

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. fax	To Katy Button from Dora A. Kale re: FLOTUS event (partial) (1 page)	05/18/99	P6/b(6)
002. list	Kosovar Humanitarian Aid (partial) (5 pages)	n.d.	P6/b(6)

FOLDER TITLE:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
Ruby Shamir (Subject Files)
OA/Box Number: 23246

FOLDER TITLE:

Kosovo

2012-0565-S

ry1259

RESTRICTION CODES

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

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

- 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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- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
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- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

- 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.

File
Kosovo

Wate
509-571-570

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

Marty J. Hoffmann

05/18/99 11:27:53 AM

Record Type: Record

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

cc:

Subject: MoCs attending FLOTUS Macedonia Brf

Members of Congress attending the First Lady Macedonia Briefing

Tuesday, May 18, 1999 1:00 PM-2:00 PM:

Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX)

Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ)

Sen. George Voinovich (R-OH)

Rep. Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-TX)

Pending:

Sen. Gordon Smith (R-OR)

Message Sent To:

Lawrence J. Stein/WHO/EOP@EOP
Janet Murguia/WHO/EOP@EOP
Tracey E. Thornton/WHO/EOP@EOP
Charles M. Brain/WHO/EOP@EOP
Martha Foley/WHO/EOP@EOP
Mindy E. Myers/WHO/EOP@EOP
Eli P. Joseph/WHO/EOP@EOP
Virginia N. Rustique/WHO/EOP@EOP
Janelle E. Erickson/WHO/EOP@EOP
Roger S. Ballentine/WHO/EOP@EOP
Alphonse J. Maldon/WHO/EOP@EOP
Dario J. Gomez/WHO/EOP@EOP
Broderick Johnson/WHO/EOP@EOP
Lisa M. Kountoupes/WHO/EOP@EOP
Marty J. Hoffmann/WHO/EOP@EOP
Caroline R. Fredrickson/WHO/EOP@EOP
Matthew J. Bianco/WHO/EOP@EOP
Courtney C. Crouch/WHO/EOP@EOP
Joel K. Wiginton/WHO/EOP@EOP
Jade L. Riley/WHO/EOP@EOP
Thomas D. Janenda/WHO/EOP@EOP
Erica R. Morris/WHO/EOP@EOP
Katharine Button/WHO/EOP@EOP
Laura E. Schiller/WHO/EOP@EOP
Brenda B. Costello/WHO/EOP@EOP
Patricia Solis-Doyle/WHO/EOP@EOP
Evan Ryan/WHO/EOP@EOP
Wendy Arends/WHO/EOP@EOP

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*To: Katy Button***Kale, Dora A.**

Subject: FLOTUS event **** U81940 -- USE THIS U NUMBER UNDER DORA KALE'S NAME
Location: 450
Start: Tue 5/18/1999 12:00 PM
End: Tue 5/18/1999 2:00 PM
Recurrence: (none)

Fatima Syleimani, P6/(b)(6) Kosovo

Veton Syleimani, P6/(b)(6) Kosovo

Besnik Syleimani, P6/(b)(6) Kosovo

Albert Syleimani, P6/(b)(6) Kosovo

Ali Shala, P6/(b)(6) Kosovo

Nasret Shala, P6/(b)(6) Kosovo

Shpresa Shala, P6/(b)(6) Kosovo

Arsim Shala, P6/(b)(6)

Tsehay Teferri, P6/(b)(6) P6/(b)(6)

Anne-Marie K. McGranaghan, P6/(b)(6) P6/(b)(6)

Geilani Hussein, P6/(b)(6)

Mark David Smith, P6/(b)(6)

Angela P. Miller, P6/(b)(6)

THE POC FOR THE ABOVE NAMES IS: Ethiopian Community Development Council

USE: U 81940

Maria Arriaga, P6/(b)(6) 647-1422

Michael Mahdesian, P6/(b)(6) 712-0770

Margaret Hamburg, P6/(b)(6) HHS, 690-7858

Julia Taft, P6/(b)(6) 64-7360

Kevin Moran, USIA, P6/(b)(6) 619-4545

Luljeta Tola, P6/(b)(6) 619-4545 (Green card holder from Albania)

[001]

May 17, 1999

MEMORANDUM FOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

FROM: NICOLE RABNER
CC: MELANNE VERVEER
SUBJECT: BANKRUPTCY REFORM

Tomorrow morning, Melanne and I participating in a meeting with the President's advisors on bankruptcy reform legislative strategy. The President's advisors are in the process of devising a plan for the bill's likely movement to the Senate floor next week. Attached please find a very preliminary draft of a strategy memorandum for the President – its bleak outlook underscores the pessimism of the President's advisors about our leverage at this stage.

If your schedule permits, we recommend that you hold a very brief conference call or meeting with President's advisors on this issue (Gene Sperling, Larry Stein, Maria Escheveste and Sarah Rosen). The purpose of the call would be to brief you on our strategy. We believe it would be helpful for you to ask for a report on our proactive strategy to influence and improve the bill before it reaches the President's desk.

VERY PRELIMINARY DRAFT MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

ACTION FORCING EVENT: On April 6, 1999, we wrote to you recommending a strategy to deal with Bankruptcy legislation moving through both chambers in Congress. The goal was to increase our leverage and reduce the likelihood of a veto override. We have made little progress, however, in the face of an extraordinary campaign by the credit industry. The House recently passed a bill that is still fundamentally flawed. Nonetheless, it passed by a vote of 313 - 108 (with fewer votes in opposition than last year's Conference Report). We anticipate that an only slightly better bill will pass in the Senate by a similar veto-proof margin, making exercise of the veto a futile gesture that will only highlight weakness.

RECOMMENDATION: Given this prognosis, your advisors recommend a new strategy designed to achieve very modest improvements that would allow you to reluctantly sign the bill, while expressing concern about the impact of the legislation. Specifically, we propose to:

- (1) develop a tactical amendment to be offered on the Senate floor that would give the court discretion to consider the special circumstances of sympathetic debtors, e.g., those who care for non-dependent elderly or children, who are protecting themselves or their families from domestic violence, or who are trying to move from welfare to work;
- (2) work with Democratic supporters of both House and Senate legislation in an effort to win their help in obtaining modest changes;
- (3) adjust the tone of Administration statements about the pending Senate bankruptcy bill, showing greater favor for this slightly better bill in hopes of increasing the chances that its more reasonable provisions will prevail in Conference; and
- (4) recommend that you sign the bill that comes to your desk, while expressing concern that its provisions will hurt low- and moderate-income families struggling to make a fresh start and making the case for further scrutiny of the bill's impact and reconsideration of its provision if harm is found.

BACKGROUND: In April, we proposed a strategy to:

- (1) exploit publicly the vulnerabilities of the legislation (by presenting sympathetic scenarios debtors denied access to a fresh start under the bill, attacking provisions in the bill that roll back existing protections against abusive and coercive collection practices, highlighting the bill's failure to improve disclosure and stem credit card abuses, and critiquing lingering danger it presents to child support and alimony collection);
- (2) work with bill proponents and opponents (including Senators Torricelli and Grassley and

Representative Nadler) to advance alternative provisions that would substantively improve the current bills;

- (4) work with Representatives Nadler, Conyers, Frank, Gephardt, and Bonior to produce a more palatable House bill, or, if that is not possible, to garner the 20-25 additional House votes necessary to sustain your veto; and
- (5) work with Senators Durbin, Kennedy, Leahy and others to develop a Senate floor strategy and identify message amendments which could motivate Republicans to compromise.

Thus far, the effort has been unsuccessful. Representative Nadler began the debate by offering an alternative that was to the left of the Senate bill last year. We convinced him that a different strategy was necessary – that the Democrats should instead offer an amendment that made only a limited list of targeted changes necessary to win the President's support. Minority Leader Gephardt, who last year voted for the Conference Report, agreed to support this strategy. He issued a statement indicating his opposition to the Judiciary Committee print and support for the Democratic alternative. However, it appears that the nature of the alternative was largely irrelevant in the face of an extraordinary lobbying campaign by creditors reminiscent of major tax legislation. The Democratic alternative received votes from ___ Democrats, but only ___ were willing to oppose the underlying bill after the alternative failed. [Stats to come.]

The poor showing of the Democratic alternative in the House bodes badly for the Senate debate scheduled for the week of May 17th or May 24th. In extensive discussions with numerous Senate members and their staff, we find little willingness to advance changes to the complex means test and reaffirmation provisions that need revision. They are interested in advancing "message" amendments (e.g., a Schumer amendment to make nondischargeable in bankruptcy judgments for violation of the Freedom of Access to Clinics Act) or limited technical changes sought by narrow constituencies (e.g., credit counselors). In any event, few Democratic amendments are likely to succeed; and the majority of Democrats appear prepared to vote for the bill on final passage provided they have an opportunity to offer their amendments. If the Majority Leader takes procedural steps to limit debate in the face of Minimum Wage or Patients' Bill of Rights amendments, Democrats may oppose cloture as a party rights matter; however, a time agreement for consideration of Democratic amendments is likely to be reached.

The advocates fighting against the current bill – largely consumer groups and women's organizations – continue to press the Administration to hold firm, either to exact significant concessions from the industry or to veto the bill. They argue that the creditor industry fears a veto and the negative publicity that would follow and that the Senate Democrats sponsoring last year's promising Senate bill will be strong on the floor. Finally, the advocates remember the rhetorical strength of you and the First Lady from last year and see Administration pressure as significant. The advocates have a more optimistic view than most of your advisors of our leverage at this stage. Unfortunately, they have been severely outspent and outnumbered by the bill's formidable lobbyists – congressional staff report that they have not even been a presence on the Hill.

In light of our limited leverage, the best possible outcome would be further modest changes to the Senate bill, with key provisions from the Senate version prevailing in conference. To that end, we will find a sponsor for an amendment that will be hard to oppose. This amendment would give the court discretion to consider the special circumstances of those who care for non-dependent elderly or children, who are protecting themselves or their families from domestic violence, or who are trying to move from welfare to work. Our greatest concern with these bills has been that they provide bankruptcy judges inadequate discretion to consider the unique circumstances of individual debtors. As we have been unable to argue compellingly for judicial discretion, we will propose that they provide discretion in specific cases where the strict application of the rigid means test formula would impose clear hardship.

We also will work with Democratic supporters of both House and Senate legislation in an effort to win their help in obtaining modest changes that will allow the Administration to demonstrate that we obtained concessions. We will craft a more balanced Statement of Administration Policy on the Senate bill when it comes to the floor – a statement less critical than others that we have issued thus far. We need to show favor toward the Senate proposal in hopes that its slightly more modest provisions will prevail in conference. Finally, we will begin to lay the groundwork for a signing statement that expresses your concern about the adverse impact of this legislation on some debtors and their families. In signing the legislation, you may wish to direct the Departments of Justice and Treasury to undertake studies of the bill's impact so that, if adverse implications are found, you can advance limited proposals to remedy the harm in the future.

_____ **Agree**

_____ **Disagree**

_____ **Let's Discuss**

FACT SHEET

Today, the First Lady announced new U.S. initiatives to assist Kosovar refugees. These projects reaffirm the U.S. commitment to assist the victims of ethnic cleansing in Kosovo until they can return to their homes and rebuild their lives. The new initiatives bring total U.S. assistance to over \$200 million.

ERMA Assistance

The President has authorized the expenditure of an additional \$15 million from the Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance Fund (ERMA) to assist Kosovar refugees. The State Department's Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration will channel these funds through U.N. organizations, the International Committee of the Red Cross and other international and non-governmental organizations who are providing refugee relief. The funds will also support efforts to relocate up to 20,000 refugees to the United States. The President has previously approved \$70 million from this account to assist Kosovar refugees.

Refugee Internet Information Center

This week, the United States will establish an Internet Information Center in Ft. Dix, New Jersey, to help refugees access information in their language on the situation in Kosovo, communicate with other Kosovar refugees and locate missing family members. The U.S. Information Agency (USIA) is spearheading this public-private partnership, which links government agencies, technology companies, foundations and international relief organizations in a coordinated effort to bring to refugee communities the hardware and software necessary to establish internet-based platforms and support humanitarian efforts. Additional information centers will be established in Macedonia, Albania, Poland, Germany and France.

The initiative is coordinated with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Organization for Migration. Leading companies include Apple Computer, Inc., Autometric, Inc., Canon, Cisco Systems Inc., The David Sarnoff Corporation, The Document Company, Xerox, Gateway and the Waitt Family Foundation, Hewlett-Packard, International Data Group, Interpacket Group, Inc., the Markle Foundation, the National Technology Alliance, Northwest Airlines, Riso, Inc., SGI, UPS and 3M.

Cheryl M. Carter

05/18/99 10:26:40

AM

Record Type: Record

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

cc:

Subject: Kosovo relief/Reebok

fyi...DOL was very successful in reaching out to Reebok for shoes/clothing for the Ft. Dix arrivals. They're still working on it. In particular, they may be able to secure summer clothes for the refugees if needed. Christine is checking with NSC to see if we should pursue the clothes. Please see below.

----- Forwarded by Cheryl M. Carter/WHO/EOP on 05/18/99 10:23 AM -----



swirsky-stephanie@dol.gov

05/18/99 07:42:00 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Cheryl M. Carter@eop

cc:

Subject: Kosovo

As we spoke about yesterday, Reebok has agreed to send 1,000 pairs of athletic shoes and duffel bags to Fort Dix for the Kosovo refugees coming into the U.S. They hope to have more, but this is what they were able to do in the short term. Cheri, it was amazing. I spoke to Sharon Cohen, their vp who has been so active in the AIP at 8:00 Friday morning and by 9, Paul Fireman, the CEO, had authorized the donation. Nike and Adidas are working the request through their systems and we hope they will at least match Reebok's.

Also, a number of the companies, including the shoe companies, are asking if the folks coming in need more, specifically summer clothes. The woman at HHS who originally contacted me for help has indicated that all they need are the shoes, bags and financial donations. If you hear that they do need summer clothing--men's, women's, children's, anything--let me know, as I know the other AIP and other apparel companies we work with would want to step up and help.

GUEST LIST FOR FIRST LADY REFUGEE BRIEFING/5/18/99

NGOs

Adventist Development and Relief Agency
Dr. Gaspar Colon

American Friends Service Committee
James Matlack

American Red Cross
Jose Aponte

Baptist World Aid
Paul Montacute, Director

CARE
Peter Bell, President
Or
Marianne Leach

Catholic Relief Services
Ken Hackett, Executive Director
Anne-Marie Martin
Joseph George Addis
Father Daniel McCullough
Joseph Barnett

Christian Children's Fund
Betty Meyer

Church World Service
Dorothy Ivey

Coalition for International Justice
John Heffernan

Ethiopian Community Development Council, Inc.
Dr. Tsehay Teferra, Director

Global Relief Foundation
Hassan Oriyanerass

InterAction
Jim Bishop

International Catholic Migration Conference
Mitzi Schroeder, Director

International Medical Corps
Adam Sirois

International Orthodox Christian Charities
Mark Hodde

International Red Cross
Andre Pasquier
Frank Sieverts

International Rescue Committee
Mark Bartolini

Islamic African Relief Agency USA
Mahamed Haroun
Samer Atiye

Jesuit Relief Service
Father Richard Reyscavage, SJ, Director
Laurie O'Bryon

Lutheran Immigration And Refugee Service
Philip Anderson

Mercy Corp
Landrum Bolling

Oxfam America
Bernice Romero

Refugees International
Shephard Lowman

Success Foundation/International Relief Organizations
Dr. Mohamed Omeish
Anisa Abdelfattah

US Committee for Refugees
John Fredriksson

World Vision
Serge Duss

Unknown
Mark Spina

BUSINESS

Robert Baum and his daughter Nina
Eric Eve
Charles Rasch
Anthony Robbins
Stacey Steinheiss
Carol Wilner

STUDENTS

St. Peter's Interparish School
Diego Delano
Eric Smith
Amanda Reid
Katharine Westfall
Alison Westfall (teacher)

Stone Ridge Country Day School of the Sacred heart

Dylan Davey
Megan MacWhirter
Hiliary Plioplys
Elizabeth Anne Schroth
Sister Anne Dyer, Headmistress
Julia Regina Maxey, Group Moderator

GOVERNMENT

USAID
Jess Sarmiento

PRM @ State Dept.
Bob Hugins

OUTLINE OF 5/18/99 HUMANITARIAN AID EVENT WITH FIRST LADY

Stage

First Lady
Ken Hackett, Executive Director, Catholic Relief Services
Refugee family/ host/Albanian
TBD: Senator

Backdrop

Photos from trip

Audience

Refugee families/hosts (Scott)
Students who have raised money for refugees (Maureen & ?)

Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart

Four students and a teacher – they raised over \$15,000 in four days to help fund trucks carrying supplies to Kosovar refugees in Albania and Macedonia

Humanitarian Groups: (Maureen)

Business Groups: (Jay)

State Department: (Valerie)

AID: (Valerie)

HHS (Valerie)

Military (Valerie)

Congressional (David/Janet)

Albanian-Americans (David/Christine)

PROGRAM

First Lady (who introduce?)

Refugees

Ken Hackett

First Lady

Briefing for Religious and Ethnic Press with Julia Taft and Eric Schwartz will follow at 2:00

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Office of the First Lady

Ph: (202) 456-6266

Fax: (202) 456-6244

To: Julia Taft

Phone No.: _____

Fax No.: 647 8162

From: Melanne Verveer - 456-6266

No. of pages (including cover): 6

Comments: Julia pls let us know
if there are others we
should add

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KOSOVAR HUMANITARIAN AID

* denotes those in US resettlement efforts

Adventist Development and Relief Agency

yes Dr. Gaspar Colon 301-680-6373

P6/(b)(6)

P6/(b)(6)

[002]

American Friends Service Committee

Cara Newell, Executive Director 215-241-7030

James Matlack 483-3341

American Red Cross (International Services) *calling back w/substitutions 1st*

yes Jose Aponte 703-465-4801

703-465-4802 dob:

P6/(b)(6)

ss: 580-94-2952

Gerald Jones 703-465-4809

American Jewish World Service

Hon. Ruth Messinger 212-736-2597

Baptist World Aid

~~calling back~~ yes Paul Montacute, Director 703-790-8980

P6/(b)(6)

P6/(b)(6)

CARE

Peter Bell, President 404-681-2552

P6/(b)(6)

P6/(b)(6)

Catholic Relief Services

Ken Hackett, Executive Director 410-625-2220

khackett@catholicrelief.org

Christian Children's Fund

John Schultz, President 804-756-2700

Church World Service

Rodney Page, Executive Director 212-870-2175

P6/(b)(6)

P6/(b)(6)

yes Dorothy Ivey

202-543-6336

calling back w/substitution

P6/(b)(6)

P6/(b)(6)

Lisa Wright

*William Sage, Acting Director

Immigration and Refugee Program 212-870-3300

Doctors of the World

Dr. Victoria Sharp, Board Chair

212-226-9890

P6/(b)(6)

P6/(b)(6)

Elizabeth Wagley

Elizabeth Whitehead, Acting Director

Doctors Without Borders

Joelle Tanguy, Executive Director

212-679-6800

P6/(b)(6)

P6/(b)(6)

Episcopal Church

Presiding Bishop's Fund

*Richard Parkins, Director

Migration Ministries

212-716-6259

Ethiopian Community Development Council, Inc.

Dr. Tsehaye Teferra, Director

703-685-0510

dob:

P6/(b)(6)

SS:

P6/(b)(6)

Global Relief Foundation

Mohamed Chatha

888-256-2532

Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society

*Leonard Glickman, Executive VP

212-967-4100

HOPE International Relief & Development Agency

Zuhair El-Shwehdi

573-817-0712

Immigration & Refugee Services of America

Roger Winter, Executive Director

202-797-2105

InterAction

Jim Moody, Executive Director

P6/(b)(6)

P6/(b)(6)

James Bishop

667-8227 X104

dob:

SS:

P6/(b)(6)

P6/(b)(6)

Renee Bafalis

P6/(b)(6)

P6/(b)(6)

International Catholic Migration Conference

Mitzi Schroeder, Director

202-393-2904

P6/(b)(6)

P6/(b)(6)

International Medical Corps

Nancy Aossey, President

310-826-7800

P6/(b)(6)

P6/(b)(6)

call back! @ 2/24/0
International Orthodox Christian Charities

Constantine Trianta Filou

410-243-9820

888-855-2108

P6/(b)(6)

P6/(b)(6)

International Red Cross

yes calling w/ guest
Andre Pasquier, Head of Delegation

202-293-9430

dob:

P6/(b)(6)

ss:

P6/(b)(6)

Frank Sieverts

P6/(b)(6)

P6/(b)(6)

International Rescue Committee

Reynold Levy, President

212-551-3000

P6/(b)(6)

P6/(b)(6)

don't call
Mark Bartolini

822-0043 X18

P6/(b)(6)

P6/(b)(6)

Sheppie Abromowitz

822-0043 X10

Iowa Department of Human Services

Bureau of Refugee Programs

Wayne Johnson, Chief

515-283-7904

Islamic African Relief Agency USA

Mubark Hamad

573-443-0166

800-298-1199

Islamic Relief Worldwide

Jehangr Malik

818-238-9520

888-479-4968

Jesuit Relief Service

yes
Father Richard Ryscavage, SJ, Director

202-462-0400

dob:

P6/(b)(6)

ss:

P6/(b)(6)

British Robinson

Latter-Day Saints Charities

800-453-3860 X1201

call straight
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service

Philip Anderson

P6/(b)(6)

P6/(b)(6)

Ralston Deffenbaugh, Executive Director

783-7509

212-532-6350

(also * resettlement) living NY

Lutheran World Relief

Kathryn Wolford, President

212-532-6350

no
James Bowman, Director, DC Office

202-543-6336

2

783-7507

P6/(b)(6)

P6/(b)(6)

Mercy Corps International

Neal Keny-Guyer, CEO

503-242-1032

don't call
Nancy Lindborg, Vice President

202-463-7383

Oxfam America

Raymond Offenheiser, President

617-482-1211

call back
Bernice Romero

202-783-7302

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

502-569-5839

Refugees International

202-828-0110

Lionel Rosenblatt

Amelia Bookstein

Relief International

Dr. Farshad Rastegar, CEO

310-572-7770

202-607-7432 (C)

Jeffrey Farr, Director of Administration and Finance

234-8337

Salvation Army World Service

703-684-5528

not there today
Harden White, Executive Director

Rosemary Regis, Assistant to the Executive Director

Save the Children

Charles MacCormack, President

203-226-7271

202-293-4170

Samaritan's Purse

Franklin Graham

828-243-5075

Success Foundation/International Relief Organization

Dr. Mohamed Omeish

703-820-7199

877-820-1790

United Methodist Committee on Relief

800-814-8765

US Catholic Conference

Mark Franken, Executive Director

202-541-3169

Migration and Refugee Services

(*also resettlement)

U.S. Committee for Refugees

John Fredriksson

P6/(b)(6)

Bill Froelich

World Relief Refugee Services

*Don Hammond

914-268-4135

World Vision

Bruce Wilkinson, VP, International Programs

202-547-3743

Serge Duss

202-608-1837

P6/(b)(6)

P6/(b)(6)

don't
call

Talking Points
FLOTUS Private Meeting with Albanian-Americans
Tuesday, May 18, 1999, 12:30 p.m.

- I've been looking forward to meeting with you. Just got back from visiting Kosovar Albanian refugees in Macedonia. Wanted to describe what I saw/heard while still fresh in my mind.
- Meeting with refugees, focusing on them as individuals, drives home the enormity of what Milosevic has done.
- Each had a story of being pushed out of his home, having seen a love one brutalized or executed. Many saw their homes burned by Serb security forces. They left everything they owned and were stripped of i.d. documents, as they fled for their lives.
- Macedonia and Albania have responded well to challenge of dealing with this wave of refugees.
- The U.S. and European allies are providing financial support and NATO has worked organizational miracles in setting up camps. Humanitarian organizations are doing their part.
- There is food for the refugees and other necessities. Life is difficult, particularly as many have no idea where loved ones are. NGO's are working to help refugees locate family.
- Important to get refugees back to their homes as soon as possible. Will only go back if they know they will be secure. That means NATO presence.
- Believe the President spoke to some of you not long ago. Explained why we took action. My trip reinforced my conviction that our moral case is clear. Must fight against Milosevic's ethnic cleansing. Can't put our heads in the sand, pretend it isn't happening.
- Need you to use every opportunity to get the message out, to tell the stories of the refugees. If you know a poignant case, one that illustrates the terrible suffering the refugees have endured, imperative to tell it publicly.

- Belgrade now cynically using human shields to protect military in Kosovo. Exploiting every NATO strike that unintentionally produces civilian casualties to undermine NATO's moral position.
- Can't let Milosevic get away with this. Must keep our eyes on the ball, constantly make clear who is the victimizer (Milosevic regime) and who the victims (ethnic Albanians subjected to the regime's ethnic hatred).
- Must counteract Belgrade's propaganda with the truth. Urge you to do your utmost to tell the world what is happening.
- Thank you for listening to me, I'd like to listen to your ideas.



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Flight From Fear Ends in Manassas

By Dan Eggen
Washington Post Staff Writer
Friday, May 14, 1999; Page B01

The Serbian soldiers came to the homes of the two Pristina families in the same way, a dozen at a time and heavily armed. The message they carried was the same, too, almost to the word.

"You have five minutes to go or we will kill you," they said. "What are you waiting for?"

Six weeks later -- after the filthy train ride, after the march along the mine-strewn road, after the fights over food and water in the muddy border camps -- the two ethnic Albanian families have found a home, or the closest thing to a home since the terror in Kosovo began. The Shalas and the Sylejmanis, related through sisters, arrived this week at a humble little town house in Manassas, crammed into three bedrooms on a cul-de-sac in a sagging neighborhood dubbed Georgetown South.

The families are among the first of 20,000 ethnic Albanians scheduled to be resettled temporarily in the United States, arriving earlier than most because they were somehow able to avoid a holding facility in Fort Dix, N.J. They flew to the Washington area Sunday after an overnight stay in metropolitan New York.

Neither family was involved with the Kosovo Liberation Army. They weren't even particularly political or religious.

Ali Shala, 59, is an agricultural salesman and former bureaucrat, with a 45-year-old wife, Hasret, and their 15-year-old daughter, Shpresa. Veton Sylejmani, 32, is a construction worker who arrived with his wife, Marita, 22, and their bright-eyed, 7-month-old son, Albert. Veton's cousin Besnik Sylejmani, 22, is a butcher.

The family's 61-year-old matriarch, Fatime Sylejmani, sits quiet and sad-eyed with her head in her hands and with the only clothes she owns on her back. She left behind so many things: jewelry, wedding photos, even her false teeth.

"They're just regular people," Arsim Shala, son of Ali, said yesterday. "The Serbs didn't go after people because they were political. They went after them because they were Albanian."

Arsim is an American, or nearly so. The 29-year-old photographer and auto mechanic arrived five years ago, fleeing the Serbian draft in the war on Bosnia, and now lives in Springfield. He was able to sponsor his relatives with the help of local Muslims and an Arlington

refugee agency, the Ethiopian Community Development Council.

The refugees greet visitors to their new home with kindness and a glass of orange juice, but they are clearly weary from the long journey. It began on April 1, as near as they can remember, when they and their Pristina neighbors were forced from their homes, marched to the train station and sent away.

After the stifling train ride, they walked to the Macedonian border town of Blace, encamped with tens of thousands of other Kosovar Albanians. They subsisted for three days and three nights, as refugees fought among themselves for scarce milk and bread.

"It was a terrible place," Veton Sylejmani says. "We didn't know if we would get out."

Rescue came from an Albanian family who agreed to take them in. That's where Arsim Shala finally caught up with them before helping to bring them to Virginia.

Now in Manassas, they have made the trek this week to the Social Security office for identification cards, and must tend to the other mundanities of resettlement: getting driver's licenses, finding transportation, looking for jobs and, in Shpresa's case, enrolling in school. She already speaks fluent English.

Members of the clan's extended family are suddenly spread throughout the world, and they are hopeful that Ali's other son will arrive soon from Fort Dix. They also are unanimous in their approval of NATO's assault on Slobodan Milosevic. "They're getting what they deserve," Shpresa says of the Serbs.

Yet home is home, they say, and all say they hope to return to Kosovo once the fighting ends.

"Sixty years of my life is left behind," Ali Shala says in his native language. "There's not enough time for me to start a whole new life here."

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GUEST LIST FOR REFUGEE BRIEFING
5/18/99

NGOs

Adventist Development and Relief Agency

-Dr. Gaspar Colon

American Friends Service Committee

-James Matlack

American Red Cross

-Jose Aponte

Baptist World Aid

-Paul Montacute, Director

CARE

-Peter Bell, President

or

-Marianne Leach

Catholic Relief Services

-Ken Hackett, Executive Director

-Anne-Marie Martin

-Joseph George Addis

-Father Daniel McCullough

-Joseph Barnett

Christian Children's Fund

-Betty Meyer

Church World Service

-Dorothy Ivey

Coalition for International Justice

-John Heffernan

Ethiopian Community Development Council, Inc.

-Dr. Tsehay Teferra, Director

InterAction

-Jim Bishop

International Catholic Migration Conference

-Mitzi Schroeder, Director

International Medical Corps

-Adam Sirois

International Orthodox Christian Charities

-Mark Hódde

International Red Cross

-Andre Pasquier

-Frank Sieverts

International Rescue Committee

-Mark Bartolini

Islamic African Relief Agency USA

-Mahamed Haroun

Jesuit Relief Service

-Father Richard Reyscavage, SJ, Director

-Laurie O'Bryon

Lutheran Immigration And Refugee Service

-Philip Anderson

Mercy Corp

-Landrum Bolling

Oxfam America

-Bernice Romero

Refugees International

-Shephard Lowman

(NGOs continued)

***Success Foundation/International Relief
Organizations***

-Dr. Mohamed Omeish
-Anisa Abdelfattah

US Committee for Refugees

-John Fredriksson

World Vision

-Serge Duss

-Mark Spina (NGO n/a)

GOVERNMENT

USAID

-Jess Sarmiento

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News

CATHOLIC STANDARD

'Kid power' comes to aid of Kosovar refugees

By Lynnea Pruzinsky Mumola
CATHOLIC STANDARD

For students across the archdiocese, watching the horrors of the war in Yugoslavia broadcast by the daily news was enough to spur several youth into action.

From high schools to elementary schools to youth groups, students have been taking the initiative for humanitarian support. The youth have collected money, emergency supplies and clothing for the Kosovo refugees of the war in Yugoslavia. Their efforts to raise awareness and collect funds have included rocking chair marathons and folk rock concerts.

At Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart in Bethesda, over \$15,000 was raised in four days to help fund trucks carrying supplies to Kosovar refugees in Albania and Macedonia. "Kid power should never be underestimated. It's raw energy," said Sister Anne Dyer, a Religious of the Sacred Heart who is headmistress at Stone Ridge. Sister Dyer said the students' efforts were part of a global perspective taught at the school. "Stone Ridge is a school built on love, not hate, on helping one another, not injuring one another."

The headmistress said the collection "surpassed our highest expectations." Led by a new student group, "People for Peace," the school invited folk singer Peter Yarrow of Peter, Paul and Mary to present a concert to help raise awareness about children in need. Yarrow's efforts support War Child, a nonprofit organization providing emergency relief to children affected by conflict. After the concert, students and Sacred Heart alumnae in town for the 32nd annual National Conference of Associated Alumnae and Alumni of the Sacred Heart also donated to the cause.

At Archbishop Neale Elementary School in La Plata, students in the upper grades will be literally rocking to raise money for Kosovo relief. Immaculate Heart of Mary Sister Helene Fee, the principal, said students will raise donations and pledges for three hours of rocking on a rocking chair. In the past, students have participated in the rock-a-thon to raise money for leukemia research, but this year students asked the money to be sent for Kosovo relief.

Many student government associations placed relief efforts on their agenda. Members of the student council at St. Peter's Interparish School, S.E., helped to coordinate a collection drive last week for Kosovo refugees that also involved members of the neighborhood.

"I was watching the news and saw how terrible it was around there and figured it would be good to help," said Amanda Reid, 14, a member of the eighth grade and president of the St. Peter's student council.

For about two weeks the eighth grade student leaders organized the drive and gathered over 100 emergency kits for the war-torn region and refugee camps. Community members donated items such as soap, candles, bandages and antibiotic ointment for the emergency kits.



Kara Wagner (at right), 13, and Amanda Reid, 14, both eighth grade students at St. Peter's Interparish School, S.E., pack emergency supply kits for Kosovar refugees. The student council there organized a drive to help the refugees after hearing about the war in Yugoslavia.

Some students also wrote letters and enclosed their pictures in the bags. Sarah Joan, 12, a seventh grade student at St. Peter's, wrote, "At our school we have all been making these packets to help you in your time of need. Our prayers are with you."

A suitcase filled with infant clothes and \$200 in checks was also donated. Debbie Kelley, the student council advisor, said she and another teacher were driving the donations to Philadelphia to be shipped to the refugee camps. Kelley said the students are learning how to put their faith into action. The collection, she said, taught students about undertaking a relief effort and the importance of showing love for people in the world.

After reading about the St. Peter's collection in the *Catholic Standard*, faculty and students organized a similar collection at Father Andrew White School in Leonardtown. The school collected over 200 emergency kits to be shipped out this week.

Students at Connelly School of the Holy Child in Potomac have also been preparing individual emergency kits packed in food storage bags. The kits and a monetary donation will be shipped out by the end of the week.

The student government association at St. Vincent Pallotti High School in Laurel sponsored a fund-raiser last month. The students raised \$2,000 for Catholic Relief Services. According to Patti Lutz, religion department chair, "The crisis in Kosovo has been a major topic of discussion in religion classes and been the intention of many prayers."

By donating change from lunch, students and faculty at St. Mary's Ryken High School in Leonardtown raised

over \$400 for the Red Cross. The student government organization helped collect the money, which will be sent to the Red Cross with a request that the funds be earmarked for relief in Honduras and Kosovo.

Faculty at St. Mary of the Assumption School in Upper Marlboro also pitched in \$200 for Kosovo relief in an end-of-the-year collection.

Many archdiocesan schools have combined their relief efforts with lessons in the classroom. At Georgetown Preparatory School in North Bethesda, two volunteers from Catholic Relief Services spoke at a recent school assembly. The volunteers, who had been in refugee camps in Macedonia, spoke of the history of the region's ethnic conflicts and the current relief efforts. Students will be asked to contribute to a fund later this month for victims of Kosovo and Hurricane Mitch.

Students in the seventh and eighth grade at St. Mary's School in Bryantown have been studying the conflict in Kosovo in their social studies class. Howard Dent, the principal, said the students have been encouraged to donate part of their spending money to a collection jar on their teachers' desk. "When we collect money for any cause, we make social awareness a part of the fund raising effort," Dent said. "It is important the children understand the issues as well as the need for money."

At St. Elizabeth School in Rockville, a "Kosovo Prayer Day" has been scheduled for May 24. Prayers will be offered every hour on the hour for Kosovo and world peace. Large signs reading "pray for peace" will be made for the front of the school. The students will also collect money for the relief effort.

Kosovo relief, page 28

Silver Spring parish holds vigil

Parishioners at St. John the Baptist Church in Silver Spring participated in a 12-hour prayer vigil for the victims of the war in Yugoslavia this weekend.

About 75 people attended a prayer service at 8 p.m. Friday which coincided with the parish's Eucharistic Adoration. Then several parishioners stayed through the night praying for a nonviolent resolution to that war and to all conflict.

"We really felt we were meeting a need," said Kim Lamberty, director of social concerns for the parish. "Praying for peace cannot be more appropriate than in front of the Blessed Sacrament," she said.

According to Lamberty, several parishioners prayed for peace through the intercessions of Mother Teresa, who was born of Albanian parents and grew up in Yugoslavia. Not only was Mother Teresa born in the Balkan region, the current site of upheaval, but members of the parish feel close to her since she visited the church before her death. The refugees fleeing Kosovo are ethnic Albanians.

Kosovo relief

From page 3

Students at St. John the Evangelist School in Clinton donated part of their Lenten collection to the Kosovo Regional Emergency Fund. The school sent \$350 and continues to pray for peace in the region each morning.

At Holy Cross in Garrett Park, students held a bake sale to

raise money for Kosovo relief.

One student at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Wheaton initiated a monetary collection at the Xavierian Brothers-sponsored high school. Junior Colleen Medlock collected over \$1,000 from the student body for the Kosovar refugees.

For Sherwood High School sophomore Jeffrey Roman, helping the refugees meant finding a way students with limited resources might be able to contribute. "I knew money would

be helpful, but I thought clothes would be best for high school students to donate," Roman said. "I have a lot of clothes I could give away."

So Roman, a member of the Youth group at St. Peter's in Olney, tried to start a clothing drive a few months ago for the victims of the Bosnian conflict. He said he read about the Bosnia conflict while visiting a library and wanted to do something. Unfortunately, the

student did not find any support for his original goal but did not forget the initial idea. When he heard about the war in Kosovo he again stepped forward and found help, this time from teachers at school and his youth group leader.

Roman said he spent an entire afternoon searching for an agency that would accept clothes for children. He then posted fliers, got permission for an announcement at school and placed boxes throughout

the school and at his youth group meeting. With help from friends, Roman collected seven boxes of clothing for children aged 15 and under. He and his youth group leader packed the boxes and drove to Philadelphia to drop them off.

"I think it's important for students to give help wherever it's needed," Roman, 15, said. "It's good for younger people to do it, because that shows adults (that the youth) can accomplish a lot if they try."

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Office of the Spokesman

For Immediate Release
99/432

May 17, 1999

ON-THE-RECORD BRIEFING
USAID ADMINISTRATOR BRIAN ATWOOD,
ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR POPULATION, REFUGEE AND MIGRATION AFFAIRS
JULIA TAFT,
DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR FOR FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE
MARY CHAMBLISS,
DIRECTOR OF LOGISTICS FOR THE JOINT STAFF LT. GENERAL JOHN MCDUFFIE,
DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES LAVINIA LIMON,
IMMIGRATION OFFICER FOR REFUGEE DIVISION OF INS, OFFICE OF
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS ROSS ANDERSON, ASSOCIATE GENERAL COUNSEL,
CHIEF OF ASYLUM DIVISION, INS, KELLY RYAN AND STATE DEPARTMENT
DEPUTY SPOKESMAN JAMES B. FOLEY
ON
U.S. ASSISTANCE TO BALKAN REFUGEES

Washington, D.C.

QUESTION: The Secretary mentioned displaced people in Kosovo. Are there any plans to get food supplies to the people in Kosovo?

ADMINISTRATOR ATWOOD: We've been working this problem for a long time and are pleased with some small progress that's been made. The ICRC, the Red Cross, has now been given limited access. We have brought in some supplies, food and medicine into Pristina, mainly. I spoke the other day to Cornelio Sommaruga, who is the head of the International Red Cross. He doesn't have a carte blanche to go anywhere he wants, and so his people are basically negotiating with local military commanders for access. So there's not a lot of hope that we can resolve the problem entirely by the ICRC's access.

There have been some Greek NGOs that have taken in food and medicine -- a limited amount -- again, in a fairly restricted area. We're hoping that that initiative will be expanded somewhat. Therefore, we continue to look at other options as well.

QUESTION: Is air drops one of the options that you are still looking at?

ADMINISTRATOR ATWOOD: We're looking at that option, that's right -- humanitarian air drops.

QUESTION: What has to take place before you can have the air drops?

ADMINISTRATOR ATWOOD: I'm not going to get into that. I hope that by the end of next week, we'll have some information for you. It's clearly a very delicate operation. We want to make sure that we accentuate the humanitarian nature of it all; and we certainly wouldn't want to say anything prematurely that would compromise that operation.

QUESTION: I was going to ask if you could explain why it's been so difficult to get the air drops underway? I mean, yet you said it's sensitive, but why is it sensitive? Officials have been talking about air drops for at least a month.

ADMINISTRATOR ATWOOD: I think people have asked the question in the context of an air war that's going on over Kosovo and Serbia. People asked the question initially of the military forces -- could they engage in this? They, I think very correctly, pointed out -- we have General McDuffie, if he wants to add to this -- how dangerous it would be when you have SA-6s and SA-7s on the ground. You don't have the same situation you had in Bosnia where you had humanitarian workers and UN people on the ground, where you did not have those kinds of surface-to-air missiles; therefore, you could fly at lower altitudes and get it done. So this is the challenge certainly in Kosovo.

QUESTION: Does the fact that the ICRC is talking to individual commanders, I believe is how you put it, indicate that there is not a central command in Belgrade that's giving it permission, that we're going to allow a more general access?

ASSISTANT SECRETARY TAFT: Mr. Sommaruga got approval from Milosevic, who then indicated with whom he needed to coordinate. So this got the highest attention in Belgrade. It's working out the details of where they go, when they go, and how many places in Kosovo they would establish distribution points that is currently under development.

QUESTION: When will the decision be made on the air drops, in general? And then I would like to ask the general about the feasibility from a military standpoint while there's an air war going on to do this?

ADMINISTRATOR ATWOOD: When will the decision be made? We'll be sure to inform you first when the decision is made. General?

LT. GENERAL MCDUFFIE: We've been asked this question many times, and as Brian stated earlier, the air threat is significant. I mean, it's still there. More importantly though, from a military perspective, to use military capability to do the air drops, we don't know how effective it's going to be. I mean, we really wouldn't know if we're feeding the Serbs or if we're feeding the IDPs. There are all those variables that were there the first week when we got into the question.

The issue of air drop -- as Brian said, he'll inform you when it starts -- is you're looking at a third party where there's agreement by the Serbs and there can be some type of humanitarian

window of sort that you can do that, and we can somehow work that into the operation.

QUESTION: Is that doable in --

LT. GENERAL MCDUFFIE: Well, we're exploring it. Again, I don't want to go into too much depth on that, but that is the planning direction, if you would, that's being taken now at NATO, in fact.

QUESTION: Ms. Taft, if I could ask you a question. It may be sort of difficult for you to answer, but I'm wondering about the demographic make-up you're expecting in Kosovo if there is a settlement. Do you expect it to still be even a majority Albanian makeup if those who choose to come back come back; or do you think there might be even a Serb majority after settlement?

ASSISTANT SECRETARY TAFT: Well, one is told never to answer hypothetical questions. However, there's nothing hypothetical about the fact that so many people have been driven out of Kosovo and they are adamant about wanting to go back in. So given the fact that refugees decide to return when they want to return, I can assure you that there will be more Albanian Kosovars who will want to go back. And of course that would increase the number, far exceeding the existence of the existing Serbs.

MR. FOLEY: I can answer that also. Clearly, our policy is that all the Kosovar refugees will go back; and so the ethnic balance will return to what it was.

QUESTION: But they can choose whether they want to go back or not?

MR. FOLEY: Yes, but they all want to go back. We've not heard anyone who doesn't want to go back.

QUESTION: There's hundreds of thousands still missing, so I mean it's a legitimate question.

MR. FOLEY: People who are alive and able all want to go back, and our intention and our goal -- we will not stop our current policy, our current air campaign until they're all able to go back.

QUESTION: Have there been any of the 2,900 refugees here -- have any of them applied for asylum yet?

ASSISTANT SECRETARY TAFT: Well, they don't need to apply for asylum. They are being given refugee status here which allows them to stay permanently should they so decide to do that. But in the interviews that have gone on at Fort Dix, or directly out of JFK, when people have come for their family reunification, they have all indicated that they appreciate the offer of safety and sanctuary, but they want to go back home. Lavinia Limon, who has been directing the Fort Dix operation for HHS, may want to add some other comments about this.

MS. LIMON: Just to add that Julia is absolutely right. Even as we're interviewing people to go elsewhere in the United States, they are saying, when will I be able to go home, who do I contact in order to go back when it's safe. So that has been a constant theme through everyone I've spoken to in the camp.

QUESTION: So not one of the 2,900 people here have said that they might not want to go back?

MS. LIMON: I have not heard anyone say that. It's rather remarkable.

QUESTION: Secretary Taft, I hope that you can answer this question. Over the weekend, CNN started broadcasting pictures of an alleged massacre that took place of about 100 males. Do you or does the State Department have any kind of corroborating evidence either of mass graves or photos to corroborate that a massacre did take place in a village called Izbica?

ASSISTANT SECRETARY TAFT: Let me ask Jim to answer. I was with the First Lady, and I don't know exactly what broke over the weekend. One always takes this information and tried to find another source to validate it. Not being on the ground, it makes it very difficult to do, but perhaps Jim -

MR. FOLEY: I'm not in a position to answer that now, but we will look into it. I think, if we're able to give you more detail, we'll certainly do so.

QUESTION: For Ms. Taft - first of all, have you asked President Milosevic for permission to have these air drops?

ADMINISTRATOR ATWOOD: No, we haven't made a decision to drop from the air.

QUESTION: There's been no discussion with Mr. Milosevic over this?

ADMINISTRATOR ATWOOD: No, none whatsoever.

QUESTION: Have you made any contracts with private NGOs in the hypothetical situation that you might have aid drops?

ADMINISTRATOR ATWOOD: I'm not going to answer that at this point. We'll have an announcement for you soon.

QUESTION: I'm a little intrigued by the numbers here. You said that the amount of food aid will triple this year. The Kosovo and North Korea emergencies don't seem to account for all of that sudden increase. I wonder if you can explain where it's coming from.

DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR CHAMBLISS: I'm Mary Chambliss from Agriculture. Yes, this is a global number of 10 million tons; and you are quite right. It includes the

quantities we're discussing for the Kosovar refugees, and what Mr. Glickman referred to as our most recent pledge to North Korea. It also includes food aid that we have provided, for example, Bangladesh suffered a massive flood last fall, and we've been providing food assistance there. It includes the food assistance that we're providing to Russia. It includes food assistance to the countries of Central America after the hurricane. So it covers a global and a wide array of areas where we're responding.

QUESTION: Administrator Atwood, just following up on that question, the US hasn't been negotiating with Milosevic, but has a third party; have NGOs been in contact with the Yugoslav Government over air drops?

ADMINISTRATOR ATWOOD: Not to my knowledge. Certainly there have been discussions with him about access to IDPs, but not about air drops at this point.

QUESTION: Assistant Secretary Taft, regarding reports about a train load of about 2,000 refugees were turned away from the Macedonia border by Serb forces -- do you know anything about that?

ASSISTANT SECRETARY TAFT: One train load did come and there was a rumor that another was on its way but did not make it. But it's not because of the Macedonians. As a matter of fact, one of the things that was really quite comforting this past weekend was to see the higher comfort level that the Macedonians have now about the refugees that are present in their country. I think part of that -- a large degree of that -- is because there have been more refugees leaving in the emergency evacuations than have been coming across. Every day about 2,000 are being moved to the West or to the United States. Much fewer than that have been coming. So the Macedonians have said that they would keep their border open; so we've all encouraged them to do that.

QUESTION: I guess the President of Macedonia is saying that he wants or needs to have 100,000 refugees taken out of Macedonia. He's saying he's got an urgent call for help. What's your response to that?

ASSISTANT SECRETARY TAFT: Well, of course there is an issue about the absorptive capacity of Macedonia -- 130,000 what we call slots or positions have been offered by Western countries to resettle or to accept refugees. Of that number, 50,000 have already gone. So he's about on the mark. We expect if every country does come forward with its quota that they said they would receive, that the balance will be okay for Macedonia.

ADMINISTRATOR ATWOOD: Could I make an announcement here, first, on a program that we're putting in place as of today?

As you know, we have been working assiduously to try to figure out how we would absorb the additional 700,000 people if they all were to come out. We've done this on three -- there are three basic solutions. One is the relocation program that Julia just mentioned -- 130,000 slots and we've agreed to take 20,000. The other is building new camps, and we

have about 40 new camps in Albania under construction. They have finally agreed to even expand further the Cegrane camp in Macedonia. The allies – Britain, Germany and France, in particular – are looking to expand the camp in Korce, right across the border in Albania. And of course, the US military has built one camp for 20,000 and we're planning to build yet another one and could build a third if, indeed, there is a need.

But camps are expensive to build and they will not solve the problem for us. So the third leg of this strategy is to try to increase the number of host families willing to take in refugees. That's what my announcement is about today.

At present in Albania – and the focus here is Albania – about 47,000 families, or 7 percent of Albanian families are hosting today 282,000 Kosovar refugees. We're going to be supporting a program to try to increase the amount of host families to 15 percent, which will accommodate an additional 354,000 refugees. That program is based on incentives. UNHCR is participating in this by offering a stipend to families. We are going to be offering a one-time assistance package to these families of essential household items, such as mattresses, blankets, clothing, hygiene supplies and other items to help the families to add these additional people. We will be providing essential non-food items as well as an increase in monthly food rations to families in Albania as well.

So we are hopeful that we can move this number of families – particularly in the southern part of Albania – up to the 15 percent that we're targeting. We're not doing this exclusively, but we're taking the lead – our government – in hopes that other governments will also participate in this program, along with UNHCR.

We're also trying to locate buildings that can be used to house refugees. We estimate that there are about 4,000 unused buildings in Albania. Some work will need to be done on these buildings, but if we do that work and winterize the buildings, we could house as many as 345,000 refugees in Albania as well. This will allow us, I think, to have almost one million refugees in Albania alone – 985,000 is the estimate – if we can make these programs work. This is the kind of space that we need to handle this problem. We don't anticipate – although we've been surprised before, so we have to prepare for the worse – but we anticipate that not all refugees will come out – displaced people who will come out as refugees. But for the most part, we have to anticipate that we'll get that many more.

If they can make these programs work, if we can continue to work in good faith with the government of Macedonia, if we can make our relocation program work and continue to work on the camps and then, of course, be prepared, if necessary, to winterize these camps, we believe we can handle the problem. We have some other steps that we can take that we're working on that I won't talk to you about today, but maybe a little later when we feel we have this in place – sort of safety valves in case of the worst case, or in case of an extreme case of all 700,000 coming out at once. I don't think that's going to happen; they couldn't get through the mine fields. But in any case, we do have some other options. We're about at the point where we can say that we can handle all the refugees that Milosevic drives out of Kosovo.

That's quite an accomplishment, in just the several week that we've been working at this problem. The international community, I think, looked a bit chaotic initially, but it's always the case. But I think it's now working very smoothly. We want to praise all of the organizations, including the UNHCR that's taken too much criticism. They now really seem to be operating very well, and I feel that we've really gotten ahead of this problem.

QUESTION: How many more refugees have been identified to come to this country and what sort of timetable do you see for that? And is it difficult to find people in this country who will take people, and then matching refugees with families?

MS. LIMON: Currently, we have 2,624 people in the camp -- the village at Fort Dix. We are expecting two more flights -- one this coming Wednesday and this coming Friday. Both of those will probably be between 400 and 450 people. That has been our norm.

It has not actually been difficult to find sponsorships. The outpouring from the American people has been quite remarkable. At this point, with only -- there's actually a process that has to occur with different paperwork, and Immigration has to see people. They have to have medical exams for communicable diseases, and then some paperwork needs to go to the volunteer agencies, which are under contract to the Department of State to locate the sponsors, and all of that in four days of where that paperwork has been in place. As of today, over 50 families, over 200 people have received sponsorships at this point. And this is just the beginning.

We expect that about 75 people will leave on Wednesday, and then it will go up from there. And we'd like -- we're not sure where we're going to level out, but I think that we want to keep a level population in Dix of about 3,000-3,500 people until we are able to process people completely from overseas so that Fort Dix will not be necessary anymore.

QUESTION: What happens to the people who give false names?

MS. LIMON: I'm going to actually refer that to my colleague at INS. Kelly.

MS. RYAN: My name is Kelly Ryan, and I'm in the General Counsel's office at INS. In order for someone to complete their refugee processing in the United States, we determine admissibility in the Fort Dix cases. So if there is a question about identity, we'll need to ask some further questions to make sure that we know exactly who the person is. So we plan to do that at Fort Dix with all cases that come in.

As we work the process through, it's getting better and better; but at the beginning there have been some cases -- a very, very small number of cases in which the person was improperly documented. So we need to find out what exactly happened in the system, fix it and get that person admitted to the United States and have the medical and the other parts of the screening -- the resettlement part done, and then they can be admitted. So hopefully we want to move both the refugee process and the admissibility process overseas; but right now -- the Fort Dix

cases -- we do the admissions process here, and we figure out what needs to be done if there's some mistake in documentation. We ask a few more questions and we get it resolved that way.

QUESTION: Secretary Taft, a UN delegation is preparing to go into Kosovo, and I was wondering if the State Department is in support of this; and if you are ready to perhaps hear some of the criticism they may have about NATO and the bombings. And also, will the UN delegation be facilitating some of the operations that you're talking about here?

ASSISTANT SECRETARY TAFT: It's our understanding that the negotiations for the UN mission will include two days in Kosovo, and the balance of the 10-day time in Montenegro and in Serbia proper. We have felt that two days in Kosovo is not enough time. We wanted more time there to ensure that there was adequate review and assessment. We have been told and assured by (inaudible) that they will spend as much time as they need to, to do an accurate and effective assessment; and we will hold them to that.

We think on balance it's good that they got access, that they've been granted access. We expect them to do their assessment with impartiality, and we think as a result of that impartiality they will find out exactly how bad things have been in Kosovo -- not created by NATO, but created by Milosevic.

QUESTION: The UNHCR this morning said for the first time since the influx into Albania began in late March, no refugees at all crossed the Morini border into Albania Sunday. Do you know what's going on?

ASSISTANT SECRETARY TAFT: Two things. First of all, as Brian pointed out, that is a heavily-mined border now. There also have been some military activities that have gone on there recently. But there have been -- I think over 200 refugees did come across into Albania from Montenegro. So they are still coming into Albania, but just over this period none of them crossed in the Morini-Kukes area.

QUESTION: The question is that among the countries who are helping or contributing some food and shelter in Kosovo is Bangladesh and Pakistan. Can you tell us what kind of help and how much they're providing? And also how do you select the countries because India is not among them?

ASSISTANT SECRETARY TAFT: Well, I wish I had a listing, and we can make it available for you. One of the striking features of this emergency and this crisis has been the diversity and forthcomingness of countries from all over the world to give assistance. Bangladesh, Argentina's willing to accept refugees. We've got a whole variety of donors. Most of them are going either through the World Food Program or primarily through the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. They have done a worldwide appeal and various countries have come forward, and the list is quite impressive. And, Jim, we ought to make that available.

QUESTION: What is the internal food situation like in Kosovo? How severe is it for them, and is there any sort of -how much longer can these people go on without some sort of food assistance?

ASSISTANT SECRETARY TAFT: I can start with that. We are still seeing people come out, as you know - the people who just came to Macedonia within the past day or two, they've been wandering around from village to village inside of Kosovo. They are not suffering from malnutrition, but they are weakened by the lack of a regular food supply.

We think this UN mission that was discussed and the assessments that the ICRC will be able to provide will give us more of a clue on this. Still, it can't be good because there's been no regular food delivery for the Kosovar Albanians since March 23. So we think it's quite difficult. But again, we haven't seen mass starvation; we haven't seen people reporting that they couldn't get out or their relatives couldn't get out because they starved to death. But we think it is very serious.

Thank you.

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CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

Stenkovac I Refugee Camp at a Glance

Macedonia

Population: 18,000 to 30,000 (population fluctuates depending on arrivals and humanitarian evacuations)

Camp Management: Catholic Relief Services in cooperation with UNHCR

Food Logistics & Distribution: Catholic Relief Services and WFP

Departure Program: UNHCR and International Organization for Migration

Tracing of Separated Family Members:

The Red Cross Compound contains tents for the following services:

1. **Family Reunion for children and vulnerable people (ICRC)**
ICRC will trace separated family members in cases involving children (under 18) or vulnerable people (handicapped, severely ill, etc.). Reunifications take place between camps, within Macedonia and abroad.
2. **Red Cross Messages**
The Red Cross sends messages for refugees to people in other camps, within Macedonia or abroad.
3. **Macedonian Red Cross tracing**
The Macedonian Red Cross traces people and facilitates reunification within camps.

Health: Medecins Sans Frontieres, German Red Cross, Taiwanese Hospital, Doctors of the World (psycho-social)

Community Services: International Catholic Migration Commission, Catholic Relief Services, Mercy Corps International, Oxfam, Unicef, Israeli Youth Council

Water: Oxfam

Sanitation: International Rescue Committee

Security: Local authorities

Human Rights: OSCE

КАТОЛИЧКИ СЛУЖБИ ЗА ПОМОШ
Прашка 48, Скопје, МАКЕДОНИЈА
Поштенска адреса: П. Факс 882, Пошта 2
Скопје, МАКЕДОНИЈА
Тел: (389-91) 365-129
Факс: (389-91) 365-058
E-mail: crs@unet.com.mk

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES
Praška 48, Skopje, MACEDONIA
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 882, Pošta 2
Skopje, MACEDONIA
Tel.: (389-91) 365-129
Fax: (389-91) 365-058
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The Overseas Relief and Development Agency of the United States Catholic Conference

Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance
Disaster Assistance Response Team



Humanitarian response stories: American NGOs, International Medical Corps, International Rescue Committee, Catholic Relief Services, and Mercy Corps International

General: All of the above agencies had emergency, humanitarian relief operations in Kosovo prior to the evacuation. They all quickly used their human and technical resources to the emergency needs in Macedonia.

International Medical Corps: HQ, Los Angeles

Border Response

IMC was the only agency with 24 hour coverage during the border crisis, at both the Blace border area and the Jaznice border crossing. This coverage continues. At Blace, during the height of the crisis when there were approximately 65,000 refugees blocked in "no-man's" land between the Macedonian and Serbian border, IMC was the only emergency medical response agency. During a 10-day period, IMC accessed "no-man's" land to evacuate and treat over 5,000 people for exhaustion, dehydration, and other critical medical issues. IMC maintained stretcher-bearer teams to evacuate these people to three IMC staffed emergency tented clinics. IMC established longer-term treatment facilities in tents at the border for elderly and vulnerable refugees to stabilize their condition prior to transport to camps.

Camps

IMC is in charge of vaccination services to all children 0-5 in the camps. This is a critical task given the extremely low coverage rates for children arriving from Kosovo and the heightened risk of epidemics due to the crowded conditions in refugee camps in Macedonia. IMC also provides primary health care services for over 20,000 refugees in Stankovac 2 camp and maintains 24 hour emergency coverage in the camp.

International Rescue Committee: HQ, New York

Border Response

At Blace, sanitation conditions were reaching critical dimensions due to the overcrowding and back up at the border. IRC rapidly responded by sending in construction teams to dig pit latrines, construct basic privacy booths and latrine plates, and organize refugee work teams to deal with the sanitation problems. IRC also arranged for water tankers to be trucked to the border and distributed water containers to families blocked in "no-man's land".

Camps

IRC was among the first NGOs to take a serious management role in camps in Macedonia. Their leadership in constructing latrines (over 1000 to date in both Stankovac 1 and 2 camps) has helped prevent serious public health threats in these

Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance
Disaster Assistance Response Team



crowded locations. IRC's emergency, flexible engineering interventions have been indispensable in both camps.

Catholic Relief Services: **HO, Baltimore, MD**

Border Response

CRS established an emergency food distribution in cooperation with a local Muslim NGO, El Hilal for food distribution into "no-man's land". This was the only source of food for trapped, exhausted refugees, many of which traveled for 3-5 days prior to arriving at Blace where they also were trapped for up to 4 days. These distributions clearly saved lives.

Camps

CRS is the lead NGO at Stankovac 1 camp. This camp was rapidly constructed with the assistance of NATO. Within 2 days, over 20,000 refugees arrived, with no system of food distribution, medical care, and other essential services. CRS has staffed this camp full time, 24 hours a day since its inception in early April. The outputs of this effort was rapid registration of refugees, establishment of distribution systems, and internal order of the camp through the organization of volunteer refugee representatives and community leaders. CRS, as lead agency has provided the leadership for a coordinated response to the emergency needs of this population.

Mercy Corps International **HO, Portland, OR**

Border Response

MCI is the lead agency for management of the Blace Transit Center, directly adjacent to the border crossing. This center is a critical area for providing emergency treatment and services for refugees who just crossed from Serbia. This center, which the government opened approximately 3 weeks ago, is within sight of Serbian border police approximately 800 yards away. As a transit center, MCI provides the essential organization and management of emergency refugee services, provides refugees information on the situation in Macedonia, and assists the UNHCR in organizing the transport of refugees off the border area.

Camps

MCI is the lead agency in charge of Senekos Camp. As such, MCI was able to pre-position food and essential supplies prior to the arrival of refugees, and to quickly provide reception and essential services to exhausted refugees. MCI has been incredibly pro-active in camp expansion issues. In cooperative with the UNHCR and the government of Macedonia, MCI surveyed adjacent land, contacted local land holders and government officials, and pushed ahead with creating more space to alleviate critical border crowding.



CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

CRS Mission Statement

Catholic Relief Services was founded in 1943 by the Catholic Bishops of the United States to assist the poor and disadvantaged outside the country in the following ways:

- ♦ by responding to victims of natural and man-made disasters;
- ♦ by providing assistance to the poor to alleviate their immediate needs;
- ♦ by supporting self-help programs which involve people and communities in their own development;
- ♦ by helping those it serves to restore and preserve their dignity and to realize their potential;
- ♦ by collaborating with religious and non-sectarian persons and groups of goodwill in programs and projects which contribute to a more equitable society;
- ♦ by helping to educate the American people to fulfill their moral responsibilities in alleviating human suffering, removing its causes and promoting social justice.

Catholic Relief Services gives assistance based on need, not race or nationality.

CRS in the Balkans

CRS has been operating in the region for eight years and has developed an extensive network of primary and satellite offices.

- 1991- CRS Macedonia (Skopje)
- 1992- CRS Croatia* (Zagreb)
- 1993- CRS Kosovo (Pristina)
- 1993- CRS Bosnia and Hercegovina** (Sarajevo)
- 1994- CRS FRY (Belgrade)
- 1995- CRS Albania (Tirana)
- 1997- CRS Bulgaria (Sofia)
- 1998- CRS Montenegro (Podgorica)
- 1998- CRS Kosovo (Prizren)
- 1999- CRS Albania (Fier, Durrës, Elbasan, Kukes)

* satellite offices in Knin, Karlovac, Osijek

** satellite offices in Mostar, Zenica, Banja Luka

КАТОЛИЧКИ СЛУЖБИ ЗА ПОМОШ
Прашка 48, Скопје, МАКЕДОНИЈА
Поштенска адреса: П. Факс 882, Пошта 2
Скопје, МАКЕДОНИЈА
Тел: (389-91) 365-129
Факс: (389-91) 365-058
E-mail: crs@unet.com.mk

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Praška 48, Skopje, MACEDONIA
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 882, Pošta 2
Skopje, MACEDONIA
Tel.: (389-91) 365-129
Fax: (389-91) 365-058
E-mail: crs@unet.com.mk

The Overseas Relief and Development Agency of the United States Catholic Conference



CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

CRS MACEDONIA

Established in 1991, CRS Macedonia has been an integral part of humanitarian response in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Macedonia and Albania.

CRS Macedonia provided financial and administrative support to emergency and development programming in Kosovo until the evacuation in March 1999.

In response to the wave of refugees arriving from Kosovo, CRS, in collaboration with Caritas Internationalis (CI), was first involved with *border response*. Teams worked around the clock to bring water and food to the over 30,000 people waiting to enter Macedonia in the first wave of refugees.

Since 6 April, CRS/CI has been responsible for the management of the largest refugee camp in Macedonia, *Stenkovac I*. The population of the camp fluctuates from 18,000 to 30,000, depending upon arrivals and voluntary humanitarian evacuations.

CRS/CI is also providing food for the camp. With the help of hard-working volunteers from the camp, camp residents get three meals a day.

CRS/CI is also responding to the needs of refugees living with *host families*. Monthly rations of flour, beans and oil are distributed to over 90,000 individuals throughout the country. Aware of the economic burden placed on the host families themselves, CRS is distributing monthly rations to at least 15,000 host families as well as the refugees.

CRS and Caritas Germany are contributing \$1 million towards a *Parent School Partnership Project* (PSP). PSP is working to build an understanding of civil society. This project will target communities with high numbers of refugee children and host families. Isolated Macedonian communities will also be included.

КАТОЛИЧКИ СЛУЖБИ ЗА ПОМОШ
Прашка 48, Скопје, МАКЕДОНИЈА
Поштенска адреса: П. Факс 882, Пошта 2
Скопје, МАКЕДОНИЈА
Тел: (389-91) 365-129
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Mailing Address: P.O. Box 882, Pošta 2
Skopje, MACEDONIA
Tel.: (389-91) 365-129
Fax: (389-91) 365-058
E-mail: crs@unet.com.mk

The Overseas Relief and Development Agency of the United States Catholic Conference



International Rescue Committee (IRC)

Ivoluta Ribar 59, Palata Unija 6th Floor Office Nr. 15, Skopje, Macedonia
Tel. (389-91) 127121/127280 Fax 139133 e-mail irc-skp@unet.com.mk

Mission

Founded in 1933, the International Rescue Committee is the leading nonsectarian, voluntary organization providing relief, protection and resettlement services for refugees and victims of oppression or violent conflict. IRC is committed to freedom, human dignity, and self-reliance. This commitment is reflected in well-planned resettlement assistance, global emergency relief, rehabilitation, and advocacy for refugees.

IRC has provided assistance to refugees and the internally displaced in the region since 1992, as well as helped rebuild its war-affected communities. The areas IRC has and is working in include Bosnia, Croatia, Serbia, Albania Montenegro and Kosovo. In February of 1997, IRC arrived in Kosovo and since March 1998 it has provided emergency assistance in the province. In March of 1999, the IRC had to evacuate as the conflict escalated and hundreds of thousands of people fled from Kosovo into neighboring countries. IRC staff from the Kosovo program relocated to Macedonia and continued to provide assistance to the Kosovar population, now turned refugees. To date it is estimated that close to 750,000 men, women and children have left Kosovo, fleeing violence and destruction in their communities. Thousands more are believed to be trapped within Kosovo.

Project Purpose

IRC's objectives in Macedonia are to ensure the health and well-being of refugees from Kosovo as well as to assist Macedonia in coping with the additional burden of hosting hundreds of thousands of refugees, through public health, water and sanitation and, community health programs.

Beneficiaries

As of May 12, a total of 231,200 refugees lingered in refugee camps or lived with host families within Macedonia. IRC's beneficiaries include a total of 49,200 refugees in three camps. As new projects are approved, the beneficiaries are expected to include an additional 80,000 refugees

staying with host families in Macedonia as well as up to 250,000 Macedonians living in the communities that accommodate the refugees. IRC works with refugees in the following camps: Neprosteno (pop. 7,500 as of 5/11/99), Stenkovec I (pop. 22,200 as of 5/11/99), Stenkovec II (pop. 19,500 as of 5/11/99) and will likely begin working in the newly-established Cegrane refugee camp (pop. 30,600 as of 5/11/99).

Horrific stories of rape, murder and violence abound and the destruction of homes, public and civic infrastructure in Kosovo indicate that the people of Kosovo will need the help of the international community for months perhaps even years to come. The host communities in Macedonia, an economically troubled country, will also need foreign assistance to cope with the effect of such a large influx of people.

Project Activities

IRC provides emergency public health assistance in three refugee camps. In Neprosteno, IRC is responsible for camp management, distribution of food and other essential supplies such as blanket, toiletries and basic household items. To prevent the outbreak of epidemics, IRC is responsible for public health programs including installing and maintaining latrines and water storage tanks as well as setting up water taps in Neprosteno. In Stankovec I and II IRC carries out public health education and sanitation work.

In addition, IRC is preparing to establish two community health centers that provide comprehensive health services to refugees as well as the host community. This will include a psycho-social program to help refugees deal with their trauma as well as a mobile public health education outreach program. In addition, IRC hopes to receive funding for the development of a procurement cell, a project that will improve the capacity of humanitarian agencies to provide much needed assistance to refugees from Kosovo as well as to strengthen the Macedonian economy by concentrating on local procurement and providing technical assistance to local manufacturers.

Contacts:

Robert Turner, Country Director

Telephone: + 389 91 139 133

Fax: + 389 91 139 133

E-Mail: irc-skp@unet.com.mk



Summary of Mercy Corps' Relief Efforts in Macedonia

A Brief History

Mercy Corps International has been involved in Kosovo since June of 1993 when a bulk flour program was instituted to assist social cases. Over the past six years, Mercy Corps has grown its programs, its staff and its involvement. Over 25 programs totaling over \$25 million have been implemented, benefiting hundreds of thousands of people. Working through the Mother Theresa Society, the largest and oldest indigenous NGO in Kosovo, Mercy Corps has been able to help people and save lives. Bulk food, non-food commodities, hygiene parcels, food parcels, agriculture programs, health and medical programs, winterization programs and civil society programs have all been a part of Mercy Corps' efforts to assist those less fortunate.

In addition, Mercy Corps has also been involved in Sanjak, Montenegro, Albania and Macedonia over the past six years. Bulk food and non-food commodity programs, feeding programs and civil society programs have all been implemented to assist the people of these countries. Mercy Corps intends to stay involved in these countries, in addition to Kosovo, in an effort to bring lasting peace and stability to the Balkans.

Senokos Camp

Mercy Corps is currently managing the Senokos refugee camp between Tetovo and Gostivar. The camp currently houses 2,600 refugees but is expected to expand to almost 9,000 in the coming weeks. Our activities focus on overall camp management, food distribution and selected social services. UNICEF provides educational services to children while Doctors of the World provides health services and Solidarite provides water and sanitation services.

Blace Camp

The transit camp at the border, Blace, is currently co-managed by Mercy Corps and Action Against Hunger (AAH). While Mercy Corps manages the overall activities of the camp, AAH manages the food and non-food distribution. The camp has a 24-72 hour in-transit population of anywhere between 500 and 10,000 at any given time. Blace is the first point of contact refugees have with Macedonia before being assigned a refugee camp.

Assistance to Refugees Staying with Host Families

Assistance in the form of bulk food and non-food commodities are being provided to 75,000 refugees, host families and social cases throughout Macedonia. Working with Catholic Relief Services and the Macedonian Red Cross, Mercy Corps is supplying flour, vegetable oil, beans, sleeping pads, blankets, women's and children's shoes and socks and kitchen sets. Many of these items are procured locally, benefiting the local economy.

Social Mobilization Program

Under the guidance of Mercy Corps' medical officer, a social mobilization program is underway in one of the largest refugee camps, Brazda. The program aims to help the more than 25,000 refugees living in this camp identify and provide for some of their own health, sanitary and recreational needs. Under the program, the camp is divided into clusters and refugees from each cluster are identified to provide leadership and empower their fellow residents with information and advocacy. In addition, an infant care program is being conducted at both Brazda and Senokos, providing a "mother/infant friendly" environment, health education and training to mothers. Mothers learn about proper breast feeding, diarrhea and care for newborns.

Milk and Cheese Assistance

In order to provide refugees with a more balanced diet, Mercy Corps is providing fresh milk and cheese to the refugees living in the camps. This program has the added benefit of providing local producers of these products with a new market and cash infusions into the economy and has received accolades from camp managers and refugees alike.

Ad Hoc Initiatives

Mercy Corps has undertaken several ad hoc initiatives with a variety of donors in our relief efforts. LDS Charities from the US has sent hygiene kits, food parcels, soap, clothing and blankets for distribution through Mercy Corps. In addition, they are providing fresh foods to the camp population in Senokos. The American Friends Service Committee is providing pillows, hygiene kits, clothing and soap. Other organizations have contributed both money and commodities. Private funds have been used to purchase smaller quantities of needed food and non-food items in an effort to plug gaps which can and do exist in the commodity pipeline and to assist organizations which have contacted Mercy Corps.

The Return

While Mercy Corps responds to the immediate needs of refugees in Macedonia, Mercy Corps continues to look to the return to Kosovo. When a peace agreement is finally reached, Mercy Corps will be ready to return with the refugees. A multitude of commodities and tasks will be needed and undertaken in order to rebuild Kosovo and Mercy Corps intends to be there. Macedonia and its industries and businesses will be a key player in this effort supplying much needed commodities and labor to rebuild Kosovo.

5/7/99

ICMC
International Catholic Migration Commission
Stenkovac I Camp in Brazda, Macedonia
May 14, 1999

The Kosovar refugees face multiple challenges, both presently and upon their future resettlement in countries around the world. ICMC is supporting their present needs, while addressing their imminent adjustments to new cultures, languages and societies.

Community Services

In an effort to offset the uncertainty of their future, ICMC provides a measure of normalcy to the refugees through its Community Services.

Women and children are suffering particular difficulties from their emotional trauma. Missing sons, husbands and fathers leave a mournful gap among family units; women have confronted the threat of rape and beatings; and, torn from their homes and communities, the Kosovars need solace as the aftermath of these events sets in.

Within tents located throughout the camp, ICMC has set up community centers or "odas," an Albanian term for "a room in a house for gathering." Here, women find ways to cope with their experiences through socializing and talking in support with one another. Younger girls practice traditional skills such as sewing and embroidery. With a focus on their future resettlement, they also study English and other languages.

Children gather to play sports, sing songs and recite poems. They study art and drawing. These lessons are so popular that each session fills to capacity and more children stand waiting for the next. ICMC also distributes non-food items such as toys and children's clothes.

People of all ages are accepting the services of a "barber shop," a private area sectioned off by a blue tarp. The refugees enjoy chess and checkers, though perhaps basketball most of all. They play on a makeshift court at all hours of the day; in fact, some have been seen playing at 4:00 AM in the rain.

Vulnerable Persons

ICMC welcomes vulnerable persons and all those in need of daily care within the refugee population at Stenkovac I.

In particular, ICMC shelters the elderly who are alone and unable to care for themselves, youth without a family, the physically and mentally disabled and traumatized victims.

Geneva Office:
37-39 rue de Vermont
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland
Tel. (4122) 919 1020
Fax (4122) 919 1048

Macedonia Office:
91000 Skopje
Macedonia
Tel. (38991) 164777
Fax (38991) 164902

Volunteers

Even as a newborn signifies the resilience of hope, a few selfless Americans give their time and their hearts to Kosovo's refugees

His name is Amerikan, and with his birth on May 6 near Fort Dix, N.J., where refugees from Kosovo began arriving this month, the healthy baby boy has become a symbol of hope and deliverance. "We feel safe here," says the infant's father, Naim Karaliju, 28, a farmer who says he and his pregnant wife, Lebibe, 21, had only minutes to pack before Serb soldiers forced them to board a bus and leave. The Karalijus hope to return home. But for now they are the lucky ones; thousands more remain in camps in the Balkans, in the care of international relief agencies. PEOPLE visited the camps to talk to Americans who are there to help.



Refugees Naim and Lebibe Karaliju (on May 10) show off their new American.

A caring woman reunites families

After 3-year-old Fjolla Arifi ran down a muddy path at the Radusa refugee camp and into her father's outstretched arms—two weeks after becoming separated from her parents at the Macedonian border—her father, Ilaz, proclaimed, "Even in conditions like this, people can find joy." Thanks, that is, to strangers like Melissa Ward.

A Kansas City, Mo., native, Ward, 36, heads CARE's tracing program in Skopje, Macedonia, which has helped reunite the Arifis and about 50 other families since April. Heartbreakingly, 555

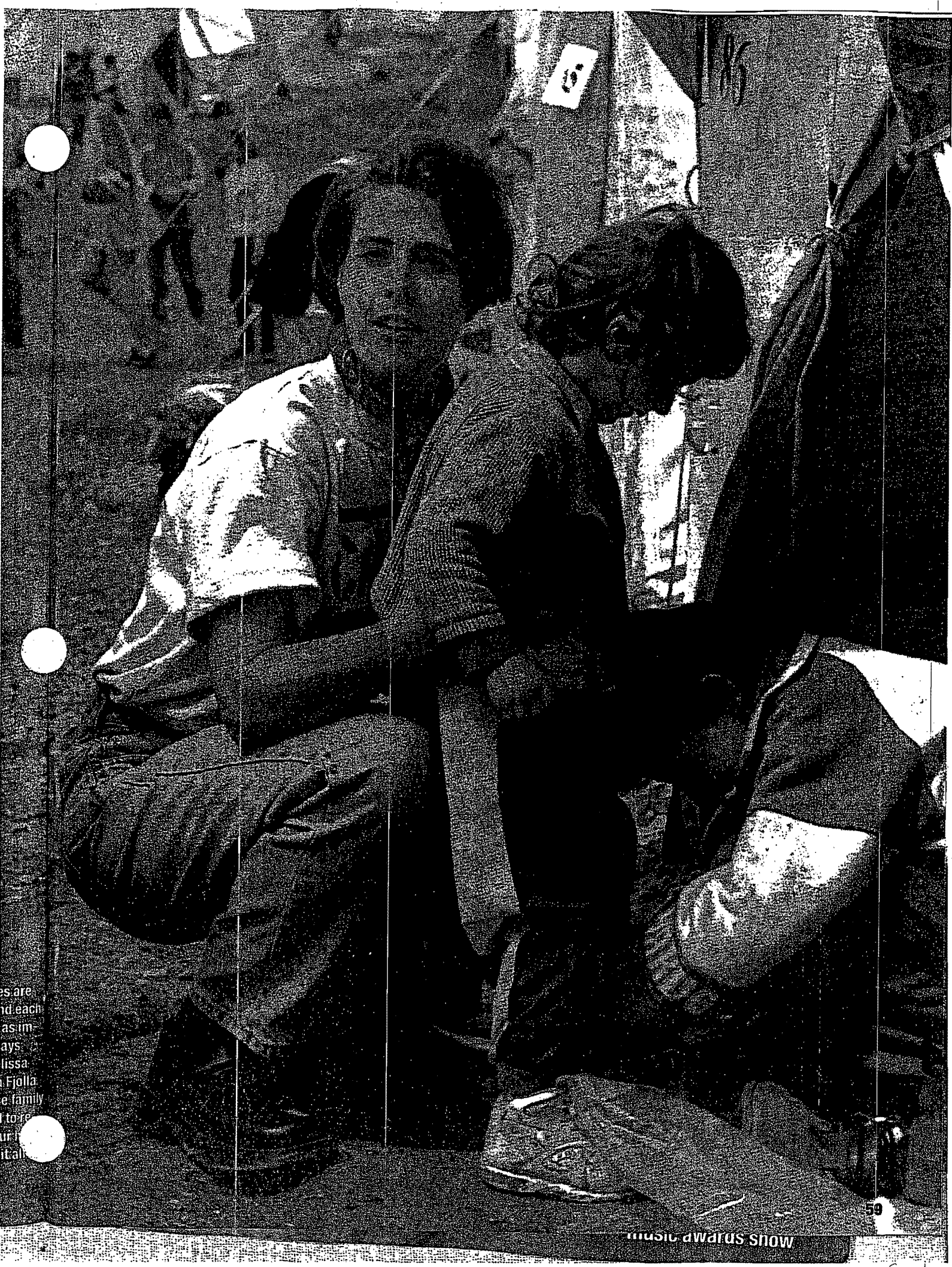
children, elderly and handicapped remain apart from their loved ones there. "I want to get them all together with their families yesterday," says Ward. Until then, "I won't be satisfied."

Ward, who holds a degree in Buddhist and Western psychology, found her calling in the early '90s, developing AIDS education programs in Thailand, then helping refugees return from that country to Cambodia. Threatened with arrest in Bosnia by Serb police only last year, she didn't hesitate to return to the area. Her only explanation: "International work is addictive."

KEN REGAN/DALMEIDA

YANNIS KONTOS/ONYX

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Participated in NGO
★ roundtable at camp.

His business now: saving lives

In the tiny Albanian hamlet of Zogaj, just across the border from Kosovo, Terry Heselius walks among scores of refugees pausing in their trek from their embattled homeland. He offers food to a young woman, nine months pregnant, who is sitting on the ground with her two young children, her blank expression bespeaking the trauma of her desperate flight. "I pray regularly that my heart never gets so tough that I can't cry when I see that," says Heselius, 66.

For six years, Heselius—an ex-businessman who has run some 23 international companies—has brought aid to Kosovo's ethnic Albanians. Directing the regional operations of the Christian charity Mercy Corps International, founded by Pat Boone and funded in part by the U.S. Agency for International Development (U.S. AID), he ran a network that distributed food and supplies to 170,000 people until March 24, when NATO bombing began and he was among the last Americans to flee the province.

Heselius, who with wife Nell, 66, has four adult children, spent 33 years overseas developing corporations and setting up computer systems from Vietnam to Ethiopia. Then in 1993 he answered an ad to direct Mercy Corps' Kosovo operation. Now he is running a Senokos, Macedonia, camp for 8,000 refugees. "In the end," says Heselius, a born-again Christian, "it comes down to this: How can you be effective in someone else's life?"

Physician Sheri Fink (right, in Jazince, Macedonia) took the Hippocratic oath the day before she left home for the refugee camps.

PETER BLAKE/USA



"It's easy to talk," says Terry Heselius (right, reaching out to refugees in Zogaj, Albania), "but we have to live the life that we're supposed to be living."

A new life, a new purpose

Four years ago, Stuart McNeil decided he had had enough of the corporate life as a sales director for the Hilton hotel in his hometown, State College, Pa. "I was 31 at the time, and everyone was saying, 'You're crazy, you have a good job,'" he says. But McNeil was serious. He joined the Peace Corps and went to Albania, where he was later hired by Catholic Relief Services in Tirana in 1997. Even though he has been in the country long enough to begin learning its language—and to become engaged to his Albanian language teacher, Sona Hoxhaj, 23—McNeil, like everyone else, was taken by surprise by the sudden throngs of Kosovar refugees. "One day a camp will call up and ask for food for 500 refugees," he says, "and the next day there's 1,500 at the camp."

JB RUSSELL/RYOMA



A new doctor gets down to work

While studying medicine at Stanford, Sheri Fink dated a man who knew little about Hitler's campaign of genocide. Fink, who is Jewish, decided to promote awareness of that chapter in history by volunteering at the Holocaust Center of Northern California. Learning that several ethnic groups in the Balkans are targets of persecution today, she worked to publicize their plight. "It would have been hypocritical," she says, "not to be paying attention to other people being killed for their religion."

True to her commitment, Fink, now 30, went off to the Balkans the day after she became a doctor on March 29. There, she administered first aid to refugees in Macedonia. "There is group fear and mass hysteria," she said above the din of refugees crowding against the steel barriers outside a makeshift clinic at a border crossing. "Everybody is crushed together, and people are fainting, dropping like flies."

After spending a month gathering information about human rights abuses for the Boston-based Physicians for Human Rights, Fink returned to the U.S. on May 2. If her parents, attorney Herschel Fink, 58, and charity worker Annette, 56, of West Bloomfield, Mich., had their way, she would stay here. But Sheri may return to the Balkans, this time to research a book on doctors and war. "She weighs 95 pounds," says Susannah Sirkin, deputy director of Physicians for Human Rights, "but she's all energy."



Stuart McNell (near Durres, Albania) says the job of getting enough food to the camps sometimes seems overwhelming.

'You can't cry over every case'

When she used to race motorcycles in her 20s, Chalon Lee learned to react quickly to trouble. "In a lot of dangerous situations," she says, "survival is having a reflex action sorted out ahead of time so you know how you're going to respond."

Since then, Lee, 44, has honed those reflexes, aiding civilians in violence-afflicted countries from Rwanda to Bosnia. Now heading the U.S. aid group World Vision in Tirana, she is responsible for getting food and supplies to thousands of refugees. "You can't cry over every case you see," she says. "Otherwise you can't help the people."

Born in Louisiana and raised in Atlanta, Lee, a licensed pilot and accomplished equestrian, signed on as a Peace Corps volunteer in 1982, working in Zaire and Chad before joining World Vision, where she ran a livestock program in Northern Mali as the country was rocked by a coup. "I didn't plan it," she says of her career. "I just got in the pattern of working in conflict situations."

"There can be anarchy all around," says Chalon Lee (at a camp in Vlore, Albania), "but you can still find a margin of hope."

JP RUSSELL/STYMA

U.S. AID's Kim Maynard (at the Brazda, Albania, refugee camp) "has a tendency to go for adventure and to be fearless," says her mother.

A life of helping leads to the Balkans

When she was 14, Kim Maynard made a list of things she wanted to do with her life: Climb mountains; jump out of an airplane; ride a train like a hobo; run a marathon. Then she set about achieving each one. "She checked them all off," says her mother, Priscilla.

But there was one to-do item she couldn't check off and move on from: making a difference in the world. So Maynard, 41, has spent 22 years working in disaster relief in such places as Tajikistan and Somalia and now heads the U.S. government's Disaster Assistance Response Team for Kosovar refugees in Macedonia.

Poking her head into a tent shared by several fami-

**Round table participant*



YANNIS KONITSIS/ONYX

lies at a sprawling camp near Skopje, she asks about conditions. "We have enough food and blankets," replies exhausted refugee Hysen Llazani, 41, "but we need showers and more clothes." Relying on such conversations, Maynard and her team of 10 assess conditions in the camps, recommend funding and give daily updates to U.S. AID in Washington.

As a Quaker who once spent three months living on the streets on the West Coast to better understand the plight of the homeless, Maynard believes in being a good listener. "You need to know what's going on in people's hearts," she says. "Otherwise it just becomes a job." Raised in the Seattle suburb of Belle-

vue by Priscilla, 77, an artist, and eye surgeon Bob Maynard, 73, Kim has always welcomed a challenge. In 1982 she became the first female member of Montana's elite Smokejumper forest-fire-fighting team. "She's pretty unflappable," says fellow jumper Kevin Lee, 41.

Indeed, just moments before her marriage to diplomat Al Charters, 42, last September in Issaquah, Wash., bride and groom parachuted from a plane as guests watched from the ground. Charters is currently stationed in Tirana, where Maynard sees him whenever she can. "My philosophy is that you become a better person from experience," she says.

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Members of Congress attending Macedonia Briefing

Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX) ✓

Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) ✓

Sen. George Voinovich (R-OH) ✓

Rep. Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-TX)

~~Pending.~~

~~Sen. Gordon Smith (R-OR)~~