

FOIA MARKER

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Original OA/ID Number: 2708				
Document ID: 9900641				
Stack: V	Row: 46	Section: 3	Shelf: 9	Position: 3

UNCLASSIFIED
NSC/RMO PROFILE

RECORD ID: 9900641
RECEIVED: 29 JAN 99 14

TO: BONIOR, DAVID E

FROM: PRESIDENT

DOC DATE: 05 FEB 99
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: KOSOVO
NATO
HUMAN RIGHTS

SERBIA
CO

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: LTR FM REP BONIOR RE RECENT RACAK MASSACRE OF 45 ETHNIC ALBANIANS &
NATO AIR STRIKES AGAINST SERB TARGETS

ACTION: FOR DISPATCH

DUE DATE: 10 FEB 99 STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: HURLEY

LOGREF:

FILES: PA

NSCP:

CODES:

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

FOR ACTION
WH STRIPPING DESK

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO
HURLEY
LACKEY
NSC CHRON

COMMENTS: _____

DISPATCHED BY

NSP

DATE

02/10

BY HAND

W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSDMK

CLOSED BY: NSGP

DOC 4 OF 4

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED
ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

RECORD ID: 9900641

DOC ACTION OFFICER

CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

001 SCHULTE	Z 99012914 PREPARE MEMO FOR BERGER
001	Z 99012917 ACTION TRANSFERRED
001 HURLEY	Z 99012917 PREPARE MEMO FOR BERGER
002 BERGER	Z 99020318 FWD TO PRESIDENT FOR SIGNATURE
002 STEIN, L	Z 99020318 FOR SIGNATURE
003 PRESIDENT	Z 99020420 FOR SIGNATURE
004	X 99021009 PRESIDENT SGD LTR
004 WH STRIPPING DESK	X 99021009 FOR DISPATCH

DISPATCH DATA SUMMARY REPORT

DOC DATE DISPATCH FOR ACTION

DISPATCH FOR INFO

004	990205	BONIOR, DAVID E
004	990205	WH STRIPPING DESK

UNCLASSIFIED

National Security Council
The White House

PROOFED BY: _____ LOG # 0041
 URGENT NOT PROOFED: _____ SYSTEM PRS NSC INT ARS
 BYPASSED WW DESK: _____ DOCLOG 73 A/O _____

	SEQUENCE TO	INITIAL/DATE	DISPOSITION
Cosgriff	_____	_____	_____
Rice	<u>1</u>	<u>2/9</u>	_____
Davies	_____	_____	_____
Kerrick	_____	_____	_____
Steinberg	_____	_____	_____
Berger	_____	_____	_____
Situation Room	_____	_____	_____
West Wing Desk	<u>2</u>	<u>12/9</u>	<u>D</u>
Records Mgt.	<u>3</u>	_____	<u>D</u>
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A = Action I = Information D = Dispatch R = Retain N = No Further Action

CC:

COMMENTS:

DATZ

2/5/95

50 FEB 9 PM 3:17

Exec Sec Office has diskette _____

National Security Council
The White House

PROOFED BY: _____ LOG # 0641
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Cosgriff	_____	_____	_____
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A = Action I = Information D = Dispatch R = Retain N = No Further Action

cc:

COMMENTS:

99 FEB 4 00 AM '82

Exec Sec Office has diskette _____

**National Security Council
The White House**

PROOFED BY: _____ LOG # 0641
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T.M.A.

	SEQUENCE TO	INITIAL/DATE	DISPOSITION
Cosgriff	<u>1</u>	<u>kg 2/2</u>	<u>(eds) done</u>
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Kerrick	<u>3</u>	<u>(D) 2/3</u>	<u>sp done</u>
Steinberg	<u>4</u>		
Berger			
Situation Room			
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Records Mgt.			

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

CC:

93 FEB 2 00 PM '97
COMMENTS:

POTUS correspondence
re NATO and Serbia

Exec Sec Office has diskette yes

National Security Council
The White House

PROOFED BY: _____ LOG # 0241
URGENT NOT PROOFED: _____ SYSTEM PRS NSC INT ARS
BYPASSED WW DESK: _____ DOCLOG 3 A/O _____

	SEQUENCE TO	INITIAL/DATE	DISPOSITION
Cosgriff	_____	_____	_____
Rice	<u>1</u>	<u>0249</u>	_____
Davies	_____	_____	_____
Kerrick	_____	_____	_____
Steinberg	_____	_____	_____
Berger	_____	_____	_____
Situation Room	_____	_____	_____
West Wing Desk	<u>2</u>	<u>0249</u>	<u>D</u>
Records Mgt.	<u>3</u>	_____	<u>D</u>
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A = Action I = Information D = Dispatch R = Retain N = No Further Action

cc:

COMMENTS:

DATE

2/5/95

1995 FEB 9 PM 3:17

Exec Sec Office has diskette _____

National Security Council
The White House

PROOFED BY: _____ LOG # 0641

URGENT NOT PROOFED: _____ SYSTEM PRS NSC INT ARS

BYPASSED WW DESK: _____ DOCLOG DMK A/O _____

	SEQUENCE TO	INITIAL/DATE	DISPOSITION
Cosgriff	_____	_____	_____
Rice	_____	_____	_____
Davies	_____	_____	_____
Kerrick	_____	_____	_____
Steinberg	_____	_____	_____
Berger	_____	_____	_____
Situation Room	_____	_____	_____
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A = Action I = Information D = Dispatch R = Retain N = No Further Action

cc:

COMMENTS:

99FEB 4 09 4432

Exec Sec Office has diskette _____

National Security Council
The White House

PROOFED BY: _____ LOG # 0641

URGENT NOT PROOFED: _____ SYSTEM PRS NSC INT ARS

BYPASSED WW DESK: _____ DOCLOG TIC A/O _____

TMM

	SEQUENCE TO	INITIAL/DATE	DISPOSITION
Cosgriff	<u>1</u>	<u>1/2 1/2</u>	<u>edit done</u>
Rice	<u>2</u>	<u>2/3</u>	<u>edit done</u>
Davies			
Kerrick	<u>3</u>	<u>2/3</u>	<u>edit done</u>
Steinberg	<u>4</u>		
Berger			
Situation Room			
West Wing Desk	<u>5</u>	<u>2/3 DMK</u>	<u>D PR</u>
Records Mgt.			

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

CC:

COMMENTS:

POTUS correspondence
re NATO and Serbia

Exec Sec Office has diskette yes

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 5, 1999

Dear David:

Thank you for writing regarding the situation in Kosovo and for your advice on how to resolve the conflict, end the suffering, and give the people of Kosovo the self-government they deserve.

The Racak massacre of 45 ethnic Albanians is, as you point out, a further example of the brutality of Slobodan Milosevic's policy of indiscriminate violence. The repressive Belgrade regime continues to be in breach of the agreements it concluded with NATO and the OSCE last October and in defiance of the international community and the rule of law. We are committed to holding those responsible for Racak and other atrocities accountable for their actions.

The step you recommend -- using NATO air power against Serb security forces -- is closely allied with the approach we are implementing: the credible threat of force with the determination to use it in the absence of compliance.

The Contact Group endorsed the U.S.-backed draft political settlement and called on Belgrade and the Kosovar Albanians to participate in a peace conference in France. NATO issued an ultimatum to Belgrade, the terms of which make clear that NATO's Secretary General may authorize air strikes against Serb targets if Belgrade's conduct results in failure to reach agreement or Belgrade does not comply with its October commitments. We have made clear to Milosevic that NATO is poised to carry out the attacks.

The peace conference offers an unequalled opportunity to end the conflict. The interim agreement will replace Serb interior police with local Kosovo police and dramatically limit the number of Yugoslav army forces garrisoned there. It provides Kosovars with full control over the institutions that most affect their daily lives: law enforcement, education, health and culture.

Again, thank you writing. I look forward to working with you to bring a peaceful resolution to the conflict in Kosovo.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bonior". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "B".

The Honorable David E. Bonior
Democratic Whip
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

'99 FEB 4 PM 8:54

February 4, 1999

signed 2/5/99

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

SAMUEL BERGER *JS*
LARRY STEIN *LS*

SUBJECT:

Letter from Representative Bonior

Purpose

Respond to Representative David Bonior who wrote to condemn the recent Racak massacre of 45 ethnic Albanians and to call for NATO air strikes against Serb targets.

Background

Your reply recounts the recent Contact Group endorsement of the U.S.-backed draft political settlement for Kosovo and the Group's call for the parties to convene at a peace conference in France. It also describes how the NATO ultimatum supports the Contact Group's initiative and makes clear that NATO is prepared to act if Belgrade does not comply.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the letter at Tab A.

Attachments

Tab A Letter to Representative Bonior
Tab B Incoming Correspondence

cc: Vice President
Chief of Staff

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20504

February 3, 1999

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR SAMUEL R. BERGER

THROUGH:

GREG SCHULTE *GS*

FROM:

MICHAEL HURLEY *cmh*

SUBJECT:

President's Reply to Representative Bonior's
Letter Urging NATO to Begin Air Strikes Against
Serbian Targets

Attached at Tab A is a draft Presidential response to a letter from Representative David Bonior which urges that NATO initiate air strikes against Serb security force targets.

Concurrences by:

cmh Miles Lackey, *cmh* Joseph Bouchard

RECOMMENDATION

That you approve the draft response and sign the memorandum to the President at Tab I.

Attachments

Tab I Memorandum for the President
Tab A Letter to Representative Bonior
Tab B Incoming Correspondence

One Hundred Fifth Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Office of the Democratic Whip

January 21, 1999

JAN 25 97:54

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The time is now to begin airstrikes against Serbian military and police targets. The recent massacre of ethnic Albanians in Kosova underscores the need for the United States to take swift and appropriate action to stop the bloodshed.

The brutal murder of at least 45 ethnic Albanians in Racak, Kosova — including three women, a 12-year-old child and several elderly men — is the most recent and vivid example of the Serbian military's ruthlessness.

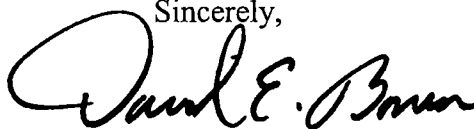
We have had many opportunities over the past few years to prevent innocent blood from being spilled in Kosova. Each time, those efforts have fallen short. Only when Slobodan Milosevic is faced with the use of force — as he was in Bosnia — does he respect the rights of others.

A NATO effort led by the United States to secure compliance from Milosevic is imperative. The atrocities must stop. The people of Kosova have a right to determine their own future. Their human rights must be respected. Led by the United States, NATO should begin airstrikes to compel Milosevic's compliance.

It is clear that Milosevic has not complied with the most recent agreement he made with Ambassador Richard Holbrooke in October. Instead of allowing international monitors into Kosova to visit sites of suspected atrocities, Milosevic has barred them. Instead of removing thousands of Serbian troops and police from Kosova, Milosevic has used them to kill ethnic Albanians.

When the United States began airstrikes in Bosnia, the killing of innocent civilians stopped. That is the path we must now take in Kosova.

Sincerely,



David E. Bonior
Democratic Whip

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 28, 1999

MEMORANDUM FOR GLYN T. DAVIES

NSC Executive Secretariat

FROM: JANET MURGUIA
Legislative Affairs

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

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

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

The following is a brief description of the letters:

- 1) Rep. David E. Bonior (D-MI), concerning the need for the United States to begin airstrikes against Serbian military and police targets;
- 2) Rep. Eliot L. Engel (D-NY) and twenty-three other Members of Congress, concerning the situation in Kosova and current U.S. policy toward the region; and,
- 3) Rep. Ernest J. Istook, Jr. (R-OK) and three other Members of Congress, concerning the grave circumstance of the domestic oil and gas industry, and its impact on our national security and energy independence.

Enclosures

JAN 28 15:30

UNCLASSIFIED
NSC/RMO PROFILE

RECORD ID: 9900641
RECEIVED: 29 JAN 99 14

TO: PRESIDENT

FROM: BONIOR, DAVID E

DOC DATE: 21 JAN 99
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: KOSOVO
NATO
HUMAN RIGHTS

SERBIA
CO

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: URGES POTUS TO BEGIN AIRSTRIKES AGAINST SERBIAN TARGETS RE KOSOVO

ACTION: PREPARE MEMO FOR BERGER

DUE DATE: 10 FEB 99 STATUS: S

STAFF OFFICER: SCHULTE

LOGREF:

FILES: PA

NSCP:

CODES:

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

FOR ACTION
SCHULTE

FOR CONCURRENCE
HURLEY
MCELDOWNEY
RUDMAN

FOR INFO
BAKER
BANDLER
BLINKEN
BOUCHARD
SCHWARTZ

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

DISPATCHED BY _____ DATE _____ BY HAND W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSDMK

CLOSED BY:

DOC 1 OF 1

UNCLASSIFIED

PRESIDENTIAL/NSA CORRESPONDENCE

IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED

ACTION OFFICER:

Schulte

LOG NUMBER:

0641

DUE DATE:

10 Feb

DATE STAFFED:

27 Jan

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESSED TO:



PRESIDENT



NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR

FROM:

D Bonior

- see 0642

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

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: SAMUEL BERGER
LARRY STEIN

SUBJECT: ~~President's Reply to Representative Bonior's~~
~~Letter Urging Air Strikes Against Serbian Targets~~

Purpose

Respond to ~~a letter from~~ ^{the} Representative Bonior ^{is suggestion to conduct} who is urging airstrikes against Serbian targets.

Background

Representative David Bonior ^{note} ~~writes~~ to condemn the recent Racak massacre of 45 ethnic Albanians and to call for NATO air strikes against Serb targets. He points out that Milosevic only responds to force.

Your reply recounts the recent Contact Group endorsement of the U.S.-backed draft political settlement for Kosovo and call for the parties to convene at a peace conference in France. It ^{also} describes how the NATO ultimatum supports the Contact Group's initiative and makes clear that NATO is prepared to act if Belgrade does not comply.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the letter to ~~Representative Bonior~~ at Tab A.

Attachments

Tab A Letter to Representative Bonior
Tab B Incoming Correspondence

cc: Vice President
Chief of Staff

*Insert 5-
p. 1*

~~We are committed to ensuring that the killing in Kosovo stops.~~
~~The upcoming peace conference offers an unequalled opportunity~~
~~to end the conflict. It is up to both sides to grasp the~~
~~opportunity.~~ Again, thank you for your recommendations. In the
coming days we will be consulting closely with Congress.

Sincerely,

W. Clinton

The Honorable David E. Bonior
Democratic Whip
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: SAMUEL BERGER
LARRY STEIN

SUBJECT: Letter from Representative Bonior

Purpose

Respond to ~~the Representative's suggestion to conduct airstrikes against Serbian targets.~~

Background

Representative David Bonior^{who} wrote to condemn the recent Racak massacre of 45 ethnic Albanians and to call for NATO air strikes against Serb targets. ~~He points out that Milosevic only responds to force.~~

Your reply recounts the recent Contact Group endorsement of the U.S.-backed draft political settlement for Kosovo and ~~calls~~ ^{the Group's call} for the parties to convene at a peace conference in France. ~~It~~ ^{He} also ~~set~~ describes how the NATO ultimatum supports the Contact Group's initiative and makes clear that NATO is prepared to act if Belgrade does not comply.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the letter at Tab A.

Attachments

Tab A Letter to Representative Bonior
Tab B Incoming Correspondence

Presley's reply calls for parties to convene

cc: Vice President
Chief of Staff

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear David:

unlabeled *regards the situation in*
and in your advice on how
Thank you for your ~~letter on events in Kosovo~~. I appreciate
~~your thoughts as we press forward in our efforts~~ to resolve the
conflict, end the suffering, and give the people of Kosovo the
self-government they deserve.

The Racak massacre of 45 ethnic Albanians is, as you point out,
a further example of the brutality of Slobodan Milosevic's
policy of indiscriminate violence. The repressive Belgrade
regime continues to be in breach of the agreements it concluded
with NATO and the OSCE last October and in defiance of the
international community and the rule of law. We are committed
to holding those responsible for Racak and other atrocities
accountable for their actions.

The step you recommend -- using NATO air power against Serb
security forces -- is closely allied with the approach we are
implementing: the credible threat of force with the
determination to use it in the absence of compliance.

On January 29, the Contact Group endorsed the U.S.-backed draft
political settlement and called on Belgrade and the Kosovar
Albanians to participate in a peace conference to begin in
France on February 6. On January 30, NATO issued an ultimatum
to Belgrade, the terms of which make clear that NATO's Secretary
General may authorize air strikes against Serb targets if
Belgrade's conduct results in failure to reach agreement or
Belgrade does not comply with its October commitments. We have
made clear to Milosevic that NATO is poised to carry out the
attacks.

The upcoming peace conference offers an unequalled opportunity
to end the conflict. The interim agreement will replace Serb
interior police with local Kosovo police and dramatically limit
the number of Yugoslav army forces garrisoned there. It
provides Kosovars with full control over the institutions that

most affect there daily lives: law enforcement, education,
health and culture.

Again, thank you writing. *I look forward to work with*
~~In the coming days we will be~~
~~consulting closely with Congress.~~

Sincerely,

*you to find
big a people
member of the
cabinet - Keros.*

The Honorable David E. Bonior
Democratic Whip
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

CL 41

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear David:

Thank you for writing regarding the situation in Kosovo and for your advice on how to resolve the conflict, end the suffering, and give the people of Kosovo the self-government they deserve.

The Racak massacre of 45 ethnic Albanians is, as you point out, a further example of the brutality of Slobodan Milosevic's policy of indiscriminate violence. The repressive Belgrade regime continues to be in breach of the agreements it concluded with NATO and the OSCE last October and in defiance of the international community and the rule of law. We are committed to holding those responsible for Racak and other atrocities accountable for their actions.

The step you recommend -- using NATO air power against Serb security forces -- is closely allied with the approach we are implementing: the credible threat of force with the determination to use it in the absence of compliance.

~~On January 29,~~ the Contact Group endorsed the U.S.-backed draft political settlement and called on Belgrade and the Kosovar Albanians to participate in a peace conference ~~to begin~~ in France. ~~on February 6.~~ ~~On January 30,~~ NATO issued an ultimatum to Belgrade, the terms of which make clear that NATO's Secretary General may authorize air strikes against Serb targets if Belgrade's conduct results in failure to reach agreement or Belgrade does not comply with its October commitments. We have made clear to Milosevic that NATO is poised to carry out the attacks.

The ~~upcoming~~ peace conference offers an unequalled opportunity to end the conflict. The interim agreement will replace Serb interior police with local Kosovo police and dramatically limit the number of Yugoslav army forces garrisoned there. It provides Kosovars with full control over the institutions that

most affect their daily lives: law enforcement, education, health and culture.

Again, thank you writing. I look forward to working with you to bring a peaceful resolution to the conflict in Kosovo.

Sincerely,

The Honorable David E. Bonior
Democratic Whip
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: SAMUEL BERGER
LARRY STEIN

SUBJECT: ~~President's Reply to Representative Bonior's~~
~~Letter Urging Air Strikes Against Serbian Targets~~

Purpose

Respond to ~~a letter from Representative Bonior who is urging~~ ^{the} ~~is suggestion to conduct~~ airstrikes against Serbian targets.

Background

Representative David Bonior ^{note} writes to condemn the recent Racak massacre of 45 ethnic Albanians and to call for NATO air strikes against Serb targets. He points out that Milosevic only responds to force.

Your reply recounts the recent Contact Group endorsement of the U.S.-backed draft political settlement for Kosovo and call for the parties to convene at a peace conference in France. It ^{also} describes how the NATO ultimatum supports the Contact Group's initiative and makes clear that NATO is prepared to act if Belgrade does not comply.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the letter ~~to Representative Bonior~~ ⁹ at Tab A.

Attachments

Tab A Letter to Representative Bonior
Tab B Incoming Correspondence

cc: Vice President
Chief of Staff

0641

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Dear David:

Thank you for your ~~recent~~ letter on events in Kosovo. I ~~deeply~~ appreciate your thoughts as we press forward in our efforts to resolve the conflict, end the suffering, and give the people of Kosovo the self-government they ~~so very much~~ deserve.

The Racak massacre of 45 ethnic Albanians is, as you ~~rightly~~ point out, ~~yet one~~ further example of the brutality of Slobodan Milosevic's policy of indiscriminate violence, ~~a policy that has had such devastating consequences for Kosovo.~~ The repressive Belgrade regime continues to be in breach of the agreements it concluded with NATO and the OSCE last October and in defiance of the international community and the rule of law. We are committed to holding those responsible for Racak and other atrocities accountable for their ~~inhuman~~ actions.

?
Is
that
sentence
a good
idea?

~~I agree with your assessment that Milosevic only understands the language of force.~~ The step you recommend -- using NATO air ~~power~~ strikes against Serb security force ~~targets to compel compliance~~ -- is closely allied with the approach we are implementing: the credible threat of force with the determination to use it in the absence of compliance.

On January 29, the Contact Group endorsed the U.S.-backed ~~Q~~ draft political settlement and called on Belgrade and the Kosovar Albanians to participate in a peace conference to begin in ~~France on February 6, and conclude by February 20.~~ ~~The following day,~~ On January 30, NATO issued an ultimatum to Belgrade, the terms of which make clear that NATO's Secretary General may authorize air strikes against Serb targets if Belgrade's conduct results in failure to reach agreement or Belgrade does not comply with its October commitments. We have made clear to Milosevic that NATO is poised to carry out the attacks.

Insert →
from
p.2

The interim agreement will replace Serb interior police with local Kosovo police and dramatically limit the number of Yugoslav army forces garrisoned there. It provides Kosovars with full control over the institutions that most affect their daily lives: law enforcement, education, health and culture.

I check margin

*Insert on
p. 1*

~~We are committed to ensuring that the killing in Kosovo stops.~~
~~The upcoming peace conference offers an unequalled opportunity~~
~~to end the conflict. It is up to both sides to grasp the~~
~~opportunity. Again, thank you for your recommendations.~~ In the
coming days we will be consulting closely with Congress.

Sincerely,

W. Clinton

The Honorable David E. Bonior
Democratic Whip
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: SAMUEL BERGER
LARRY STEIN

SUBJECT: Letter from Representative Bonior

Purpose

Respond to ~~the Representative's suggestion to conduct airstrikes against Serbian targets.~~

Background

Representative David Bonior^{wb} wrote to condemn the recent Racak massacre of 45 ethnic Albanians and to call for NATO air strikes against Serb targets. ~~He points out that Milosevic only responds to force.~~

Your reply recounts the recent Contact Group endorsement of the U.S.-backed draft political settlement for Kosovo and ~~calls~~^{the Group's call} for the parties to convene at a peace conference in France. ~~It~~^{It} also ~~describes~~^{set} how the NATO ultimatum supports the Contact Group's initiative and makes clear that NATO is prepared to act if Belgrade does not comply.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the letter at Tab A.

Attachments

Tab A Letter to Representative Bonior
Tab B Incoming Correspondence

*o Prerad's reply
calls for parties
to convene*

cc: Vice President
Chief of Staff

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear David:

unlike the situation in Kosovo
Thank you for your letter on events in Kosovo. I appreciate ~~your thoughts as we press forward in our efforts~~ to resolve the conflict, end the suffering, and give the people of Kosovo the self-government they deserve.

The Racak massacre of 45 ethnic Albanians is, as you point out, a further example of the brutality of Slobodan Milosevic's policy of indiscriminate violence. The repressive Belgrade regime continues to be in breach of the agreements it concluded with NATO and the OSCE last October and in defiance of the international community and the rule of law. We are committed to holding those responsible for Racak and other atrocities accountable for their actions.

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Again, thank you writing. *I look forward to work with*
~~In the coming days we will be~~
~~consulting closely with Congress.~~

Sincerely,

*you to find a peaceful
 member of the
 cabinet - Kosovo.*

The Honorable David E. Bonior
 Democratic Whip
 House of Representatives
 Washington, D.C. 20515

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear David:

Thank you for writing regarding the situation in Kosovo and for your advice on how to resolve the conflict, end the suffering, and give the people of Kosovo the self-government they deserve.

The Racak massacre of 45 ethnic Albanians is, as you point out, a further example of the brutality of Slobodan Milosevic's policy of indiscriminate violence. The repressive Belgrade regime continues to be in breach of the agreements it concluded with NATO and the OSCE last October and in defiance of the international community and the rule of law. We are committed to holding those responsible for Racak and other atrocities accountable for their actions.

The step you recommend -- using NATO air power against Serb security forces -- is closely allied with the approach we are implementing: the credible threat of force with the determination to use it in the absence of compliance.

~~On January 29,~~ the Contact Group endorsed the U.S.-backed draft political settlement and called on Belgrade and the Kosovar Albanians to participate in a peace conference ~~to begin~~ in France, ~~on February 6.~~ ~~On January 30,~~ NATO issued an ultimatum to Belgrade, the terms of which make clear that NATO's Secretary General may authorize air strikes against Serb targets if Belgrade's conduct results in failure to reach agreement or Belgrade does not comply with its October commitments. We have made clear to Milosevic that NATO is poised to carry out the attacks.

The ~~upcoming~~ peace conference offers an unequalled opportunity to end the conflict. The interim agreement will replace Serb interior police with local Kosovo police and dramatically limit the number of Yugoslav army forces garrisoned there. It provides Kosovars with full control over the institutions that

most affect their daily lives: law enforcement, education, health and culture.

Again, thank you writing. I look forward to working with you to bring a peaceful resolution to the conflict in Kosovo.

Sincerely,

The Honorable David E. Bonior
Democratic Whip
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ID 9900641

REFERRAL

DATE: 10 FEB 99

MEMORANDUM FOR: WH STRIPPING DESK

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: TO: BONIOR, DAVID E

SOURCE: PRESIDENT

DATE: 05 FEB 99

SUBJ: LTR FM REP BONIOR RE RECENT RACAK MASSACRE OF 45 ETHNIC ALBANIANS &
NATO AIR STRIKES AGAINST SERB TARGETS

REQUIRED ACTION: FOR DISPATCH

DUE DATE: 11 FEB 99

COMMENT:

FOR



JOHN W. FICKLIN

NSC RECORDS MANAGEMENT OFFICE