkans. Second, to prevent a humanitarian crisis from becoming a catastrophe, and third, to help the Kosovar people achieve a high degree of self-government.

We have made substantial progress on each of these objectives. NATO determination backed by the credible threat of force has led to a cease-fire, followed by a substantial reduction of Serb security forces in Kosovo. Now that the shooting has stopped and security checkpoints have been dismantled, more than 40,000 displaced people have returned to their homes. A major international relief effort, involving dozens of humanitarian organizations daily delivering vital supplies to Kosovars, is well underway.

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is establishing a force in Macedonia that will be close at hand to extract verifiers, should that become necessary.

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Like you, I have been appalled by the atrocities committed in Kosovo against innocent civilians. We strongly support the authority of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) to investigate war crimes and crimes against humanity in Kosovo. With respect to your call for the indictment of Milosevic, we will go where the evidence developed by ICTY and others leads us. No war criminal in the Former Republic of Yugoslavia should feel beyond the reach of international justice.

I do not underestimate the difficulties that lie ahead, but I believe we are headed in the right direction. Again, thank you for writing and sharing your thoughts with me on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Clinton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and a long, sweeping underline.

The Honorable J. C. Watts, Jr.
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-3604

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

'99 JAN 2 PM 2:19

January 2, 1999

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: SAMUEL BERGER *(K) fm*
LARRY STEIN *JIS*

SUBJECT: Response to Letter from Representative Engel,
et al. on the Humanitarian Crisis in Kosovo

signed
1-4-99

Purpose

Respond to a letter from Representative Engel and other representatives regarding the humanitarian crisis in Kosovo.

Background

Your response details NATO pressure that resulted in Milosevic's acceptance of the Kosovo Verification Mission and the NATO air verification regime and the improving humanitarian situation.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the letters at Tab A.

Attachments

Tab A Letters to Representative Engel, et al.
Tab B Incoming Correspondence

cc: Vice President
Chief of Staff

7032

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 6, 1998

ACTION:

~~BO~~ SCHULTE
LEGISLATIVEPIS. DRAFT RESPONSE
FOR POTUS SIGNATURE

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to express our very serious concern about the growing humanitarian crisis in Kosovo and to urge our country to demonstrate firm resolve in efforts to end Belgrade's campaign of ethnic cleansing.

As you are aware, the people of Kosovo, of whom more than 90% are ethnic Albanian, have faced harsh repression and ethnic discrimination throughout the 1990s. During the decade, many of us consistently warned that sooner or later the situation would boil over. Now, vital United States interests are at stake as the threat of a regional conflagration has grown and, with the approach of winter, a humanitarian catastrophe seems around the corner.

Tragically, hundreds of thousands of ethnic Albanian Kosovars have been forced out of their homes since the beginning of Milosevic's attacks. Many of the least fortunate are barely subsisting in the forests and mountains. And, only recently, credible news agencies reported the possible existence of two mass graves -- one allegedly containing the bodies of hundreds of children.

Earlier this year, you said that the United States would not permit another Bosnia-like situation to recur in Kosovo. We are afraid that with these reports of ethnic cleansing and mass murders, the world is witnessing a series of events in Kosovo alarmingly similar to that which consumed Bosnia.

Mr. President, in the short term, Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic only understands force, or at the very least the credible threat force will be used. Our recent military exercises and vague statements have not been adequate to demonstrate to Milosevic that his criminal policies have real consequences and have, in fact, undercut our credibility.

In Bosnia, you drew the line for Milosevic with air strikes and ended the horror. That is what is needed in Kosovo -- the same forceful resolve, not just empty rhetoric. Specifically, our diplomats should tell Milosevic that unless his troops immediately end attacks on civilians and withdraw, NATO will employ its airpower to halt the crisis.

Furthermore, we knew that Milosevic was a war criminal when he perpetrated his genocidal campaign in Bosnia. Now that his

OCT 14 1998

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

The President
October 6, 1998
page two

security services are carrying out a similar campaign of ethnic cleansing in Kosova, the United States should strongly urge the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia to move ahead with the indictment of Milosevic for war crimes and crimes against humanity, as recommended by the House and Senate.

After halting the bloodshed and the coming humanitarian catastrophe, the world can then focus on what the ultimate status of Kosova should be and how the long-standing conflict can be resolved. We believe that the legitimate political claims of the people of Kosova must be addressed in whatever settlement is negotiated by the parties. That means that the Kosovars cannot simply be expected to return to the status quo ante of limited autonomy, but must know that their rightful aspiration to control their own destiny will be incorporated into any agreement.

Finally, we would like to impress upon you the urgency with which we view this situation. If nothing is done very soon to halt Belgrade's brutal onslaught and alleviate the humanitarian crisis, we fear that thousands of deaths could occur with the coming of winter.

Thank you for your consideration.

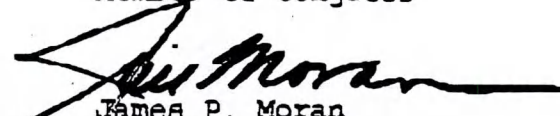
Sincerely,



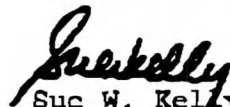
Elliot L. Engel
Member of Congress



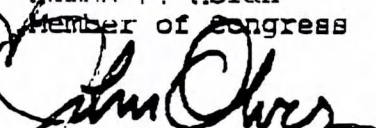
Peter T. King
Member of Congress



James P. Moran
Member of Congress



Sue W. Kelly
Member of Congress



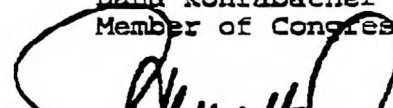
John W. Olver
Member of Congress



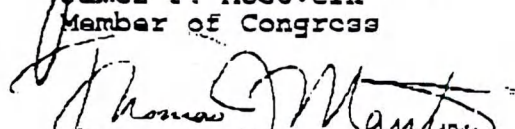
Dana Rohrabacher
Member of Congress



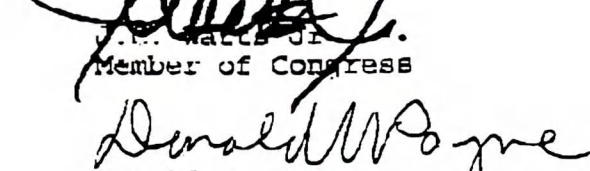
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



J. R. Watts Jr.
Member of Congress

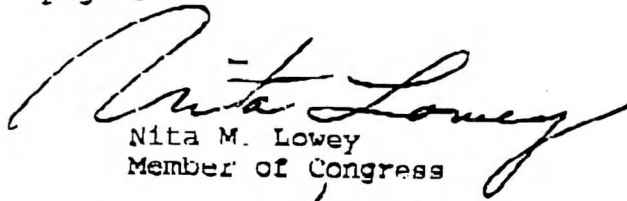


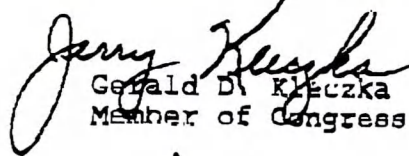
Thomas J. Manton
Member of Congress

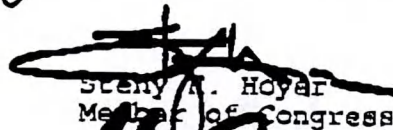


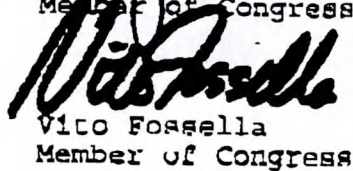
Donald M. Payne
Member of Congress

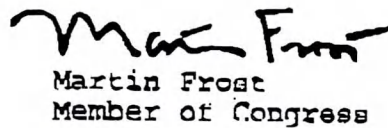
The President
October 6, 1998
page 3

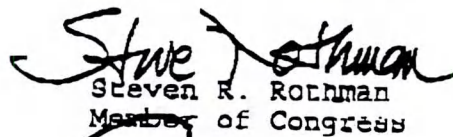

Nita M. Lowey
Member of Congress

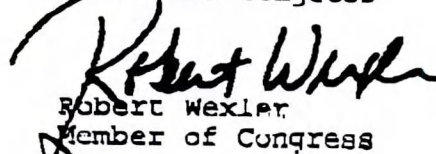

Gerald D. Kleczka
Member of Congress

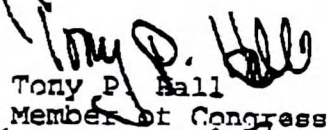

Steny Hoyer
Member of Congress

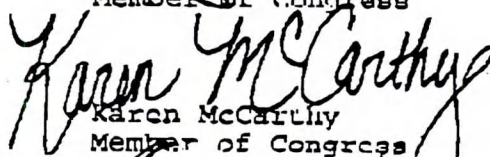

Vito Fossella
Member of Congress

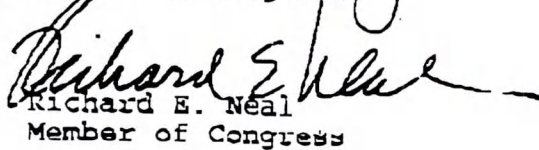

Martin Frost
Member of Congress


Steven R. Rothman
Member of Congress

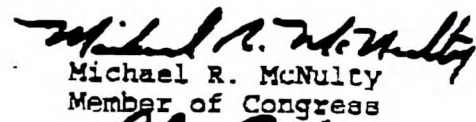

Robert Wexler
Member of Congress

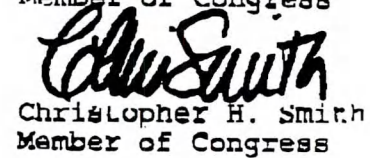

Tony P. Hall
Member of Congress

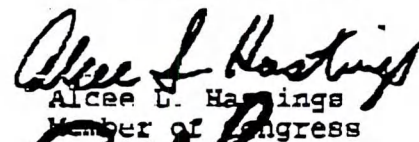

Karen McCarthy
Member of Congress

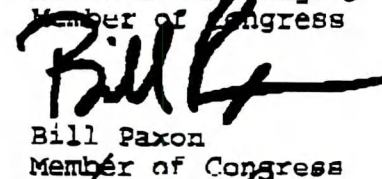

Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress

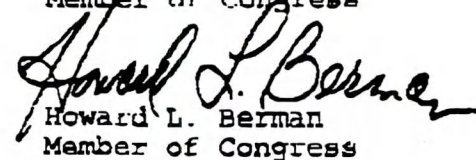

John Joseph Moakley
Member of Congress

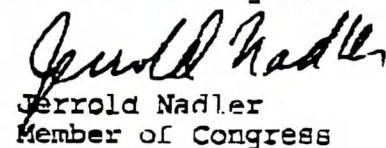

Michael R. McNulty
Member of Congress


Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress


Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

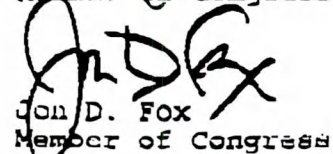

Bill Paxon
Member of Congress


Howard L. Berman
Member of Congress

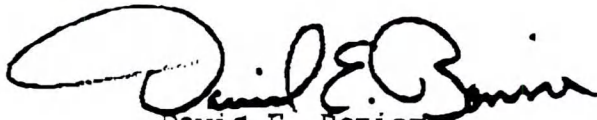

Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress

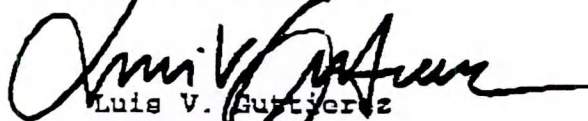

Frank Pallone Jr.
Member of Congress

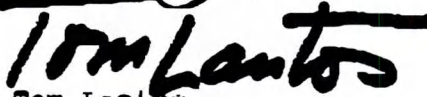

Barney Frank
Member of Congress

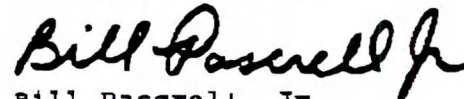

Jon D. Fox
Member of Congress

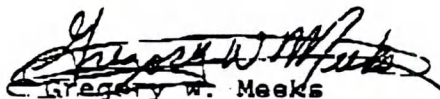
The President
October 6, 1998
page 4

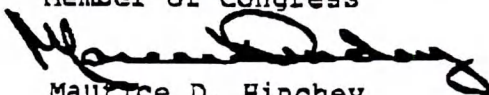

David E. Bonior
Member of Congress

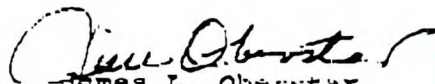

Luis V. Guttierrez
Member of Congress

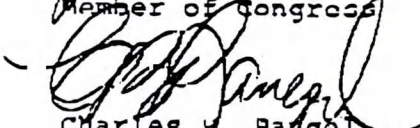

Tom Lantos
Member of Congress

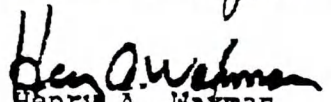

Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress

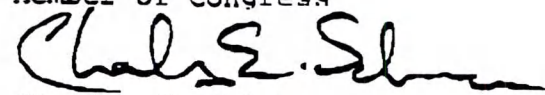

Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress

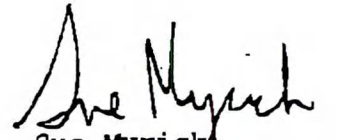

Maurice D. Hinchey
Member of Congress

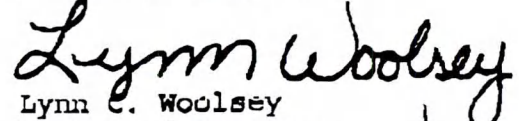

James L. Oberstar
Member of Congress


Charles W. Rangel
Member of Congress


Henry A. Waxman
Member of Congress

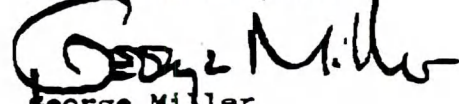

Charles E. Schumer
Member of Congress


Sue Myrick
Member of Congress

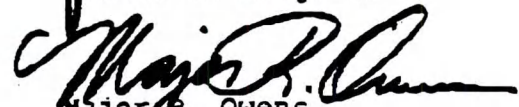

Lynn C. Woolsey
Member of Congress

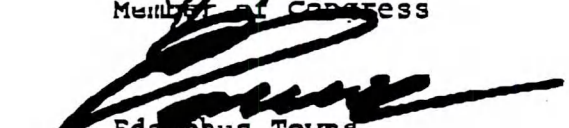

Bob Franks
Member of Congress


Carolyn McCarthy
Member of Congress

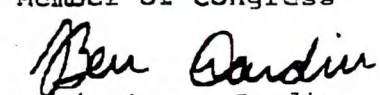

George Miller
Member of Congress


John Edward Porter
Member of Congress

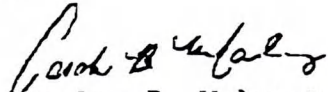

Major R. Owens
Member of Congress


Edolphus Towns
Member of Congress

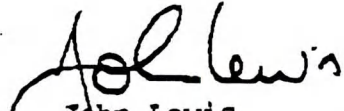
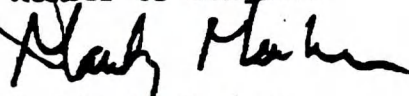

Michael P. Forbes
Member of Congress


Benjamin L. Cardin
Member of Congress

The President
October 6, 1998
page 5


Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress


Louise McIntosh Slaughter
Member of Congress


John Lewis
Member of Congress

Martin T. Meehan
Member of Congress

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

December 31, 1998

Staff Secretary:

RE: Package 7032 - Congressional
Letters on Kosovo

We have made your recommended edits to the Presidential letter and have included 11 letters for the President's signature. Other signatories of the incoming letter were also signatories of another incoming letter on Kosovo/humanitarian crisis and will receive letters under another package 7096. I have highlighted the names.

I have included a copy of package 7096; the letters have been signed and dated December 28.

Please call if you have any questions.

June Bartlett

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "June Bartlett", with a large, stylized initial "J" and a flourish at the end.

TO: PRESIDENT

FROM: ENGEL, ELIOT L
KING, PETER T
MORAN, JAMES P

DOC DATE: 06 OCT 98
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: KOSOVO
CO

HUMAN RIGHTS
ALBANIA

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN KOSOVO

ACTION: PREPARE MEMO FOR BERGER

DUE DATE: 26 OCT 98 STATUS: S

STAFF OFFICER: HURLEY

LOGREF:

FILES: WH

NSCP:

CODES:

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

FOR ACTION

HURLEY

FOR CONCURRENCE

FLANAGAN

NAPLAN

RUDMAN

SCHULTE

FOR INFO

BAKER

DOWLING

SCHWARTZ

WEISS

COMMENTS: IF FINAL REPLY CANNOT BE PREPARED BY DUE DATE, AN INTERIM RESPONSE
MUST BE PREPARED FOR MARA RUDMAN'S SIGNATURE.

DISPATCHED BY _____ DATE _____ BY HAND W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSSWD

CLOSED BY:

DOC 1 OF 1

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20504

7032

November 18, 1998

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR SAMUEL R. BERGER *(P) R*
THROUGH: GREG SCHULTE *JS*
FROM: MICHAEL HURLEY *CH*
SUBJECT: Presidential Letter to Representative Eliot Engel, et al. on the Humanitarian Crisis in Kosovo

Representative Engel and other representatives have written to the President about the humanitarian crisis in Kosovo.

Attached at Tab I is your memorandum to the President forwarding draft responses.

Concurrence by: Mara Rudman *MR*

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the memorandum to POTUS attached at Tab I.

Attachments

Tab I Memorandum to the President
Tab A Letters to Representative Engel, et al.
Tab B Incoming Correspondence

PRESIDENTIAL/NSA CORRESPONDENCE

IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED

ACTION OFFICER:

Hurley

LOG NUMBER:

7032

DUE DATE:

26 Oct

DATE STAFFED:

14 Oct

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESSED TO:



PRESIDENT



NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR

FROM:

Reps Engel, King, etc

PREPARE A RESPONSE FOR THE PRESIDENT'S OR NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR'S SIGNATURE WITHIN 10 DAYS. IF A LETTER DOES NOT REQUIRE A RESPONSE, PLEASE RETURN IT TO RECORDS MANAGEMENT (RM 379) WITH THIS FORM, ANNOTATED ACCORDINGLY.

UNCLASSIFIED
NSC/RMO PROFILE

RECORD ID: 9807096
RECEIVED: 16 OCT 98 15

TO: OLVER, JOHN
ET AL

FROM: PRESIDENT

DOC DATE: 28 DEC 98
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: KOSOVO
CO

NATO

Al

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: LTR TO REP OLVER ET AL RE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN KOSOVO

ACTION: PRESIDENT SGD LTR

DUE DATE: 28 OCT 98 STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: SCHULTE

LOGREF:

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

HURLEY
NSC CHRON
RUDMAN
SCHULTE

COMMENTS:

DISPATCHED BY DMK DATE 12/31 BY HAND W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSDMK

CLOSED BY: NSDMK

DOC 4 OF 4

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED
ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

RECORD ID: 9807096

DOC ACTION OFFICER

CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

001 SCHULTE	Z 98101615 PREPARE MEMO FOR BERGER
002 BERGER	Z 98111915 FWD TO PRESIDENT FOR SIGNATURE
002 STEIN, L	Z 98111919 FOR SIGNATURE
002 EXECSEC	Z 98112019 FOR FURTHER ACTION
002 STEIN, L	Z 98123014 FOR SIGNATURE
003	X 98123014 KERRICK SGD MEMO
003 PRESIDENT	Z 98123014 FOR SIGNATURE
004	X 98123114 KERRICK SGD MEMO
004 PRESIDENT	X 98123114 PRESIDENT SGD LTR

DISPATCH DATA SUMMARY REPORT

DOC DATE DISPATCH FOR ACTION

DISPATCH FOR INFO

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003 981229	WH CHIEF OF STAFF
004 981228 WH STRIPPING DESK	
004 981228 OLVER, JOHN	
004 981228 ALLEN, THOMAS	
004 981228 BALDACCI, JOHN	
004 981228 BECERRA, XAVIER	
004 981228 BEREUTER, DOUGLAS K	
004 981228 BOEHLERT, SHERWOOD L	
004 981228 BONIOR, DAVID E	
004 981228 BOYD, ALLEN	
004 981228 CARDIN, BENJAMIN L	
004 981228 CUMMINGS, ELIJAH	
004 981228 DAVIS, THOMAS M III	
004 981228 DELAHUNT, WILLIAM D	
004 981228 DELAURO, ROSA	
004 981228 DEUTSCH, PETER	
004 981228 ENGEL, ELIOT L	
004 981228 FARR, SAM	
004 981228 FORBES, MICHAEL P	
004 981228 FOSSELLA, VITO	
004 981228 FOX, JON D	
004 981228 FRANK, BARNEY	
004 981228 FROST, MARTIN	
004 981228 FURSE, ELIZABETH	
004 981228 GEJDENSON, SAMUEL	
004 981228 HASTINGS, ALCEE L	
004 981228 HINCHEY, MAURICE D	
004 981228 HORN, STEVE	
004 981228 HOUGHTON, AMORY	
004 981228 HOYER, STENY H	
004 981228 JOHNSON, NANCY L	
004 981228 KAPTUR, MARCY	
004 981228 KELLY, SUE W	
004 981228 KENNEDY, JOSEPH P	
004 981228 KING, PETER T	
004 981228 LANTOS, TOM	

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UNCLASSIFIED
DISPATCH DATA SUMMARY REPORT

RECORD ID: 9807096

<u>DOC</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>DISPATCH FOR ACTION</u>	<u>DISPATCH FOR INFO</u>
004	981228	LAZIO, RICK A	
004	981228	LEE, SHEILA JACKSON	
004	981228	LEWIS, JOHN	
004	981228	LOWEY, NITA M	
004	981228	MALONEY, CAROLYN B	
004	981228	MALONEY, JAMES H	
004	981228	MANTON, THOMAS J	
004	981228	MARKEY, EDWARD J	
004	981228	MCCARTHY, KAREN	
004	981228	MCDERMOTT, JIM	
004	981228	MCGOVERN, JAMES	
004	981228	MCNULTY, MICHAEL R	
004	981228	MEEHAN, MARTIN T	
004	981228	MEEK, CARRIE	
004	981228	MEEKS, GREGORY W	
004	981228	MENENDEZ, ROBERT	
004	981228	MILLER, GEORGE	
004	981228	MOAKLEY, JOE	
004	981228	MORAN, JAMES P	
004	981228	MORELLA, CONSTANCE A	
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004	981228	NADLER, JERROLD	
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004	981228	OBERSTAR, JAMES L	
004	981228	OLVER, JOHN	
004	981228	OWENS, MAJOR R	
004	981228	PALLONE, FRANK	
004	981228	PASCARELL, WILLIAM	
004	981228	PAXON, L WILLIAM	
004	981228	PAYNE, DONALD M	
004	981228	PELOSI, NANCY	
004	981228	PORTER, JOHN E	
004	981228	RANGEL, CHARLES B	
004	981228	ROHRABACHER, DANA	
004	981228	ROTHMAN, STEVEN	
004	981228	ROUKEMA, MARGE	
004	981228	RUSH, BOBBY L	
004	981228	SABO, MARTIN O	
004	981228	SANCHEZ, LORETTA	
004	981228	SAXTON, H JAMES	
004	981228	SHAYS, CHRISTOPHER	
004	981228	SLAUGHTER, LOUISE M	
004	981228	SMITH, CHRISTOPHER H	
004	981228	SOLOMON, GERALD B H	
004	981228	TRAFICANT, JAMES A	
004	981228	WAXMAN, HENRY A	
004	981228	WELDON, DAVE	
004	981228	WEXLER, ROBERT	
004	981228	WHITFIELD, EDWARD R	
004	981228	WOLF, FRANK R	
004	981228	WOOLSEY, LYNN C	

UNCLASSIFIED

**National Security Council
The White House**

PROOFED BY: _____ LOG # 7096
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 BYPASSED WW DESK: _____ DOCLOG TTC A/O _____

	SEQUENCE TO	INITIAL/DATE	DISPOSITION
Cosgriff	_____	_____	_____
Rice	_____	_____	_____
Davies	_____	_____	_____
Kerrick	_____	_____	_____
Steinberg	_____	_____	_____
Berger	_____	_____	_____
Situation Room	_____	_____	_____
West Wing Desk	<u>1</u>	<u>TTC 12/31</u>	<u>Ø</u>
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A = Action	I = Information	D = Dispatch	R = Retain	N = No Further Action
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cc:

COMMENTS: DATE ALREADY DATED

98 DEC 31 AM 10:48

* Exec Sec Office has diskette _____

**National Security Council
The White House**

PROOFED BY: _____ LOG # 7096
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	SEQUENCE TO	INITIAL/DATE	DISPOSITION
<i>NEW</i> Cosgriff			
Rice	<u>1</u>	<u>D 11/18</u>	<u>Done</u>
Davies			
Kerrick	<u>2</u>	<u>D 11/19</u>	<u>done</u>
Steinberg	<u>copy</u>		
Berger	<u>copy</u>		
Situation Room			
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Records Mgt.			

A = Action	I = Information	D = Dispatch	R = Retain	N = No Further Action
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cc: _____

TERMINAL 19 OCT 1981

COMMENTS: Incoming arrived NSC 16 Oct.
②

-Exec Sec Office has diskette VPD

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 28, 1998

Dear Tom:

Thank you for your letter about the humanitarian crisis in Kosovo. I appreciate hearing your views on the best way to resolve the conflict. Your call for decisive U.S. and NATO action accurately describes the approach we implemented.

From the beginning, we have had three overriding objectives in Kosovo. First, to end the violence that threatens the fragile stability of the Balkans. Second, to prevent a humanitarian crisis from becoming a catastrophe, and third, to help the Kosovar people achieve a high degree of self-government.

We have made substantial progress on each of these objectives. NATO determination backed by the credible threat of force has led to a cease-fire, followed by a substantial reduction of Serb security forces in Kosovo. Now that the shooting has stopped and security checkpoints have been dismantled, more than 40,000 displaced people have returned to their homes and major international relief efforts have resumed. Dozens of humanitarian organizations are daily delivering vital supplies to Kosovars. These organizations are enjoying freedom of movement and access that they did not have before NATO pressure compelled Milosevic to end restrictions.

Since the eruption of the conflict in February we have been pushing both sides to find a political settlement and we are pushing even harder now. In line with your recommendation, we strongly support advancing the political, cultural and human rights of Kosovars. The current draft political agreement offers Kosovars a high degree of autonomy, an indigenous police force and complete control over education, health and other institutions that most affect their daily lives.

In order to verify Belgrade's compliance, NATO has implemented an intrusive air surveillance regime. We are rapidly building a 2,000-person verification mission, with personnel and funds

contributed by OSCE nations, headed by Bill Walker, an experienced American diplomat. In support of this mission, NATO is establishing a force in Macedonia that will be close at hand to extract verifiers, should that become necessary.

I agree with you that those who have committed war crimes and crimes against humanity must be held accountable for their actions. To that end, as you advocate, we support the work of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in its ongoing investigations in Kosovo.

I do not underestimate the difficulties that lie ahead, but I believe we are headed in the right direction. Again, thank you for writing and sharing your thoughts and ideas with me on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill", written in a cursive style.

The Honorable Thomas Allen
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-1901

The Honorable Thomas P. Lujan
House of Representatives
1630 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-1901

The Honorable John Baldacci
House of Representatives
1740 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-1902

The Honorable Xavier Becerra
House of Representatives
1119 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-0530

The Honorable Douglas Bereuter
House of Representatives
2184 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-2701

The Honorable Sherwood L. Boehlert
House of Representatives
2246 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-3223

The Honorable David E. Bonior
Democratic Whip
House of Representatives
2207 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-2210

The Honorable Allen Boyd
House of Representatives
1237 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-0902

The Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin
House of Representatives
104 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-2003

The Honorable Elijah Cummings
House of Representatives
2419 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-2007

The Honorable Thomas M. Davis, III
House of Representatives
224 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-4611

The Honorable William D. Delahunt
House of Representatives
1517 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-2110

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
House of Representatives
436 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-0703

The Honorable Peter Deutsch
House of Representatives
204 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-0920

The Honorable Eliot L. Engel
House of Representatives
2303 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-3217

The Honorable Sam Farr
House of Representatives
1117 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-0517

The Honorable Michael P. Forbes
House of Representatives
416 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-3201

The Honorable Vito Fossella
House of Representatives
2411 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-3213

The Honorable Jon D. Fox
House of Representatives
435 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-3813

The Honorable Barney Frank
House of Representatives
2210 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-2104

The Honorable Martin Frost
House of Representatives
2256 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-4324

The Honorable Elizabeth Furse
House of Representatives
316 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-3701

The Honorable Sam Gejdenson
House of Representatives
1401 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-0702

The Honorable Alcee L. Hastings
House of Representatives
1039 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-0923

The Honorable Maurice D. Hinchey
House of Representatives
2431 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-3226

The Honorable Stephen Horn
House of Representatives
438 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-0538

The Honorable Ando Houghton
House of Representatives
1110 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-3231

The Honorable Steny H. Hoyer
House of Representatives
1705 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-2005

The Honorable Nancy L. Johnson
House of Representatives
343 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-0706

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
House of Representatives
2311 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-3509

The Honorable Sue W. Kelly
House of Representatives
1222 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-3219

The Honorable Patrick J. Kennedy
House of Representatives
312 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-3901

The Honorable Peter T. King
House of Representatives
403 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-3203

The Honorable Tom Lantos
House of Representatives
2217 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-0512

The Honorable Rick Lazio
House of Representatives
2444 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-3202

The Honorable Sheila Jackson Lee
House of Representatives
410 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-4318

The Honorable John Lewis
House of Representatives
229 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-1005

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey
House of Representatives
2421 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-3218

The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney
House of Representatives
1330 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-3214

The Honorable James H. Maloney
House of Representatives
1213 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-0705

The Honorable Thomas J. Manton
House of Representatives
2235 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-3207

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
House of Representatives
2133 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-2107

The Honorable Carolyn McCarthy
House of Representatives
1725 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-3204

The Honorable Jim McDermott
House of Representatives
2349 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-4707

The Honorable James P. McGovern
House of Representatives
512 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-2103

The Honorable Michael R. McNulty
House of Representatives
2161 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-3221

The Honorable Martin T. Meehan
House of Representatives
2434 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-2105

The Honorable Carrie P. Meek
House of Representatives
404 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-0917

The Honorable Gregory W. Meeks
House of Representatives
1035 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-3206

House of Representatives
405 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-3013

House of Representatives
2205 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-0507

The Honorable John Joseph Moakley
House of Representatives
235 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-2109

The Honorable James P. Moran
House of Representatives
1214 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-4608

The Honorable Constance A. Morella
House of Representatives
2228 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-2008

The Honorable Sue Myrick
House of Representatives
230 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-3309

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler
House of Representatives
2448 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-3208

The Honorable Richard E. Neal
House of Representatives
2236 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-2102

The Honorable James L. Oberstar
House of Representatives
2366 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-2308

The Honorable John W. Olver
House of Representatives
1027 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-2101

The Honorable Major R. Owens
House of Representatives
2305 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-3211

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.
House of Representatives
420 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-3006

The Honorable William J. Pascrell, Jr.
House of Representatives
1722 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-3008

The Honorable Bill Paxon
House of Representatives
2412 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-3227

The Honorable Donald M. Payne
House of Representatives
2244 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-3010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
House of Representatives
2457 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-0508

The Honorable John Edward Porter
House of Representatives
2373 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-1310

The Honorable Charles B. Rangel
House of Representatives
2354 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-3215

The Honorable Dana Rohrabacher
House of Representatives
2338 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-0545

The Honorable Steven R. Rothman
House of Representatives
1607 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-3009

The Honorable Marge Roukema
House of Representatives
2469 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-3005

The Honorable Bobby L. Rush
House of Representatives
131 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-1301

The Honorable Martin Olav Sabo
House of Representatives
2336 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-2305

The Honorable Loretta Sanchez
House of Representatives
1529 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-0546

The Honorable Christopher Shays
House of Representatives
339 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-3003

The Honorable Christopher Shays
House of Representatives
1502 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-0702

The Honorable Louise McIntosh Slaughter
House of Representatives
2347 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-3228

The Honorable Christopher H. Smith
House of Representatives
2370 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-3004

The Honorable Gerald B. H. Solomon
House of Representatives
2206 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-3222

The Honorable James A. Traficant, Jr.
House of Representatives
2446 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-3517

The Honorable Henry A. Waxman
House of Representatives
2204 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-0529

The Honorable Curt Weldon
House of Representatives
2452 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-3807

The Honorable Robert Wexler
House of Representatives
1609 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-0919

The Honorable Ed Whitfield
House of Representatives
236 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-1701

The Honorable Frank R. Wolf
House of Representatives
241 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-4610

The Honorable Lynn C. Woolsey
House of Representatives
439 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-0506

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
DISTRIBUTION RECEIPT

LOG 9807096
DATE 28 DEC 98

SUBJECT: LTR TO REP OLVER ET AL RE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN KOSOVO
DOCUMENT CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

EXTERNAL DISTRIBUTION:

DATE

TIME

SIGNATURE

WH STRIPPING DESK

PRINT LAST NAME: _____

COPY: ORIGINAL

DATE, TIME, SIGN THE RECEIPT AND RETURN TO: NSC RECORDS MGNT. ROOM 379 OEOB
PAGE 01 OF 01 PAGES

MEMORANDUM FOR: WH STRIPPING DESK

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION:

TO: OLVER, JOHN

SOURCE: PRESIDENT

DATE: 28 DEC 98

SUBJ: LTR TO REP OLVER ET AL RE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN KOSOVO

REQUIRED ACTION: FOR DISPATCH

DUE DATE: 04 JAN 99

COMMENT:



FOR

JOHN W. FICKLIN

NSC RECORDS MANAGEMENT OFFICE

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 29, 1998

98 DEC 30 AM 11:54

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: SAMUEL BERGER (L) m
LARRY STEIN JJS

SUBJECT: Letter to Representative Olver, et al. on the
Humanitarian Crisis in Kosovo

Purpose

Respond to a letter from Representative Olver co-signed by 83 colleagues urging use of NATO military power to resolve the Kosovo situation.

Background

Representative Olver calls for the use of all necessary military power to stop the killing in Kosovo. He recommends that an emergency humanitarian operation be launched and argues that Milosevic should answer for war crimes.

Your reply summarizes NATO measures that have led to Milosevic's acceptance of intrusive verification regimes. You also describe the improving situation on the ground as refugees gradually return and relief agencies increase deliveries of needed supplies.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the letters to Representative Olver, et al. at Tab A.

Attachments

Tab A Letters to Representative Olver, et al.
Tab B Incoming Correspondence

cc: Vice President
Chief of Staff

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20504

7096

November 18, 1998

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR SAMUEL R. BERGER

(K) H

THROUGH: GREG SCHULTE

[Handwritten signature]

FROM: MICHAEL HURLEY

[Handwritten initials]

SUBJECT: Presidential Letter to Representative Olver,
et al. on the Humanitarian Crisis in Kosovo

Representative Olver and others wrote the President urging that the United States join its allies to end atrocities in Kosovo and alleviate the human suffering there.

Concurrence by: Mara Rudman

[Handwritten signature]

RECOMMENDATION

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

Attachments

Tab I Memorandum to the President

Tab A Letters to Representative Olver, et al.

Tab B Incoming Correspondence

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Staff Secretary
Reminder
item still
pending from
November
[Signature]

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: SAMUEL BERGER (L) m
LARRY STEIN JJS

SUBJECT: Letter to Representative Olver, et al. on the
Humanitarian Crisis in Kosovo

OK
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Dak
Dee
28

Purpose

Respond to a letter from Representative Olver co-signed by 83 colleagues urging use of NATO military power to resolve the Kosovo situation.

Background

Representative Olver calls for the use of all necessary military power to stop the killing in Kosovo. He recommends that an emergency humanitarian operation be launched and argues that Milosevic should answer for war crimes.

Your reply summarizes NATO measures that have led to Milosevic's acceptance of intrusive verification regimes. You also describe the improving situation on the ground as refugees gradually return and relief agencies increase deliveries of needed supplies.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the letters to Representative Olver, et al. at Tab A.

Attachments

Tab A Letters to Representative Olver, et al.
Tab B Incoming Correspondence

cc: Vice President
Chief of Staff

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear John:

Thank you for your letter about the humanitarian crisis in Kosovo. I appreciate hearing your views on the best way to resolve the conflict. Your call for decisive U.S. and NATO action accurately describes the approach we implemented.

From the beginning, we have had three overriding objectives in Kosovo. First, to end the violence that threatens the fragile stability of the Balkans. Second, to prevent a humanitarian crisis from becoming a catastrophe, and third, to help the Kosovar people achieve a high degree of self-government.

We have made substantial progress on each of these objectives. NATO determination backed by the credible threat of force has led to a cease-fire, followed by a substantial reduction of Serb security forces in Kosovo. Now that the shooting has stopped and security checkpoints have been dismantled, more than 40,000 displaced people have returned to their homes and major international relief efforts have resumed. Dozens of humanitarian organizations are daily delivering vital supplies to Kosovars. These organizations are enjoying freedom of movement and access that they did not have before NATO pressure compelled Milosevic to end restrictions.

Since the eruption of the conflict in February we have been pushing both sides to find a political settlement and we are pushing even harder now. In line with your recommendation, we strongly support advancing the political, cultural and human rights of Kosovars. The current draft political agreement offers Kosovars a high degree of autonomy, an indigenous police force and complete control over education, health and other institutions that most affect their daily lives.

In order to verify Belgrade's compliance, NATO has implemented an intrusive air surveillance regime. We are rapidly building a 2,000-person verification mission, with personnel and funds contributed by OSCE nations, headed by Bill Walker, an experienced American diplomat. In support of this mission, NATO is establishing a force in Macedonia that will be close at hand to extract verifiers, should that become necessary. ✓

I agree with you that those who have committed war crimes and crimes against humanity must be held accountable for their actions. To that end, as you advocate, we support the work of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in its ongoing investigations in Kosovo.

I do not underestimate the difficulties that lie ahead, but I believe we are headed in the right direction. Again, thank you for writing and sharing your thoughts and ideas with me on this important issue.

Sincerely,

The Honorable John W. Olver
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

October 9, 1998

The Honorable William J. Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We urge the United States and NATO to take decisive action to end the escalating humanitarian crisis in Kosova. We stood firmly by you when you vowed not to allow Kosova to become another Bosnia. Yet, that is exactly what is occurring. Therefore, the United States and NATO must act.

Since February 1998, Serbian dictator Slobodan Milosevic has pursued a bold policy of ethnic cleansing against his own citizens, 1.8 million ethnic Albanians of Kosova, fully 90% of the population of Kosova. Under his regime's renewed reign of terror, hundreds of Albanian villages have been destroyed, thousands of ethnic Albanians have been imprisoned, tortured and killed, and hundreds of thousands more have been displaced. With winter fast approaching and surrounding communities no longer able to absorb the influx of refugees, tens of thousands of ethnic Albanians will soon face death due to cold, disease, and starvation.

Our current foreign policy toward Kosova has not been effective. The economic sanctions imposed on Serbia by the United States and its allies -- which include the denial of Serbian membership in international organizations, the freeze of Serbian assets abroad, the ban of foreign investment in Serbia, and an arms embargo on Serbia -- have not thwarted the ultranationalist ambitions of the Milosevic regime. Over the course of this summer, in the face of these sanctions, Serbian forces intensified their war against innocent civilians, and pursued a new military strategy of shelling entire villages, not just engaging the Kosova Liberation Army (KLA).

We must not continue to enter into agreements with Milosevic that compromise our policy and our humanity. His continued presence in the region threatens not only the lives of the Kosovar Albanians, but the success of our policy in Bosnia and, ultimately, the stability of the Balkans. So long as we are seen as allowing Milosevic to proceed with his actions in Kosova with impunity, the Dayton Accords can never be fully implemented, and Bosnia, itself, will remain brutally divided. Indeed, the influx of Kosovar Albanians to Sarajevo is now jeopardizing the Sarajevo Agreement to promote the return of thousands of Croats and Serbs who fled during the Bosnian War.

The United States and our allies must not be deceived by the superficial calm that has pervaded Kosova during the last few days. It does not signal compliance. It reflects nothing more than the standard operating procedure of the Milosevic regime. Time and time again, Milosevic has shrewdly orchestrated his ethnic cleansing campaigns in order to evade international scrutiny and condemnation. The moment his genocidal acts capture the world's full attention, his forces idle -- only to gear-up again once the world has turned a blind eye.

We must not allow the world to overlook the ongoing atrocities in Kosova. UN Secretary General Kofi Annan issued an incriminating report this week which states that, despite some withdrawals, the Serbian military still has substantial forces in Kosova and is continuing to wage a campaign of terror and violence against the ethnic Albanians. The UN report cannot be ignored.

We must pursue NATO's plans for military action against Serbia in a serious and sustained manner. We must act to end the violence waged by the Milosevic regime and secure a political solution to the question of Kosova's future. **Specifically, we urge you to implement the following measures as soon as possible:**

1. Lead the United States and NATO in pursuing effective action to stop attacks by Serbian military forces on ethnic Albanians in Kosova, and to ensure that these attacks are not resumed.
2. Compel the complete withdrawal of Serbian military forces from Kosova, secure access to the vulnerable population for humanitarian aid, and protect the rights of the Albanian Kosovars to return to their homes in safety.
3. Ensure that the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) investigates the assaults occurring in Kosova.
4. Support an interim political settlement that grants Kosova status as a republic within Yugoslavia, and a coequal with Serbia and Montenegro. Oppose any settlement which compromises the political, cultural and human rights of the Albanian Kosovars under a veil of autonomy.

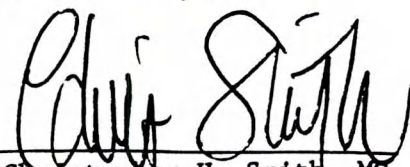
We strongly believe that, through his brutal actions, Milosevic has forfeited the right of Serbia to govern the citizens of Kosova. His denial of the rights of the Kosovar Albanians to speak their own language, to be educated in their own schools, and to work at jobs of their own choice, has for far too long gone unchallenged. His brazen and brutal attacks on their very right to live cannot be tolerated.

It is time for the United States to effectively support the Kosovar Albanians' right to live safely in their ancestral homes. As a nation that struggled for our own independence, we should give the people of Kosova our support.

Sincerely,



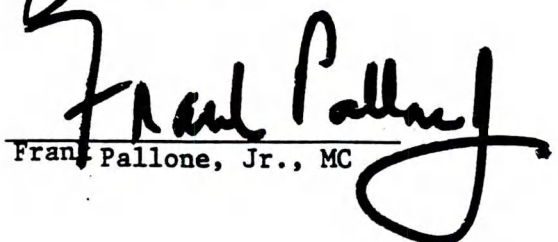
John W. Olver, MC



Christopher H. Smith, MC



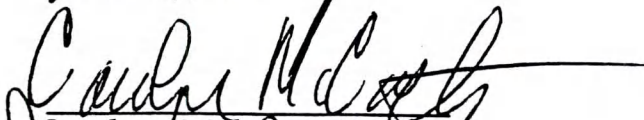
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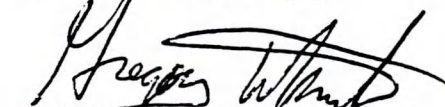

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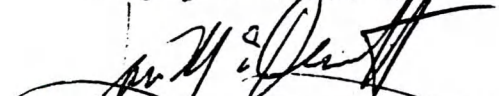

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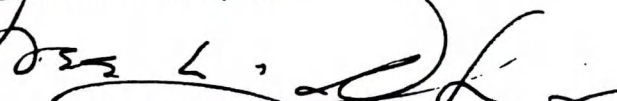

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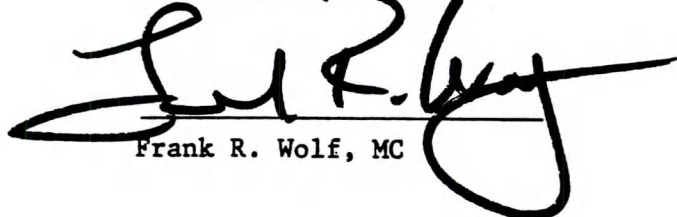

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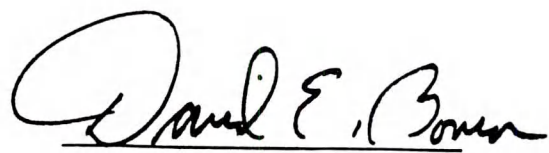

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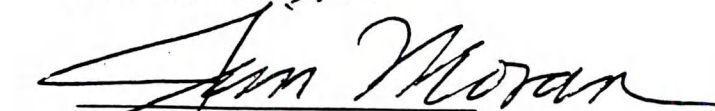

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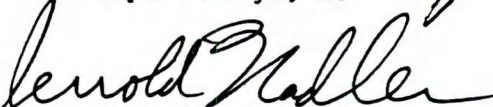

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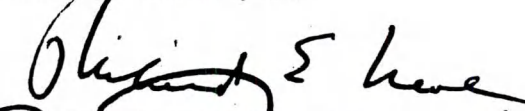

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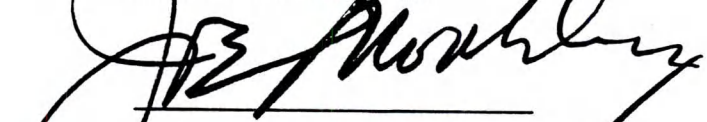

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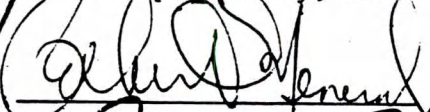

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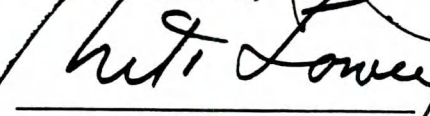

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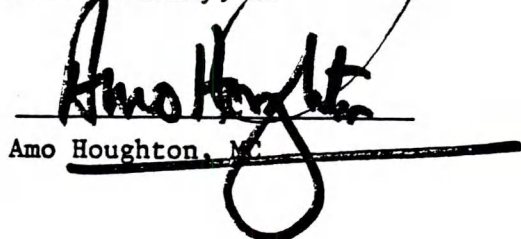

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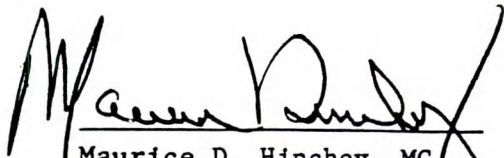

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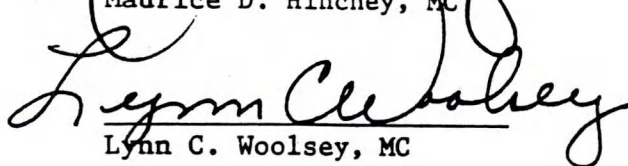

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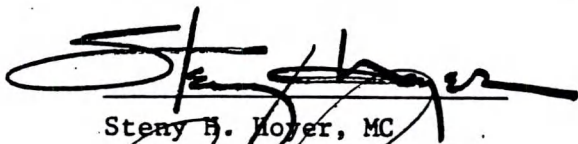

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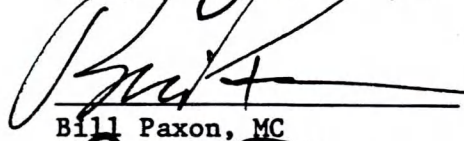

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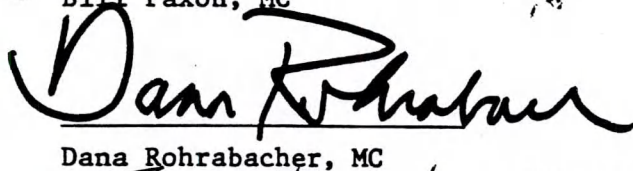

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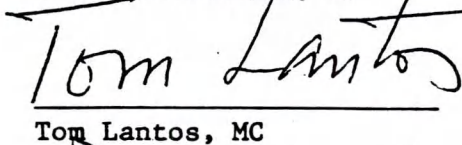

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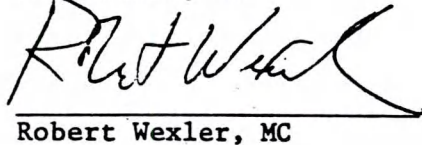

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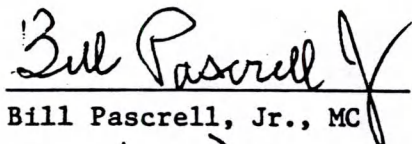

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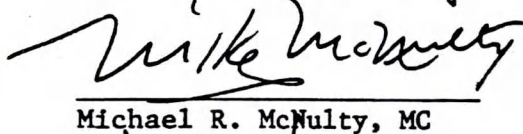

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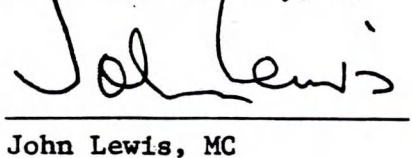

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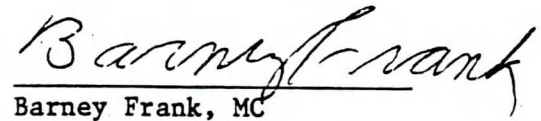

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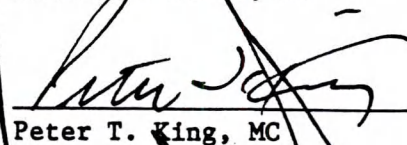

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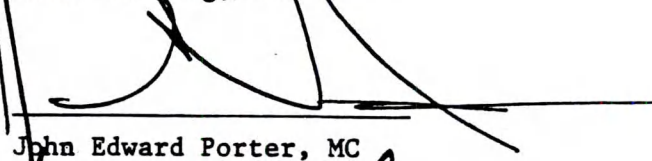

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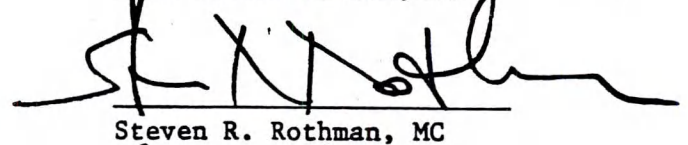

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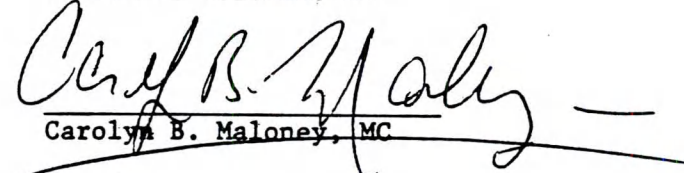

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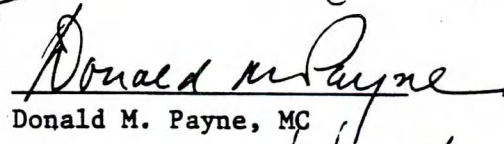

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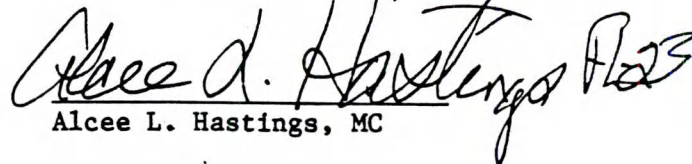

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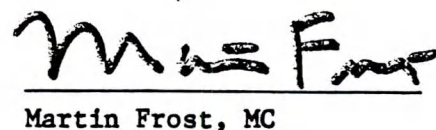

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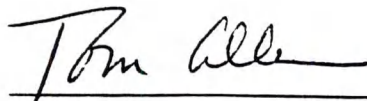

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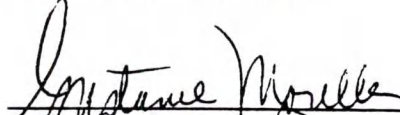

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Martin Frost, MC



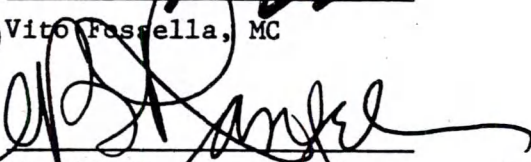
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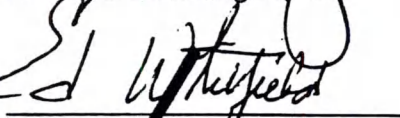
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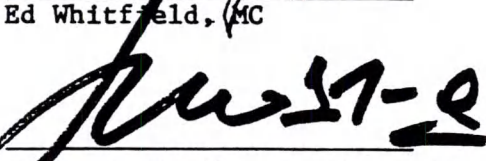
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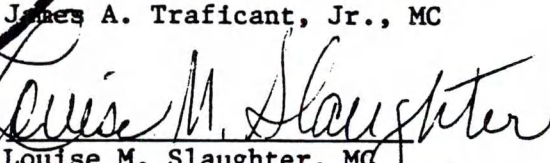
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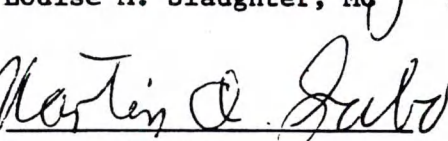
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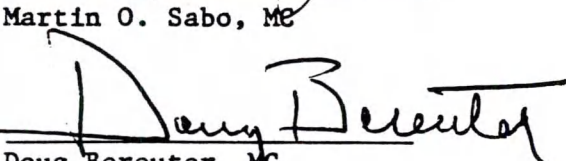
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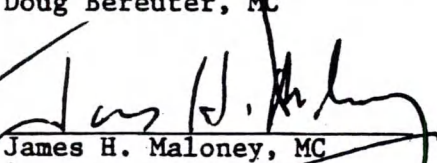
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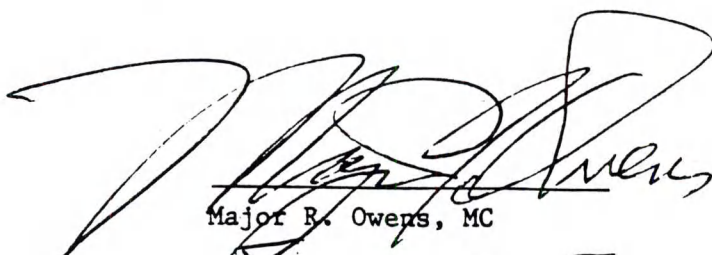
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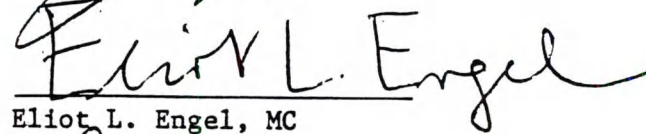


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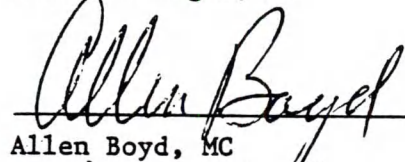


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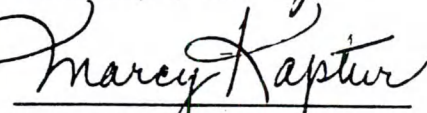

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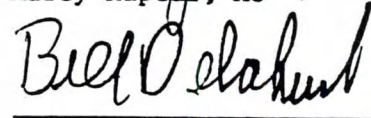
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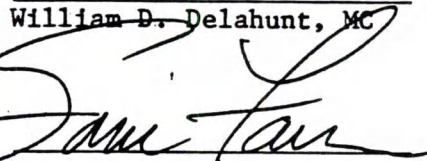
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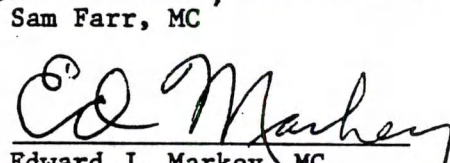
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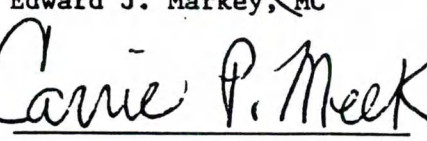
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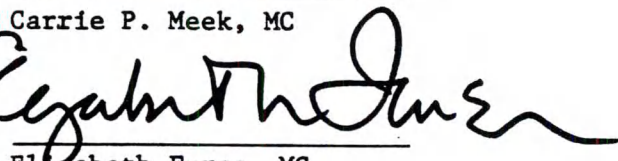
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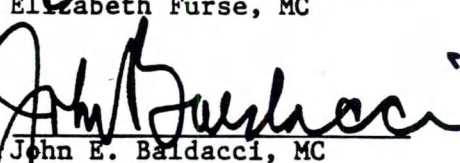
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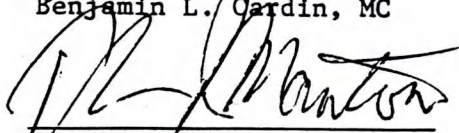


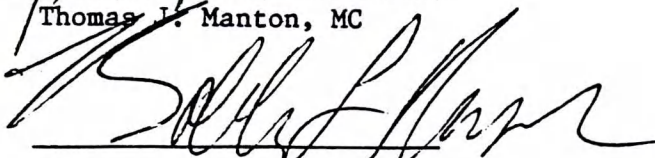
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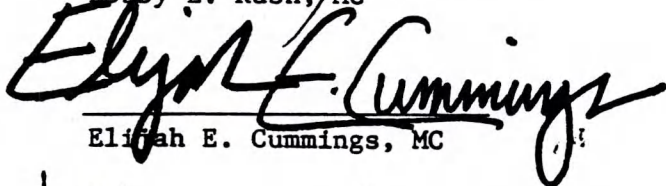


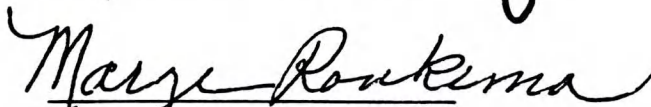
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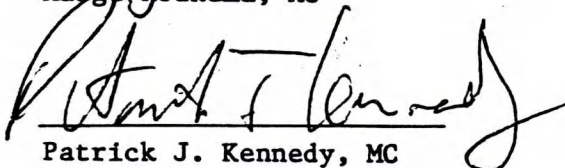

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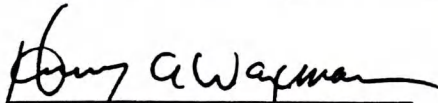

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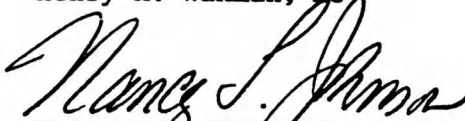

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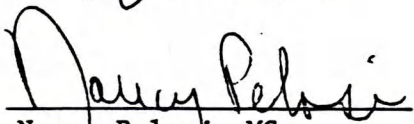

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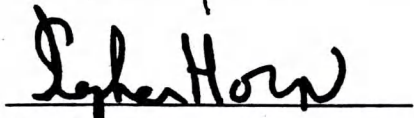

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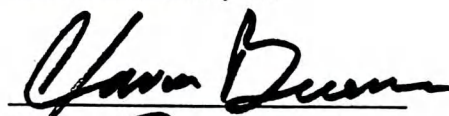

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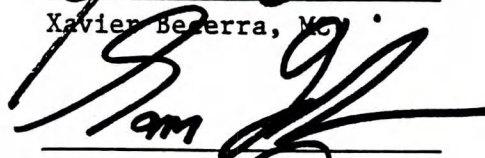

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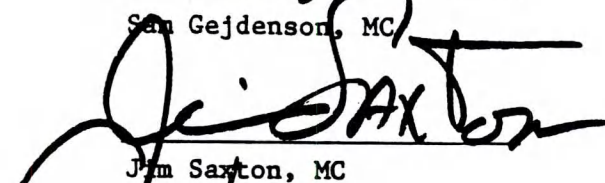

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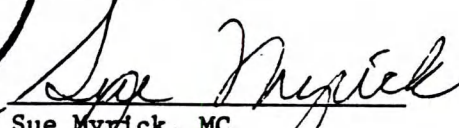

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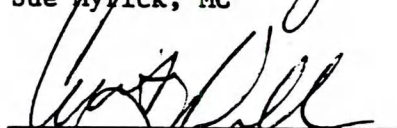

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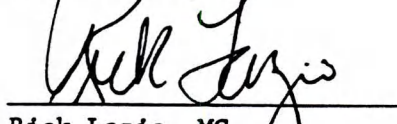

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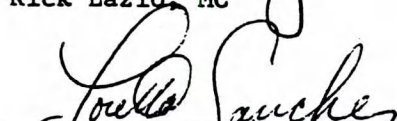

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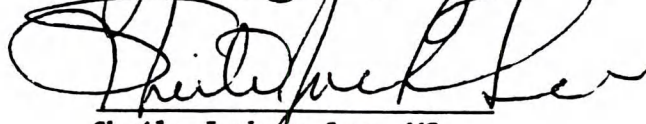

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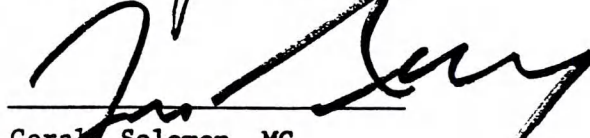

Sue Myrick, MC


Curt Weldon, MC


Rick Lazio, MC


Loretta Sanchez, MC


Sheila Jackson Lee, MC


Gerald Solomon, MC

cc: Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Secretary of Defense William Cohen
National Security Advisor Samuel Berger

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 21, 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR GLYN 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. Alfonse D'Amato (R-NY), regarding Israeli POWs;
- 2) Sen. Rick Santorum (R-PA), expressing concern over Kosovo;
- 3) Sen. John Warner (R-VA) and fourteen other Senators, regarding the establishment of a National Bipartisan Commission to review the current U.S.-Cuba foreign policy;
- 4) Rep. Gary L. Ackerman (D-NY) and thirty-one others Members of Congress, expressing support for the Administration's involvement in the Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations;
- 5) Rep. Benjamin Gilman (R-NY) and Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA), requesting the public release of the FBI report of the 1997 grenade attack in Cambodia which injured American Ron Abney;
- 6) Rep. George Miller (D-CA) and thirty-five other Members of Congress, regarding the arrest of General Augusto Pinochet; and,
- 7) Rep. John W. Olver (D-MA) and eighty-three other Members of Congress, expressing concern over Kosovo.

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ENCLOSURES

7096

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

October 9, 1998

The Honorable William J. Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We urge the United States and NATO to take decisive action to end the escalating humanitarian crisis in Kosova. We stood firmly by you when you vowed not to allow Kosova to become another Bosnia. Yet, that is exactly what is occurring. Therefore, the United States and NATO must act.

Since February 1998, Serbian dictator Slobodan Milosevic has pursued a bold policy of ethnic cleansing against his own citizens, 1.8 million ethnic Albanians of Kosova, fully 90% of the population of Kosova. Under his regime's renewed reign of terror, hundreds of Albanian villages have been destroyed, thousands of ethnic Albanians have been imprisoned, tortured and killed, and hundreds of thousands more have been displaced. With winter fast approaching and surrounding communities no longer able to absorb the influx of refugees, tens of thousands of ethnic Albanians will soon face death due to cold, disease, and starvation.

Our current foreign policy toward Kosova has not been effective. The economic sanctions imposed on Serbia by the United States and its allies -- which include the denial of Serbian membership in international organizations, the freeze of Serbian assets abroad, the ban of foreign investment in Serbia, and an arms embargo on Serbia -- have not thwarted the ultranationalist ambitions of the Milosevic regime. Over the course of this summer, in the face of these sanctions, Serbian forces intensified their war against innocent civilians, and pursued a new military strategy of shelling entire villages, not just engaging the Kosova Liberation Army (KLA).

We must not continue to enter into agreements with Milosevic that compromise our policy and our humanity. His continued presence in the region threatens not only the lives of the Kosovar Albanians, but the success of our policy in Bosnia and, ultimately, the stability of the Balkans. So long as we are seen as allowing Milosevic to proceed with his actions in Kosova with impunity, the Dayton Accords can never be fully implemented, and Bosnia, itself, will remain brutally divided. Indeed, the influx of Kosovar Albanians to Sarajevo is now jeopardizing the Sarajevo Agreement to promote the return of thousands of Croats and Serbs who fled during the Bosnian War.

The United States and our allies must not be deceived by the superficial calm that has pervaded Kosova during the last few days. It does not signal compliance. It reflects nothing more than the standard operating procedure of the Milosevic regime. Time and time again, Milosevic has shrewdly orchestrated his ethnic cleansing campaigns in order to evade international scrutiny and condemnation. The moment his genocidal acts capture the world's full attention, his forces idle -- only to gear-up again once the world has turned a blind eye.

The Honorable William J. Clinton
October 9, 1998 -- Page 2

We must not allow the world to overlook the ongoing atrocities in Kosova. UN Secretary General Kofi Annan issued an incriminating report this week which states that, despite some withdrawals, the Serbian military still has substantial forces in Kosova and is continuing to wage a campaign of terror and violence against the ethnic Albanians. The UN report cannot be ignored.

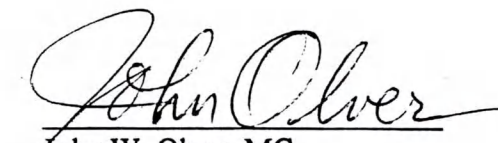
We must pursue NATO's plans for military action against Serbia in a serious and sustained manner. We must act to end the violence waged by the Milosevic regime and secure a political solution to the question of Kosova's future. **Specifically, we urge you to implement the following measures as soon as possible:**

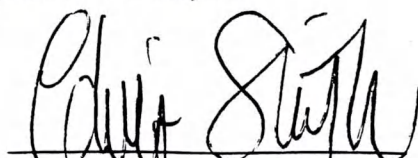
1. Lead the United States and NATO in pursuing effective action to stop attacks by Serbian military forces on ethnic Albanians in Kosova, and to ensure that these attacks are not resumed.
2. Compel the complete withdrawal of Serbian military forces from Kosova, secure access to the vulnerable population for humanitarian aid, and protect the rights of the Albanian Kosovars to return to their homes in safety.
3. Ensure that the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) investigates the assaults occurring in Kosova.
4. Support an interim political settlement that grants Kosova status as a republic within Yugoslavia, and a coequal with Serbia and Montenegro. Oppose any settlement which compromises the political, cultural and human rights of the Albanian Kosovars under a veil of autonomy.

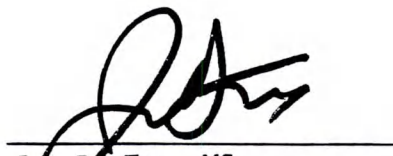
We strongly believe that, through his brutal actions, Milosevic has forfeited the right of Serbia to govern the citizens of Kosova. His denial of the rights of the Kosovar Albanians to speak their own language, to be educated in their own schools, and to work at jobs of their own choice, has for far too long gone unchallenged. His brazen and brutal attacks on their very right to live cannot be tolerated.

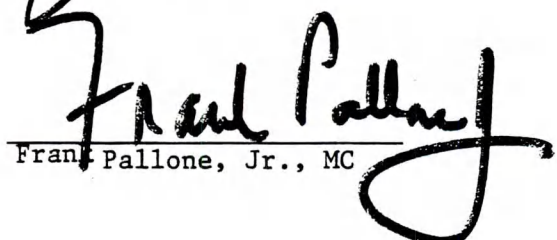
It is time for the United States to effectively support the Kosovar Albanians' right to live safely in their ancestral homes. As a nation that struggled for our own independence, we should give the people of Kosova our support.

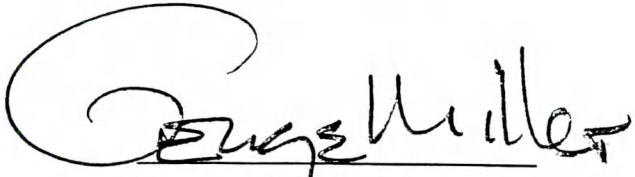
Sincerely,


John W. Olver, MC

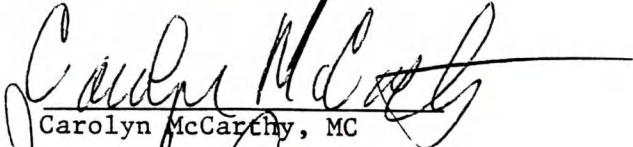

Christopher H. Smith, MC

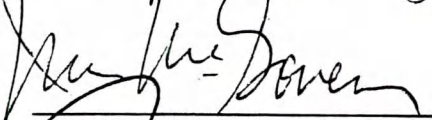

Jon D. Fox, MC

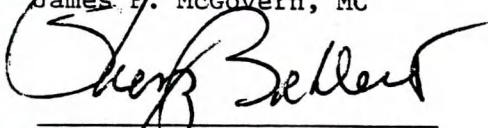

Frank Pallone, Jr., MC

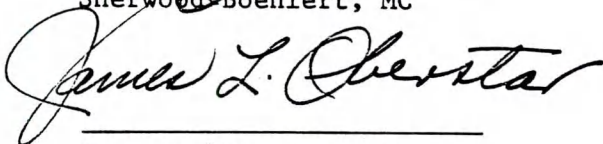

George Miller, MC

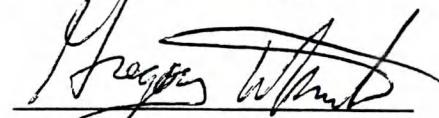

Sue Kelly, MC

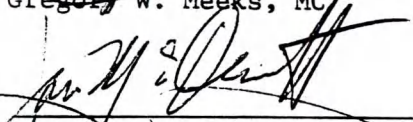

Carolyn McCarthy, MC

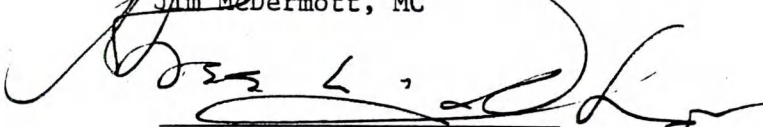

James P. McGovern, MC

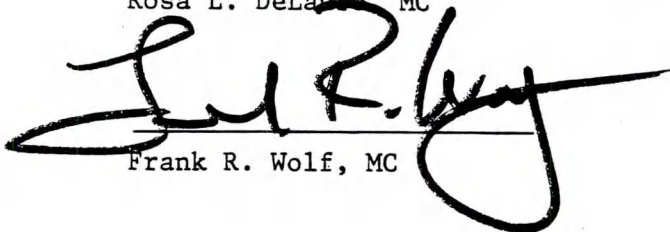

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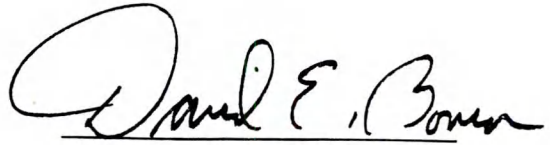

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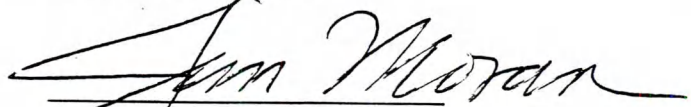

Gregory W. Meeks, MC

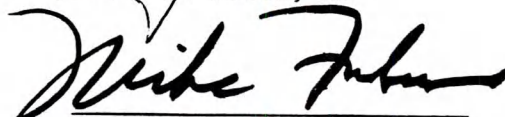

Jim McDermott, MC

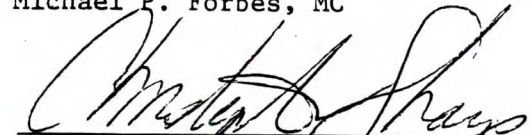

Rosa L. DeLauro, MC

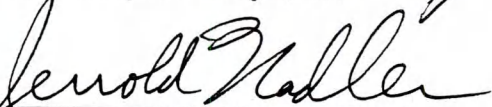

Frank R. Wolf, MC

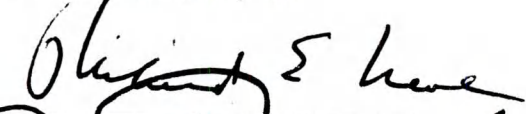

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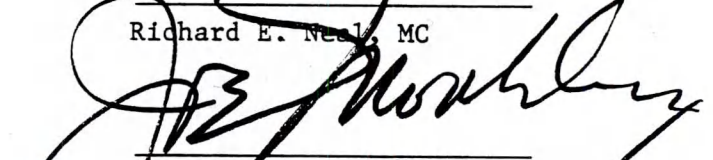

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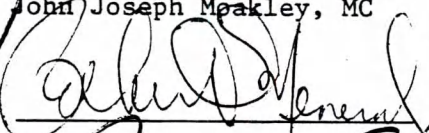

Michael P. Forbes, MC

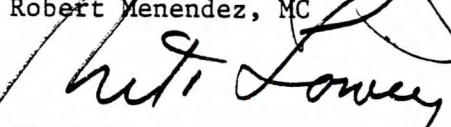

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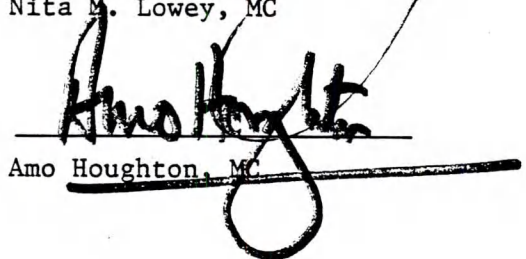

Jerrold Nadler, MC

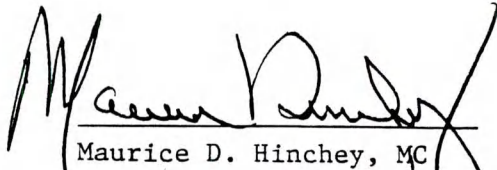

Richard E. Neal, MC

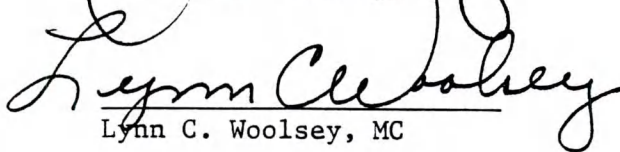

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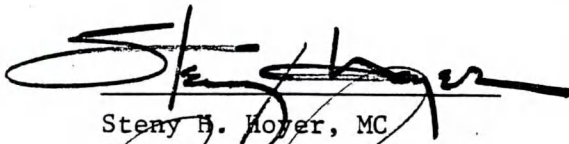

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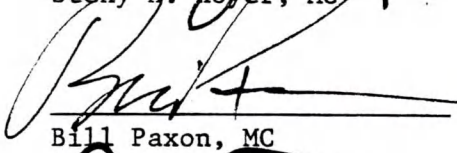

Nita M. Lowey, MC

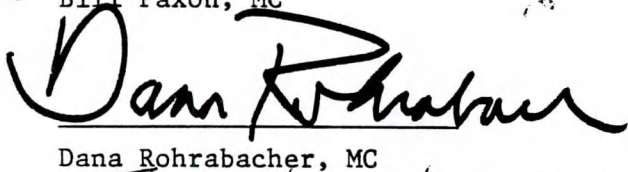

Amo Houghton, MC

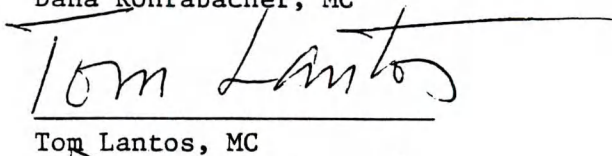

Maurice D. Hinchey, MC

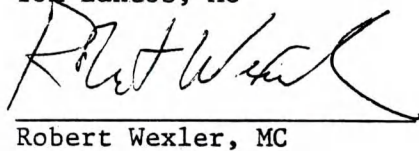

Lynn C. Woolsey, MC

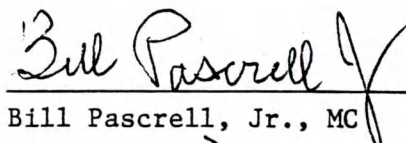

Steny H. Hoyer, MC

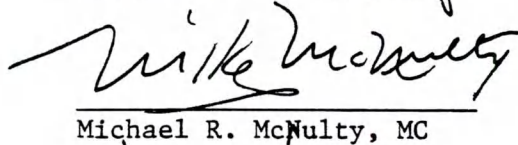

Bill Paxon, MC

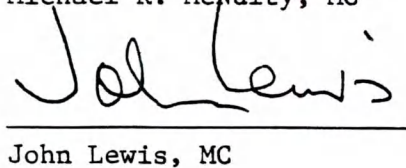

Dana Rohrabacher, MC

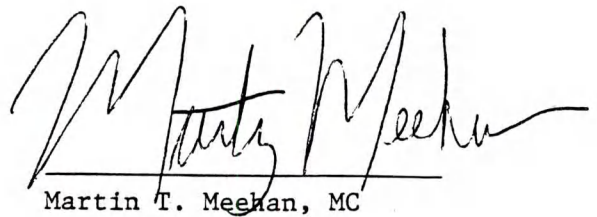

Tom Lantos, MC

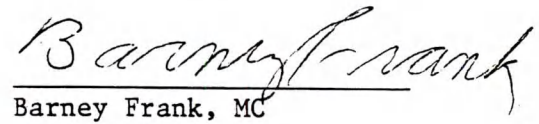

Robert Wexler, MC

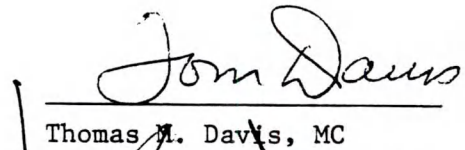

Bill Pascrell, Jr., MC

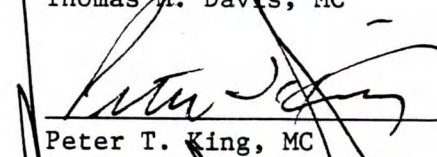

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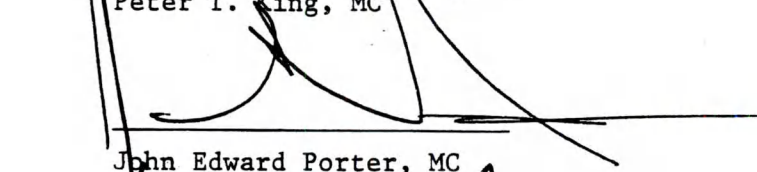

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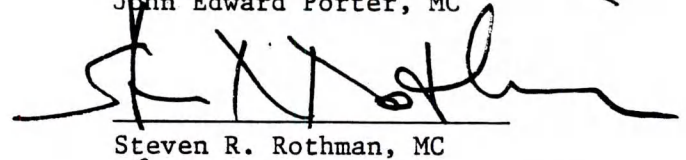

Martin T. Meekhan, MC

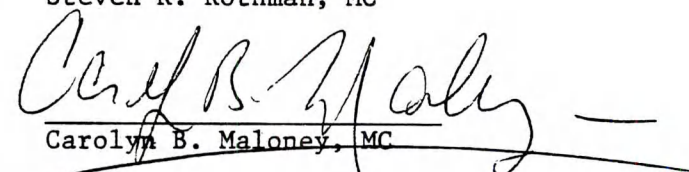

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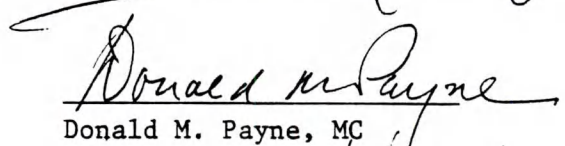

Thomas M. Davis, MC

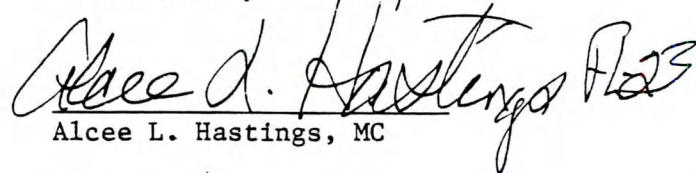

Peter T. King, MC

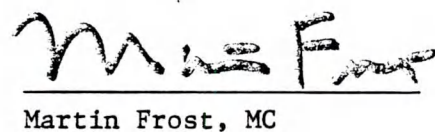

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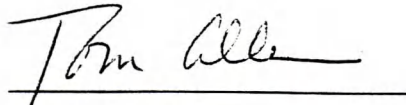

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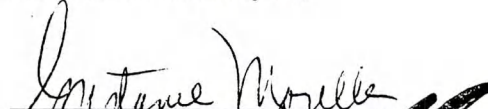

Carolyn B. Maloney, MC


Donald M. Payne, MC

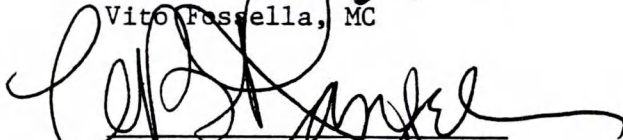

Alcee L. Hastings, MC


Martin Frost, MC

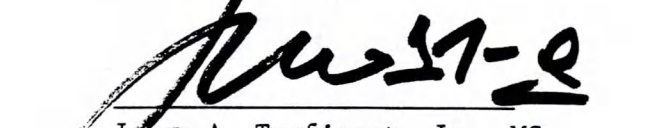

Thomas H. Allen, MC

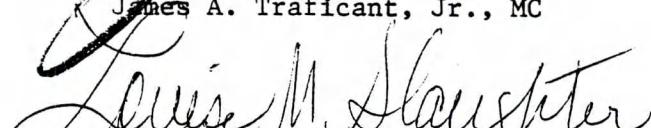

Constance A. Morella, MC

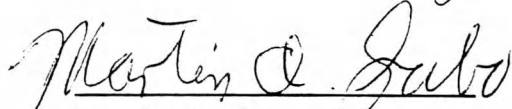

Vito Passella, MC

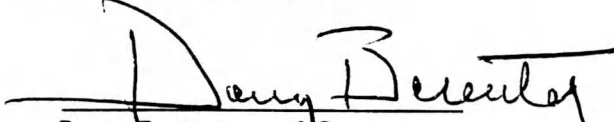

Charles B. Rangel, MC

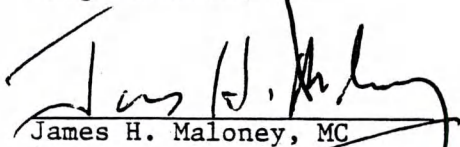

Ed Whitfield, MC


James A. Traficant, Jr., MC


Louise M. Slaughter, MC


Martin O. Sabo, MC


Doug Bereuter, MC


James H. Maloney, MC


Major R. Owens, MC

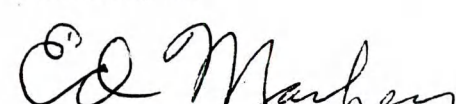

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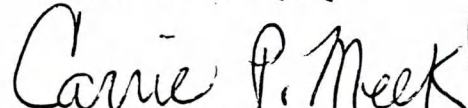

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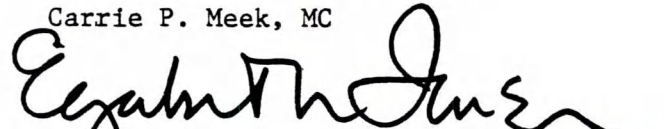

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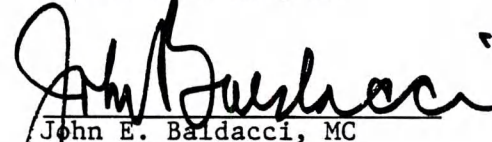

William D. Delahunt, MC


Sam Farr, MC

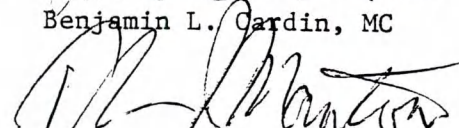

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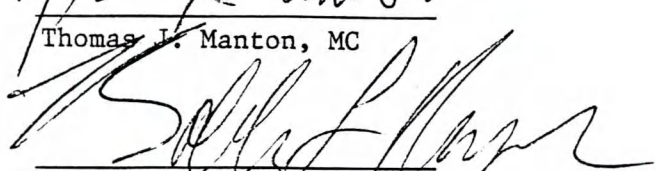

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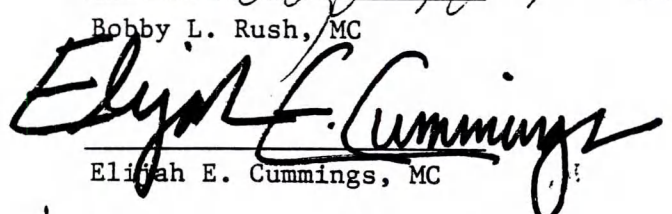

Elizabeth Furse, MC


John E. Baldacci, MC

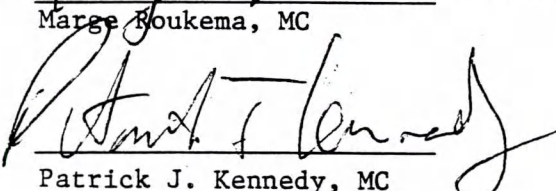

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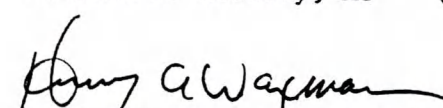

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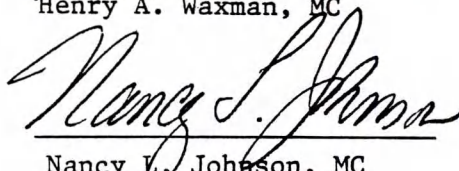

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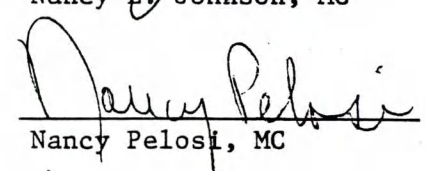

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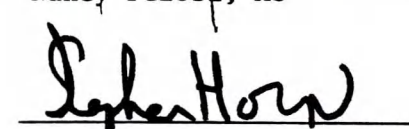

Marge Roukema, MC


Patrick J. Kennedy, MC

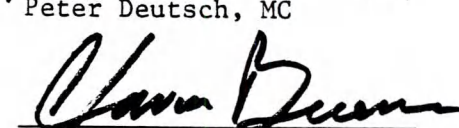

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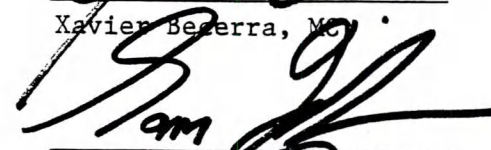

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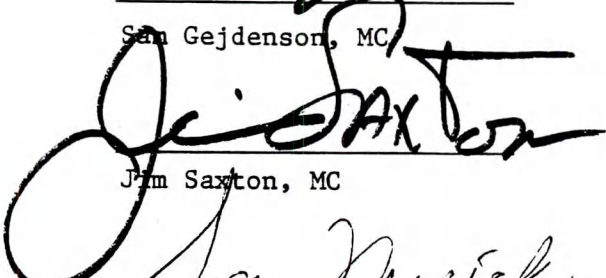

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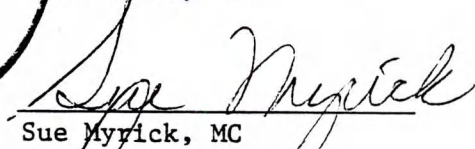

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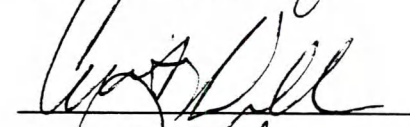

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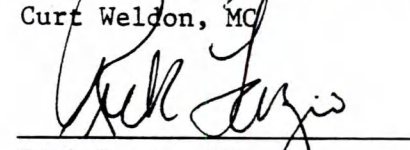

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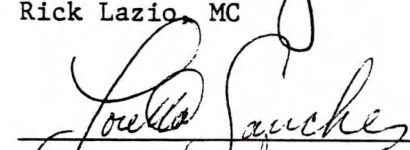

Sam Gejdenson, MC

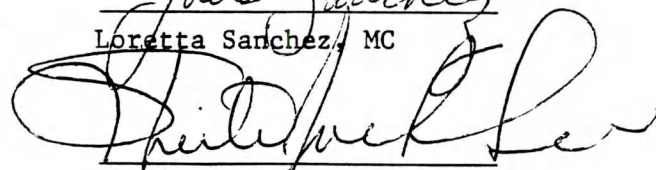

Jim Saxton, MC

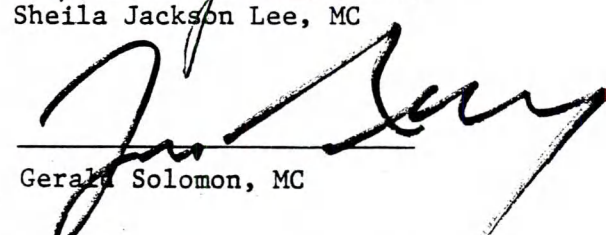

Sue Myrick, MC


Curt Weldon, MC


Rick Lazio, MC


Loretta Sanchez, MC


Sheila Jackson Lee, MC


Gerald Solomon, MC

cc: Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Secretary of Defense William Cohen
National Security Advisor Samuel Berger

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 21, 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR GLYN 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. Alfonse D'Amato (R-NY), regarding Israeli POWs;
- 2) Sen. Rick Santorum (R-PA), expressing concern over Kosovo;
- 3) Sen. John Warner (R-VA) and fourteen other Senators, regarding the establishment of a National Bipartisan Commission to review the current U.S.-Cuba foreign policy;
- 4) Rep. Gary L. Ackerman (D-NY) and thirty-one others Members of Congress, expressing support for the Administration's involvement in the Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations;
- 5) Rep. Benjamin Gilman (R-NY) and Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA), requesting the public release of the FBI report of the 1997 grenade attack in Cambodia which injured American Ron Abney;
- 6) Rep. George Miller (D-CA) and thirty-five other Members of Congress, regarding the arrest of General Augusto Pinochet; and,
- 7) Rep. John W. Olver (D-MA) and eighty-three other Members of Congress, expressing concern over Kosovo.

OCT 21 1998

ENCLOSURES

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: SAMUEL BERGER
LARRY STEIN

SUBJECT: ~~Presidential~~ Letter to Representative Olver,
et al. on the Humanitarian Crisis in Kosovo

Purpose

Respond to a letter from Representative Olver co-signed by 83 colleagues urging use of NATO military power to resolve Kosovo situation.

Background

Representative Olver calls for the use of all necessary military power to stop the killing in Kosovo. He recommends that an emergency humanitarian operation be launched and argues that Milosevic should answer for war crimes.

Your reply summarizes NATO measures that have led to Milosevic's acceptance of intrusive verification regimes. *You also describe* ~~It describes~~ the improving situation on the ground as refugees gradually return and relief agencies increase deliveries of needed supplies.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the letters to Representative Olver, et al. at Tab A.

Attachments

Tab A Letters to Representative Olver, et al.
Tab B Incoming Correspondence

cc: Vice President
Chief of Staff

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Dear John:

Thank you for your letter ~~expressing concern~~ about the humanitarian crisis in Kosovo. I ~~deeply~~ appreciate hearing your *views* ~~advice~~ on the best way to resolve the conflict. Your call for decisive U.S. and NATO ~~action~~ accurately describes the approach we implemented. ~~I am heartened that working with our NATO partners we have dramatically improved the situation for the better.~~ *encouraged*

From the *beginning* ~~outset~~, we have had three overriding objectives in Kosovo. First, to end the violence that threatens the fragile stability of the Balkans. Second, to prevent a humanitarian crisis from becoming a catastrophe. *And* third, to help the Kosovar people achieve a high degree of self-government.

We have made substantial progress *on* ~~toward~~ each of these objectives. NATO determination backed ~~up~~ by the credible threat of force has led to a cease-fire ~~that has held since early October~~, followed by a substantial reduction of Serb security forces in Kosovo. Now that the shooting has stopped and security checkpoints have been dismantled, more than 40,000 displaced people have returned to their homes and major international relief efforts have resumed.

and we are pushing even harder now ~~We have also put much thought and effort into the root causes of the crisis. Since the eruption of the conflict in February we have been pushing aggressively both sides *toward a* political settlement. In line with your recommendation, we strongly support advancing the political, cultural and human rights of Kosovars. The current draft political agreement offers Kosovars a high degree of autonomy, an indigenous police force and complete control over education, health and other institutions that most affect their daily lives.~~

~~There will be much work ahead to make this cease-fire and a settlement last. In order to verify Belgrade's compliance, NATO has implemented an intrusive air surveillance regime. And we are rapidly building up a 2,000-person verification mission, with personnel and funds contributed by OSCE nations, headed by Bill Walker, an experienced American diplomat. In support of this mission, NATO is establishing a force in Macedonia that will be close at hand to extract verifiers in an emergency.~~

Should that become necessary.

I agree with you

Milosevic

~~You are exactly right about Milosevic's tactics. He carries out his ruthless policies until the international community reacts and then he bides his time until he begins the cycle again. ~~As you warn~~ we will not be deceived by the current calm. We know that ~~he~~ ended his campaign of hatred only because he fears NATO. NATO has retained authority and has forces already identified and ready to act if he backslides. His deeds, not his words, will determine our response.~~

military action

~~As you point out, the ethnic cleansing that Milosevic has been conducting ~~is~~ abhorrent in itself, has destabilized the region. We have an important national interest in a peaceful, stable Balkans. Spillover violence threatens the fragile stability of the entire region, including Bosnia, and an already struggling Albania. Greece and Turkey could be drawn in. Our policy will help prevent the conflict in Kosovo from spiraling out of control.~~

You urge that we move immediately to provide humanitarian aid to the displaced people in Kosovo. Dozens of humanitarian organizations are daily delivering vital supplies to Kosovars. These organizations are enjoying freedom of movement and access that they did not have before NATO pressure compelled Milosevic to end restrictions.

Those who have committed war crimes and crimes against humanity must be held accountable for their actions. To that end, as you advocate, we support the work of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in its ongoing investigations in Kosovo.

~~I do not underestimate the difficulties that lie ahead, but I believe we are on the right road. We have ended the cycle of violence, and averted the impending humanitarian crisis. I am hopeful that we are getting closer to a political resolution of the conflict. Again, John, thank you for writing and sharing your concern with me. I deeply appreciate your thoughts. We will continue to consult with Congress on this important issue.~~

thought and ideas with me on this important issue.

Sincerely,

The Honorable John W. Olver
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

I agree with you about Milosevic's tactics. He carries out his ruthless policies until the international community reacts, and then he bides his time until he begins the cycle again. We will not be deceived by the current calm. We know that Milosevic ended his campaign of hatred only because he fears NATO military action. NATO has retained authority and has forces already identified and ready to act if he backslides. His deeds, not his words, will determine our response.

You urge that we move immediately to provide humanitarian aid to the displaced people in Kosovo. Dozens of humanitarian organizations are daily delivering vital supplies to Kosovars. These organizations are enjoying freedom of movement and access that they did not have before NATO pressure compelled Milosevic to end restrictions.

Those who have committed war crimes and crimes against humanity must be held accountable for their actions. To that end, as you advocate, we support the work of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in its ongoing investigations in Kosovo.

I do not underestimate the difficulties that lie ahead, but I believe we are ~~on the right road~~. Again, thank you for writing and sharing your thoughts and ideas with me on this important issue.

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Sincerely,

The Honorable John W. Olver
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear John:

Thank you for your letter about the humanitarian crisis in Kosovo. I appreciate hearing your views on the best way to resolve the conflict. Your call for decisive U.S. and NATO action accurately describes the approach we implemented.

From the beginning, we have had three overriding objectives in Kosovo. First, to end the violence that threatens the fragile stability of the Balkans. Second, to prevent a humanitarian crisis from becoming a catastrophe, and third, to help the Kosovar people achieve a high degree of self-government.

We have made substantial progress on each of these objectives. NATO determination backed by the credible threat of force has led to a cease-fire, followed by a substantial reduction of Serb security forces in Kosovo. Now that the shooting has stopped and security checkpoints have been dismantled, more than 40,000 displaced people have returned to their homes and major international relief efforts have resumed. XX (INCL for pg 2)

Since the eruption of the conflict in February we have been pushing both sides to find a political settlement and we are pushing even harder now. In line with your recommendation, we strongly support advancing the political, cultural and human rights of Kosovars. The current draft political agreement offers Kosovars a high degree of autonomy, an indigenous police force and complete control over education, health and other institutions that most affect their daily lives.

In order to verify Belgrade's compliance, NATO has implemented an intrusive air surveillance regime. We are rapidly building a 2,000-person verification mission, with personnel and funds contributed by OSCE nations, headed by Bill Walker, an experienced American diplomat. In support of this mission, NATO is establishing a force in Macedonia that will be close at hand to extract verifiers should that become necessary.

I agree with you about Milosevic's tactics. He carries out his ruthless policies until the international community reacts, and then he bides his time until he begins the cycle again. We will not be deceived by the current calm. We know that Milosevic ended his campaign of hatred only because he fears NATO military action. NATO has retained authority and has forces already identified and ready to act if he backslides. His deeds, not his words, will determine our response.

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more to
pg 1

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I do not underestimate the difficulties that lie ahead, but I believe we are headed in the right direction. Again, thank you for writing and sharing your thoughts and ideas with me on this important issue.

Sincerely,

The Honorable John W. Olver
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: SAMUEL BERGER
LARRY STEIN

SUBJECT: Letter to Representative Olver, et al. on the
Humanitarian Crisis in Kosovo

Purpose

Respond to a letter from Representative Olver co-signed by 83 colleagues urging use of NATO military power to resolve ^{the} Kosovo situation.

Background

Representative Olver calls for the use of all necessary military power to stop the killing in Kosovo. He recommends that an emergency humanitarian operation be launched and argues that Milosevic should answer for war crimes.

Your reply summarizes NATO measures that have led to Milosevic's acceptance of intrusive verification regimes. You also describe the improving situation on the ground as refugees gradually return and relief agencies increase deliveries of needed supplies.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the letters to Representative Olver, et al. at Tab A.

Attachments

Tab A Letters to Representative Olver, et al.
Tab B Incoming Correspondence

cc: Vice President
Chief of Staff

I agree with you about Milosevic's tactics. He carries out his ruthless policies until the international community reacts, and then he bides his time until he begins the cycle again. We will not be deceived by the current calm. We know that Milosevic ended his campaign of hatred only because he fears NATO military action. NATO has retained authority and has forces already identified and ready to act if he backslides. His deeds, not his words, will determine our response.

I agree with you that those who have committed war crimes and crimes against humanity must be held accountable for their actions. To that end, as you advocate, we support the work of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in its ongoing investigations in Kosovo.

I do not underestimate the difficulties that lie ahead, but I believe we are headed in the right direction. Again, thank you for writing and sharing your thoughts and ideas with me on this important issue.

Sincerely,

The Honorable John W. Olver
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

PRESIDENTIAL/NSA CORRESPONDENCE

IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED

ACTION OFFICER:

*Mike
for your action plan*
Schulte

LOG NUMBER:

7096

DUE DATE:

10-28

DATE STAFFED:

10-16

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESSED TO:



PRESIDENT



NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR

FROM:

Members of Congress

PREPARE A RESPONSE FOR THE PRESIDENT'S OR NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR'S SIGNATURE WITHIN 10 DAYS. IF A LETTER DOES NOT REQUIRE A RESPONSE, PLEASE RETURN IT TO RECORDS MANAGEMENT (RM 379) WITH THIS FORM, ANNOTATED ACCORDINGLY.

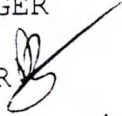
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20504

8374

December 15, 1998

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR SAMUEL R. BERGER

THROUGH: DONALD BANDLER 

FROM: MICHAEL HURLEY 

SUBJECT: Presidential Condolence Letter to President
Chirac on the Death of French Officials in Kosovo

Attached for your signature is a memorandum to the President forwarding a condolence letter from the President to French President Chirac concerning the December 14 automobile accident in Kosovo in which three officials from French Embassy Belgrade were killed.

RECOMMENDATION

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

Attachments

Tab I. Memorandum to the President

Tab A Proposed Condolence Letter to President Chirac

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: SAMUEL BERGER

SUBJECT: Condolence Letter to President Chirac on the
Death of Three French Officials in Kosovo

Purpose

To express sympathy to President Chirac and the French people on the death of three French officials in Kosovo.

Background

On December 14, three French officials assigned to the French embassy in Belgrade tragically died in an automobile accident while traveling on a Kosovo highway. The accident was an ordinary highway mishap unconnected to the conflict.

Your letter to President Chirac expresses sympathy to the families of the deceased, and to the French nation as a whole for this loss. It speaks of the painful personal cost of diplomatic engagement in troubled areas.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the letter to President Chirac at Tab A.

Attachment

Tab A Condolence Letter to President Jacques Chirac

cc: Vice President
Chief of Staff

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Jacques:

Hilary and I were shocked and saddened to learn of the tragic accident in Kosovo that took the lives of Gerard Fauveau, Richard Berthaux and Jean-Pierre Latour. On behalf of the American people, we extend our deepest sympathy to their families and loved ones.

The untimely death of these men, who were serving France and the entire international community, is yet another reminder of the high costs and risks of diplomatic engagement in the world's trouble spots. The American people pay tribute to France's invaluable contribution to international peace and security and to the loss, in the line of duty, of three courageous men who were serving this noble cause.

You are in our thoughts and prayers at this time of grief.

Sincerely,

His Excellency
Jacques Chirac
President of the French Republic
Paris