

February 16, 1994

Dear C-Span, Mr. Lamb,

You asked for comments on tonight's program with Mr. Gelb, Mr. Kaplan and Mr. Urkhardt. I tried to call in, but to no avail.

I think the coverage of the situation in the former Yugoslavia is as sadly lacking as our understanding of the civil war in Vietnam, before we entered that war.

How many of your viewers know that Bosnia and Herzegovina is composed of three groups, Bosnian Muslims-around 44 %, Bosnian Serbs around 36 % and the Bosnian Croats-around 20%. None of these groups total over 50 % of the population. To allow two of the groups to decide that they would be an independent nation, whose government would be controlled by the two groups of Muslims and Croats, while the third group, the Bosnian Serbs, "who lived on and owned 60 % of the land before the fighting started" (Vance, N.Y. Times 1/19/93) was asking for a civil war. The Bosnian Serbs wanted to remain part of Yugoslavia. They did not want to be part of a new country ruled by people who had fought on the side of the Nazis, and had killed their people and put them in concentration camps in World War II.

In the two years that I have been reading about the civil war in Bosnia, this history of Bosnia is never mentioned. Consequently, when people speak of Bosnia, they think it is only a Bosnian Muslim country. I have only read once, in a statement by Mediator, Cyrus Vance, in the New York Times of Jan. 19, 1993 that the rural Bosnian Serbs owned 60 % of the land, before the Bosnian war started. I have never heard this stated on T.V. This is an extremely important fact that no one seems to know, and no one ever discusses. It puts an entirely different slant on the whole civil war going on there, and why it happened.

The Bosnian Serbs are fighting for the right to live in their own country, just as the Bosnian Muslims and Bosnian Croats are. We do not need to get mixed up in this and take sides.

My husband and I are terribly afraid that the NATO ultimatum is going to start the slippery slide down into another Vietnam quagmire, but we feel this could be much worse. It could even start World War III.

Sincerely,



Northport, N.Y. 11768

PS. I have enclosed a copy of our letter to UN Secretary General Boutros-Ghali on this matter.

February 14, 1994

U.N. Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali
The United Nations
First Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10017

Dear Secretary General:

In the February 7, New York Times. Paul Lewis wrote about frustrations you had because the U.N. was being blamed for the continuing war in Bosnia because of the unwillingness of world powers to take action.

We fully understand your frustration. However we are very afraid that your giving NATO authority to bomb targets around Sarajevo could not only spell the end of the UN peacekeeping and relief in Bosnia, but it could take the world down the slippery slope of a military quagmire like Vietnam.

According to the Times(2/1/94) it was the Muslim Government that "effectively sabotaged the last round of Geneva peace talks this month". Mediator Thorvald Stoltenberg said "it was a new, last-minute demand by President Alija Izetbegovic that prevented agreement on a mechanism to arbitrate the future of 14 disputed towns". The Muslim forces have risen to 200,000 from 65,000 last summer and "feels it can make further territorial gains and has no reason to accept a settlement yet". Mr. Stoltenberg also said that "economic sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro are both an incentive and a hindrance to peace because, while the Serbs want them lifted in return for a peace agreement, the Bosnians are resisting a settlement in order to keep sanctions in place".

We hope and pray that the enlarged UN peacekeepers in Sarajevo can keep the two sides apart, and that all three sides will sit down together and work out a realistic peace that takes into account that NO group- Muslim, Serb, or Croat has a 50 % majority in Bosnia, and that the Bosnian Serbs, (according to Cyrus Vance) "lived on and owned over 60 % of the land" before the Bosnian Muslims and Croats voted for a separate Bosnian nation, (that the Bosnian Serbs did not want). The scars of World War II, when the Croats and some of the Muslims fought on the side of the Nazis against the Serbs, who fought with the Allies, has never healed. There is DEEP hatred still there that no NATO military enforced peace will ever heal.

Sincerely yours,

CC: President Clinton
Prime Minister Major
President Mitterand
Prime Minister Crétien

Northport, N.Y. 11768

[REDACTED]
NORTHPORT, NEW YORK 11768

February 7, 1994

Representative Frank McCloskey
The U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Representative McCloskey:

You have constantly been on TV the past few days 'beating the drums' for us to go to war in Bosnia. Of course you 'only' want us to bomb them, or to stop the embargo against arms in the former Yugoslavia.

My husband and I are wondering if you have a son who will fly one of our bombing planes, or be one of our boys sent in when the U.N. peacekeeping forces have to pull out for their own safety?

Will YOUR son then be sent in to keep the fragile peace and feed the civilians, as the U. N. troops are doing now? You seem to want this to become a U.S. war. Is that your intention?

Since the arms embargo is against ALL arms going to any side in this civil war, why do you think the importing of more arms is going to end this terrible war? It will only result in the war going on and on and on, with more and more pictures of innocent civilians on all three sides being slaughtered.

Diplomacy is hard and difficult and frustrating, but it is the only solution to this civil war. Only last week the Serbs and Croats had agreed to arbitration over land all three sides wanted. The Bosnian Muslims refused, so the killings continue. They were afraid they would not get all the land they wanted, even with international arbitration. Has Israel been willing to give up land they gained by war?

If anyone reads the history of the break-up of Yugoslavia, one knew it was a invitation to civil war. The International community should never have recognized the independence of a country where neither Muslim, Serb, or Croat had over 50 % of the population. The Croats and Muslims had fought with the Nazis. The Serbs and the rest of Yugoslavia fought on our side. Deep and real hatreds exist there. We don't need to get into the midst of it!

Sincerely yours,

copies to: President Clinton
Majority Leader Mitchell
Other Congressional leaders
Secretary Christopher

[REDACTED]