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**COLLECTION:**
Clinton Presidential Records
Speechwriting
Paul Glastris
OA/Box Number: 19210

**FOLDER TITLE:**
Orthodox Easter, 1999

**RESTRICTION CODES**

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

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
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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Yugoslavia Declares Kosovo Truce

By GEORGE JAHN
Associated Press Writer

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) - The Yugoslav leadership today declared a unilateral cease-fire in its battle against Kosovo rebels to mark Orthodox Easter, hours after the most intensive night of NATO air raids across Yugoslavia. Western officials said the bombings would continue.

It was unclear whether the cease-fire would continue past the holiday Sunday, but NATO and U.S. officials had been expecting a cease-fire offer.

President Clinton said half-measures would not end the NATO air campaign that began March 24, and British Prime Minister Tony Blair's office responded that the Yugoslav declaration "doesn't go nearly far enough."

The British statement said Yugoslav President Slobodan "Milosevic knows what he has to do and this falls way short of that."

Defense Secretary William Cohen said in Washington that the Serb cease-fire idea is "not only completely unacceptable but it's absurd." He said accepting a cease-fire now would be an "abdication of responsibility" by NATO.

The Yugoslav declaration was clearly aimed at staving off further NATO attacks and at presenting the Milosevic government as interested in resolving the crisis without capitulating to the West. The government statement made no mention of NATO, and there was no pledge not to fire on NATO forces.

Deputy Prime Minister Vuk Draskovic said he hoped NATO would respond by stopping the bombing. "If NATO continues to bombard Serbia after today's decision, it would be very clear ... NATO is against peace."

Addressing the crisis in Kosovo today in Washington shortly before the Yugoslav declaration, Clinton laid out terms that he said Milosevic must accept to end the allies' airstrikes.

"Mr. Milosevic could end it now by withdrawing his military police and paramilitary forces," Clinton said.

Further, he said Milosevic must accept the deployment of an
Further, he said Milosevic must accept the deployment of an international security force "to protect not only the Kosovar Albanians, most, not all of whom are Muslims, but also the Serbians minority in Kosovo. Everybody."

Reciting the terms spelled out by Clinton, National Security Council spokesman David Leavy said, "NATO operations will continue until these conditions are met."

In the statement broadcast on Belgrade television, the Yugoslav government said it was declaring a cease-fire in advance of Sunday's Orthodox Easter as a "gesture of goodwill."

"To honor the biggest Christian holiday, Easter, all actions of the army and police will stop in Kosovo against the terrorist organization KLA starting April 6 at 8 p.m. (3 p.m. EDT)," the statement said.

It pledged the government would work for the return of ethnic Albanian refugees together with U.N. institutions.

The statement also offered to forge a "temporary agreement" with moderate ethnic Albanian leader Ibrahim Rugova, which it said would be the basis for a "final agreement" on Kosovo "within Serbia and Yugoslavia."

"In this way all the acute issues in Kosovo would be solved, peace stabilized, return of refugees enabled, self-rule established and equality of all citizens promoted," the statement added.

The statement came after allied warplanes blasted fuel depots, oil refineries, roads and bridges across Yugoslavia, and Serb officials said that a NATO attack on a coal mining town killed five civilians and injured dozens.

In Brussels, Belgium, a NATO spokesman said there was evidence one of its weapons accidentally struck short of its target in Aleksinac, a central Serbian town — a military facility housing an artillery brigade.

NATO Air Commodore David Wilby said it was "possible that one of our weapons fell short of the target" due to a guidance system fault, incoming fire or another cause and that "any unintended damage to civilian property or loss of life is very much regretted."

The Yugoslav government harshly condemned the NATO strike on the mining town of about 17,000 people 100 miles southeast of Belgrade.
In Aleksinac, two bodies, along with pools of blood and human body parts, could be seen in the wreckage of the apartment building.

The refugee airlift has begun, meanwhile, for the first of at least 110,000 ethnic Albanians who have fled Yugoslav forces in Kosovo and taken shelter in Albania, Macedonia and Montenegro.

More than 400,000 ethnic Albanians have now left Kosovo, where at least 2,000 people have been killed over the past 13 months.

Officials say nearly a quarter-million refugees now are in Albania. A comparable number, if the influx was to the United States and not Albania, "would mean over 20 million extra people," NATO spokesman Jamie Shea said.

U.N. officials say 1.1 million of the 1.8 million ethnic Albanians in prewar Kosovo are now displaced — made refugees, lost their homes and possessions to marauding Serb forces and fled to neighboring Balkan countries.

 Officials reported about 65,000 refugees trapped for days without shelter in the no man's land near Blace, Macedonia, on the frontier with Yugoslavia. Thousands more were anxiously waiting over the border in Kosovo to get out.

The latest airstrikes in the NATO air campaign were aimed at cutting the Yugoslav military's lines of supply and transport — roads, bridges, airports and command centers.

Targets in a heavy wave of attacks late Monday and early today included military barracks, fuel dumps and a power station. The bombings included a midmorning strike today in the Kosovo capital, Pristina.

The allies signaled that the air campaign, stepped up sharply in the past several days with better weather conditions, was about to become even more intense.

Brig. Gen. Xavier Delcourt, deputy operations chiefs for the French armed forces, said NATO would carry out "massive strikes" on Yugoslavia today and Wednesday, "greater than anything done so far."

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Clinton Asks for Hate-Law Expansion

By KEVIN GALVIN
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Decrying "the persistence of old, even primitive hatreds," President Clinton today asked Congress to expand federal hate crime laws to include offenses based on sexual orientation.

The president also directed the departments of Education and Justice to collect and periodically publish data on hate crimes at colleges, including crime statistics as well as surveys on students' racial attitudes.

Clinton linked his announcement to the crisis currently going on in Kosovo, where hundreds of thousands of people are being killed or forced out by Serb authorities simply because they are ethnic Albanians. He said all Americans should resist such destructive, biased attitudes because they imperil the country's future.

"We have to be, in the United States, absolutely resolute about this," Clinton said. "Our diversity is a godsend for us. ... The number one security threat to that is the persistence of old, even primitive hatreds."

Clinton endorsed a public-private partnership designed to educate middle school students against intolerance. The partnership will involve AT&T, Court TV, Cable in the Classroom, the National Middle Schools Association and the Anti-Defamation League working with the Justice and Education departments to develop curricula to combat intolerance.

Clinton announced the initiatives today in a Roosevelt Room ceremony with religious, education and law enforcement leaders who said the United States cannot get so caught up in fighting the crisis in Kosovo that it neglects prejudice in this country.

"While we watch what is unfolding in Kosovo with ever increasing horror, we must not let those distant hate crimes distract us from the hate crimes here on our own soil," said the Rt. Rev. Jane Holmes Dixon, suffragan bishop of Washington.

Clinton issued an appeal for greater acceptance of gay people, saying it is wrong to refuse them a normal life based on attitudes "where you always get to think a little better of yourself because you've got someone you can dehumanize."

"That's really what this whole issue with gays is today in America," Clinton said. "We're talking about whether people have a right, if they show up and work hard and obey the law and are good citizens, to pursue their lives in dignity, free of fear."

The idea for the middle schools program grew in part from a White House conference on hate crimes that generated a lot of anecdotal information about
ethnic and racial insensitivities among school children.

The aim, said a White House official who spoke on condition of anonymity, is to "nip intolerance in the bud" by educating children about its consequences.

In addition, Clinton directed the Justice and Education departments to require that college campuses provide specific information about hate crimes in the campus crime statistics they provide to law enforcement each year.

The information will be used to generate hard data on how violent crimes relate to intolerance on college campuses.

Clinton's hate crimes legislation died in committee last year in the House and Senate. The initiative was reintroduced last month by a bipartisan group of lawmakers that include Sens. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., and Arlen Specter, R-Pa., and Reps. John Conyers, D-Mich., and Connie Morella, R-Md.

Under the bill, current law would be expanded so the Justice Department could prosecute crimes based on a person's sex, sexual orientation or disability. Now, the statute only covers crimes based on race, color, religion or national origin.

The bill also would make federal prosecution of hate crimes easier. Current law limits prosecution to situations where the victim is targeted for engaging in certain federally protected activities, such as serving on a jury, voting or attending public school.

More than 40 states have hate crimes laws but only 21 cover sexual orientation, 22 cover gender and 21 cover disability.

Sponsors hope that outrage over recent highly publicized killings will fuel support for the measure this year.

One of two young men charged in the Wyoming slaying of gay college student Matthew Shepard pleaded guilty Monday. He was sentenced to two consecutive life terms in prison.

Two men have been charged with beating to death a gay textile worker, Billy Jack Gaither, in Alabama earlier this year and burning his body on a pile of tires. John William King, a white supremacist, was sentenced to death in Texas for chaining a black man, James Byrd Jr., behind a pickup truck and dragging him to his death. Two other men wait trial in the case.
BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) — Saying it showed restraint in deference to the Orthodox Easter holiday, NATO nonetheless hammered Serb targets in Kosovo on Sunday.

Western officials, meanwhile, expressed growing alarm over reports of atrocities in the province and said a possible mass grave site had been spotted.

Shortly after nightfall, a missile struck a residential area of the northern city of Novi Sad, the official Tanjug news agency reported. The independent Beta news agency quoted Caslav Popovic, a city official, as saying a military barracks had been targeted. There were no casualties, he said.

Air-raid sirens also sounded in the capital Belgrade and the cities of Nis, Kragujevac and Cacak.

In Belgium, NATO spokesman Jamie Shea showed aerial photographs of a site in Pusto Selo, southwest of the Kosovo capital, Pristina. He said from the air it appeared the ground had been freshly turned over, and that the site looked "somewhat similar" to aerial shots of mass graves seen during the war in Bosnia.

"I suspect ... that we are going
to find more and more evidence
of mass graves, mass
executions, some pretty
horrific stories," Defense
Secretary William Cohen said
on ABC's "This Week."

About 400,000 people have
fled their homes and are hiding
in forests and mountains,
terrified of Serb forces, British
Foreign Secretary Robin Cook
said Sunday after talking to an ethnic Albanian political leader in Kosovo. Cook said NATO holds Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic responsible for these "victims of his ethnic cleansing."

British officials also said about 100,000 ethnic Albanian men are apparently missing. The estimate, based on fewer than expected men turning up among refugees crossing into Macedonia and Albania, revived speculation that the men had either been massacred by Serbs, joined the rebel Kosovo Liberation Army or were being held hostage.

Many of the refugees managing to get across intermittently open borders — more than half a million, all told — tell of their villages being burned and emptied.

In what was apparently a grim aftermath of a frenzy of violence, tape obtained but not filmed by Associated Press Television News showed a burned, deserted village just over the Macedonian border. Ethnic Albanians said it had been emptied in a recent assault.

What looked to be a bloodied T-shirt lay among clothing scattered on the ground and dangling off fences. Two sheep had been shot in the head and thrown in a stream, apparently to contaminate the water.

NATO says the bombing campaign that began March 24 will go on until Milosevic withdraws Yugoslav and Serb units sent to Kosovo as part of his crackdown on the separatist KLA.

Shea, the alliance spokesman, said it was "a night of relative
restraint" on the airstrikes. "We were mindful of the Orthodox Easter celebrations," he said.

In Belgrade, skies were gloomy and streets and squares nearly empty on Sunday. Most people stayed home for the traditional Easter meal of roast lamb and a salad of new onions and radishes.

Belgrade was unscathed in overnight air attacks, but 50 bombs hit in and around Pristina. The city's Slatina airport was hit more than two dozen times, the Serb-run Media Center said.

Shea said targets that were hit by NATO bombs and missiles included a fuel depot in Pristina, ammunition depots, bridges, communications facilities and air defense installations.

Yugoslavia's telecommunications system was beginning to collapse "because of the extensive damage inflicted on it" by the airstrikes, Tanjug quoted Dojcilo Radojevic, the telecommunications minister, as saying Sunday.

Yugoslavia reported six civilian deaths and 23 injuries in Sunday morning's strikes. Tanjug said civilian areas were hit in northern Kosovo and in the Serbian town of Kursumlija, 125 miles south of Belgrade. It said the dead included a father and his 1-year-old daughter in the village of Mirovac, near the northern Kosovo town of Podujevo.

According to Yugoslav officials, 300 civilians have been killed and 3,000 injured during the bombing campaign. There was no way to independently verify the figures. Yugoslavia does not disclose military casualties.
Fighting between Yugoslav forces and Kosovo rebels spilled over into Albania on Sunday when about 10 mortar shells exploded near the border village of Kremica, according to Albania's information minister, Musa Ulqini.

In the border town of Tropoja, heavy mortar fire struck an Albanian border police headquarters and a residential neighborhood, killing two people and wounding nine, said Andrea Angeli, spokesman for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, which is monitoring the situation in Albania.

The Serbs also reported shells landed on their side of the border, Serbian TV reported, saying the attacks came from Albania.

More fighting at the Padesh border station, near Tropoja, wounded three KLA fighters and a foreign journalist, Angeli later reported. No further information was immediately available.

Albania is becoming a major staging ground for NATO action against Yugoslavia. It has handed over control of its airspace, ports and "military infrastructure" to the alliance and is ready to accept more NATO ground troops, Foreign Minister Paskal Milo said Sunday from Tirana.

Milo, speaking from Tirana in a video linkup with the daily briefing at the British Defense Ministry, called for Kosovo to be made into a protectorate under the "the exclusive supervision" of an international force.

Cook, the British foreign secretary, said NATO was clear "that there has to be a period in which Kosovo is under the protection of an international military force."

London's Sunday Telegraph reported that 80 British commandos have infiltrated Kosovo to direct NATO bombers to Serb police and military units, and also identify massacre sites and "death squad" commanders.

The British unit, whose undercover operations included raids in Iraq during the Gulf War, went
because Congress has not yet approved the commitment of American ground forces, the newspaper said.

NATO commanders have repeatedly said ground forces would not be sent to Kosovo unless an agreement is reached with Yugoslavia's government.
On behalf of millions of Orthodox Christian Americans, and of all Americans, I wish to send a warm message of greetings today to quarter-billion Orthodox Christians around the world, as you gather to proclaim the good news: Christ has risen!

As a Christian, I know the feeling of joy that comes on Easter Sunday, when we celebrate the miracle of Jesus’ Resurrection and His gift to us of eternal life. Yet I also understand that on this particular Easter Sunday, the joy Orthodox Christians feel may be mixed with other emotions: with sadness over the tragic events in and around Kosovo; with fear for those whose lives may still be in danger; and perhaps with anger that such horrors should be visited upon the people of Yugoslavia, who have suffered so much in this century.

We understand that the history of the region is a painful one, and that all of the peoples in and around Kosovo have legitimate grievances. Yet we also believe those grievances should have been—and indeed can still be—resolved through peaceful and democratic means. Instead, these grievances have been used as excuses to shoot civilians, destroy homes, and drive hundreds of thousands of innocent people from the land of their birth. The vast majority of those forced from Kosovo in the last two weeks are Muslim, but some are Orthodox Christians. Our hearts and prayers go out to all who have suffered.

On this holiest of days, when Orthodox Christians celebrate the triumph of life over death, of hope over despair, let us resolve to see all the people of Kosovo back in their homes, secure and free to determine their own destiny peacefully and democratically. Let us take to heart the words of the hymn that Orthodox Christians will sing today and every day for the next 40 days: “Let us speak also to brethren to those who hate us, and in the Resurrection let us forgive all things.”
On behalf of six million Orthodox Christian Americans, and of all Americans, I wish to send a warm message of greetings today to the quarter-billion Orthodox Christians around the world.

I know the feeling of joy that comes on Easter Sunday, when we celebrate the miracle of Jesus’ Resurrection and His gift to us of eternal life. Yet I also understand that on this particular Easter Sunday, the joy Orthodox Christians feel may be mixed with other emotions: with sadness over the tragic events in and around Kosovo; with fear for those whose lives may still be in danger; and with anguish that such horrors should be visited again upon the people of Yugoslavia, who have suffered so much over the centuries.

We understand that the history of the region is a painful one, and that all of the peoples of the region have legitimate grievances. Yet we also believe that those grievances should have been--and indeed can still be--resolved by peaceful and democratic means, and not manipulated to excuse violence against innocent civilians, the destruction of villages, and the expulsion of hundreds of thousands of innocent people from the land of their birth. The majority of those forced from Kosovo in the last two weeks are Muslim, but among the refugees are Catholics and Orthodox Christians, too. Our hearts and prayers go out to all who have suffered.

On this holiest of days, when Orthodox Christians celebrate the triumph of life over death, of hope over despair, let us resolve to see all the people of Kosovo back in their homes, secure and free to determine their own destiny peacefully and democratically. Let us work to ensure that all the nations and people of the Balkans, from Macedonia to Bulgaria to Serbia and Albania will take their rightful place in a peaceful, democratic, undivided Europe – a Europe in which love of homeland is matched by respect for all those who share it.

###
I wish to send a warm message of greetings today to the six million Orthodox Christian Americans and the quarter-billion Orthodox Christians around the world, as they gather to proclaim that "Christ has Risen."

I know the feeling of joy that comes on Easter Sunday, when we celebrate the miracle of Jesus' Resurrection and His gift to us of eternal life. Yet I also understand that on this particular Easter Sunday, the joy Orthodox Christians feel may be mixed with other emotions: with sadness over the tragic events in and around Kosovo; and with fear for those whose lives may still be in danger. The majority of those forced from Kosovo in the last two weeks are Muslim, but among them are Catholics and Orthodox Christians, too. Our hearts and prayers must go out to all who have suffered. We hope and pray for the restoration of peace and a resolution based on democracy and tolerance.

On this holiest of days, when Orthodox Christians celebrate the triumph of life over death, of hope over despair, let us recommit to seeking peace, human rights and an end to suffering for people around the world.

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