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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

October 21, 1996

REMARKS BY THE FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FOR THE SIGNING OF THE U.S.-BOSNIAN HOSPITAL PARTNERSHIP

Washington, D.C.

MRS. CLINTON: Good morning and please be seated and welcome to the White House. It is a privilege for me to welcome all of you to an occasion that represents a great deal of pride for the United States and promises so much hope for the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina. We have many very special guests. I wish I could introduce and acknowledge each one of you individually, but let me at least mention Ambassador Albright who you will hear from shortly, Jill Buckley from USAID, Ambassador Alkalai from Bosnia. We also have the ambassador from Romania who is here with us as well. Welcome, Mr. Ambassador. We are pleased to have Senator Leahy and Senator Pell as well with us. Thank you. Carol Bellamy from UNICEF. Jim Smith from the American International Health Alliance. Congressman John LaFalce from Buffalo and I thank you, Congressman. The mayors of both Buffalo and Tuzla, thank you gentleman. Judy Collins, UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador. Sandy Reisenbach, the Vice-president of Warner Brothers and Janet Kahn from D.C. Comics.

Other people will be introduced as we proceed with the program but we are delighted to have so many of you here to mark this important step forward in the reconstruction and reconciliation effort in Bosnia. What we are doing today in announcing these two initiatives, is making clear the commitment that the United States, both its government and its people have to the government and people of Bosnia.

These projects are public-private partnerships that will lend American expertise, resources and technology to the people of Bosnia as they emerge from the darkness of war and conflict. These partnerships reflect America's long tradition of humanitarian assistance to friends in need -- and our nation's commitment to peace and democracy in the former Yugoslavia and around the world.

When I was in Bosnia earlier this year with my daughter, I was in Tuzla. I was not able to go into the city at

MORE

that time which I had very much hoped to be able to do. But I was able, at the American base headquarters there in Tuzla, to meet with civilians -- Muslims, Croats and Serbs -- who described how years of wear and ethnic hatred had shattered their lives and the lives of their children.

I listened as men and women whose daily activities were routinely interrupted by sniper fire, mortar shells, and tragedy told me how they had survived.

I listened as mothers and fathers who worried about their children's safety because even the most inviting playgrounds and soccer pitches often concealed deadly mines told me how they and their children had been able to survive.

I listened as doctors and nurses told me what it was like to care for patients under bombardment.

And I listened to teachers who described what it was like to see their schools and libraries shelled, destroyed, seeing books and the opportunities for teaching disappear.

In listening to the people whom I heard from in Tuzla, I also heard in their voices their hope that there could be a better life and there could be once again, have a normal, peaceful existence.

Establishing peace is a critical first step in rebuilding civil society in Bosnia. Ensuring that peace can last -- and that democracy and tolerance and mutual respect can take root and flower -- is the next step, a step we are helping the people of Bosnia try to achieve.

Both of the initiatives that we announce today represent our belief that peace and democracy can last in Bosnia if the nation itself -- and the people's spirits -- are repaired.

The first initiative involves a man already known and loved by generations of American children. He doesn't need much of an introduction. He's "the Man of Steel," a man with special vision, special powers, and a big heart -- just the sort of person to spread the word about the dangers of land mines in Bosnia. I know when I left Tuzla and went out to two of our outposts, Camp Alicia and Camp Bedrock, I was shown examples of the equipment being used to help train those who were clearing mine fields and what our American forces were doing to help. The problem is enormous and this effort is attempting to draw children's attention to the dangers that still unfortunately exist.

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Thanks to a public-private partnership involving the Department of Defense; Ambassador Albright; UNICEF, Warner Brothers and D.C. Comics, Superman will bring a special message to Bosnia's children in a new comic book that warns about the dangers of land mines.

We all know that children cannot become happy, healthy and productive adults if their childhoods are scarred by fear and violence. Sadly, as Senator Leahy has reminded all of us time and time again, land mines continue to pose a threat to children in Bosnia and many other places around the world.

For this reason, UNICEF has launched an education campaign to foster awareness about land mines among children and civilians in Bosnia, which you will hear more about later.

The second project we are announcing today draws on the leadership and skill of medical professionals and community groups on both sides of the Atlantic.

Aware of the urgent health care needs in Bosnia, I called on USAID early last year to explore whether it would be feasible to establish a partnership between a Bosnian and an American hospital. I had already visited hospitals in Russia, Estonia, Ukraine and Belarus that had joined in partnerships with hospitals in our country. And in each instance, I could see the good that had come for people on both sides of that partnership through these shared ventures.

Today it is a special honor for me to be the host for you here at the White House for the signing of a new American Health Alliance Partnership between Buffalo, New York and Tuzla. This partnership will significantly improve the availability of care -- and the quality of care -- for tens of thousands of people in Bosnia, including thousands of children, women, and refugees.

Buffalo was selected after intensive competition, in part because the city had already established a relationship with the health care community in Bosnia.

Two years ago, Buffalo General Hospital and the State University of New York at Buffalo initiated an exchange program with Tuzla Clinical Center in Bosnia. Americans from Buffalo traveled to Tuzla and worked side-by-side with their Bosnian colleagues even in the midst of war and violence. They donated over \$1.5 million in supplies for use in Tuzla. And Bosnian physicians and nurses were invited to Buffalo for informal exchanges.

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Today's announcement could not be possible without the support of the city and citizens of Buffalo, the Department of Defense, and private companies in the United States. In particular, I want to commend Eli Lilly & Company, which has committed \$250,000 in donations for next year. And I also want to thank the mayors of Buffalo and Tuzla, who are with us today, for their strong support.

It is important to note that these vital projects are part of a broader, ongoing American effort to build democracy and restore civil society in Bosnia.

Earlier this year, representatives of dozens of non-governmental organizations came to the White House at my invitation to tell us about the work they are doing on the front lines in Bosnia to improve health care, education, and the environment and promote civic participation and human rights.

In August, eighteen educators from across our country visited the White House to tell me about their efforts to train teachers in Bosnia.

And just this morning I was able to meet with representatives of the Sabre Foundation, which is performing an invaluable service in helping to restock Bosnia's libraries with thousands of books and learning materials destroyed by war.

Already the Sabre Foundation has distributed nearly three million books valued at more than \$60 million in fifteen countries in the former Soviet bloc.

None of these ventures would be possible without support from the federal government, from non governmental organizations, and the private sector.

And we should be proud of these partnerships not only because of the help they will bring, but because they represent the best in America and the best in American values. We have often seen in the past that Americans have come to work on behalf of those in other countries often very far away to help build the capacity for people to promote their own futures, to become committed to a common good. I wish that all of us could have had the experience that some of us in this room have had in visiting Bosnia in the last few years. I cannot even express fully what that experience has meant to me and how proud I am of the work that is being done by many brave people in Bosnia and our American forces.

MORE

When I visited with our American soldiers, one of them said to me as I was shaking hands along the line, that he hadn't been quite sure why he had been sent to Bosnia until he got there. He went on to tell me what it was like to help clear a field of mines so that a farmer could return to plant, or how a house that had been uninhabited would show signs of life because they would see a line of wash hanging outside or how all of a sudden they would hear the sounds of children playing where before there had only been silence.

They were proud of what they were doing in Bosnia and they were proud of the role that America is playing. I tell this because I want all Americans to share that pride and to support our efforts in Bosnia in working with the brave people and the government there as they attempt to rebuild their own future.

To all of you involved in the Superman comic book and the hospital partnership and many other important efforts underway in Bosnia, I thank you for your commitment, your compassion, and your faith that democracy and respect and tolerance among people can replace strife and hatred in that distant land. You are truly champions of peace.

This morning, we will hear first from our Ambassador to the United Nations. Madeleine Albright will tell us about the importance of the Superman land mine awareness project and how it will save lives and contribute to Bosnia's recovery. Following Ambassador Albright, Jill Buckley will fill us in on the hospital partnership. We will then be honored to hear from His Excellency Sven Alkalai, Bosnia and Herzegovina's Ambassador to the United States. At the conclusion of the program you will all witness the signing of the hospital partnership agreement, which will make the Buffalo-Tuzla partnership official.

It is now my pleasure to introduce a great public servant, a diplomat extraordinaire, and a woman who has devoted considerable time and energy to making the world safer, juster and more humane, my good friend, Ambassador Madeleine Albright.

END

**Humanitarian Relief for Kosovo News Conference
Remarks by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton**

**The White House
April 21, 1999**

Thank you, and I want to welcome all of you here today. And I very much appreciate your coming. I want to thank those whom you will hear from in a few minutes, including FEMA Director James Lee Witt and USAID Deputy Administrator Hattie Babbitt; and Congressman James Moody who runs Interaction. We also have with us OPM Director Janice LeChance and Morrison Webb, executive vice president of AT&T.

I also want to recognize the heroic contributions of Refugees International, an organization that is on the front lines of humanitarian disasters around the world. And they lost three relief workers in a terrible car accident this week in Albania, who were trying to reach the refugee camps.

Before I begin, I want to say a word about the terrible school shooting that occurred yesterday in Littleton, Colorado. I'm sure all of us are joined together in mourning the loss of so many young lives. And we are sending our prayers and sympathy to the families, the loved ones, the classmates of the victims and the entire community. It's hard to imagine this happening again. And at the extraordinary time that we heard about it, I think all of us hoped it were not true.

When we look into the eyes of our own children we cannot even imagine the fear that parents in Littleton must have felt waiting to find out if they had lost their children.

And it is very hard to just comfort a child who, seeing it on television, is afraid. Imagine what it is like for the young people who saw their friends die before their eyes. Even if we cannot comprehend or imagine the magnitude of the pain that is filling the hearts of the people of Littleton, we can help with our prayers and our hopes by doing all that is possible to make sure the children there receive the counseling and support they need -- whatever medical and psychological help might be required.

And more than that we can, once again, recommit ourselves to ensuring that all classrooms and schoolyards are filled with learning and the sounds of children who are enjoying the everyday give and take of life, and are not filled with violence and anguish.

We're here to talk about a very different tragedy in another part of the world, but one that is equally demanding of our response. The humanitarian disaster in Kosovo is almost incomprehensible.

You've come here because you do want to help. And for that we are grateful, because we need that help more desperately than ever. We've seen the horrifying images of children in trains, children separated from families, robbed of their childhoods, their homes and their memories.

Two out of three of the Kosovars have already been forced to flee their homes, often at gun point, without time to even snatch a family photograph from the wall or even to take identification papers or medications on their fearful journeys.

Like all Americans, I have been outraged by recent reports of paramilitary forces destroying health centers and hospitals, driving out doctors and nurses and depriving refugees of much needed medical care.

I've heard chilling examples of what is happening from a doctor whom I met with again just last week. I met with her first last summer when she came to the White House to tell me what was occurring even then as people were being driven into the mountains.

This brave woman, who had worked around the clock, has now become a refugee herself. Last week when she visited me, I could not only tell from her words, but by the haunted pain in her eyes, what she and the people around her have endured.

She had come here—luckily enough she still had her passport which she smuggled out in the diaper of a nephew she held on her lap—she'd come here to bear witness and to make sure we understood what was happening to the people of her country.

We are doing as much as we can to ease the suffering of the refugees, but we have a lot of work ahead of us. Some of you have seen firsthand what life is like in those camps as wave after wave of displaced people pour across the borders—exhausted and hungry and sick—where international relief agencies are working desperately against time to prevent outbreaks of cholera and other diseases.

You also are aware that, in addition to the camps, there are tens of thousands of refugees being housed in homes in Macedonia and Albania by people who've taken those refugees in. Oftentimes, 20, 30 people living in one room. And those host families are also stretched to breaking point.

To help the people of Kosovo rebuild their lives, we know we have to work as a team at every level of government, in international relief agencies and other charitable organizations, in our businesses, our houses of worship and our communities.

Since the violence began, the United States has contributed more than \$150 million in humanitarian aid including blankets, tents, water jugs and enough food to feed three quarters of a million people. A few weeks ago, I went to Dover Air Force Base and saw the service men and women who have literally been working around the clock loading the food onto pallets to be transported to reach the people of Kosovo.

This week the president called on Congress to pass his \$6 billion proposal for an emergency aid package which includes nearly \$800 million in humanitarian assistance.

The American people, as is the case when events like this occur, have responded with an outpouring of generosity and support. Here at the White House we are flooded with countless calls, letters and e-mails from people who want to know how to help. A woman from Indiana wrote asking whether there was anything the mothers of this country could do to help the mothers of Kosovo.

And another woman from Florida wrote, "We are so blessed in our beloved country. And I really believe that the majority of Americans would like to help in some way, but don't really know how." Well there are ways for everyone to help.

USAID and FEMA are working together to make sure that Americans can do our part through a toll-free number, 800-USAID-RELIEF, and the website www.info.USAID.gov, under the Kosovo listing.

Today I'm also pleased that the President will be sending a memo to every employee in the federal government encouraging them to find out what they can do to help as well.

Across the country, people are coming together to try to understand how they can make a difference. On Monday I met in New York with the heads and representatives of major foundations to talk about what more can be done in the foundation community to support those who are on the ground delivering the services.

I'm very grateful to former Congressman Jim Moody and everyone at Interaction for their leadership and commitment. I also know that the American business community has responded and is responding and wants to know what more it can do to be responsive.

Leading corporations from AT&T to Time Warner to Pepsico are urging their employees to help by matching their contributions dollar for dollar. One relief organization, Project Hope, has already received up to \$5 million worth of pharmaceutical supplies.

UPS has donated cargo space to transport food and other goods into the refugee camps. Slimfast is also involved in the relief effort, and I'm pleased that their president, Danny Abraham, could be with us today.

Major Internet companies, from Yahoo! to Amazon.com to eBay.com, are donating prime space on their home pages to the Red Cross, CARE and other organizations. I'm especially pleased that Yahoo! and Broadcast.com are running public service announcements as a way of getting more people involved.

These are only a few of the major contributions that we're hearing about and that NGOs are receiving.

All told, I believe NGOs have already received \$25 million in cash, in-kind donations. This is setting, yet again, a new standard in corporate—indeed, international—citizenship.

I cannot tell you how proud I am every time I travel around the world on behalf of our country and I see what American corporations are doing, not only to provide jobs—which is the first and most important way to help any country—but also by setting an example of philanthropy and corporate citizenship that is literally helping to transform the way business is conducted and what can happen in a society.

That's why we want to encourage you to continue to be creative about ways you can make a difference. In a few minutes, we're going to find that cash contributions, as you'll hear from our speakers, are often the most effective way to help in an ever-changing situation.

But every donation counts, and every donation is helping. I want to say a special word though about Macedonia and Albania, because here perhaps as much as any way, the business

community in America and your counterparts in Europe and Japan and elsewhere can make a very big difference.

I just met with the Macedonian ambassador and representatives of the Macedonian government to hear firsthand the impact that this crisis is making on their economy and their country. I thank them on behalf of the President and the American people for what they are doing.

Because think about what it must mean to be in small, poor countries and having to deal with the tens of thousands—now hundreds of thousands—of displaced people coming across your borders seeking all manner of help and having all kinds of needs that must be met.

Macedonia, for example, is providing safe haven already for more than 100,000 refugees. But because of the conflict, it's trade routes through Serbia have been severed. Foreign companies are canceling contracts, thereby putting people out of work, particularly in the textile manufacturing sector because companies are concerned about continuing to do business in Macedonia given the instability there.

Now when that happens, it exacerbates enormously the strain on the government and the people of Macedonia. Oftentimes these contracts are being canceled at plants that are of considerable distance away from the refugee camps. They are often in plants that are in the center of the Albanian population in Macedonia which is attempting to help host families to take in a lot of refugees. But now people are losing the jobs that they had that supported, in a meager way, the caring of these people because of these kinds of cancellations.

We cannot let this conflict derail the social, economic and political progress that Macedonia and its neighbors have struggled so hard and for so long to achieve. We also want to be sure that insofar as possible, existing contracts and even new investments continue in the region.

And in addition, if there are ways of buying supplies from local producers and suppliers to supply both military and civilian relief needs, I hope we will do as much as we can to continue to boost the local economies in both Macedonia and Albania.

I think that those governments and those people need our support now, and they will continue to need our support in the future.

Because as we work and pray for peace, we cannot lose sight of the fact that there will be a lot of work to do if we are eventually to realize our goals of returning the Kosovars to Kosovo and rebuilding the economies there, as well in the neighboring countries. }

So thank you, thank you for what you've done and what you will do. It is a unique public/private partnership that is one of the hallmarks of the American experience that is not matched anywhere else in the world and has never been matched in history.

It's now my pleasure to introduce someone who's working very hard every day on making sure that our relief efforts are effective on the ground, and that's USAID Deputy Administrator, Hattie Babbitt.

FACT SHEET:
Humanitarian Facts on the Civilian Implementation in Kosovo

- The Kosovo crisis resulted in about 1.5 million Albanian Kosovar refugees and Internally Displaced persons (IDPs).
 - Of the above total, some 970,000 were refugees, and
 - About a half a million were IDPs.
- Over 720,000 are reported by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to have returned, or about 74 percent; most returned spontaneously.
- UNHCR is in the process of registering those who remain in the front line states, now estimated to number about 95,000.
- Those who fled to countries outside the region (mostly Turkey) are also returning.
 - Over 80 percent of those who went to Turkey are back in Kosovo.
- About 92,000 left under the Humanitarian Evacuation Program (HEP), in which Kosovar refugees who fled to Macedonia were evacuated to third countries.
 - To date, 10,513 of these have come to the U.S.
 - The first flight of refugees returning to their homes from the U.S. departs New York City today, July 26, with some 300 refugees aboard.
 - Over 6,000 refugees already have returned from all of the evacuation countries combined.
- UNHCR is coordinating a massive humanitarian effort in Kosovo.
 - Supplies are being sent from Skopje to Pristina and seven UNHCR regional distribution centers.
 - Over 90 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are operating in Kosovo, and the list is growing.
- The major concern is security for minorities; the UN civilian authority is working with KFOR on this problem; it also is working to establish a police force with international training and participation.
- Since early March of 1998, the U.S. Government has provided more than \$291 million in humanitarian assistance for Kosovo.
- The UNHCR reports \$265 million in total contributions have been announced for its Kosovo emergency operation; the U.S. is a major contributor.
- This year, the State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration has contributed \$78.5 million to UNHCR's emergency program.
 - State/PRM also has contributed \$55.2 million this year to other humanitarian organizations for activities responding to the Kosovo crisis.

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- Up to \$500 million is being used precisely for the purposes spelled out in briefing materials to the Hill: almost exclusively for relief and rehabilitation--not to implement program of long term development.
- We always expected that with an early settlement, there would be short-term relief and short-term rehabilitation needs that would be required for refugees and displaced returning to Kosovo and still in the neighboring countries.
- Includes about \$100 million in food aid.
- Includes about \$137.5 million of USAID disaster assistance funds, including \$95 million to AID's Bureau for Humanitarian Response in Kosovo and \$36 million for Albania and Macedonia - including support for host families.
- About \$220 million in refugee assistance.
- About \$15 million in short term community development and rehabilitation activities funded through SEED and AID.
- Focus is shelter -- helping people make it through the winter; water and sanitation; basic health and psychosocial trauma care; mine awareness, among other issues.

NOTE TO HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON EDITORS: TWO PIECES OF ART FROM THE "SUPERMAN: DEADLY LEGACY" COMIC BOOK ACCOMPANY THIS COLUMN. THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION. -- CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.

**TALKING IT OVER
BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

The newest comic book to hit the streets in Sarajevo is an American classic with a modern twist. Predictably, the hero wears a red cape and has a large "S" emblazoned across his chest. He has special vision, supernatural powers and a big heart.

But this Superman doesn't just fight villains in a mythical Metropolis. He is crossing the Atlantic to warn children in Bosnia and Herzegovina about the dangers of land mines in a region still emerging from the darkness of war.

Superman's arrival in Bosnia is the result of a public and private partnership involving our Defense Department, United Nations Ambassador Madeleine Albright, UNICEF and its special representative Judy Collins, Warner Bros. and DC Comics. The comic book will be a vital educational tool in a country where millions of land mines currently lie in wait for vulnerable children and civilians.

I was honored to help unveil the comic book at the White House this week and to announce a new American hospital partnership that will help boost the recovery effort in Bosnia.

Standing in the East Room with children from Bosnia -- some of them war refugees -- and watching the mayors of Tuzla, Bosnia, and Buffalo, N.Y., sign the hospital agreement, I felt pride in our nation's tradition of humanitarian assistance and our commitment to democracy in the former Yugoslavia and around the world.

The hospital partnership, sponsored by our government through the U.S. Agency for International Development and the American International Health Alliance, will involve Buffalo General Hospital and the Tuzla Clinical Center. Like other hospital partnerships that I've visited in Russia, Estonia, Ukraine and Belarus, this one will benefit both hospitals and countries involved.

Not only will American physicians and nurses be exposed to new and different medical challenges, the resources, expertise and technology they bring to Bosnia will improve the availability and quality of medical care for tens of thousands of people

TALKING IT OVER 10/21/96

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there. Many of those needing care are women, children and refugees suffering from physical and emotional traumas associated with years of violence and war.

Already, American medical personnel from Buffalo have traveled to Tuzla and worked side by side with their Bosnian colleagues, even in the midst of war and violence. They have procured \$1.5 million in supplies for use in Tuzla. And Eli Lilly & Co. has committed \$250,000 in donations for next year.

In addition to expanding pediatric services, improving pre-natal care and the treatment of chronic diseases, the hospital partnership will enable the Tuzla Clinical Center to improve its care of children maimed and injured by land mines, many of whom are taken there.

Today, one out of every eight homes in Bosnia is endangered because of a proximity to mines. In central Bosnia, one of every three acres of land is unusable because of mines. And even though the fighting is over and peace has taken hold, the detonation of land mines has become the most common cause of serious injury in the country.

The prevalence of mines prompted UNICEF to launch a mine-awareness campaign for children and civilians. Superman seemed just the sort of person to help get the message across.

The comic book, called "Superman: Deadly Legacy," tells the story of two boys in Bosnia. They are walking along a road looking for a friend when one bends down to pick up some debris from a mortar. Quickly, Superman pulls him away, and the boy narrowly misses stepping on a mine concealed underground.

As the boys continue to search for their friend, Superman teaches them how to avoid places where land mines might be hidden: bombed-out houses, abandoned buildings, old checkpoints and trench lines. Even paths and bridges are sometimes littered with land mines, Superman explains.

With Superman's help, the boys eventually find their friend but not before happening upon a wounded dog (who dies) and a playmate who has lost a leg and is wrapped in bandages. He tripped a mine while practicing soccer in an open field.

It is a chilling tale, one that reflects the chilling reality of children's lives in Bosnia. But it is also a tale of hope for the people of Bosnia who, with our help, will be able to take one more step to a stable, peaceful and democratic future.

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October 21, 1996

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Nations, aid groups vow \$2 billion to rebuild Kosovo

Total exceeds estimates
for immediate work; U.S.
pledges 25% of amount

FROM WIRE REPORTS

BRUSSELS, Belgium — World nations and aid organizations promised \$2 billion yesterday to rebuild war-ravaged Kosovo — a sum that far exceeds the immediate need, officials said.

Pledges from more than 60 countries, dozens of aid agencies and regional groups totaled nearly four times the amount needed to make immediate repairs and restore order in the region, said Johannes Linn, World Bank's vice president for Europe and Central Asia.

Officials from the World Bank and the European Union, both of which sponsored the conference, said that cost estimates for Kosovo repairs are constantly being revised, so it is impossible to say how much will be needed in total.

But yesterday's fund-raising success indicated there would be enough, "once the broader reconstruction and recovery program is unveiled," Linn said.

Officials said the surplus gathered yesterday would be applied

to future programs in Kosovo.

The United States pledged \$500 million of the \$2.1 billion total, U.S. Ambassador James Dobbins said. Japan offered \$200 million, Germany \$190 million and Britain \$145 million, he said.

The European Union, through the European Agency for Reconstruction, offered about \$160 million this year and \$532 million next year.

Dobbins noted that while the United States put up perhaps more than its share for the early work, it expected Europe to donate more heavily for the region's long-term rehabilitation.

The United Nations had asked for \$200 million to provide for refugees who had fled the Serb assault. That cost, it said, was sharply reduced since most of the estimated 1 million refugees have returned to Kosovo.

It also asked for \$45 million to begin paying police, garbage collectors, hospital workers and other civil servants.

The European Union asked for about \$300 million to start home repairs. It estimated the total cost at about \$1.2 billion, but said that could be reduced to \$800 million with the labor of Kosovo villagers.

More than half the 200,000 homes in the region were destroyed or damaged, mostly by

Serbs, during their 16-month drive to purge the region's ethnic Albanian majority. Hoping eventually to occupy and dominate Kosovo, the Serbs spared industry and infrastructure.

The \$500 million promised by the United States is to go toward food, shelter, water purification, land-mine clearance and other humanitarian aid for civilians. It also planned \$41 million for police training.

The United States also allocated \$20 million for the prosecution of war crimes.

On the eve of a wider Balkans summit in Bosnia's capital, Sarajevo, tomorrow, the European Union also pledged \$403 million in macroeconomic aid to Romania, Bulgaria and Macedonia — signaling concern for neighboring countries affected by the Kosovo conflict, which ended last month.

Western leaders at the summit also are expected to ram home the message that Serbia, while welcome to join the pact process, will not benefit while President Slobodan Milosevic remains in power.

To underline the point, the EU plans to invite former Yugoslav central bank governor Dragoslav Avramovic, touted as a possible interim replacement.

Gunter Burghardt, head of the European Commission's foreign relations department, said the world had a clear responsibility to make sure war was extinguished in the Balkans.

"In 1999 our task is not only to act like a fire brigade and put the fire out, but we have to make sure that the arsonists have no chance to cause further conflict in this region," he told the donor meeting.

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JULY 27, 14:14 EDT

Donors Seek Funds To Rebuild Kosovo

By PETER JAMES SPIELMANN
Associated Press Writer

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — With a bitter Balkan winter bearing down on Kosovo in a few months, the World Bank and European Union will try to raise more than \$1.2 billion to make sure 720,000 refugees have roofs over their heads.

About 120,000 of the 200,000 homes in Kosovo were damaged and some 40,000 were ruined, according to a study by the International Management Group, commissioned by the European Union.

That study put the cost of housing repairs alone at \$1.18 billion. About \$20 million will be needed for fixing schools, hospitals, clinics, and electricity and water networks, the study said.

Still, the overall cost is less than half the \$3 billion the European Union originally estimated would be needed for humanitarian aid.

A donors' meeting with representatives from more than 100 nations, regional organizations, the United Nations and World Bank opens Wednesday in Brussels to try to raise these funds, followed by a Balkan aid summit Friday in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina. Both meetings will focus on the immediate humanitarian aid problem with winter approaching, while longer-range issues of reconstruction and reviving the economy will be dealt with at a conference in October.

Most of the damage to ethnic Albanian housing was inflicted by Serb security forces or local Serbs as part of their 16-month drive to purge Kosovo of its ethnic Albanian majority.

The Serbs generally spared mines, industry, roads, bridges and other infrastructure, since they had hoped to occupy and dominate Kosovo.

KOSOVO CRISIS LATEST NEWS

- **Kosovo Albanians Return Home**
- **U.S. Offers \$500M in Aid to Kosovo**
- **Serbian Opposition Gets Defensive**
- **Kosovo Refugees Leave U.S. for Home**
- **Donors Seek Funds To Rebuild Kosovo**
- **Asian Conference Ends With Tensions**
- **Russians Endure Albanians' Hatred**
- **Pollution Hot Spots ID'd in Serbia**

SPECIAL REPORTS

- **Flashpoint Yugoslavia: Historical Perspective**

The return since June of about 720,000 of the estimated 1 million refugees who fled Kosovo during the NATO air campaign has sharply reduced the cost of caring for refugees.

Furthermore, the Kosovo Albanians quickly returned to their villages and are eager to begin repairing their damaged homes.

``The situation is ripe for the international community to help the Kosovars help themselves'' by making sure they have access to building materials, said Rory O'Sullivan, the World Bank's representative for Southeast European Reconstruction.

``In Kosovo, if you give the guys the beams, if you give them tiles and windows, they do it all themselves,'' which greatly reduces the cost that the world community must bear, he said.

``I feel pretty encouraged about this winter, with the efforts being made by the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, the international community, the amount of damage being less than we feared it would be, plus the coping strategies of the Kosovars,'' he said.

The United States promised this week to provide up to \$500 million in food, shelter and other humanitarian aid for Kosovo civilians. The European Union will provide about \$160 million this year and \$532 million next year through the new European Agency for Reconstruction.

At Wednesday's conference, the EU also is expected to announce the formation of a trust fund to pay the salaries of hospital, utility and other public service employees in Kosovo, where there is no functioning government.

``There are no tax revenues. ... That's a major issue, lack of revenues for Kosovo,'' O'Sullivan said.

``On the business and enterprise side, we were struck by the total lack of economic activity. I mean it is really practically zero,'' he said, apart from some agricultural activity by people trying to harvest their crops.

Still, the food aid situation ``seems to be pretty well under control,'' he said. ``I don't think anyone is going hungry."

Perspective

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• [U.S. State Dept. Site Devoted to Kosovo](#)

• [International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia](#)



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JULY 27, 07:36 EDT

U.S. Offers \$500M in Aid to Kosovo

By EUN-KYUNG KIM
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States will provide up to \$500 million in food, shelter and other humanitarian aid for Kosovo civilians rebuilding their lives following destruction by Serb forces.



Headed back
AP/Boris Grdanoski [28K]

The offer will be made Wednesday at a reconstruction conference in Brussels, Belgium, where the "immediate human needs" in Kosovo will be discussed with several dozen other donors, James Dobbins, a State Department adviser on U.S. policy in the Balkans, said Monday.

"The bulk of this money is being provided in order to kick start and get moving on the civilian implementation of the (United Nations) Security Council resolution and the peacekeeping operation in Kosovo," he said.

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright plans to visit Kosovo on Thursday before joining President Clinton the next day in Bosnia for an international conference on economic reconstruction in the Balkans.



Kosovo makes its first steps toward normality.

National security adviser Sandy Berger said the funds are "subject to a clear assessment of need and confirmation that other donors will do their part."

The aid will come from funds requested from Congress for refugee camps for ethnic Kosovo Albanians in Macedonia and in Albania. In addition to food and shelter, money also will go toward clearing land mines, making preparations for the winter and establishing an international


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for the winter and establishing an international police force of about 3,100 officers, including 450 from the United States.

Berger said ``not one penny" in U.S. reconstruction aid will go to Serbia so long as Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic remains in power.

Milosevic led a ``systematic effort by a nation, by a government, to eliminate an entire people" before NATO bombs forced the withdrawal of Serb troops accused of countless atrocities against ethnic Albanian civilians, said Berger, an architect of the air war against Yugoslavia.

The Clinton administration's preference for dealing with similar ethnic cleansing campaigns is to build up the capacity of neighboring countries to intervene rather than to send in American troops, Berger said.

That approach was taken by the administration to deal with bloody abuses in Rwanda, and Berger said the United States is prepared to use force to protect civilians against genocide elsewhere in Africa provided three conditions are met: There is a systematic effort to eliminate an ethnic group; the United States had a national security stake; and the U.S. military had the capacity to act.

Berger said more than 720,000 of the estimated 1 million ethnic Albanian refugees have returned to Kosovo. Many of them are enraged by the murder of relatives and the destruction of homes and schools.

``Had the United States done nothing," Berger said, ``an entire people would have been erased."

About 300 refugees brought to America by the U.S. government left Monday for their homeland, the first to return since the NATO bombing campaign ended.

Also Monday, the first congressional delegation to tour Kosovo since the end of NATO bombing denounced a massacre Saturday of Serb farmers. In what may have been an ethnically driven revenge attack, the 14 people were killed and left in a field near Gracko the day after the bipartisan



Happy days
AP/David Brauchli
[16K]

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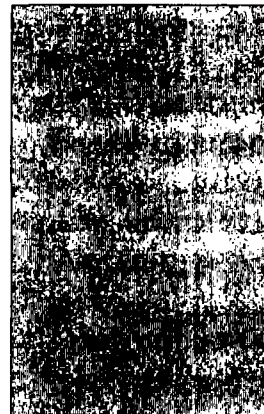
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group of eight House members arrived in the province.

``Our delegation is concerned that these brutal murders may represent a significant setback in efforts to convince those Serbs who still remain in Kosovo that ... (NATO-led peacekeepers) can and will protect them," said a statement from the congressional group.

The group, chaired by Rep. Tillie Fowler, R-Fla., spent three days in the Balkans.



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**Humanitarian Relief for Kosovo News Conference
Remarks by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton**

**The White House
April 21, 1999**

Thank you, and I want to welcome all of you here today. And I very much appreciate your coming. I want to thank those whom you will hear from in a few minutes, including FEMA Director James Lee Witt and USAID Deputy Administrator Hattie Babbitt; and Congressman James Moody who runs Interaction. We also have with us OPM Director Janice LeChance and Morrison Webb, executive vice president of AT&T.

I also want to recognize the heroic contributions of Refugees International, an organization that is on the front lines of humanitarian disasters around the world. And they lost three relief workers in a terrible car accident this week in Albania, who were trying to reach the refugee camps.

Before I begin, I want to say a word about the terrible school shooting that occurred yesterday in Littleton, Colorado. I'm sure all of us are joined together in mourning the loss of so many young lives. And we are sending our prayers and sympathy to the families, the loved ones, the classmates of the victims and the entire community. It's hard to imagine this happening again. And at the extraordinary time that we heard about it, I think all of us hoped it were not true.

When we look into the eyes of our own children we cannot even imagine the fear that parents in Littleton must have felt waiting to find out if they had lost their children.

And it is very hard to just comfort a child who, seeing it on television, is afraid. Imagine what it is like for the young people who saw their friends die before their eyes. Even if we cannot comprehend or imagine the magnitude of the pain that is filling the hearts of the people of Littleton, we can help with our prayers and our hopes by doing all that is possible to make sure the children there receive the counseling and support they need -- whatever medical and psychological help might be required.

And more than that we can, once again, recommit ourselves to ensuring that all classrooms and schoolyards are filled with learning and the sounds of children who are enjoying the everyday give and take of life, and are not filled with violence and anguish.

We're here to talk about a very different tragedy in another part of the world, but one that is equally demanding of our response. The humanitarian disaster in Kosovo is almost incomprehensible.

You've come here because you do want to help. And for that we are grateful, because we need that help more desperately than ever. We've seen the horrifying images of children in trains, children separated from families, robbed of their childhoods, their homes and their memories.

Two out of three of the Kosovars have already been forced to flee their homes, often at gun point, without time to even snatch a family photograph from the wall or even to take identification papers or medications on their fearful journeys.

Like all Americans, I have been outraged by recent reports of paramilitary forces destroying health centers and hospitals, driving out doctors and nurses and depriving refugees of much needed medical care.

I've heard chilling examples of what is happening from a doctor whom I met with again just last week. I met with her first last summer when she came to the White House to tell me what was occurring even then as people were being driven into the mountains.

This brave woman, who had worked around the clock, has now become a refugee herself. Last week when she visited me, I could not only tell from her words, but by the haunted pain in her eyes, what she and the people around her have endured.

She had come here—luckily enough she still had her passport which she smuggled out in the diaper of a nephew she held on her lap—she'd come here to bear witness and to make sure we understood what was happening to the people of her country.

We are doing as much as we can to ease the suffering of the refugees, but we have a lot of work ahead of us. Some of you have seen firsthand what life is like in those camps as wave after wave of displaced people pour across the borders—exhausted and hungry and sick—where international relief agencies are working desperately against time to prevent outbreaks of cholera and other diseases.

You also are aware that, in addition to the camps, there are tens of thousands of refugees being housed in homes in Macedonia and Albania by people who've taken those refugees in. Oftentimes, 20, 30 people living in one room. And those host families are also stretched to breaking point.

To help the people of Kosovo rebuild their lives, we know we have to work as a team at every level of government, in international relief agencies and other charitable organizations, in our businesses, our houses of worship and our communities.

Since the violence began, the United States has contributed more than \$150 million in humanitarian aid including blankets, tents, water jugs and enough food to feed three quarters of a million people. A few weeks ago, I went to Dover Air Force Base and saw the service men and women who have literally been working around the clock loading the food onto pallets to be transported to reach the people of Kosovo.

This week the president called on Congress to pass his \$6 billion proposal for an emergency aid package which includes nearly \$800 million in humanitarian assistance.

The American people, as is the case when events like this occur, have responded with an outpouring of generosity and support. Here at the White House we are flooded with countless calls, letters and e-mails from people who want to know how to help. A woman from Indiana wrote asking whether there was anything the mothers of this country could do to help the mothers of Kosovo.

And another woman from Florida wrote, "We are so blessed in our beloved country. And I really believe that the majority of Americans would like to help in some way, but don't really know how." Well there are ways for everyone to help.

USAID and FEMA are working together to make sure that Americans can do our part through a toll-free number, 800-USAID-RELIEF, and the website www.info.USAID.gov, under the Kosovo listing.

Today I'm also pleased that the President will be sending a memo to every employee in the federal government encouraging them to find out what they can do to help as well.

Across the country, people are coming together to try to understand how they can make a difference. On Monday I met in New York with the heads and representatives of major foundations to talk about what more can be done in the foundation community to support those who are on the ground delivering the services.

I'm very grateful to former Congressman Jim Moody and everyone at Interaction for their leadership and commitment. I also know that the American business community has responded and is responding and wants to know what more it can do to be responsive.

Leading corporations from AT&T to Time Warner to Pepsico are urging their employees to help by matching their contributions dollar for dollar. One relief organization, Project Hope, has already received up to \$5 million worth of pharmaceutical supplies.

UPS has donated cargo space to transport food and other goods into the refugee camps. Slimfast is also involved in the relief effort, and I'm pleased that their president, Danny Abraham, could be with us today.

Major Internet companies, from Yahoo! to Amazon.com to eBay.com, are donating prime space on their home pages to the Red Cross, CARE and other organizations. I'm especially pleased that Yahoo! and Broadcast.com are running public service announcements as a way of getting more people involved.

These are only a few of the major contributions that we're hearing about and that NGOs are receiving.

All told, I believe NGOs have already received \$25 million in cash, in-kind donations. This is setting, yet again, a new standard in corporate—indeed, international—citizenship.

I cannot tell you how proud I am every time I travel around the world on behalf of our country and I see what American corporations are doing, not only to provide jobs—which is the first and most important way to help any country—but also by setting an example of philanthropy and corporate citizenship that is literally helping to transform the way business is conducted and what can happen in a society.

That's why we want to encourage you to continue to be creative about ways you can make a difference. In a few minutes, we're going to find that cash contributions, as you'll hear from our speakers, are often the most effective way to help in an ever-changing situation.

But every donation counts, and every donation is helping. I want to say a special word though about Macedonia and Albania, because here perhaps as much as any way, the business

community in America and your counterparts in Europe and Japan and elsewhere can make a very big difference.

I just met with the Macedonian ambassador and representatives of the Macedonian government to hear firsthand the impact that this crisis is making on their economy and their country. I thank them on behalf of the President and the American people for what they are doing.

Because think about what it must mean to be in small, poor countries and having to deal with the tens of thousands—now hundreds of thousands—of displaced people coming across your borders seeking all manner of help and having all kinds of needs that must be met.

Macedonia, for example, is providing safe haven already for more than 100,000 refugees. But because of the conflict, it's trade routes through Serbia have been severed. Foreign companies are canceling contracts, thereby putting people out of work, particularly in the textile manufacturing sector because companies are concerned about continuing to do business in Macedonia given the instability there.

Now when that happens, it exacerbates enormously the strain on the government and the people of Macedonia. Oftentimes these contracts are being canceled at plants that are of considerable distance away from the refugee camps. They are often in plants that are in the center of the Albanian population in Macedonia which is attempting to help host families to take in a lot of refugees. But now people are losing the jobs that they had that supported, in a meager way, the caring of these people because of these kinds of cancellations.

We cannot let this conflict derail the social, economic and political progress that Macedonia and its neighbors have struggled so hard and for so long to achieve. We also want to be sure that insofar as possible, existing contracts and even new investments continue in the region.

And in addition, if there are ways of buying supplies from local producers and suppliers to supply both military and civilian relief needs, I hope we will do as much as we can to continue to boost the local economies in both Macedonia and Albania.

I think that those governments and those people need our support now, and they will continue to need our support in the future.

Because as we work and pray for peace, we cannot lose sight of the fact that there will be a lot of work to do if we are eventually to realize our goals of returning the Kosovars to Kosovo and rebuilding the economies there, as well in the neighboring countries.

So thank you, thank you for what you've done and what you will do. It is a unique public/private partnership that is one of the hallmarks of the American experience that is not matched anywhere else in the world and has never been matched in history.

It's now my pleasure to introduce someone who's working very hard every day on making sure that our relief efforts are effective on the ground, and that's USAID Deputy Administrator, Hattie Babbitt.

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
SUPERMAN COMIC EVENT
THE WHITE HOUSE
AUGUST 2, 1999

It's a great pleasure to welcome all of you to the White House. We've come together today in part to celebrate the end of the terrible conflict in Kosovo – and the return of the refugees to their homes and communities. But we're here as well to talk about the new challenges facing the people of Kosovo today, and the role that we can all play as they begin to put their lives back together, and rebuild their communities.

Let's think together for a moment about the remarkable changes that have taken place in such a short time. A few months ago, the world was haunted by the images on television and in the newspapers of Kosovars being crowded into trains; parents being separated from their children; refugees wandering through a landscape of desolation and despair. Those heart-wrenching scenes are now thankfully being replaced with images of hope: refugees returning home to the joyful embraces of relatives they feared dead. Families who thought they would never see their homes again returning to find Albanian flags fluttering on buildings; crowded streets, open stores and bustling markets. But they are also returning home, unfortunately, to new challenges and dangers – including land mines.

The victory in Kosovo has been the triumph of a united international community over the forces of inhumanity and hatred. And today, we will be hearing from members of that same community -- who are now working as partners in making this new peace real not only in the homes – but in the factories and fields and playgrounds of Kosovo. I want to welcome Tehnaz Dastoor [Ten-AZ Dass-TURE] from UNICEF, who has just returned from Kosovo; Lt. General Michael Davison from the Department of Defense; and Jenette Kahn, President of DC Comics. I welcome as well the representatives of the many NGOs, humanitarian groups, and government agencies who have joined us today.

It is my pleasure today to introduce to you one of the newest members of the international humanitarian community: A hero who wears a red cape and has a large "S" emblazoned across his chest. Superman has been the hero of America's children for generations. Now he will be both a hero and a guide to the children of Kosovo – educating them about the dangers of land mines – and how to stay away from these terrible, hidden dangers.

Celebrate peace, and the return of Kosovar refugees to their homeland – challenges they face – and we all face together.

Why we're here: another public/private partnership to raise awareness about challenges facing returning refugees; one effort among many that the American people have extended; DC Comics and govt. unveil a new effort;

UNICEF: work that NGOs doing on the ground; and the impact;

DOD: comic book partnership

DC comics: private role;

Audience: ngos; dod; state dept; state dept;

Returning refugees

Comic book announcement

Something cute about superman

Thanks to a public-private partnership involving the Department of Defense; UNICEF; D.C. Comics; The World Food Bank; and the Department of State, Superman will bring a special message to Kosovo's children in a new comic book that warns about the dangers of land mines. We all know that children cannot grow up to be happy, healthy and productive citizens if their childhoods are scarred by fear and violence. Sadly, land mines continue to pose a threat to children in Kosovo and many other places around the world.

As we speak, the comic books are on their way to Kosovo for distribution so they can reach as many as 500,000 children...



I had the opportunity to see for myself the devastating toll of land mines on peoples lives during a recent trip to Slovenia. While it doesn't have a landmine problem, it is helping victims of all faiths recover from land mine accidents while creating prosthetic limbs for them. I was horrified when I picked up two different types of land mines and saw how tiny they really are and how easily they could be hidden in grass, on a playground, or in a home. As many of you know, this is the second time;

Humanitarian assistance by both Government and NGOs

The victory in Kosovo is the triumph of a united international community over the forces of inhumanity and hatred. But it is also the triumph of countless unheralded individuals -- from brave American and NATO soldiers to thousands of generous families, relief workers and businesses -- who opened their hearts, their homes and their pocketbooks to help make sure that every Kosovar refugee would one day be able to go home with dignity.

Individual Citizens -- Americans from all across the country wrote in to the White House to offer their spare bedrooms, express support for our troops, or share their horror at the atrocities being committed.

Ft. Dix -- Ft. Dix -- I was privileged to go to meet the first group of refugees who arrived in our country at Fort Dix in New Jersey.

I was able to welcome them because we had once again opened our arms and our hearts to this first group of Kosovar refugees. There were grandmothers in shawls; there were students who spoke perfect English. There were children, some in diapers, others sitting on their mothers' laps. There was even one woman who gave birth not long after arriving.

And I was especially touched by the partnership that existed among our military and our civilian relief workers. The general who is running this operation, called "Operation Open Arms," told us that he had instructed all of his personnel that they were to treat these people as guests. Because he said he remembered very well the story that was told to him of his grandmother coming to this country from Ukraine. He said, "I know that when she came to our country she, too, had a handkerchief on her head. She, too, was scared to death. She did not know what to expect. But she was taken in."

The way he related his own personal story to what was happening with these refugees made me very proud to be an American. And when I later went to the gymnasium and talked with the refugees and shook their hands and looked into the eyes of those children. They've endured unspeakable hardship and many have witnessed atrocities. And yet we knew that they hoped to return home. The biggest cheers my remarks received were when I told them on behalf of our country and the President that they would be returning home.

Businesses – In May, I met a woman named Danica Georgieva, whose small company of six employees did subcontracting work for the American clothing manufacturer Liz Claiborne. When Danica told me that because of the war Claiborne had significantly reduced its orders, I promised to do what I could to help.

On my return to Macedonia this week, Paul Charron, Liz Claiborne's CEO, traveled with me to unveil a project that will not only help the refugees but ensure that Macedonian workers will be able to keep their jobs as well. Starting at the end of this month, his company will donate the fabric, designs and expertise to create 250,000 shirts and pants for the refugees, providing 3,000 jobs for Macedonian textile workers in the process. USAID will fund the production and distribution of the clothing, and the relief agency Mercy International will make sure the items are distributed to the refugees.

NGOs – still waiting for stories.

Trips to Macedonia -- A 63-year-old woman told me she doesn't know where her daughter and grandchildren are. They were with the daughter's in-laws when Serb police stormed the house, held guns to their throats and ordered them to leave.

One of the men I met cried when he remembered the funeral of a friend in his village: Serb police surrounded the mourners as they stood at the grave, threatening to kill them all. Then, they stripped the Albanians of their money and valuables and drove them away.

I also spoke with a man who, in fluent English, told me that his wife and children were visiting her father when the Serbs arrived, forcing him to

flee without them. Six weeks later, he is still trying to find them.

I will never forget the last story I heard that day. A woman described the crush of refugees being herded onto trains to leave Kosovo. She held tightly to the hand of her oldest daughter who, in turn, held onto the younger children. Horrified, she felt her daughter's hand slip away. Forced by the authorities to board a train, she realized that her girls and her husband, who was trying to find them, were lost. Today, she, too, lives without any word of where they are or even whether they are still alive.

US support -- \$500 million – what does that mean in on the ground facts?

Belgium and Sarajevo – what should we say about what is going on there?

They can start to rebuild their lives and their homes. Reunite with family and mourn the loss of others. We are helping reduce the uncertainty of this return by educating children and families about safety and precautions...

Mines are one of many problems; shelter; food; still so many challenges; and we have to continue to help meet those challenges;

I'm proud that American citizens

But as a government

Returning refugees

The haunting images we saw on television a few months ago of Kosovars being crowded into trains and parents being separated from their children are thankfully being replaced with images of refugees returning home to the long embraces of relatives they feared dead. They are returning home to Albanian flags fluttering on buildings. They are returning home to crowded streets, open stores and bustling markets. But they are also returning home, unfortunately, to land mines.

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They can start to rebuild their lives and their homes. Reunite with family and mourn the loss of others. We are helping reduce the uncertainty of this return by educating children and families about safety and precautions...

now that we
we cannot

Seemed as
if we
cannot

allow...

● Maureen T. Shea

07/28/99 11:23:26 AM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

cc:

Subject: Update

I will let you know as soon as I get definitive word on the time for the event, but the following is an updated memo including program participants, press, invitees, and staff contacts. If you have any questions, I'm on X62721 - thanks to everyone for being flexible.

Event: 2:00 - August 2, 1999 - Roosevelt Room

Program Participants

First Lady – Welcome and update on humanitarian aid
Tehnaz Dastoor, Office of Emergency Programs, UNICEF – report from Kosovo
Lt. General Michael Davison – DOD effort
Jenette Kahn, President, DC Comics – importance of involvement
First Lady – Closing remarks

Backdrop: Blow-Up of comic book in Albanian (Maureen working with DC Comics and George)

PRESS: TOBY

Packets: Comic Book - Poster- Background on land mine efforts
Fact sheet on Kosovo (NSC to prepare)

Dag Vega: ethnic and religious press

Briefing following event
Special Representative Steinberg
Brian Sheridan,
Dr. James Schear
LTG Davison

Possible Stake Out with Tehnaz Dastoor and Vjosa Dobruna

AUDIENCE: 40-45

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Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. list	re: Invitation list [partial] [10 U.S.G. 424] (2 pages)	n.d.	P3/b(3), b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Christine Macy
OA/Box Number: 17204

FOLDER TITLE:

Kosovo Comic Book [2]

2013-0936-S
rc1356

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
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C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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INVITATION LIST

US GOVERNMENT (11)

DEFENSE

Mr. John Heaphy, Humanitarian Demining Program Manager, Defense Security Cooperation Agency

Brian E. Sheridan-Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict

Dr. James A. Schear-Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Peacekeeping and Humanitarian Assistance

Colonel Harold T. Stott, Jr. Demining Policy Assistant, Humanitarian Assistance and Anti Personnel Landmine

(b)(3)

[6001]

AID

Deputy Administrator Hattit Babbitt

STATE

Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Beecroft (regret)

Assistant Secretary of State Newsom

PM/HDP Director Patierno

Special Representative Donald Steinberg

Assistant Secretary of State Taft

Laurie Zimmerman

PEACE CORPS

Dina Siber-Jaco (regret)

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY (6)

UNICEF Director Carol Bellamy (regret)

UN Assistant Secretary General Bernard Miyet

UNHCR Executive Director Ogata (regret)

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Lillian Laserson, VP & General Counsel DC Comics
Day Layton, Program Director, Marshall Legacy Institute
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Hon. Tim Wirth, UN Foundation (regret)
Andrew Young, Goodworks Foundation (regret)

CARE International - Mary Ann Leach
Catholic Relief Services
International Medical Corps
International Rescue Committee – Annike Buche
Mercy Corps International
Rotary International
Save the Children
World Vision

MEMBERS OF CONGRESS – TBD – (5)

ETHNIC ALBANIANS - TBD - (8)

Ilir Zherka, Executive Director - National Albanian American Council
Aferdita Rakipi, Communications Director - National Albanian American Council
Avni Mustafaj, COO, Kosova Relief Fund and President of NAAC
Elza Zagreda
Dr. Anna Kohen, President - Albanian American Women's Organization
Shqipe Malushi, Founder, Former President - Albanian American Women's Organization
Dr. Vjosa Dobruna, Pediatrician from Kosova, co-founder of Council for Human Rights, founder of the Center for the Protection of Women and Children (USAID grantee)
Michael Gregory, NAAC Board Member, Regional Representative in Massachusetts

EVENT CONTACTS:

Scott Busby	456-9141
Katy Button	456-6266
George Caudill	456-7066
Toby Graff	456-2960
Marty Hoffman	456-6650
Noa Meyer	456-2787

Danny O'Brien	456-2952
Maureen Shea	456-2721
Don Steinberg	647-0562
Tom Stott	703-614-0022 or 0028
Melanne Verveer	456-6266
Laurie Zimmerman	647-0595

(b)(6)

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zimmermanl@state.gov
Scott Busby/NSC/EOP@EOP

KOSOVO COMIC CEREMONY

REMARKS

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002. list	re: Invitation list [partial] [10 U.S.G. 424] (2 pages)	07/29/1999	P3/b(3), b(6)

COLLECTION:

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FOLDER TITLE:

Kosovo Comic Book [2]

2013-0936-S

rc1356

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[002]

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STATE

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PM/HDP Director Patierno
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Public-Private Partnerships to Fight Landmines

Superman Mine Awareness Comics

Adopt-a-Minefield

Canine Demining Corps

CD-ROM on Landmines

Global Landmine Survey

Landmine Survivors Network

Superman Mine Awareness Comics

A key goal of our anti-landmine programs is to educate children around the world to the threat from the 60-70 million landmines planted in some 70 countries. We are supporting actions by host governments, UNICEF, NGOs, and other groups to alert children on these dangers through teaching programs in schools, radio and television messages, dance troupes, theater groups, and related activities. One project has been production by DC Comics of more than a million comic books, in which Superman and Wonderwoman walk children through the lesson. The first version, in Serbo-Croatian, was distributed in Bosnia; the First Lady hosted the roll-out for this edition. Next came a Spanish version for use in Central America. The third version, in Albanian language, has just been field-tested, and 500,000 copies will be transported to the region by July 30, where it will be distributed by UNICEF and the World Food Program. This has been a model partnership: DC Comics provides the art work and printing facilities, the Defense Department supplies funding and logistical support, and UNICEF provides technical assistance.

NOTE TO HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON EDITORS: TWO PIECES OF ART FROM THE "SUPERMAN: DEADLY LEGACY" COMIC BOOK ACCOMPANY THIS COLUMN. THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION. -- CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.

**TALKING IT OVER
BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

The newest comic book to hit the streets in Sarajevo is an American classic with a modern twist. Predictably, the hero wears a red cape and has a large "S" emblazoned across his chest. He has special vision, supernatural powers and a big heart.

But this Superman doesn't just fight villains in a mythical Metropolis. He is crossing the Atlantic to warn children in Bosnia and Herzegovina about the dangers of land mines in a region still emerging from the darkness of war.

Superman's arrival in Bosnia is the result of a public and private partnership involving our Defense Department, United Nations Ambassador Madeleine Albright, UNICEF and its special representative Judy Collins, Warner Bros. and DC Comics. The comic book will be a vital educational tool in a country where millions of land mines currently lie in wait for vulnerable children and civilians.

I was honored to help unveil the comic book at the White House this week and to announce a new American hospital partnership that will help boost the recovery effort in Bosnia.

Standing in the East Room with children from Bosnia -- some of them war refugees -- and watching the mayors of Tuzla, Bosnia, and Buffalo, N.Y., sign the hospital agreement, I felt pride in our nation's tradition of humanitarian assistance and our commitment to democracy in the former Yugoslavia and around the world.

The hospital partnership, sponsored by our government through the U.S. Agency for International Development and the American International Health Alliance, will involve Buffalo General Hospital and the Tuzla Clinical Center. Like other hospital partnerships that I've visited in Russia, Estonia, Ukraine and Belarus, this one will benefit both hospitals and countries involved.

Not only will American physicians and nurses be exposed to new and different medical challenges, the resources, expertise and technology they bring to Bosnia will improve the availability and quality of medical care for tens of thousands of people

TALKING IT OVER 10/21/96

Page 2

there. Many of those needing care are women, children and refugees suffering from physical and emotional traumas associated with years of violence and war.

Already, American medical personnel from Buffalo have traveled to Tuzla and worked side by side with their Bosnian colleagues, even in the midst of war and violence. They have procured \$1.5 million in supplies for use in Tuzla. And Eli Lilly & Co. has committed \$250,000 in donations for next year.

In addition to expanding pediatric services, improving pre-natal care and the treatment of chronic diseases, the hospital partnership will enable the Tuzla Clinical Center to improve its care of children maimed and injured by land mines, many of whom are taken there.

Today, one out of every eight homes in Bosnia is endangered because of a proximity to mines. In central Bosnia, one of every three acres of land is unusable because of mines. And even though the fighting is over and peace has taken hold, the detonation of land mines has become the most common cause of serious injury in the country.

The prevalence of mines prompted UNICEF to launch a mine-awareness campaign for children and civilians. Superman seemed just the sort of person to help get the message across.

The comic book, called "Superman: Deadly Legacy," tells the story of two boys in Bosnia. They are walking along a road looking for a friend when one bends down to pick up some debris from a mortar. Quickly, Superman pulls him away, and the boy narrowly misses stepping on a mine concealed underground.

As the boys continue to search for their friend, Superman teaches them how to avoid places where land mines might be hidden: bombed-out houses, abandoned buildings, old checkpoints and trench lines. Even paths and bridges are sometimes littered with land mines, Superman explains.

With Superman's help, the boys eventually find their friend but not before happening upon a wounded dog (who dies) and a playmate who has lost a leg and is wrapped in bandages. He tripped a mine while practicing soccer in an open field.

It is a chilling tale, one that reflects the chilling reality of children's lives in Bosnia. But it is also a tale of hope for the people of Bosnia who, with our help, will be able to take one more step to a stable, peaceful and democratic future.

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October 21, 1996

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Adopt-a-Minefield

Launched on March 9, Adopt-a-Minefield is a project of the U.N. Association, the Humpty Dumpty Institute, and the U.N. Mine Action Service. Under the program, groups throughout the U.S. are raising money to pay for the demining by the U.N. and host countries of the worst minefields in Afghanistan, Bosnia, Cambodia, Croatia and Mozambique. Schools, church groups, companies, and individuals have adopted some 30 minefields at a cost of \$25,000+ each. The Adopt-a-Minefield program is raising awareness in the U.S. on the global tragedy of landmines, and creating lasting bonds of friendship between Americans and people abroad who benefit from mine clearance activities. The U.S. Government is supporting this effort through grants totaling about \$370,000 from the State Department (PM) and through wide-ranging promotional efforts with potential sponsors. The U.N. Foundation (Ted Turner) has also provided up to \$500,000 in matching grants.

Canine Demining Corps

The Canine Demining Corps is a program of the Marshall Legacy Institute, the U.S. Humane Society, U.N. Development Program and DC Comics to purchase, train, and deploy mine-detecting dog teams to mined countries around the world. Dogs have a unique capacity to detect explosives found in landmines, and are an efficient, safe, and cost-effective tool now in use in many countries. Under this program, individuals, civic groups and corporations can

In Kosovo, Death Comes In Clusters

Faulty NATO 'Bomblets' Take Heavy Postwar Toll

By DAN EGGEN
Washington Post Staff Writer

AI

DJAKOVICA, Yugoslavia—Bekim Malaj and his friends knew they were fooling around with bombs, but they figured they were safe. After all, they reasoned, the bright yellow containers—shaped like soda cans and topped with little parachutes—had not exploded when they were dropped over Kosovo by NATO warplanes. They must be duds.

So the 10 young men and boys huddled near a wooden front gate in the village of Jahoc earlier this month to get a better look. One of them, a former Kosovo guerrilla who fancied himself an expert, pried open a canister.

"It started blowing fire," said Malaj, 11, lying half blind and heavily bandaged in a gloomy hospital bed here in this southwestern Kosovo city alongside victims of similar accidents. "It hit me in the face, and I started running, and then it blew up."

The young man who opened the bomb was "torn apart," in the words of one witness, and two others died along with him. Seven survivors were hospitalized, including two in critical condition.

Up to 170 people have been killed or injured over the past month in accidents involving land mines and unexploded bombs in Kosovo, according to a World

Health Organization report released last week—making Kosovo's casualty rate from those sources comparable to Afghanistan's and higher than that of Mozambique, where land mines from a civil war that ended six years ago still litter the countryside.

Just over half the Kosovo casualties were due to mines left by Serb-led Yugoslav troops, the WHO report said. But nearly as many have been caused by unexploded bombs dropped by U.S. and other NATO warplanes in their 78-day air offensive against Yugoslavia, the report said—mostly from cluster bombs of the sort discovered by Malaj and his friends.

Tantalizing to children and potentially deadly if touched, cluster bomb explosives—many of them painted bright yellow—are smaller and more powerful than most land mines. The lightweight bom-

blets—as many as 200 of which are bundled together in a single bomb casing, then carried to earth individually on tiny parachutes—are often not easily recovered by disposal teams because of their tendency to drift off course or to become caught in trees, brush and roof fixtures.

The number of deaths and injuries from unexploded cluster munitions in Kosovo has reignited debate over their use and has prompted some U.S. officials to advocate that they be engineered to self-destruct if they land without detonating. The unexploded weapons also pose a serious threat to NATO peacekeeping troops now on patrol in Kosovo: Two British soldiers were killed last month as they tried to disarm one of the devices in a schoolyard.

"In my opinion, they pose the major threat right now," said Chris North, a 20-year British army veteran who is leading a Djakovica-based de-mining team for Handicap International, a French humanitarian group. "Most of the population here are aware of mines and know what they look like. But many don't know what cluster munitions look like, and that makes them a terrific risk. . . . If a person is nearby when one of them goes off, there's usually not much left."

Cluster canisters are fuzed to detonate within 50 feet of the ground; they can spray incendiary material to start fires, chunks of molten metal that can pierce tanks and other armor, or shrapnel that can slice with ease through ¼-inch

steel plate—or human flesh and bone.

NATO officials say that about 1,100 cluster bombs, containing a total of more than 200,000 bomblets, were dropped on Yugoslavia and Kosovo, a province of Serbia, Yugoslavia's dominant republic. Their failure rate is about 5 percent. Human Rights Watch, a group that was sharply critical of their use during the air war, estimates that 11,000 unexploded cluster munitions of U.S. and British manufacture are scattered in the fields, trees and villages of Kosovo and the rest of Serbia, a number not disputed by NATO. The human rights group maintains that the weapons are unnecessarily

dangerous to civilians, whether they explode as intended or drop to the ground.

"What worries us most is that people are going to start going back to work in the fields in the coming weeks, and so the numbers will almost certainly get higher," said Etienne Krug, who conducted the casualty survey for the World Health Organization.

U.S. and NATO officials acknowledge that unexploded cluster munitions pose a serious threat to civilians and troops but say they are working aggressively with U.N. agencies and other humanitarian organizations to identify and clear dangerous areas. On Friday, part of the road from Pristina, Kosovo's capital, to the west-

"They are a particular concern to us because people may not be familiar with what they look like and what they can do," said Kevin Kennedy, spokesman for the U.N. mission in Kosovo. "People may not understand that they cannot be handled, just as mines cannot be handled."

U.S. officials say that while the danger from unexploded mines and air-dropped munitions in Yugoslavia is great, the situation is not as dire as in Kuwait and Iraq after the Persian Gulf War. According to figures compiled by Human Rights Watch, 1,200 Kuwaitis and 400 Iraqi civilians were killed by unexploded cluster canisters after the war; the group estimates that between 24 million and 30 million bomblets were dropped during the Gulf War, of which between 1.2 million and 1.5 million failed to explode.

In addition to NATO and the United Nations, about a dozen nonprofit groups have begun arriving in Kosovo to remove mines and bombs and to train civilians to help in the effort. About a fifth of all the mine and bomb victims documented by the World Health Organization were members of the Kosovo Liberation Army—the ethnic Albanian rebel group that fought for independence from Serbia—who were attempting to clear explosives from fields and villages without proper training.

At the dreary hospital here in Djakovica, where goats roam the grounds and patients are stacked eight to a room, nearly half the current caseload of 100 stems from mine and cluster bomb accidents. Western Kosovo was one of the most heavily bombed and mined regions of the province.

Alfred Gjokaj, 20, also was showered with flame and shrapnel by the cluster bomb blast at Jahoc, but he survived and is now hospitalized. He can barely talk because of his swollen and torn face.

"We didn't know that they were dangerous," Gjokaj said. "We had seen those things opened before, and nothing has happened. We were figuring that they were not going to blow, after it didn't blow when it should."

His mother, File Gjokaj, shook her head in disgust as she stood by his bed. "There is still high danger here, even though the war is over," the woman said. "People just don't care when they see these types of devices. The kids will push them, shove them, all kinds of things. . . . I feel safe only in my yard—and even then only in parts of the yard."

Staff writer Michael Dobbs in Washington contributed to this report.

ington Post
JULY 19, 1999



Noa A. Meyer

07/27/99 06:53:04 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Christine N. Macy/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: HRC Column 4/7/99

----- Forwarded by Noa A. Meyer/WHO/EOP on 07/27/99 06:53 PM -----



Noa A. Meyer

04/07/99 09:26:31 AM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

cc:

Subject: HRC Column 4/7/99

TALKING IT OVER

BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

RELEASE: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 1999, AND THEREAFTER

Like many people around the world, I have been haunted in recent days by the images of ethnic Albanians driven from their homes by Slobodan Milosevic. Taking place half a world away, their stories can sometimes feel remote. Tragically, though, they are all too real.

Last week, I wrote about a doctor who has treated refugees in Pristina, the capital of Kosovo, for the last year. Imagine the combination of relief and horror among members of my staff when they saw that doctor, Vjosa Dobruna, being interviewed on television. This dignified and passionate woman, who shared tea with me at the White House last spring, is now herself a refugee.

After a friend of hers, a famous human rights activist, was taken from his house, Dr. Dobruna went into hiding for seven days. "I slept in different houses," she explained. When she tried to go back to her apartment, she encountered police, who beat her driver and forced her to leave Pristina.

Dr. Dobruna laments the deplorable conditions the refugees face. "It's a catastrophe," she says as she tells the story of a 17-day-old baby who died in her arms.

We've heard similar stories from other victims of Milosevic's ethnic

cleansing. In the 14 months since he undertook his campaign, more than 800,000 -- one out of three ethnic Albanians in Kosovo -- have been displaced from their homes. The conditions facing these people are horrific.

Many have walked miles from their towns and villages, forced at gunpoint to leave without belongings or identity papers. They have endured subfreezing temperatures, rain and snow. Thousands are trapped in a "no man's land" around the Macedonian border, without food, water or sanitary facilities.

One doctor, who had worked for an international aid agency, reported that he and his children had been without food for four days and he didn't know how long they could hold out.

Another refugee said, "My child has been sleeping in the rain for four nights. Last night, I had to force him to wake up because his body was too cold, and he had to move to get warm. The blankets got wet, and there was nowhere to dry them, and our clothes were soaked as well."

Those who have escaped may be the lucky ones. Reports out of Pristina describe Serb soldiers and police herding Albanians into the center of the city and lobbing shells at them. And men have been separated from their families and are being held in factories, stadiums and other locations within the country.

One refugee said, "They had snipers who shot at us. They killed one of our neighbors, an old man, 70 years old, and a girl, 16, and a little boy who was only 5."

A housewife recalled with horror: "They were killing the children. They were killing the men. They were burning our houses and stealing everything in them -- TVs, furniture, everything. They took money and jewelry from the women. They came with guns into houses where we were hiding and ordered us to get out, and they were holding knives to our children's throats."

As is always the case in these situations, the American people have responded to the plight of the Kosovar refugees. As they've seen the all-too-vivid pictures and heard the devastating stories, they have reacted with customary generosity. Here at the White House, we've had countless calls offering contributions of money, supplies and services. Many have even said they would take refugees into their homes and adopt children orphaned by the fighting.

Before this latest Serbian offensive began, the United States had committed \$100 million in humanitarian assistance and sent in enough food to supply half a million people for three months. Now, the President has committed another \$50 million to the operation and announced the creation of a special coordinating committee for the relief effort as well as plans to accept up to 20,000 refugees on a temporary basis.

When individuals in this country or around the world ask what they can do to help, there is one single answer: The most important thing is to reach deep into their pockets and contribute whatever they can to the relief organizations that are working to provide food, shelter, clothing and medical care to the refugees.

I hope that people all over the world will look for ways to help victims of this vicious aggression. If you would like to make a contribution, there is a toll-free number you can call for information: 1-800-USAID RELIEF, or 1-800-872-4373. Or if you have access to the Internet, you can go to USAID's web site at www.info.usaid.gov.

It's time for us all to find ways to stand up against this terrible reminder of the violence and hatred that have marked too much of this century.

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Noa A. Meyer

07/27/99 06:53:59 PM

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cc:

Subject: HRC column 6/23/99

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Noa A. Meyer

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TALKING IT OVER

BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

RELEASE: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23, 1999, AND THEREAFTER

Last month, I landed at a refugee camp in Macedonia called Stenkovac I. There, on a hot and dusty former airfield, tens of thousands of refugees, forced from their homes in Kosovo by the cruel tyranny of Slobodan Milosevic, were struggling to hold onto the merest shreds of human dignity. Every refugee I met had been separated from a loved one -- mothers from their children, husbands from their wives. Every single person hoped to go home. I promised them that the United States would not turn its back -- that we would make it happen.

This week, I returned to Stenkovac I with my husband. After 79 days of NATO bombing, the skies over Yugoslavia are silent, the Serb military has retreated from Kosovo, and the refugees are preparing to go home.

Their homecoming will not be easy. As the peacekeepers enter Kosovo, they are witnessing firsthand the appalling scope of destruction: mass graves, torture chambers, hundreds of burned villages, women raped, and children forced to watch their parents viciously murdered.

In ensuring that Kosovo is safe for the refugees' return, the peacekeepers have a big job ahead. Mines must be cleared and homes rebuilt. Families need shelter, food and water, as well as information about the fate of their missing family members. Serbs who remain in Kosovo, as well as Kosovar Albanians, must be disarmed.

Our European partners are shouldering much of the burden, but it is also in America's interest to play a part in setting Kosovo, as well as all of Southeastern Europe, on a course toward a prosperous, peaceful and secure future. The war has taken a tremendous toll -- not just on the Kosovars but also on neighboring countries.

For example, last year, Macedonia experienced a modest but encouraging economic growth, making it among the most successful of the region's economies. Now, though, exports to its largest trading partner, Serbia, have come to a standstill. Foreign investment has dried up, critical transportation links have been cut, and unemployment has risen to 35 percent. In the textile industry alone, which comprises nearly 25 percent of the economy, thousands of jobs will be lost by the end of the summer if business is not restored.

In May, I met a woman named Danica Georgieva, whose small company of six employees did subcontracting work for the American clothing manufacturer Liz Claiborne. When Danica told me that because of the war Claiborne had significantly reduced its orders, I promised to do what I could to help.

On my return to Macedonia this week, Paul Charron, Liz Claiborne's CEO, traveled with me to unveil a project that will not only help the refugees but ensure that Macedonian workers will be able to keep their jobs as well. Starting at the end of this month, his company will donate the fabric, designs and expertise to create 250,000 shirts and pants for the refugees, providing 3,000 jobs for Macedonian textile workers in the process. USAID will fund the production and distribution of the clothing, and the relief agency Mercy International will make sure the items are distributed to the refugees.

The victory in Kosovo is the triumph of a united international community over the forces of inhumanity and hatred. But it is also the triumph of countless unheralded individuals -- from brave American and NATO soldiers to thousands of generous families, relief workers and businesses -- who opened their hearts, their homes and their pocketbooks to help make sure that every Kosovar refugee would one day be able to go home with dignity. When the President ordered our armed forces into combat, he declared three goals: first, to enable the Kosovar people to return to their homes in safety; second, to require Serbian forces to leave Kosovo; and third, to deploy an international security force, with NATO at its core, to protect all the people of that troubled land -- Serbs and Albanians alike. I am proud that America stood steadfast by these goals and that they are being met.

Undoubtedly, you've heard it said many times: The 20th century has turned out to be the bloodiest in history. Millions of innocent people have died because democratic nations responded too late to evil and aggression. Now, because of the resolve of America and our NATO allies, this violent century will end not with helpless outrage but with an affirmation of decency and human rights. I hope this will be the foundation for the new century.

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Noa A. Meyer

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TALKING IT OVER

BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

RELEASE: WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 1999, AND THEREAFTER

Their faces may no longer appear on the front pages of our newspapers and magazines, but there are still nearly 750,000 Kosovar Albanians unable to return to their homes because of the ruthless determination of Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic. Nearly 250,000 are in Macedonia alone.

Last week, I traveled to Macedonia to visit the Stenkovac I refugee camp, located outside Skopje in a region of lush, green hills dotted with small farms. Thousands of tents -- in rows as far as the eye can see -- cover a dusty expanse about the size of 80 football fields. As many as 31,000 refugees -- most of them children -- have crowded into the camp in the last six weeks.

It was a hot, dry day when I arrived at Stenkovac to meet some of the men, women and children who have made this tent city their temporary home. Most were separated from a family member in the crush to get out of Kosovo alive, and everyone is surviving on the hope that one day soon they will return to their villages and be reunited with their loved ones.

A 63-year-old woman told me she doesn't know where her daughter and

grandchildren are. They were with the daughter's in-laws when Serb police stormed the house, held guns to their throats and ordered them to leave.

One of the men I met cried when he remembered the funeral of a friend in his village: Serb police surrounded the mourners as they stood at the grave, threatening to kill them all. Then, they stripped the Albanians of their money and valuables and drove them away.

I also spoke with a man who, in fluent English, told me that his wife and children were visiting her father when the Serbs arrived, forcing him to flee without them. Six weeks later, he is still trying to find them.

I will never forget the last story I heard that day. A woman described the crush of refugees being herded onto trains to leave Kosovo. She held tightly to the hand of her oldest daughter who, in turn, held onto the younger children. Horrified, she felt her daughter's hand slip away. Forced by the authorities to board a train, she realized that her girls and her husband, who was trying to find them, were lost. Today, she, too, lives without any word of where they are or even whether they are still alive.

For 10 years, Milosevic has oppressed the Albanian population in Kosovo. First, they were forbidden to go to the theater or sporting events, and their schools were closed. Then, block by block, Milosevic began ordering families out of their homes, until he was expelling Kosovar Albanians in the massive numbers we have witnessed in the last two months.

Once, these people lived in their own homes. Parents worked, and children went to schools. Today, they huddle in crowded tents. They wait in line for food -- bread, canned fish, cheese, juice and milk. They wait in line to use portable toilets and phones, and to get word of missing loved ones.

And these are the lucky ones.

Although the conditions they live in are unimaginable to most of us, they have food and rudimentary shelter. A remarkable assemblage of some 20 relief organizations, led by Catholic Relief Services and under the authority of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, runs the Stenkovac I camp, providing care for the children, medical treatment and social services.

There are two UNICEF schools and a youth center run by an Israeli organization, where children of all ages can enjoy arts, crafts, games and music. The German Red Cross has opened a hospital. Medical teams have arrived from France and as far away as Taiwan. The International Rescue Committee, an American group, is trying to reunite families. And many of the refugees themselves are volunteering their services around the camp.

Every single person I met at Stenkovac has one thing in common: Each one wants to go home. And, despite the horrors they have endured, they all told me how grateful they are to the United States and the NATO allies for standing up to Slobodan Milosevic. As the refugees told me their stories, their eyes filled with tears, just as their hearts are filled with hope.

Veton Sylejmani, who came to this country with his wife and 7-month-old son, Albert, summed it up best at the White House this week when he said, "I

don't know what else to say except God bless America."

We cannot let these people down. We must tell and retell their stories, because there is no more powerful argument for why the United States and our NATO allies are in Kosovo. There is no more powerful justification for why we will not give up until the evils perpetrated by Milosevic have ended and these refugees are once again living in their own homes in peace and security.

If you are interested in making a financial contribution to the refugee effort, you can call 1-800-USAID-RELIEF (1-800-872-4373) for a list of agencies. For information on helping to bring refugees to this country, the number is 1-800-727-4420.

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LEVEL 1 - 8 OF 16 ITEMS

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October 21, 1996, Monday

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HEADLINE: Superman joins First Lady in lesson about land mines; Man of Steel teaches Bosnian children to stay safe

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, D.C.

BODY:

Oct. 21, 1996--After decades of fighting menaces here and across the galaxy, Superman faces one of his most difficult problems: how to teach the children of Bosnia-Herzegovina about land mine safety. Today, he teams up with UNICEF, the United Nations, IFOR (Implementation Forces in Bosnia), the Department of Defense, Time Warner, U.N. Ambassador Madeleine Albright and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton to show young people how to protect themselves. DC Comics has published a comic book, Superman: Deadly Legacy, in three languages, using the Cyrillic and Latinic alphabets, which will be distributed at no charge to children through the Mine Action Center in Sarajevo. Participating organizations assisted writer Louise Simonson and artists Kieron Dwyer and Dick Giordano, providing research and reference materials to make the comic as useful to the children as it is emotionally gripping. There are currently three million land mines buried in Bosnian soil, and as many as three million unexploded rounds of ordnance. There are 16,000 registered fields containing land mines, and thousands more unidentified. Worldwide, there may be as many as 110 million unexploded land mines, and as many as 25,000 people die each year as a result, many of them children. In Superman: Deadly Legacy, the Man of Steel teaches young people the first steps in protecting themselves against these dangers. DC Comics President and Editor-in-Chief, Jenette Kahn, said, "When Judy Collins told me about the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, it sounded like a problem where we could be of help. We chose Superman to carry the message because he is uniquely renowned not only for his humanity and compassion, but also as a citizen of the world. Because he cannot be everywhere at once, Superman shares his knowledge of land mine peril with Bosnian children, confident they will spread the word when he's gone. We're proud to be part of this remarkable alliance of government agencies, non-profit advocacy groups and private industry." DC Comics is a division of Warner Brothers, a Time Warner Entertainment company. Since 1938, DC has created over 5000 characters, including the world's most popular superheroes: Superman, Batman and Wonder Woman. These and other characters have starred in comic books, movies, television, the Broadway stage and cyberspace.

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Noa A. Meyer

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Noa A. Meyer

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TALKING IT OVER

BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

RELEASE: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31, 1999, AND THEREAFTER

During World War II, France's Vichy government asked Morocco's King Mohammed V for a list of Jews to be handed over to the authorities. He refused and called on all Muslims to stand together with their Jewish brothers and sisters -- saying we aren't Jews or Arabs, only Moroccans.

As I've traveled in Morocco this week, I've witnessed many examples of how this country continues to expand the circle of human dignity. And I've imagined how life would be different in other parts of the world -- especially in Kosovo -- if all of the world's leaders worked for tolerance and peace rather than divisiveness and war.

As the United States and its 18 NATO allies try to stop the ethnic slaughter in Kosovo before it spreads and claims more innocent lives, it is important to remember how the fighting in that region began.

The former Yugoslavia is home to many ethnic groups, standing as it does at the crossroads of Europe, Asia and the Middle East. The ingredients for conflict have always been present, but for the most part, people of different religions and ethnic groups have found ways to live together for generations.

The current violence began 10 years ago, when the leader of Serbia, Slobodan Milosevic, fanned the flames of ethnic division for his own personal political advantage and exploited the consequences to wage war on his neighbors and his own citizens.

What we are seeing now in Kosovo, as was the case earlier in Bosnia and Herzegovina, is nothing less than ethnic cleansing. Ethnic Albanian refugees, most of whom are Muslims, are streaming by the tens of thousands out of their homes, seeking refuge from the Serbian military and police forces who, they report, are burning homes and entire villages, destroying Albanian shops, separating men and boys from their families, executing them in cold blood, and rounding up and murdering community leaders. Those who are lucky enough to remain alive are told to leave Kosovo and never return again.

Last year, I met a doctor who worked with the refugees of the violence in Kosovo. She described what it was like to treat the displaced families as they came down from the mountains, scared and sick with disease and malnutrition. Even those who were not physically injured, she told me, bore the psychological scars of what they had seen and experienced.

All this began long before NATO launched its air strikes against the forces involved in the repression of this largely defenseless people. It is now clear that, while the Kosovars were engaged in peace negotiations in France with representatives of the Serbian government, President Milosevic was planning a campaign for the systematic destruction of Kosovo -- a plan that he is now executing. Had NATO stood by and done nothing, there is no doubt that he would not only have begun his current offensive, but he would have continued with impunity until he killed or displaced most of the Albanian population.

That is why my husband and our NATO allies are determined to persevere until Milosevic has embraced peace or we have significantly limited his ability to wage war.

Achieving a permanent peaceful solution to the tragedy in Kosovo will not come without a price. But we must do whatever it takes to ensure that ethnic tensions are resolved by the force of argument, not the force of arms.

It is no easy task to expand the circle of dignity to all people. As we have learned in the United States, and as I have seen in Morocco this week, governments can enforce rights and create a fertile climate for tolerance, but only individuals can decide whether to love or hate. Only individuals can decide whether there will be genuine harmony between those of different faiths, nationalities and ethnic groups.

In the last few days, I have asked some of the Moroccans I've met this question: "How do your children learn tolerance?" In each case, I've received the same answer: Children learn tolerance in their homes. They learn it in their schools. They learn it in their places of worship. And they learn it in their communities every time they see adults who refuse to stereotype or degrade other human beings.

It is time to learn this lesson and to teach our children to be tolerant and respectful of all people, to follow leaders who work for peace, and to make sure that the circle of human dignity is finally wide enough to include everyone.

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