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Meeting with Croation-American Community Leaders

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 15, 1995



FEB 16 1995

MEMORANDUM FOR ANTHONY LAKE

FROM: MARILYN DIGIACOBBE 
OFFICE OF PUBLIC LIAISON

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH CROATIAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY
LEADERS

I would like you to meet with a small group of Croatian-American community leaders to discuss specific concerns regarding the situation in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

A meeting anytime on February 27 or 28 would be ideal, as two of the key Croatian-Americans, Leo Majich of California and Mel Masina of Indiana will already be in Washington. Twenty minutes or so of your time would be fine. If you agree, we could ask Sandy Vershbow and a State Dept. official to meet with them as well.

We have not yet had a White House meeting solely for Croatian-American leaders. As this is a close knit, mostly one-issue community, it is important for us to acknowledge their leadership in this way. Group leaders have begun to notice that other such meetings have occurred at high levels ie: Armenian, Greek, Polish, Ukrainian-Americans, etc.

For your information, Croatian-Americans leaders were included in the January ethnic roundtable in Cleveland. Ethnic leaders had an opportunity to discuss a variety of topics. Croatian-Americans had a number of country specific issues they wanted to discuss. Due to the broad scope of the meeting, we were unable to address those issues.

Attached is a meeting request letter from the National Federation of Croatian Americans and some clips from the latest issues of Zajednicar, a widely read Croatian American newspaper.

Thank you for your consideration.

cc: Alexis Herman
Steve Hilton
Nancy Soderberg
Sandy Vershbow

NFCA

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF CROATIAN AMERICANS

January 23, 1995

Prof. Edward Damich
President
Mid-Atlantic AMA Croatica

Rev. Anthony Petrusic
Regional Vice President-Central
Croatian Catholic Union

Mr. Joseph Brigich
Regional Vice President-East
Croatian Fraternal Union

Mr. Leo Majich
Regional Vice President-West
Croatian National Assoc.

Dr. Zdenka Delalic
Secretary
Mid-Atlantic AMA Croatica

Mr. Steve Rukavina
Treasurer
Croatian Fraternal Union

Ms. Marija Kristich
National Coordinator

American Croatian Relief Project
American Initiative for Croatia
AMA Croatica, Capital
AMA Croatica, Mid-Atlantic
AMA Croatica, Midwest
AMA Croatica, Rudjer-Boskovic
Croatian American Club-San Pedro
Croatian American Goodwill (AZ)
Croatian American Political Club
Croatian Catholic Union (CCU)
Croatian Council (KC)
Croatian Council (NY)
Croatian Cultural Society (Omaha)
Croatian Cultural Society (MN)
Croatian Fraternal Union (CFU)
Croatian Fraternal Lodge #1836
Croatian Fraternal Lodge #1976
Croatian Philatelic Society
Croatian Relief Project (KC)
Croatian National Association
Eastern Virginia Croatian Club
Federation of Croatian Societies
St. Joseph's Croatian Church
Truth About Croatia, Inc.

The Honorable Alexis M. Herman
Director, Office of Public Liaison
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Alexis:

I wanted to follow up the White House Roundtable meeting with a short letter. First, I would like to commend your successful efforts to assemble a select group of American Ethnic Community leaders in Cleveland. I hope this meeting will be one of many activities that builds a stronger bridge of communication from the Clinton Administration to all these Central and East European American ethnic communities. This White House conference was a historic event that I believe will accelerate the development of free market economies in all fourteen of these European countries.

Next, I wanted to work through your Office of Public Liaison to ideally arrange a February meeting for our Croatian American leaders with Mr. Anthony Lake, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs. Our national community has specific concerns we would like to address with Mr. Lake, his colleagues and if possible, a State Department representative. We can easily arrange to bring to Washington, DC our key leaders to include President Bernard Luketich of the Croatian Fraternal Union (Pittsburgh, PA), President Melchior Masina of the Croatian Catholic Union (Hobart, IN), President Leo Majich of the Croatian National Association (Los Angeles, CA) and our NFCA President Edward J. Damich (Alexandria, VA).

Lastly, I believe it is very necessary for the Clinton Administration to continue the dialogue with our Croatian American community initiated again in Cleveland concerning the many significant issues regarding Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. I am convinced that a meeting with Mr. Anthony Lake would be another positive element in that dialogue. Please give our NFCA office a call at 202-331-2830 or leave me a message at 301-424-0023, once a meeting and date can be discussed. I look forward to hearing back from you within the next few weeks. I wish you all the best in your efforts on behalf of the Clinton Administration. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Steve Rukavina

Steve Rukavina
National Treasurer

cc: Marilyn DiGiacobbe

1615 M Street, NW Suite 220 Washington, DC 20036
Tel. 202-331-2830 Fax 202-887-0905



INVITING PRESIDENT CLINTON to visit Zagreb, Croatia, is National Federation of Croatian-Americans Treasurer Steve Rukavina, a member of CFU Lodge 1976 in Washington, D.C. The invitation was extended at the recent White House Conference on Trade and Investments in Central and Eastern Europe, held recently in Cleveland, Ohio.

Clinton Meets Ethnic Leaders

CLEVELAND—On Friday, Jan. 13, President Clinton was in Cleveland while attending the White House Conference on Trade and Investment in Central and Eastern Europe (C/E) met briefly with several Croatian American leaders immediately after his keynote speech to over 1,000 attendees.

President Clinton spoke briefly at a private meeting with 25 American ethnic leaders which included CFU Vice President Joseph Brigich, Croatian Catholic Union President Melchoir Masina, National Federation of Croatian Americans Treasurer Steve Rukavina and Croatian businesswoman, Zdenka Gast. CCU President Melchoir Masina had a chance to thank President Clinton for his efforts and reminded him that the Croatian American community had overwhelmingly supported his candidacy in 1992 and asked the President to live up to all his promises to the Croatian people, including their right to territorial integrity.

NFCA Treasurer Steve Rukavina mentioned to the President that the Croatian American community stood ready to support his efforts if he would lead the way to peace in the

Balkans and then invited President Clinton to visit Zagreb in 1995. President Clinton answered by saying he would like to visit Zagreb and that there is a U.S. military hospital on the outskirts of the city. However, the President mentioned that his schedule was quite crowded in 1995 and it may be difficult to add Croatia as one of his next few trips to Europe, but he appreciated the invitation.

Later at a private session with reporters, including *Zajednicar* Editor Ed Verlich, President Clinton stated that the United States fully supports the territorial integrity of Croatia and would continue to work for it. President Clinton did say however that he thought it was a mistake for Croatia not to extend the United Nations mandate.

Ambassador Petar Sarcevic and Minister of Commerce Zlatko Matesa, representing the Republic of Croatia, met with President Clinton later on Friday to discuss Croatian and U.S. relations involving economic and security issues.

In his keynote address on Jan. 13, President Clinton underscored America's support for security,

(Continued on Page 5)



VISITORS TO THE CROATIAN BOOTH at the White House Conference in Cleveland were treated to Croatian wine, cheese and pršut, which was enjoyed by, from left, Vice President/Member Services Joseph M. Brigich, President/Croatian Democratic Party (HDZ) in the U.S. Ivan Nogalo, Treasurer/National Federation of Croatian Americans Steve Rukavina, Tony Grbavac and President/Two M Manufacturing, Inc., of Eastlake, Ohio Mirko Cukelj.

Clinton Meets Ethnic Leaders... (Continued from Page 3)

democracy and economic reform in C/E Europe. He pledged the U.S. would remain engaged in C/E Europe and would keep working towards the complete integration of the region's emerging democracies with the TransAtlantic community.

President Clinton stressed the significance of territorial integrity and that the U.S. will never condone any state in Europe threatening the sovereignty of its neighbors. President Clinton finished his speech by

reminding his audience that over six years ago that 120 million people in C/E Europe lived as captive nations and that now freedom was at hand and it was time to dream dreams, work together and trade together to fulfill the promise of this moment in history.

This White House Conference on Trade and Investment in C/E Europe was significant and symbolically, a very important event for the Republic of Croatia. This historic two-day con-

ference only established more than ever that the Republic of Croatia internationally recognized as democracy, a free market economy, an East European country with internationally-recognized borders and a future that includes the potential to be a strong trading partner ally forever with the United States America. Zivila Hrvatska!

•Steve Rukavina/Lodge 1976
National Treasurer/National Federation of Croatian Americans

Zajedničar

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CROATIAN FRATERNAL UNION OF AMERICA

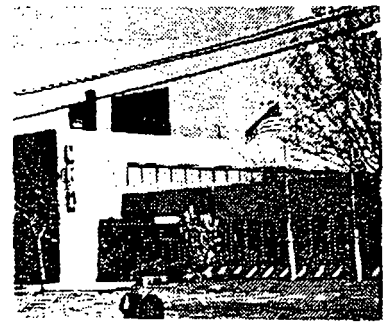
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Croatian Fraternal Union
of America
Founded In 1894

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Money Talks

A White House Conference on Trade and Investment in Central and Eastern Europe, held in Cleveland, Ohio, proved once again it is money that does the talking.

Croatia was well represented with 25 government and business leaders headed by Minister of Trade and Commerce Zlatko Matesa and Croatian Ambassador to the U.S. Dr. Petar Sarcevic. The Croatian representatives were able to point with pride to the fact that Croatia had the lowest rate of inflation in 1994 among all European nations.

The White House was represented by President Bill Clinton, U.S. Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown and Ambassador Richard Holbrook, assistant secretary for European and Canadian Affairs plus a number of officials from various departments, ranging from the National Security Council to the U.S. Trade and Development Agency to the Export-Import Bank of the U.S.

Also present were top executives from leading U.S. companies with successful business ventures in Central and Eastern Europe and Croatian-American business leaders such as brother Steve Bubalo, a member of CFU Lodge 677 in Los Angeles.

Additionally, leaders of ethnic fraternal societies were present, such as CFU Vice President Joseph M. Brigich, Editor Edward

Verlich, Zdenka Gast, Croatian American businesswoman and activist, National Federation of Croatian Americans Treasurer Steve Rukavina and Melchoir Masina, president of the Croatian Catholic Union.

In addition to spreading the word to the U.S. government and business community that Croatia is the ideal economy in which to invest in business and industry, the Croatian government and business leaders, as well as the Croatian-American representatives, were able to express their views on the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the long-awaited return of the occupied Croatian Territories to the Republic of Croatia.

President Clinton told a news conference of ethnic reporters that he was excited about the expansion of trade and investment in Central and Eastern Europe, and we responded that we were equally excited, especially in regard to trade and investment in Croatia and in rebuilding the war damage in Croatia and Bosnia.

But it is through forums such as these that Croatia will gain a strong economic foothold in Europe, and we were well pleased to see that the Croatian government and the Croatian-American business and ethnic community were well prepared to participate in the White House conference.

Clinton Supports Croatia's 'Territorial Integrity'

By Edward J. Verlich/Editor

CLEVELAND, OH—President Clinton said, "We support the territorial integrity of Croatia," when asked if the United States would demand the return of all occupied territory to Croatia.

President Clinton, at a roundtable discussion with 11 ethnic reporters including this writer, was reminded that the Vance Plan Agreement provided for the return of all occupied territory to Croatia by November, 1994.

He was asked, "What does the United States intend to do to enforce the U.N. mandate?"

"Well, the first thing we have to do," President Clinton responded, "we have no chance of getting all that resolved, I don't believe, until we get some solution to the larger conflict, which is why we're pushing the Contact Group proposal. We got four months now of hard work where we have a chance—a chance—to get it accepted. And I do think we have a chance." He referred to the now

cease fire agreed to by the Bosnian Government and the Bosnian Serbs.

The President continued, "...I think it's a mistake to suspend the UN operations in Croatia because I think it might lead to further destabilization of the situation there. We support the territorial integrity of Croatia, and we hope this can be resolved and we will continue to work for it."

He concluded, "but I think that what we need to be doing now is to try to keep the situation as stable as possible there and then to try to get this Contact Group proposal accepted. If we can do that, I think we can work out the problems in Croatia because we will have managed and contained the difficulties which gave rise to it."

Asked by a Slovenian reporter if the United States would help countries such as Slovenia if war erupted between Croatia and Serbia over the occupied Croatian territory, President Clinton answered, "...that threat is not sufficiently imminent that I should answer that."

But President Clinton branded the

decision to suspend UN operations in Croatia as "a mistake. I respect the Croats and I appreciate the federation agreement that they have reached with the Bosnian Government, and I respect President Tudjman. But I think the decision a mistake. But we will continue to work with them on that."

"Secondly, I have said all along that the fundamental interest of the United States in the conflict in Bosnia—although we would dearly like to see it brought to an end and we're working hard even as we speak, even today, to reaffirm our support for the Contact Group proposal, to getting it accepted—but our fundamental interest there is making sure that it does not spread."

President Clinton was in Cleveland to attend a two-day conference on trade and investment in Central and Eastern Europe.

In his speech to some 500 businessmen and ethnic leaders, representatives of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, President Clinton said in response to the conflict in Chechnya, "We support the territorial integrity in Russia, just as we support the territorial integrity of all its neighbors."

Heading the 25-member delegation from Croatia of government and business leaders were Minister of Trade and Commerce Zlatko Matesa and Croatian Ambassador to the United States Dr. Petar Sarcevic.

Included among many Croatian-American business and ethnic leaders were CFU Vice President Joseph M. Brigich, Steve Rukavina, National Treasurer of the National Federation of Croatian American and this writer.

Mahoning Lodges To Hold Meeting

YOUNGSTOWN, OH—The United Mahoning Valley Lodges will hold their regular meeting on Monday, Jan. 30 at 7:30 p.m. at the Croatian Hall, 3200 Vestal Rd. in Youngstown.

All member lodges are asked to

with preparations for the Holiday Season and spend less time selling our life insurance.

However, this year was an exception and during the month of December and during Christmas week, we were amazed with the number of new applications for life insurance arriving here at the Home Office. I'm certain that our loyal members wanted to help us achieve our goal of thirty million dollars worth of new life insurance, and we even surprised ourselves with our results.

Just to give our members an idea of what kind of a successful month of December we enjoyed, I'd like to report just what you all accomplished in the month of December.

Our dedicated volunteers enrolled a grand total of 390 new members into the Society, sold a grand total of 652 new life insurance certificates and wrote a grand total of \$6,748,611 face value of new life insurance in December. This new insurance produced a grand total of \$177,572 of new annual premium, ALL IN THE MONTH OF DECEMBER.

This was a great month and especially when it was the last month of the year, December, when people tend to get into the holiday spirit and their minds are on celebrating rather than any serious new membership enrolling. Kapa Vam Dolje, Sestre i Braćo for a job well done.

With the efforts of all our volunteers and the Home Office Staff, we were able to record one of the most successful years in a long time. In recent past years, we were pleased to achieve in the neighborhood of twenty-eight million face value of new life insurance sales, and we were pleased with that accomplishment.

However, for our centennial year, we sold a grand total of \$42,087,920 face value of new life insurance. This is much more than we had hoped for and a great accomplishment for the Society.

In addition, we enrolled a grand total of 3,946 new members and, after deducting all our membership losses for 1994, we realized an increase in total membership of 1,400 new members. It has been a long time since we enjoyed such a job well done.



amounts to \$1,804,769.30.

I don't think that we need for the future of our Society, as we can indicate such progress in our business operation, and I that this trend will continue as our dedicated members are to lend their talents and efforts to the best interests of their Society.

Again, I ask our members to the listing of names and accomplishments in the various production reports which are published in this issue of the *Zajednicar*.

We are especially pleased with one million dollar winner this report this period and that is Joseph Kauric, president of Eastburgh, PA Lodge 141 and president of the CFU High Trial Board. He realized a grand total of \$1,011,000.00 in life insurance sales and, once again, has proven his ability and service to our fraternal Society.

The second recruiter coming near the million dollar production was brother Ante Capin, member of Hamilton, Ontario, Canada Lodge 141, who has accredited to his efforts a grand total face value of new life insurance sold of \$900,899. If brother Capin been aware near he was to the one million mark, he would have doubled his efforts and reached that goal.

(Continued on Page 2)

CFU JUNIOR CULTURAL FEDERATION MEETING NOTICE

SATURDAY, JAN. 28, 1995

Board of Directors Meeting 12 Noon
Delegates Meeting 2 p.m.
Mass 4 p.m.

Meeting to be held at:
St. Jerome Catholic Church
605 West 8 Mile Rd.
Detroit, Mi 48203

Lodging:
Parkcrest Hotel
20000 Harper
Harper Woods, MI 48225
1-313-884-8800

Circle 555 double 800

Lodge 848 Chan

N. CHICAGO, IL—Lodge 848 meeting and all meetings there will be held at the Bertrand B. Lanes at 2616 Washington Waukegan, IL.

Members, please try to do your part. There are many things to decide on for the future.

Your input is important and needed. Your officers are ready to work for the betterment of the lodge, but need all the ideas and help you can give.

cc: AMH 

**WHITE HOUSE OFFICE OF PUBLIC LIAISON
BRIEFING MEMORANDUM**

FEB 26 1995

TO: Anthony Lake
Andrew Vershbow
Steve Hilton

FROM: Marilyn DiGiacobbe 

DATE: February 26, 1995

MEETING: Meeting with Croatian-American community leaders

DATE/TIME: Monday, February 27, 1995 2:00 pm

LOCATION: Roosevelt Room

PARTICIPANTS: 10 representatives of the National Federation of Croatian Americans.
See list attached.

PURPOSE: Acknowledge Croatian-American community leaders and their concerns
regarding Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

BACKGROUND: This meeting was requested by the National Federation of Croatian Americans (NFCA), an umbrella organization representing a majority of the Croatian organizations in the U.S. The request came as a result of the roundtable meeting held in Cleveland in January. At the Cleveland meeting, 5 Croatian-Americans -- two of which are attending this meeting -- participated in a broader dialogue with Secretary Ron Brown, Ambassador Holbrooke and other Central and Eastern European Americans. At that time, we committed to follow-up discussions to address more country-specific concerns.

Steve Rukavina of NFCA helped to organize this meeting. He is a friend of the Administration and a former press aide to Presidential candidates, Dukakis and Carter. The majority of the individuals participating are American born Croatians. Among the participants are Bernie Luketich, Ed Damich and Leo Majich who are especially recognized and respected within their community. Bernie Luketich, President of the Croatian Fraternal Union, was very supportive during the President's campaign. He supported the President's election as did many organized Croatian-Americans, in large part due to their frustration with President Bush's policy.

Attached is an outline of issues and key questions which the group will want to discuss. Members of the group feel we are once again at a major crossroads on the issue. They are looking for signs of Administration leadership. They advocate a larger NATO role, persuasion by the President, and a bi-partisan coalition.

Two other issues, not listed on the groups agenda, which may arise are (1) the availability of enterprise fund money for Croatia and (2) the Administration's commitment to foreign aid. The issue of appointing a point person in the Administration to provide a focus for our foreign aid position may be brought up.

AGENDA: Welcome and introduction by Office of Public Liaison.

Sandy Vershbow will make remarks and open to discussion with group.

Anthony Lake will drop by at approximately 2:20pm for 15 minutes.

Mr. Lake will make brief comments and take 2-3 questions.

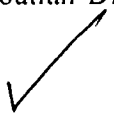
Attachments:

List of Participants

Agenda items of the National Federation of Croatian Americans

Info. on the Croatian Diaspora in the United States

cc: Alexis Herman



LIST OF ATTENDEES

Joseph Brigich

Vice President, Croatian Fraternal Union
Eastern Region Vice President, National Federation of Croatian Americans
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Steven Bubalo

Owner, Construction Company, Inc.
Monrovia, California

Edward J. Damich

President, National Federation of Croatian Americans
Professor of Law, George Mason University
Arlington, Virginia

Vladimir Goss

Public Relations Committee Chairman, National Federation of Croatian Americans
Hillsborough, North Carolina

Marija Kristich

National Coordinator, National Federation of Croatian Americans
Alexandria, Virginia

Bernard Luketich

President, Croatian Fraternal Union
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Leo Majich

President, Croatian National Association
Administrator, Operating Engineers Trust Fund -- Southern California and Nevada
Los Angeles, California

Edward Pazo

Secretary/Treasurer, Croatian Fraternal Union
Board member, National Federation of Croatian Americans
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Steven Rukavina

Treasurer, National Federation of Croatian Americans
Executive Sales Manager, St. Jude Medical S.C.
North Potomac, Maryland

Michael Volarich

Board member, National Federation of Croatian Americans
Past President, Croatian National Association
Los Angeles, California

**NFCA AGENDA
WHITE HOUSE MEETING
February 27, 1995**

I. Presentation of Croatian-American Position

- Reluctant support of Contact Group Plan re: Bosnia.
- Active U.S. support of Bosnian Federation making sure that there is impartiality toward Croat and Muslim sides.

It must be recognized that the Contact Group partition of Bosnia will place a tremendous strain on Muslim-Croat relations if displaced Muslims cannot return to ethnically cleansed areas.

- Reintegration of Serb-occupied areas of Croatia.

Local political autonomy in counties in which Serbs were a pre-war majority is acceptable.

UN presence to guarantee Serbs and Croats equal human and civil rights is acceptable.

- It does not appear that these goals can be achieved through economic sanctions alone. Therefore, the U.S. should:

- (1) Lift the arms embargo on Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina, unilaterally if necessary;
- (2) Be prepared to carry out airstrikes against Serb positions in Croatia, Bosnia, and Serbia-Montenegro itself.

At the very least, the arms embargo on Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina should be lifted.

II. Questions

1. Why has the U.S. not taken a leadership position given the failure of the policies advocated by Britain, France and Russia? What incentives do the Serbs have to accept the Contact Group Plan or to comply with the ceasefire agreement in Croatia?
2. Why should the U.S. remain a part of NATO? Is it right to spend American money to further the parochial foreign policy goals of Britain and France? Can there be any substance to NATO guarantees of security for the newly-emerging democracies of central and eastern Europe

against a military adventure by a newly fascist, expansionist Russia?

3. Will the U.S., by acquiescence to Britain, France and Russia, trade war crimes impunity for peace?
4. Why has the U.S. in the Z-4 Plan proposed levels of autonomy for Serbs in the occupied territories of Croatia that are not granted to the Albanian majority in Kosovo by the constitution of the so-called Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, even if the Serbs observed it?
5. Why was Russia brought into the picture in the first place? Does it not appear that the U.S. has acquiesced in placing the former Yugoslavia firmly in Russia's sphere of influence, reversing what Tito was able to accomplish?

END

marilyn, FYIO SA
Croats Around the World

To: Marilyn D. Giacobbe

Croatian Diaspora in the United States

FR: Steve Pukharina

Mass emigration of Croats to the United States began in the latter half of the 19th century and has continued until today. The first immigrants came from the Dalmatian coast and islands and were mostly unskilled workers (farmers and fishermen), who gradually brought their friends and relatives to the United States, mainly to the industrial areas on the Atlantic coast. Croats maintained high visibility in other parts of the country as well, participating in the building of the transcontinental railways and settling in the west, where many became well-known wine and fruit growers, as well as fishermen in San Pedro, California. The most populous Croatian community is in Pennsylvania, where many Croatian immigrants found employment in Pittsburgh's steel industry. Other areas with large Croatian communities are Chicago, Cleveland, and New York.

During the past 130 years, Croats formed virtually hundreds of societies and fraternal, cultural and political organizations. The oldest such organization was founded in San Francisco in 1857, under the name Slovene-Illyric Mutual Charitable society. The Croatian Fraternal Union was founded in Pittsburgh in 1894 and was followed by the Croatian Catholic Union in 1921. In conjunction with the founding of such societies, Croatian Americans began to print the first immigrant newspapers, which played an important role in preserving their national identity and awareness. Most papers were weeklies, with the exception of the daily *Narodni List* (National Gazette), which has been published in New York since 1895. The

diversity of quality, editorial policies and political views expressed in these papers is best illustrated by their number. Some 250 different newspapers, periodicals, almanacs, and magazines have emerged since 1884, when the first paper appeared. About two dozen exist today.

While the post war period marked a shift in immigration patterns, from the United States to Australia, many Croats continued to arrive on American shores, most changing their status from temporary workers to permanent residents. Today, Croatian American influence in the United States is felt in all areas: business, sports, culture, entertainment and especially politics. For example, the first governor of Alaska was Mike Stepovich; the late Nick Begich served as a congressman from Alaska; and Rudy Perpich is the former governor of Minnesota.

In future issues of the Newsletter, we will further examine the history of Croats in America, and profile well-known Croatian Americans.

TRADE, from page 7

to Western European nations as its main trading partners. Markets and investors there are close and provide attractive and compatible relationships. Nevertheless, there is an interest for increased economic cooperation with the U.S. and stronger presence of U.S. firms in Croatia's market. The White House Conference served as the first of hopefully many opportunities for Croatia to present the facts about its economic situation and attractiveness for foreign investment and trade.

AREAS WITH LARGE CROATIAN-AMERICAN POPULATIONS

LOS ANGELES/SAN PEDRO, CALIFORNIA	100,000-150,000	CNA, NFCA, CFU
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA	20,000	CFU, CCW, NFCA
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS	150,000-200,000	CAA, CCW, CFU
DETROIT, MICHIGAN	30,000	CFU, AMAC
NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK	60,000-100,000	CFU, HDZ, NFCA, CAA
CLEVELAND, OHIO	30,000-40,000	CFU, HDZ, CCW, CAA/NRA
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA	100,000-125,000	CFU / NFCA

To: Marilyn D. Giacobbe
office of Public Liaison

Croatia Today