FOIA MARKER

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Folder Title:
Kosovo [1]

Staff Office-Individual:
Speechwriting-Widmer, Edward

Original OA/ID Number:
2190

Row: 48
Section: 6
Shelf: 7
Position: 3
Stack: V
<table>
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<th>DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE</th>
<th>SUBJECT/TITLE</th>
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<tr>
<td>001. memo</td>
<td>Valerie Guarnieri to Ted Widmer; re: Building Blocks for Radio Message for Refugees - with Handwritten Notes (partial) (1 page)</td>
<td>05/22/1999</td>
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**COLLECTION:**
Clinton Presidential Records
National Security Council
Ted Widmer (Speechwriting)
OA/Box Number: 2190

**FOLDER TITLE:**
Kosovo [1]

**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]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]
- C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor’s deed of gift.
- PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).
- RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

*Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]*
- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
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- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]
PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
RADIO ACTUALITY ON KOSOVAR REFUGEES
TO BE TAPED MAY 24, 1999
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, D.C.
On behalf of all Americans, Hillary and I send a message of hope and solidarity to the Kosovar people. Over the last few months, you have been forced from your homes. You have seen terrible violence. Many of you are still searching for friends and family members.

I met with Kosovar refugees in Germany last month. My wife recently met with another group in Macedonia. Your stories filled us with sorrow. Stories of decent people whose lives have been violently uprooted by scenes we thought we would never again see in Europe.
Stories of innocent people beaten and brutalized for no reason but their ethnicity and faith ... people rounded up in the middle of the night, forced to board trains for unknown destinations, separated from families.

Stories of people arriving in refugee camps with nothing but a fierce determination to find their loved ones and return to their villages with their culture intact.

But you have not been defeated; you have not given in to despair; you have not allowed the horror you have seen to harden your hearts or destroy your faith in a better life in the land of your birth.
You left Kosovo with one goal: to return in safety. The United States and its NATO allies are working for the same goal. It will take time. But with your strength and our determination, there is no doubt what the outcome will be. The campaign of ethnic cleansing in Kosovo will end. You will return.

Our military campaign is daily increasing the pressure on the Serbian leadership and on Serbian forces in Kosovo. They know we will persevere until the Serbian forces leave and you are allowed to return home, with NATO there to prevent a return to violence.
In the meantime, nations across the world have come together to bring aid to you and your families. The United States has just finished building a new facility in Albania called Camp Hope, which will house up to 20,000 people. Our Congress has just approved more than $700 million in humanitarian assistance to make sure we can meet your needs both now and when you go home.

We are grateful to the people of Albania and Macedonia for accepting refugees into their countries and their homes.
It is not easy for any nation to absorb huge numbers of people; and it is certainly not easy for two nations still struggling to meet the needs of their people. We recognize your sacrifices and we are committed to help, by easing your burden, and helping you build security, prosperity and democracy at home and in your neighborhood.

A great challenge can draw people together. The 19 NATO nations are not alike. But we hold the same essential values in common.
And on the eve of a new century, we refuse to be intimidated by a dictator who is trying to revive the worst memories of the century we are leaving. Thank you for your strength, and remember that no matter what has happened to you, you are not alone. The United States and NATO are with you, and we will stay with you long after you return home.

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PLEASE PASS THIS TO TED WIDMER IN NSC SPEECHWRITING OFFICE ON SUNDAY, MAY 23, 1999

To: Ted Widmer, NSC Speechwriting
From: Valerie Guarnieri; NSC Multilateral and Humanitarian Affairs
Subject: Building Blocks for Radio message for Refugees
Date: May 22, 1999

• Know that you have suffered terribly at the hands of Milosevic and his forces. Brutality with which you were forced from your homes and your country have not been seen in Europe since the Holocaust.

• Many of you are searching for lost family members and are anxious for the safety of those who remain inside Kosovo.

• We will continue our campaign in Kosovo until you are able to return safely to your homes.

• The entire world is reaching out to assist you. We have provided over $200 million to deliver food, blankets and supplies, and provide water and health care. Will continue to provide for you until you return to your homes, and then we will help you rebuild your lives.

• My supplemental package that was just approved by Congress provides an additional $751 million in humanitarian assistance that we will use to meet your needs.

• Met with a group of Kosovar refugees when I traveled to Germany last month. They were teachers and engineers and doctors and they told similar stories of how their status had deteriorated in Kosovo over the past ten years and then, in this last year, how they were forced to move several times finally seeking refuge in Pristina. They told me of how they were rounded up in the middle of the night, forced to board trains for an unknown destination, with Serb forces deliberately separating them from their families. How they arrived in Macedonia with nothing, dependent on outsiders for food and assistance. My wife met with refugee families in Macedonia two weeks ago and heard similar stories.

**RECEIVE STOP**
Our military campaign is daily increasing the pressure on the Serbian leadership and on Serbian forces in Kosovo. They know it will continue until the Serbian forces leave and you are allowed to return home, under international protection, with NATO there to prevent a return to violence. In the meantime, nations across the world have come together to bring aid to you and your families. The United States has just finished building a new facility in Albania called Camp Hope, which will house up to 20,000 people. Our Congress has just approved another $751 million in humanitarian assistance to make sure we can meet your needs both now and when you go home.

We are grateful to the people of Albania and Macedonia for accepting refugees into their countries and their homes. It is not easy for any nation to absorb huge numbers of people; and it is certainly not easy for two nations still struggling to meet the needs of their people. We recognize your sacrifices and we are committed to help, by easing your burden, and helping you build security, prosperity and democracy at home and in your neighborhood.

A great challenge can draw people together. The 19 NATO nations are not alike. But we hold the same essential values in common. And on the eve of a new century, we refuse to be intimidated by a dictator who is trying to revive the worst memories of the century we are leaving. Thank you for your strength, and remember that no matter what has happened to you, you are not alone. The United States and NATO are with you, and we will stay with you long after you return home.

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On behalf of all Americans, Hillary and I send a message of hope and solidarity to the Kosovar people. Over the last few months, you have been forced from your homes. You have seen terrible violence. Many of you are still searching for friends and family members.

I met with Kosovar refugees in Germany last month. My wife recently met with another group in Macedonia. Your stories filled us with sorrow. Stories of decent people whose lives have been turned upside down by scenes we thought we would never see again in Europe. Stories of innocent people beaten and brutalized for no reason but their ethnicity and faith ... people rounded up in the middle of the night, forced to board trains for unknown destinations, separated from families. Stories of people arriving in refugee camps with nothing but a fierce determination to find their loved ones and return to their villages with their culture intact.

But you have not been defeated; you have not given in to despair; you have not allowed the horror you have seen to harden your hearts or destroy your faith in a better life in the land of your birth. You left Kosovo with one goal: to return in safety and in freedom. The United States and its NATO allies are working for the same goal. It will take time. But with your strength and our determination, there is no doubt what the outcome will be. The campaign of ethnic cleansing in Kosovo will end. You will return.
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I met with Kosovar refugees in Germany last month. My wife recently met with another group in Macedonia. Your stories filled us with sorrow. Stories of decent people whose lives have been turned upside down by something we thought we would never see again in Europe ... Stories of innocent people beaten and brutalized for no reason but their ethnicity and faith, people rounded up in the middle of the night, forced to board trains for unknown destinations, separated from families. Stories of people arriving in refugee camps with nothing but a fierce determination to find their loved ones and return to their villages with their culture intact.

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On behalf of all Americans, Hillary and I send a message of hope and solidarity to the Kosovar people, now living in shelters far from home. Over the last few months, you have been forced from your homes. You have seen terrible violence. Your villages have been destroyed. Many of you are still searching for friends and family members. You have lived through the hardest conditions imaginable in your flight to safety.

Yet you have survived, not only because you are a strong people, but because the world will not tolerate this brutality when something can be done to stop it. My country and the other NATO nations refuse to look the other way. Ethnic cleansing is unacceptable, now and forever. This campaign of ethnic hatred, the worst in Europe since the Holocaust, will soon end. You will return.

Our military campaign is daily increasing the pressure on the Serb leadership. They know our condition for peace is that you be allowed to return home safely, under international protection, with NATO there to prevent a return to violence. The NATO nations, and countries the world over, have also committed enormous resources to the task of providing emergency relief to all of you in your hour of need. We have done our best to make you comfortable in your new, temporary surroundings. Camp Hope, in Albania, will be able to house up to 20,000 people. The nations of the world are sending supplies. The US has provided over $200 million to deliver food, blankets and health care. My supplemental packaged, just approved by Congress, provides another $721 million in humanitarian assistance.

We are grateful to all of the frontline states for their efforts to accommodate refugees. It is not easy for any nation to absorb huge numbers of people and respond to the new economic and political pressures they create. Both Albania and Macedonia have coped well with the crisis. We are grateful for their cooperation, and are working to ease their burden, both by funding refugee assistance programs and by helping refugees return to Kosovo when conditions permit. A large part of the supplemental (150 million) will be devoted to the frontline states.

But all of us know that even the most comfortable shelter is no substitute for home. I met with Kosovar refugees in Germany last month. My wife recently met with another group in Macedonia. Your stories filled our hearts with sorrow. Stories of decent people whose lives steadily deteriorated over the last ten years because of the political climate in Serbia. Stories of people whose lives turned into something we thought we would never see again in Europe, groups desperately hiding from the Serb army and police, then rounded up in the middle of the night, and forced to board trains for unknown destinations, after being forcibly separated from
family members. Stories of people arriving in refugee camps with nothing but a fierce
determination to find their loved ones and return to their villages with their culture intact. We
are determined to help you do so.

The worst part of the Serb campaign is over. Whether Milosevic agrees to our conditions or not,
he is powerless to stop us from keeping our promise to you. Then, after you have returned to
Kosovo, we must all work hard to make life normal again. You will rebuild your communities,
with the Kosovar autonomy you once enjoyed. And you will restore dignity to Kosovo by
respecting the human rights of the Serbs and other peoples who also live in Kosovo.

A great challenge can draw people together. The 19 NATO nations are not alike. All are
different from the Kosovar Albanians. But we hold the same essential values in common. And
on the eve of a new century, we refuse to be intimidated by a dictator who is trying to revive
the worst memories of the century we are leaving. Thank you for your strength, and remember that
no matter what has happened to you, you are not alone. The United States and NATO are with
you, and we will stay with you long after you return home.
ISSUE:  USDA Contributions to Kosovar Refugees and Frontline States

USDA is committed to providing wheat flour to the refugees through the end of September 2000 and will provide other commodity donations to the governments and private voluntary organizations in countries surrounding Kosovo.

TALKING POINTS:

- USDA is implementing plans to ship 10,000 tons of wheat flour per month in support of refugee feeding operations. The first shipment could arrive in late-May or early-June, and shipments will continue through September 2000. Total shipments for refugees may reach 130,000 tons, valued at $26 million.

- The wheat flour shipments, together with USAID contributions, will feed up to 750,000 refugees. USDA is prepared to boost its contribution to this effort, if needed. We are taking the necessary steps to pre-position extra commodities in the region.

- USDA has shipments of wheat flour on the ocean or leaving U.S. ports that will be diverted to the Balkans once storage plans are completed. In addition, USDA will soon be shipping 15,000 tons of flour to the World Food Programme and 10,000 tons of flour to Catholic Relief Services in support of their programs.

- The overall commitment by USDA to the Balkan region may exceed 300,000 tons of food. This includes commodities to support direct feeding and programs where commodities are sold. Agreements will be entered into with governments or private voluntary organizations to implement these programs.

TOTAL VALUE OF ALL SHIPMENTS MAY REACH $160 MILLION

WE ARE COMMITTED TO PROVIDING FOOD ASSISTANCE AS LONG AS IT IS NEEDED.
Delinquency Cases in Juvenile Courts: In mid-May, OJJDP will publish a fact sheet on Delinquency Cases in Juvenile Courts, 1996. U.S. juvenile courts handled an estimated 1.8 million delinquency cases in 1996. The estimates provided in the fact sheet are taken from the forthcoming OJJDP Report Juvenile Court Statistics 1996, which is based on data from nearly 1,800 courts that had jurisdiction over 67 percent of the nation's juvenile population.

DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

Grand Canyon Overflights: In June, NPS and FAA expect to publish a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking concerning air tour overflights in the Grand Canyon in the Federal Register. The proposed rule would 1) establish new air tour routes; 2) institute a freeze on the level of operations over the park; and 3) modify air space rules over the park.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Balkan Food Aid: By May 14, USDA expects to conclude an agreement with Catholic Relief Services by which USDA will provide the charity 10,000 tons of wheat flour for subsequent delivery to Kosovar refugees in Albania and Macedonia. In a separate development, on May 19, USDA will host a delegation from the Albanian flour industry, explaining the USDA grain warehouse regulatory system and USDA's commodity operations. The delegation is touring the U.S. on a fact finding and educational mission.

CO Shooting Range: On May 1, the Pike and San Isabel National Forests (CO) will close a shooting range on forest land, due to complaints of excessive noise and public safety problems. The site and proposed closing has generated increasing controversy over the last three years, and this action may highlight previous attention.

Alcohol Ban in SD Forests: On May 1, the Black Hills National Forest in SD will ban alcoholic beverages from two popular day-use areas because of repeated acts of underage drinking and vandalism. The proposal has generated favorable public and media attention.

Commodity Markets: Good winter wheat conditions and poor export prospects drove wheat cash and futures prices lower last week. Speculator selling pushed corn prices down, but nervousness over potential planting delays helped moderate the decline. Weak exports led soybean prices to resume their downward spiral. Nearby rice futures received a boost from news that the absolute ban on food sales to Iran is being lifted. Cotton prices moved sharply higher on speculator short-covering. Cattle prices advanced, following cutout values higher. Hog prices strengthened, as increased field activity in the Midwest slowed marketings. Broiler production remains high, but increased demand helped raise prices to 6-week highs. Butter and cheese prices both fell, as buyers hold off purchases in anticipation of further price declines.
REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO AIR BASE PERSONNEL

Spangdahlem Air Base
Spangdahlem, Germany

1:36 P.M. (L)

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Secretary Cohen, thank you for your remarks and your remarkable leadership. We're glad that you and Janet are here with us today, and there for the men and women of America's military services every day.

Secretary Albright, thank you for being able to redeem the lessons of your life story by standing up for the freedom of the people in the Balkans.

To the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Hugh Shelton -- I was looking at General Shelton standing up here -- you know, he's about a head taller than I am. And I thought to myself, he not only is good, he looks good. He looks like the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. (Applause.) But what I want you to know is, however good he looks, he's better than that in the job that he does.

I thank General Clark for his leadership. Ambassador Kornblum, National Security Advisor Sandy Berger. Our USAID Director Brian Atwood is doing so much for the humanitarian relief. Brigadier Scott Van Cleaf, thank you. Chief Master Sergeant Daniel Keene, thank you for making all of us feel so welcome here today.

I'd like to thank the distinguished German public officials and citizens who are here. And I'd like to thank the Spangdahlem Oom-pah Band and the Gospel Choir. (Applause.) Thank you. I thank all the men and women of Team Eifel and all
your family members who are here. I am delighted to see so many children here today. (Applause.) And I hope this will be a day they will long remember.

The 52nd Air Expedition Wing is crucial to our mission in Europe. There are so many to thank -- the Stingers and Hawks, the Panthers -- (applause) -- your guests here, the crews of the Flying Knights. (Applause.) All the hundreds of base operations and support personnel here, working day after day and now night after night. We ask so much of you and you never let us down.

Ever since the end of the Cold War, this base has been busy with the challenges of a new era, training new allies, planning new missions, helping people in need like the earthquake victims in Turkey whom the 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron assisted last summer. A few years ago, you helped to end the cruel war in Bosnia. And I'm sorry you have to do it all over again, but I'm proud of the job you're doing today in Kosovo.

Earlier this year, some of you in the 22nd Fighter Squadron flew support for Operation Northern Watch. Since this conflict in Kosovo began, we have been depending on you more than ever. It's meant more hardship and more hard work for you. Many of your loved ones are right now flying out of Italy and, of course, these F-117 Stealth fighters and their crew are here from Holliman Air Force Base in New Mexico. And they're a long way from their families.

Night after night -- to Serbia, punching through enemy defenses, putting ordinance on target, returning home to debrief, rest, and then do it all over again. That takes courage and skill, and a lot of support that we must never take for granted -- refueling in midair, evading antiaircraft fire, pinpointing targets, seeking, often at great personal risk, to avoid civilian casualties, coordinating with crews from other nations, rescuing a downed pilot as one of your squadrons did just a few days ago. And for the base personnel and the loved ones, always the anxious waiting for the aircraft to return.

One thing I have tried to make sure the American people understand in the years that I have been President is that your jobs have inherent dangers, even when not directly engaged in conflict. As many of you now know, just yesterday we lost two brave Americans in a helicopter training accident in Albania. And today we grieve with their families and pray for them.
I came here more than anything else to say on behalf of your fellow Americans, we thank you for your service and your sacrifice. Though you're far from our shores, you are close to our hearts every day.

I also would like to thank the people of Germany, who are our allies in this cause and who do so very much to make all of you feel at home here in this wonderful country.

I just came from an operations briefing and a tour of the aircraft you fly from this base. I want to talk just a little bit about why you're flying. And I want all of you, particularly who have children here, who think about the world they will live in in the 21st century, to think about why you're flying.

Our mission in Kosovo has nothing to do with trying to acquire territory or dominate others. It is about something far more important -- creating the kind of world where an innocent people are not singled out for repression, for expulsion, for destruction just because of their religious and ethnic heritage.

You look around today at the people we have in uniform here. We have people from all different racial and ethnic backgrounds. We have people from all different religious heritages. And I think America's military is stronger because we try to get everybody's talents and put everybody's talents to the best possible use -- not weaker. And I can tell you for sure that our country is stronger when we reach across all the lines that divide us and celebrate our differences, but say that what unites us is more important.

All the differences that exist among people in the world, especially differences of religion, make life more interesting and more enlightening when they are limited by an understanding of our common humanity. But when people throw away that understanding of our common humanity and make differences the only thing that matter, and make them so important they justify literally dehumanizing other people so that their lives, their children, their property, their history, their culture, even their faith in God do not matter -- that makes life unbearable and it makes civilization impossible.

And that is what we are fighting against in Kosovo, the same thing we fought to stop in Bosnia. And if we want Europe to be undivided and democratic and at peace for the first time
in history, and if we don't want your successors to have to come to this continent and fight another bitter war, then we must stand in Kosovo for the elemental principle of the common humanity of every breathing, living person in this continent. (Applause.)

The Alliance in which we are privileged to serve, NATO, is comprised of 19 democracies with 780 million people, tied together by a respect for human rights and the richness of all people; tied together in a conviction that we will build a Europe that is for the first time in history undivided, peaceful and free. Kosovo is an affront to everything we stand for.

Two months ago there were 1.8 million ethnic Albanians living there -- now nearly 1.5 million have been forced from their homes, their villages burned, their men often separated from their families and killed, some of them bundled and set on fire, the records of their family history and property destroyed.

The number of people dislodged there in two months is equivalent to the entire population of the state of Nebraska -- kicked out of house and home without warning, at gunpoint. It is -- and those of you who were involved in Bosnia will remember this very well -- it is the culmination of a deliberate, calculated, 10-year campaign by Mr. Milosevic to exploit the religious and ethnic differences in the former Yugoslavia, to preserve and enhance his dictatorial power.

His so-called ethnic cleansing has included concentration camps; murder; rape; the destruction of priceless religious, cultural and historical sites, books and records. This is wrong. It is evil. NATO, after the Cold War, said that we would stand for the freedom and unity of Europe. This is occurring in the heart of Europe on NATO's doorstep. We must repudiate it. We must reverse it. And we intend to do that. (Applause.)

Now, when Mr. Milosevic started this campaign against unarmed people in Kosovo, with 40,000 troops and nearly 300 tanks, he may have thought our Alliance was too divided, our people too impatient, our democracies too weak to stand against single-minded despotism. Every day, you prove him wrong.

NATO is now more united. Our objectives are clear and firm. Secretary Cohen said them; I want to say them one more time. This is not complicated. The Kosovars must be able to go
home, safe, and with self-government. The Serbian troops must be withdrawn, and instead there must be an international force with NATO at its core, but, hopefully, with many other nations participating to keep the peace and protect all the people of Kosovo, Albanians and Serbs alike.

We have no quarrel with the Serb people. I say that again: We do not want to be guilty of the sin we are standing and speaking against. We have no quarrel with the Serb people. America has many great Serbian Americans. They were our allies in war. Our quarrel is with ethnic cleansing and systematic killing and uprooting, and the bigotry and death brought on by religious hatred. That is what we stand against and what we seek to reverse.

But for that to happen and for those people to go home and have self-government, there has to be an international security force with NATO at its core that will protect everybody there. We will continue to pursue this campaign in which we are now engaged. We will intensify it in an unrelenting way until these objectives are met.

You know, the gentle hills of this region, the Eifel region and the Mosel Valley, are peaceful today, thanks in no small measure to 50 years of Alliance and commitment, of which you are the most recent manifestation. But we mustn't forget that here, where we now are, there was a landscape of violence for thousands of years, from the time Trier served as a Roman capital just south of here. For two millennia, Europeans fought each other in the contested terrain around this base. Two millennia.

Now, when you drive across these beautiful hills and you see these beautiful hills and you see these beautiful fields, war is unthinkable here and in most of Europe, because of what your forebears did. And you can now look forward to a day not long from now when, in the Balkans and throughout Southeastern Europe, human rights are respected and the men and women of Spang are honored for doing your part to turn the dream of peace and human rights into an everyday reality.

This base was built in the aftermath of the second world war at the dawn of the Cold war. Because of allied vigilance, the war we then feared would occur never happened. Now, planes are actually flying into combat from this base for the very first time -- to protect the future your forebears worked so hard to build.
I know this is hard. I know too many of these pilots are flying long hours with too little rest. I know the stress and anxiety must be unbearable. But when you wonder what it is like, next time you're in a meeting of American service personnel, look around at your differences, at your racial differences, the differences of background, the men and women together, the differences of religious faith -- and thank God you live in a society that honors that, because we are united by things that are more important. And look at these little children here and think how terrible it would be for them to live in a world where a person could gain, increase and keep political power by teaching young people like them to kill other young people because of their religious faith or their ethnic background.

That has no place in Europe or any other civilized society. And you have a chance to prove the dreams of the people that fought World War II and that held together during the long Cold War to prove those dreams can be realized in Europe in your lifetime. And if you do, the people who wear the uniform of the United States military, 10 or 20 or 30 years from now will not be called upon to spill their blood in another war because of some dictator's mad schemes to dehumanize a whole people. That is what you're fighting for and that is what you will be grateful that you did for your children and the children of this continent.

Thank you so much, and God bless you. (Applause.)

END

1:53 P.M. (L)
REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AFTER DINNER WITH TROOPS

Ramstein Air Base, Germany

8:10 P.M. (L)

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. General Jumper, General Wooley, ladies and gentlemen, let me, first of all, say that I know I speak for all the people in our group -- the Secretary of Defense, Secretary of State, General Shelton and others -- in saying that we are delighted to be here and very proud of you.

I have been to Ramstein at least three times since I've been President. I was trying to think, it may be four. But I feel a special affinity for this base. I flew from here into Bosnia in 1995, when the people who were stationed here then did so much to restore freedom and peace to the people there.

There are a lot of things I'd like to say, as briefly as I can. First of all, I'd like to tell you I had a real good time tonight taking all the pictures and -- (laughter.) I like having the opportunity to look our men and women in uniform in the eye and see where you're from and hear a little about your views. I thank especially the people who had dinner with me at the table over there tonight. I got questions about the Middle East peace process and the situation in Iraq and the long-term prospects in Kosovo and --

Q  Pay raises.

THE PRESIDENT: -- and pay raises, that's right. (Laughter.) And they did a very good job. I want you to know, the guys at the table -- they did a good job, because we talked a lot about how the Air Force and the Navy and this year probably the Army will be down on their recruitment goals, and
the reenlistment problems, and how we face the converging pressures of a very, very strong economy in the private sector -- the strongest it has been maybe ever -- certainly in a generation, and a very much increased operations tempo for people in the military, taking people away from their families more frequently and often for extended periods of time. And if that results in -- those two things result in our not meeting our enlistment or reenlistment quotas, obviously, that only aggravates the op tempo problem further.

I think there is strong, overwhelming bipartisan support in the Congress this year to make some changes in pay, in retirement, in enlistment and reenlistment bonuses. And those three things plus some other things we're going to do, I hope will help to keep more of you in the service, and I hope will help to get more young people coming in.

The job market is very, very strong out there, as all of you know. And particularly after you've been in the service for a while and you've gotten the invaluable training that you get, I understand the temptations and the lures of taking those offers which wouldn't require you to be away from home so much and so far.

But I can tell you this: The United States military, because of people like you, can do things for a troubled world that no one else can do. And I am profoundly grateful. (Applause.) You're taking those supplies into the refugees in Macedonia and Albania -- you must have talked to some of them, you must know what they have been through. And if you were involved in the operation in Bosnia, or you talked to anybody else who was, you must know what they were put through and what it is that NATO is trying to stop in the heart of Europe.

At the end of the Cold War, the question was, do we need a NATO. And the 19 allies decided that, yes, we did; that if we wanted Europe to be free and united and at peace, we needed NATO and that would be our mission. And I wish there had been nothing for us to do -- nothing for you to do. I wish none of you reservists or Guard people had to be called up or had to volunteer. But it happened. And it is truly ironic that after all the wars in the 20th century, that here in Europe we would still be fighting over religious and ethnic bigotry, being used to dehumanize people to the point of justifying killing them, burning them, looting their homes, running them out, burning their villages, eradicating every last vestige of historical,
cultural records, burning their houses of worship. And that's not the world I want your children to live in.

And if your children are wearing this uniform of our Armed Services, I don't want them to have to fight a war because we didn't nip in the bud a cancer that can never sweep across Europe again.

So this is profoundly important. And the humanitarian aid you're taking to those desperate people is profoundly important. They are good people. They have their dignity. You are enabling them to keep what they can when most of them are running out of their country with nothing but the clothes on their back.

I just want you to know that back home people do know what you're going through, they do know what a sacrifice it is. We will do everything we can to make it better. In the Congress this year, I do believe there was overwhelming bipartisan support to respond to the problems you face and the challenges you face and the private market you face.

But nothing can ever compensate or take the place of the profound sense of satisfaction you must get when you go to bed at night knowing that you did something that was good and decent, not because your country wanted to dominate another people or control land, but because we want our children and their children to live in a decent world.

Thank you and God bless you. (Applause.)

END

8:20 P.M. (L)
being left open to provide free access for the servants. On these couches, which also received the name of triclinium, the guests reclined for dinner. Each couch usually accommodated three persons, commonly seated with respect to rank.

TRICOLOR. See Flag—Flags of the World (France).

TRICYCLE, tri'sik-al, a kind of bicycle or velocipede having three wheels instead of two. In pleasure tricycles, now chiefly used by children too young to balance on two wheels, one wheel is placed in front and two, usually smaller, side by side in the rear; in those used for light delivery, the single wheel may be either in front or behind, with a wire or other basket for packages astride the axle between the two parallel wheels. Propulsion is by rotary pedals, attached for small children generally directly to the single-wheel axle, for others to a rear-drive chain.

TRIER, tri'ér, or TREVES, trez (Fr. TRÊVES, ancient AUGUSTA TREVERORUM), city, Germany, since 1945 in the Rhineland-Palatinate of the Federal Republic of Germany. Situated on the Moselle, close to the border of Luxembourg and 75 miles southwest of Mainz, the city is a rail center and serves as the chief point of distribution for the southwest of Mainz, close to the border of Luxembourg and 75 miles north of Fiume. In addition to tobacco, and textile products, as well as extensive wine trade and export of pottery and cloth. An imperial mint was operating here in 296 a.d. Trier had been capital of the province of Belgica; with the reorganization of the empire by Diocletian in 293 a.d., it was elevated to the status of capital of the prefecture of Gaul. As headquarters for a line of Western emperors including Constantine the Great, Trier grew in power and influence, and was known as the Rome of the North before it fell to the Franks about 430.

An episcopal see in the 4th century (the first in northern Europe), Trier became the seat after 814 of influential archbishops who, as electors of the Holy Roman Empire, also wielded great political power. In 1801 the Roman Catholic archbishopric was secularized and the city was ceded to France, but the episcopal see was restored in 1821 after Prussia was given control of Trier by the Congress of Vienna (1815). Allied armies occupied Trier after World War I. During World War II, heavy aerial bombardment devastated many of its treasures.

Ancient Monuments. Despite the losses of World War II, Trier remains a rich repository of Roman and medieval buildings. Among these is the massive gateway to Porta Nigra (3rd or 4th century a.d.), which was designed as the fortified portal to the entire realm. Also surviving are an amphitheater, probably erected by Trajan about 100 a.d.; a Roman basilica, later Frankish palace, and the ruins of two imperial baths. The substructure of an old Roman bridge supports the present bridge across the Moselle. The city’s museums were destroyed by bombing, but the collections they housed were salvaged. The famed cathedral, centered on a 4th-century basilica; the 13th century Church of Our Lady; fine Gothic structure; and two palaces were severely damaged. The cathedral’s treasured “Holy Coat of Treves,” a seamless garment supposed to have been worn by Christ, has been the occasion of vast pilgrimages during its exhibitions in 1841, 1891, and 1933. Pop. (1970) 103,600.

TRIESTE, tri'ëst' (Slovenian TRIŠT; ancient TRIESTE), city and province, Italy, and capital of the region of Friuli-Venezia Giulia, located at the head of the Adriatic on the northwest coast of the Istrian peninsula, 70 miles northeast of Venice and 40 miles northwest of Fiume.

From its long waterfront on the Gulf of Trieste, the city slopes upward toward San Giusto hill, dominated by its three chief monuments: the ancient cathedral of San Giusto, a colossal medieval fortress, and the Roman basilica. Beyond the hill, the city spreads out finger-like, along ridges and streams into the interior region of the Karst plateau. Although the general aspect is distinctly commercial and industrial, the city’s old nucleus with its winding and narrow winding streets (in which the ruins of a Roman amphitheater have been uncovered), is readily distinguishable not only from the rectangularly laid-out new sector, with its public buildings, but also from the industrial area, which
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**COLLECTION:**
- Clinton Presidential Records
- National Security Council
- Ted Widmer (Speechwriting)
- OA/Box Number: 2190

**FOLDER TITLE:**
Kosovo [1]

**RESTRICION CODES**

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

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
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- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

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- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
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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.**
Memo

To: John
From: Jim Kennedy

I heard from Jennifer that there was some interest in identifying expressions of support for our action in Kosovo from citizens around the country, especially those with relatives in the region.

With help from Ches and Naureen in my office, I've pulled together these excerpts, some of which might be useful to speechwriters or others dealing with this matter.
Citizen Comments About Kosovo Action

"About sixty ethnic Albanians, many from Kosovo, gathered in the community center Wednesday night for what they hope is the start of something good. "It shows dramatically how proud we are to be American today, to protect the people that we don't understand or know," Idris Coma of Wolcott said.

"We're very happy that the United States government took action. It was late but better late than never," Fluturm Rizeani of Waterbury said.

"So this way the Serbians aren't going to get any more ethnic cleansing and killing the innocent people, children and women like we saw these things happen for decades now," Fiquiri Fulejmani of Shelton said."

WVIT, Channel 30, Connecticut.

"Many ethnic Albanians now in the United States say they support the strikes, but are more concerned about their families back home. 'I am getting sick now,' says Adem Avdyli, 44, as he watches television reports on the military action. Avdyli, an Albanian Kosovar, fled to the United States 10 years ago, and all of his family remains in Kosovo. He has not been able to reach them. His sister called Monday night from Pristina, the Kosovar capital, but had 'no good news to report.'

"The Serbs are going to kill civilians in the cities now," says Avdyli, who now lives in Brooklyn, NY. "And now there are only kids and old people and women left. Young kids just born. How can a newborn be a terrorist?"

But Avdyli says he is glad airstrikes had begun, a view echoed by other Albanian refugees now in the United States. "The only thing the Serbian government understands is force -- you can't negotiate just by talking," says Azem Tachi, an ethnic Albanian refugee now living in Worcester, Mass. "There is no other way with the Serbian government. We tried to find a peaceful solution, but there is no way. The only way is to fight."

In the Bronx, NY, which has a community of some 50,000 Albanians, many along 188th Street say they have been trying to contact relatives, but phone lines have been tied up. "I was waiting for this for a long time," says Naim Dedushaj, an Albanian immigrant with the New York office of the Democratic League of Kosovo. "I'd like to say to President Clinton, 'God bless President Clinton. God bless the United States. God bless NATO.'"

ABCNEWS.com, March 24, 1999
"Calling Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic a lunatic, a Bosnian refugee welcomed the bombing of Yugoslavia on Wednesday by American and allied forces. 'It was about time...After seven years of threats it's about time somebody did something about that mad dog,' said Sead Hadziabdic, a Muslim refugee from war-torn Yugoslavia who came to Binghamton in 1996 with his wife and two children. Diplomacy had not worked, and NATO had to take steps to oppose Milosevic's campaign of repression and violence against the people of Kosovo, Hadziabdic said....Asked what NATO's next step should be, Hadziabdic had a quick answer. 'A little more bombing,' he said."

Press & Sun-Bulletin (Binghamton, New York), March 26, 1999

"At Manhattan's La Bellezza Pizza on 41st St. off Park Ave., owner Mirash Devukaj gave out free pizza and hung a white bedsheet painted with the words: 'Thank U America for Stopping the Genocide In Kosovo.'

'They're doing the right thing,' he said of NATO. 'They're saving lives.'

In the Bronx' Belmont section, home to 50,000 Albanians, an American flag waved in front of the Villa Cafe next to a sign that said: 'US Bombs Serbs.'

Inside, Albanian men sipped espresso and talked of the horror in Kosovo. 'It's about time,' said Martin Nicaj, 36. 'I hope they call us,' he said. 'We would be happy to go over there and fight.'"

Daily News (New York, New York), March 26, 1999

"Leke Vataj, an Albanian immigrant who lives in Armonk, left the village of Peje in 1975 but still has cousins in Kosovo. Many have lost their homes in recent months. He hasn't heard from any this week. He worries the bombing has increased the Serbian desire to wipe out as many Albanians as possible. 'I don't wish the (Serbian) people harm,' he said. 'But Slobodan's machinery must be stopped. It's the fifth war he's created in the Balkans. He is fighting a people who want to live peacefully. The Albanians in Kosovo are not terrorists.'...

Christopher Gjonaj, 16, was born in the United States but visited his Albanian relatives last summer in Uljini, a village in Yugoslavia's other republic, Montenegro. 'Everybody in Uljini seemed to come from Kosovo. I know they're happy about somebody finally taking on the Serbians,' Gjonaj said....

'Milosevic is thickheaded,' Gjonaj said. '(NATO) can't stop until he admits he's wrong, and that may take a long time.'"

The Journal News (New York), March 26, 1999
"I think NATO was right to go in. Someone has to stop the atrocities," said Alla Kurolapnik, waiting for her class at Touro Law School in Huntington just hours after the bombings. She said the air strikes upon Yugoslavia will 'set an example' for the rest of the world that ethnic hatreds and violence will not be tolerated.

'You can say they're penetrating a country's sovereignty, but they're justified,' in doing so, said Kurolapnik, 27, a third-year student from Brooklyn. Without a stabilized Kosovo, Kurolapnik added, ethnic Albanian refugees would flood the surrounding countries, igniting social unrest throughout the region.

The plight of the ethnic Albanians was foremost on the minds of many of their Muslim brethren on Long Island, many of whom were preparing to celebrate the holy day of Eid ul-Adha on Sunday, in commemoration of Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son Ishmael in Allah's name.

In a moment after his noon prayer, Sarfraz Ahmed of Hicksville said he was thankful that NATO was standing behind the Muslims in Kosovo. 'The Serbians are using modern weapons against poor people,' said Ahmed, 47, a gas station manager.

Newsday, March 26, 1999

"At last, it's justice. The world is recognizing the atrocities that are being committed there. What would have happened if Hitler hadn't been stopped?' asked Bardhul Kosovrasti, an Albanian-American who immigrated to New York City in 1973 and then to Arizona in 1978. 'This is a very happy time for the Albanian community."

Arizona Republic, March 25, 1999

"Qamile Vraniqi is one of those who cheered the attack Thursday. 'We think the bombing is going to be good because Milosevic is doing a lot of killing and there's no one to help the people of Kosovo,' she said. 'Milosevic is not just killing people in Kosovo, he's doing it in Albania and all over.'

Ms Vraniqi, an ethnic Albanian who left Kosovo for Dallas [Texas] about 30 years ago, said the bombing is necessary. But she is worried about her family."

Associated Press, March 25, 1999
"Kemal Saliju, who owns a cafe in Charles City [Iowa] was born in Macedonia, just 60 miles from where NATO bombed Serbian military stations. 'I am happy that President Clinton and America supports my people,' Saliju said."

Associated Press, March 25, 1999

[An Albanian Kosovar who moved to St. Louis [MO] a year ago as a refugee said that he first felt joy when he heard about the airstrikes against the forces of Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic. 'It was the right time to stop Milosevic,' said the man, who gave only his first name, Nuhi. An interpreter at a local hospital, he lives with his wife and newborn child. His mother, brother and sister still live in Kosovo."

Associated Press, March 25, 1999

"The Rev. Arthur Liolin, pastor of the Albanian Orthodox Archdiocese of Boston [MA], said all he can do now is 'wait and see what happens.'

'I hope that the action that's been taken will prevent further persecution against ethnic Albanians.'"

Boston Herald, March 25, 1999

"Salih Becovic, who came from Montenegro four years ago, has a sister in Kosovo. 'I tried to call her today. But no one is getting through,' said Becovic, 26, as reports blared that the first bombs were falling. Like others in the cafe, he praised President Clinton. 'I think Bill Clinton is the man because it takes a lot of heart to do something like this.'

Gazim Celaj, 25, who has two brothers in Pristina, the capital of Kosovo, said: 'I feel bad for the Serbian civilians, but the army has committed too many crimes against us.'"

Daily News (New York), March 25, 1999

"Bekir Becic said he wishes the West would have taken such actions against Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic long ago. 'The bombing maybe will not solve the problem, but I believe it will reduce Yugoslavia's ability to make atrocities,' said Becic, who escaped Serb-held areas of Bosnia three years ago for Des Moines."

Des Moines Register, March 25, 1999
Deniz Toro, 24, a risk analyst from Albania whose father lives there, supports the strikes, saying, 'For at least 10 years, the Yugoslavian government has been, mainly by means of violence, ignoring the desire of the Albanians to have their independent state.

'Matters have come to a head because the Yugoslavian army is ... on a campaign of burning villages, chasing people from their homes.

'It is all being done under the cover of fighting against terrorists, but it seems it's mostly the civilians and unarmed population they're going after.'

Houston Chronicle, March 25, 1999

'Of course, I'm worried about people dying, but it's about time (that NATO took action),' said Vjosa Mujko, an account executive with a San Francisco advertising company. 'Albanians in Kosovo were not able to (resolve the conflict) peacefully. There was just no other way.'

... Serbians 'keep saying that (the conflict) is an internal matter, but if it's internal, why are we treated the way we are?' said Zana Ibrani, an Albanian American who teaches English at Los Positas College in Livermore. 'Albanians in Kosovo have been treated like subhumans the last 10 years. There is segregation in schools. Albanian schools were closed. They revoked the right to study in our own language. It was South Africa all over again. ... The Serbs are used to treating us like dirt. It's not a big deal to them.'

Ibrani, who also is from Pristina, calls Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic 'Hitler II. I think Milosevic should be declared a war criminal. They were just committing atrocities the other day (in Kosovo). They're still finding mass graves over there.'

San Francisco Chronicle, March 25, 1999

An Albanian Kosovar who moved to St. Louis a year ago as a refugee said, however, that he first felt joy when he heard about the airstrikes against the forces of Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic.

"It was the right time to stop Milosevic," said the man, who gave only his first name, Nuhi. An interpreter at a local hospital, he lives here with his wife and newborn child. His mother, brother and sister still live in Kosovo.

"So many people are in trouble," the man said. "There are so many refugees."

His second reaction was appreciation for NATO's willingness to go to war.
"It is really hard for American soldiers, American parents, to go there and to fight," he said. "It is war, and we don't know what's going to happen."

"I want to say thank you to the United States and NATO for doing something for my people."

* * *

"Albanian-Americans, regardless of their religious persuasion, are very much grieved by the humanitarian horror that has occurred in Kosovo and also by the recalcitrance of the government in Belgrade to negotiate," said Arthur Liolin, the very reverend chancellor of the Albanian Orthodox Archdiocese in America.

Liolin, whose church is based in Boston, said he hoped the bombing would "not only encourage but compel the Belgrade parties to stop the massacres and the killing."

St. Louis Post Dispatch, March 25, 1999

"Hafizi "Joe" Azem, 79, an Albanian Kosovar who lives in Plainfield, said he is concerned about his two brothers, two sisters and their families in Yugoslavia. Even so, Azem said he favors the NATO airstrikes.

'We are much relieved. We've been waiting for this one for a long time,' Azem said. 'We are sorry that civilians will be killed by bombs, but it can't be helped.'"

Chicago Tribune, March 25, 1999

"Agim Ajrami Bajrami, 26, who emigrated to Cleveland eight months ago from Albania, said NATO's actions have been a hot topic for the city's 2,000 Albanians and 15,000 Serbians. He also said he was concerned about relatives, but felt NATO's actions were necessary.

'I love my family and worry about them, but it's important to attack sometimes,' said Bajrami, who was worried about the safety of his mother, two brothers and sister in northern Albania, which borders Kosovo. "You watch on TV how little children are being murdered by Serbian police. The situation is getting too bad.""

* * *

Bajrami's only criticism of NATO was that the organization didn't start bombing sooner.

'They should have attacked earlier. It would have saved more people's lives,' said Bajrami, who moved to Cleveland to join his sister and brother-in-law."

Associated Press, March 24, 1999