

INCOMING

UNCLASSIFIED

INCOMING

AMEMBASSY PARIS

3411

PAGE 01 OF 02
ACTION: POL (01)

ZAGREB 001686/01

XMB031

28/0555Z

ZAGREB 001686/01

XMB031

28/0555Z

INFO: DCM (01) EXT (01) POLD (01) LAB (01) MIL (01) INT (01)
FIN (01) GEP (01) MNE (01) USI (01) ORA (01) SCI (01) PRS (01)
SECD (01) READ (01) ECHO (01) NES (01) DAO (01) ODC (01)
CGN (01) AMBE (01) ADMO (01) AMB (01) DCMO (01) NSFO (01)
IPC (01)

----- 28/0555Z AB

(TOTAL COPIES: 027)

VZCZCTAI269FRO805 PD

RR RUEHFR

DE RUHFG #1686/01 1180604

28-APR-94

TOR: 05:50

ZNR UUUUU ZZH

CHRG: PROG

R 280604Z APR 94

DIST: POL

FM AMEMBASSY ZAGREB

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 1695

INFO RUFBUT/HQ JTF PP NAPLES IT//CA/POLAD//

RUFRQJQ/COM SIXTHFLT//N2//

RUSNNOG/USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE//ECJ3/ECJ4/ECJ5/ECJ

RUFDBNS/CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE//J3/J4/J5/POLA

RHFQAAA/CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE//DO/LG/XP/IN/PO

RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC//J-5PMA/J21//

RUEADWW/WHITE HOUSE WASHDC

RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC//ISA/ISP//

RUFHMM/AMCONSUL MUNICH 0134

RUEHUP/AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST 0778

RUEHBM/AMEMBASSY BELGRADE 0970

RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0908

RUEHNG/NATO EC COLLECTIVE

RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0916

BT

UNCLAS (ZAGREB 001686)

VIENNA ALSO FOR BOSNIA

USMISSION USVIENNA ALSO FOR USDEL CSCE

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEC

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: PREL, BK, UN

SUBJECT: TFSROL: A CHILD'S PLEA FROM GORAZDE

INTRODUCTION

1. A LETTER WRITTEN MARCH 8, 1994 BY ARMIN BOSANAC, AN EIGHT YEAR-OLD BOY IN GORAZDE, WAS DELIVERED TO THE EMBASSY BY A HUMANITARIAN AID WORKER ON APRIL 25. ACCOMPANYING THE LETTER WAS A REQUEST BY THE BOY'S MOTHER THAT THE LETTER BE FORWARDED ON TO THE WHITE HOUSE. THE LETTER DESCRIBES LIFE IN GORAZDE UNDER SIEGE, BEFORE THE LATEST SERB OFFENSIVE BEGAN. IT INCLUDES A REPEATED CRY FOR HELP FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND PARTICULARLY THE U.S.

A PLEA FROM GORAZDE

2. (BEGIN TEXT OF LETTER)

MY DEAR LITTLE FRIEND FROM THE USA, WHEREVER YOU MAY BE:

I RECEIVED YOUR CARD. THANK YOU. IT FELL WITH THE PACKAGE THAT SOMEONE'S FATHER DROPPED FROM AN AIRPLANE. THE PACKAGE WAS BIG. THANK YOU FOR THE CANDY, I SHARED IT WITH MY FRIENDS. EVERYONE ON THE STREET GOT SOMETHING. YOU KNOW, MY FRIEND, WE STARTED FORGETTING WHAT CHOCOLATE LOOKS LIKE, AND MY LITTLE SISTER, WHO IS TWO YEARS OLD, NEVER SAW CHOCOLATE BECAUSE OF THE WAR.

AND MY MOM USED TO WORK IN A CANDY STORE BEFORE THE WAR. MY FRIEND, ONCE AGAIN, I THANK YOU, BUT NOT BECAUSE I WANT YOU TO SEND ME SOME MORE CANDY. I WANT TO BEG YOU TO SEND ME FREEDOM.

MY MOTHER IS WRITING THIS LETTER, AND I'M DICTATING. YOU KNOW, I WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO WRITE AGAIN. ACTUALLY, NOT UNTIL I LEARN TO WRITE WITH MY LEFT HAND. REALLY, I WAS LUCKY. MY FRIEND FROM THE COAST, LOST BOTH HIS ARMS IN TRAVNIK. HE'S NOT SORRY, BECAUSE HE WAS PROTECTING HIS SISTER, BUT HE'S SORRY THAT ONLY THE NEXT DAY, SOMEONE DECIDED TO STOP THE ENEMY, I THINK IT WAS YOUR AMERICA, AND SHOT DOWN FOUR AIRPLANES WHO WERE KILLING THE CITY. HE'S SORRY THAT THEY WERE LATE.

MY FRIEND, I AM WRITING THIS LETTER IN MY BOSNIAN CITY IN MY GORAZDE. WE ARE SURROUNDED AND WE CANNOT LEAVE, AND EVEN IF WE COULD, WE DON'T HAVE ANYPLACE TO GO. MY WHOLE COUNTRY, MY BOSNIA IS SURROUNDED, ATTACKED, AND ONE CANNOT BE A GUEST ANYWHERE TOO LONG. I WOULD COME TO YOU, MY AMERICAN FRIEND, I KNOW THAT YOU ARE GOOD, BUT I CAN'T LEAVE MY FRIENDS, THEY WOULDN'T HAVE A GOALKEEPER IN THE STREET. ZORAN HAS THE BIGGEST BASEMENT, THAT'S WHERE WE PLAY, WHEN THERE'S SHOOTING OUTSIDE, WE EAT THERE, SLEEP THERE, LIVE THERE, AND THERE'S A LOT OF SHOOTING, CONSTANTLY.

SOMEONE FROM HUMANITARIAN AID IS LEAVING MY CITY TODAY, AND HE PROMISED HE WOULD TAKE MY LETTER OUT OF BOSNIA, TO MY CLOSEST ONES. BUT, I DON'T HAVE ANYONE CLOSER THAN YOU. I AM TAKING THIS UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO WRITE TO YOU IN THE NAME OF THE CHILDREN OF BOSNIA AND IN MY OWN NAME. I BEG YOU, HELP US, YOU, WHOSE FATHER MAKES DECISIONS, YOU WHOSE GRANDFATHER, UNCLE AND OTHER RELATIVES ARE IN THE "WHITE HOUSE."

MY DEAR FRIEND, IMAGINE IF YOU WERE IN MY PLACE, AND THAT MEANS THE FOLLOWING: TURN YOUR LIGHT OFF FOR TWO YEARS, SAVE YOUR CANDLES, YOU RARELY HAVE THEM, TURN THE WATER OFF, YOU'RE HAPPY BECAUSE YOU HAVE YOUR WOOD STORED IN THE BATHTUB, YOUR SALAD IS GROWING ON THE BALCONY, AND YOU'RE IMPATIENTLY WAITING FOR IT TO GROW. BECAUSE OF YOUR MOM, YOU EAT RICE, SPAGHETTI AND CANNED FOOD, YOU HAVE NO CANDY, NO FRUIT, YOUR FEEL SORRY BECAUSE OF YOUR SISTER. MOTHERS ARE SAD, AND FATHERS ARE ON THE FRONT LINE

S, YOU HEAR GRENADES, SHOOTING. YOU'RE IN THE BASEMENT, SAD BECAUSE YOUR FATHER DIDN'T TAKE YOU, YOU PRAY TO GOD THAT NO ONE GETS KILLED, YOU'RE AFRAID OF DAYTIME BECAUSE YOU KNOW THAT LAST NIGHT ONE OF YOUR FRIENDS LOST HIS FATHER, HIS BIG BROTHER, GRENADES HIT THE TOWN AND YOU WONDER WHO LOST HIS MOTHER, SISTER, LITTLE BROTHER LAST NIGHT. YOU WONDER AND YOU DON'T KNOW THAT YOU'LL LOSE YOUR FATHER TOMORROW. MY FRIEND, HELP ME PLEASE. NOT BECAUSE OF ME, MY FATHER IS ALREADY DEAD BECAUSE HE DIDN'T LET THE ENEMY INTO OUR TOWN, HELP ME BECAUSE OF MY FRIEND'S FATHERS. MY MOTHER IS ALWAYS CRYING, SHE CRIES A LOT, HELP ME PREVENT EVERY MOTHER IN MY TOWN FROM CRYING.

I'M BRAVE, BUT IT'S SAD MY FRIEND, WITHOUT A FATHER. YOU KNOW WE'RE NOT GOING TO GO TO THE SEA ANYMORE, I WOULDN'T LIKE TO GO SKIING WITHOUT DAD, HIS PLACE AT THE TABLE WILL REMAIN EMPTY, AND HE WAS THE CHIEF, MY SEVENTH BIRTHDAY WAS YESTERDAY, AND DAD COULDN'T TELL ME "YOU'RE A BIG GUY NOW."

IT'S VERY SAD BEING WITHOUT A FATHER MY FRIEND, DON'T EVEN TRY TO IMAGINE HOW YOU WOULD BE WITHOUT YOURS, DON'T

UNCLASSIFIED

INCOMING

1148

UNCLASSIFIED

AMEMBASSY PARIS

INCOMING

PAGE 02 OF 02

ZAGREB 001686/01

XMB031

28/0555Z

ASK FOR TROUBLE, I DIDN'T KNOW THAT IT WAS LIKE THIS EITHER. DO SOMETHING, YOU CAN. PERSUADE YOUR FATHER AND GRANDFATHER TO HELP US. THEY CAN. I KNOW THAT THEY CAN, BUT THEY DON'T HAVE THE TIME, THEY WORK, LIVE, LOVE...

PLEASE, I BEG YOU, ESPECIALLY YOU, WHO HAS AN IMPORTANT, FAMOUS GRANDFATHER, FATHER, UNCLE, RELATIVE, TELL THEM THAT IT'S DIFFICULT WITHOUT A FATHER, TELL THEM TO DO SOMETHING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO THAT THE KILLING IS STOPPED. THEY AND THEY ALONE CAN DO IT. THEY HELPED THE CAPITAL OF MY COUNTRY A LOT BECAUSE THEY THREATENED THE ENEMY. BUT MY COUNTRY IS NOT THE CAPITAL ONLY. MY LITTLE BUT BIG FRIEND, YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN STOP THIS WAR, BECAUSE YOUR FATHER, GRANDFATHER, UNCLE, LOVE TO LISTEN TO YOU THE MOST. I BEG YOU, PLEASE DON'T LET GAMES, LOVE, AND LIFE CARRY YOU SO THAT YOU DON'T HAVE THE TIME TO READ THIS LETTER. HELP ME SO THAT YOU AND I CAN SAVE OUR BOSNIA FULL OF FATHERS, AND I WILL BE GRATEFUL TO YOU BECAUSE I WILL BE ABLE TO SIT BY MY FATHER'S GRAVE AND WON'T BE AFRAID FOR MY FRIEND'S FATHERS AND THEIR RIGHT ARMS.

TELL THEM MY FRIEND TO HELP US, MAKE THEM GO AWAY, THOSE WHO SHOOT. IF YOU ARE SAD, IF YOU DON'T PLAY, YOU DON'T EAT, YOU DON'T STUDY, THEY WOULD DO ANYTHING TO MAKE YOU HAPPY. THEY LIVE BECAUSE OF YOU, I'M SURE OF THAT. I HEARD MY DAD SAY THAT HE LIVES BECAUSE OF MY SISTER, ME, AND MY MOM.

PLEASE TELL YOUR POWERFUL FATHER, GRANDFATHER THAT OUR FATHERS KNOW HOW TO BUY CANDY, AND THAT OUR MOTHERS KNOW HOW TO MAKE CAKES, BUT ALL THEY NEED IS LIFE, OR BETTER YET, DON'T TELL THEM, LET BE IT BE OUR OWN CHILDREN'S SECRET THAT I WROTE TO YOU, YOU CAN READ THE LETTER TO YOUR MOM ONLY, MAYBE SHE'LL HELP YOU PERSUADE YOUR FATHERS, GRANDFATHERS, AND UNCLES. MY LITTLE FRIEND, BUT BIG FRIEND FROM AMERICA, IF YOU ARE DETERMINED AND PERSISTENT YOU WILL SUCCEED. I KNOW THAT YOU WILL BECAUSE I BELIEVE IN MY GENERATION, WHEREVER YOU ARE.

THANK YOU MY FRIEND FOR THE PACKAGES, BUT INSIDE THOSE PACKAGES WILL NEVER BE ONE LOST FATHER. THEREFORE, I BEG YOU, HELP US, YOU WHOSE FATHER IS FROM "TELEVISION," POWERFUL FATHER, GRANDFATHER, UNCLE. HURRY UP MY FRIEND, THERE ARE LESS FATHERS EACH DAY, AND US FUTURE BASKETBALL PLAYERS, SKIERS, SWIMMERS. IF YOU WAIT TOO LONG, THERE WILL BE NO ONE TO REPRESENT BOSNIA AT THE OLYMPIC GAMES ANYMORE, WE WILL WATCH THE GAMES FROM OUR WHEELCHAIRS, OR WE MAY NOT EVEN WATCH THEM, A GAME IS NOT A GAME WITHOUT A FATHER.

THANK YOU MY AMERICAN FRIEND WHEREVER YOU ARE. THANKS TO THE NICE FELLOW WHO WILL CARRY THIS LETTER. THANKS TO MY MOM FOR WRITING IT, AND THANKS TO MY FATHER FOR PROTECTING US. THANKS TO YOUR FATHER, GRANDFATHER, UNCLE WHO WILL HELP US BRING FREEDOM.

AND DON'T YOU CRY MY FRIEND WHILE YOU ARE READING, LIKE MY MOM WHO WAS CRYING WHILE WRITING. YOU'RE A BIG GUY, BE STRONG, COURAGEOUS, DETERMINED AND HELP US.

UNTIL

WE SEE EACH OTHER IN FREE BOSNIA, ALL THE CHILDREN OF BOSNIA SAY HI AND I MYSELF,

ARMIN BOSANAC FROM GORAZDE

DEAR CHILDREN OF AMERICA:

MY SON WAS DETERMINED TO WRITE TO YOU, HE'S OBSESSED WITH THE IDEA THAT CHILDREN CAN STOP THE WAR, AND HE SAYS:

ZAGREB 001686/01

XMB031

28/0555Z

"YOU GROWNUPS DON'T KNOW WHAT WE CHILDREN CAN DO." SINCE MY SON'S LETTER WILL FIRST GO TO ZAGREB TO SOME "AMERICAN ADDRESS," I WILL ASK THE KIND PEOPLE WHO RECEIVE THIS LETTER TO TRANSLATE IT INTO ENGLISH AND SEND A COPY TO THE FAMILY OF THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT, AND ANOTHER TO THE CHILDREN OF AMERICA THROUGH PRESS. GROWNUPS, WE HAVE KILLED AND STOLEN ALL OUR CHILDREN'S JOYS, LET'S NOT THROW AWAY, STEAL THIS LETTER TOO.

ALL THE BEST TO YOU AND YOUR MOTHERS,

ARMIN'S MOM

(END TEXT OF LETTER)

GALBRAITH

BT

#1686

NNNN

UNCLASSIFIED