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United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

February 19, 1985

Mr. Bernard M. Luketich
National President
Croatian Fraternal Union
of America
100 Delaney Drive
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15235

Dear Mr. Luketich:

President Reagan has asked me to reply to your letter of February 5, 1985, which concerns legislation introduced in the U.S. Congress to authorize construction of Federal Government property of a monument to General Draza Mihailovich. We understand that ~~this legislation, H.R. 77, has been introduced~~ in the House of Representatives and referred to the Committee on House Administration.

The Administration has informed the Congress that, as in the past, it opposes adoption of this legislation. We understand the desire of American servicemen to recognize rescue operations carried out in Yugoslavia during the Second World War and recognize their right to build a monument in recognition of those events. It is clear, however, that the wartime role of General Mihailovich and his followers remains a subject of great historical controversy, and that the number of airmen they rescued represented only a small part of the total saved by the Yugoslav resistance as a whole. As a result, we oppose erection of a monument on Federal land to General Mihailovich or any other resistance leader.

Sincerely,

Richard E. Combs, Jr.

Richard E. Combs, Jr.

Director

Office of East European
and Yugoslav Affairs

Discuss w/
John L.

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: JULY 03, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MR. RICHARD L. FELMAN

SUBJECT: INVITATION TO ATTEND HEARINGS REGARDING THE
GENERAL MIHAILOVICH MEMORIAL ON JUL 12 85
IN WASHINGTON, DC

		ACTION		DISPOSITION	
ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
MARY RAWLINS		ORG	85/07/03		/ /
REFERRAL NOTE:					
LINAS KOJELIS		RSI	85/07/03		C 85/07/03
REFERRAL NOTE:					
REFERRAL NOTE:			/ /		/ /
REFERRAL NOTE:			/ /		/ /
REFERRAL NOTE:			/ /		/ /
REFERRAL NOTE:			/ /		/ /

COMMENTS: IV 850712 850712 DC WASHINGTON

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: _____

PL MAIL USER CODES: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

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*ACTION CODES:          *DISPOSITION          *OUTGOING          *
*                      *                      *CORRESPONDENCE:   *
*A-APPROPRIATE ACTION  *A-ANSWERED          *TYPE RESP=INITIALS *
*C-COMMENT/RECOM       *B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL  *      OF SIGNER   *
*D-DRAFT RESPONSE      *C-COMPLETED          *      CODE = A     *
*F-FURNISH FACT SHEET  *S-SUSPENDED          *COMPLETED = DATE OF *
*I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC*                      *      OUTGOING    *
*R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY *                      *                      *
*S-FOR-SIGNATURE       *                      *                      *
*X-INTERIM REPLY       *                      *                      *
*****

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Queens, New York

•Directors

*US AF Retired

*Rescued Canadian Airman

Honorary Member



National Committee of American Airmen Rescued by General Mihailovich, Inc.

P.O. BOX 17478, TUCSON, ARIZONA 85731 (602) 885-7005

July 1st, 1985

The Honorable Ronald Reagan
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.D. 20500

Dear President Reagan:

At your nationally televised news conference on June 18th, members of our committee were pleasantly surprised when a reporter in a bright red jacket stood up and asked the following question:

" More than 500 American flyers were rescued by General Mihailovich in Yugoslavia in 1944 and they want to erect a memorial on federal property which the Senate approved twice and Mr. Derwinski supported repeatedly while President Truman gave the General the Legion of Merit.

" Why, Mr. President, since it's very important to rescue Americans are you allowing your State Department to stop this in its tracks?"

Your reply was as follows:

" I will have to tell you that is the first I've heard about it, but you have given me a question to ask when I leave here tonight to find out about it..."

We are those 500 American fliers who have tried for over 40 years to repay our debt of honor to General Mihailovich for saving our lives. To my knowledge, this is the greatest rescue of American lives in our Nation's history.

A partial list of those who have supported General Draza Mihailovich over the last 40 years includes: Presidents Harry S. Truman, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Richard M. Nixon & Ronald Reagan. The United States Senate, hundreds of U.S. Congressmen, Secretary of the Air Force Thomas C. Reed, the Department of the Interior, The National Capital Memorial Advisory Committee, U.S. Ambassador to Yugoslavia Laurence Silberman, House Committee Chairman on Foreign Affairs Clement J. Zablocki, U.S. Commission of Inquiry, The Arizona State Senate, Alaska Governor Ernest Gruening, Kansas Governor Alf M. Landon, Kentucky Governor Simeon Willis, Indiana Governor Robert D. Orr, Massachusetts Governor Edward J. King, Nebraska Governor Dwight Griswold, Texas Governor Coke Stevenson, Bishops Fermilian, Irmay & Manning, Alice Roosevelt Longworth, Gene Tunney, John Wayne, The American Legion, Polish War Veterans, Countless Local Veterans Organizations, The Heritage Foundation, Coalition for American, The New York Times, Washington Post, The Toronto Sun, Washington Times, Christian Science Monitor, etc. Special Mention: The Honorable Edward J. Derivinski and Historian David Martin.

President Ronald Reagan
July 1st, 1985
Page Two

In the past, our appeals and the appeals of our Congressmen and Senators have been directed to "The President of the United States." They have always been denied and returned to us "in the name of the President of the United States". This is an administrative procedure which we understand.

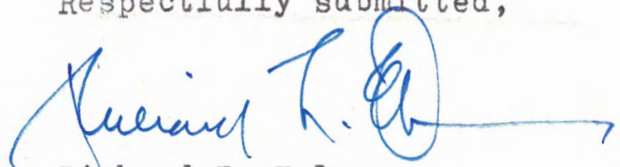
However, as a purist in what the term "United States of America" stands for, I absolutely refuse to believe that any US President, having direct, personal knowledge of our simple request would deny us.

The issue of saving American lives is a most timely one. With the release of 39 hostages from Beirut yesterday you wasted no time in going on national television to express your gratitude to those who help us. You did not wait 40 years to do it nor did the freed hostages have to petition a majority of the 435 Congressmen to do it.

On July 12th, the Task Force on Libraries and Memorials has granted us a hearing on HR 77 at which time we hope to state our case.

Mr. President, do not think it presumptuous but we would deem it the highest of honors if you, or your White House representative, would accept this letter as an invitation to appear as an observer at our hearing and learn all the facts first hand.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Richard L. Felman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Richard L. Felman

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 7, 1985



MEMORANDUM FOR PAT BUCHANAN

THROUGH: LINDA CHAVEZ

FROM: LINAS KOJELIS *LK*

SUBJECT: Monument to General Draza Mihailovic

Last week, the White House received the attached letter from the National Committee of American Airmen Rescued by General Mihailovic, Inc. requesting the President to participate at a Congressional hearing on H.R. 77, which, I assume, is the current legislation to allow a monument to General Mihailovic to be erected on federal land.

While I do not think it wise for us to recommend a meeting with the President, I think it would be very good if you would agree to meet with this group when they come to town this week. It would give us an opportunity to learn the exact status of the current effort for the monument, and also, it would indicate to the group that the President did not forget about the issue after it was raised in his last press conference, and that his staff is following-up. I plan to also arrange meetings for the group with John Lenczowski and other supporters.

I recommend that you meet with this airmen's group.

Agree

✓ When I'm leaving July 11 for today

Other

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Arlington Heights, Illinois 60004
312-554-4559

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Persons involved in an
effort to rescue
COL. ROBERT H. McDOWELL*
Milwaukee, Florida
MIKE DEVJAK
Lynn, Ohio
ARTHUR JIBILIAN
Tomball, Texas
CAPT. NICK LALICH*
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Persons involved in an
effort to rescue
...
...
...



National Committee of American Airmen Rescued by General Mihailovich, Inc.

P.O. BOX 17478, TUCSON, ARIZONA 85731 (602) 885-7005

July 1st, 1985

The Honorable Ronald Reagan
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.D. 20500

Dear President Reagan:

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President Ronald Reagan
July 1st, 1985
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Mr. President, do not think it presumptuous but we would deem it the highest of honors if you, or your White House representative, would accept this letter as an invitation to appear as an observer at our hearing and learn all the facts first hand.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Richard L. Felman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Richard L. Felman

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: JULY 25, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MAJOR RICHARD L. FELMAN RET.

SUBJECT: WRITES CONCERNING A MONUMENT FOR GENERAL
DRAZA MIHAILOVICH OF YUGOSLAVIA

		ACTION		DISPOSITION	
ROUTE TO:		ACT	DATE	TYPE	C COMPLETED
OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	CODE	YY/MM/DD	RESP	D YY/MM/DD
LINAS KOJELIS		ORG	85/07/25		/ /
REFERRAL NOTE:			/ /		/ /
REFERRAL NOTE:			/ /		/ /
REFERRAL NOTE:			/ /		/ /
REFERRAL NOTE:			/ /		/ /
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COMMENTS:

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: _____

PL MAIL USER CODES: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

*ACTION CODES:	*DISPOSITION	*OUTGOING	*
*	*	*CORRESPONDENCE:	*
*A-APPROPRIATE ACTION	*A-ANSWERED	*TYPE RESP=INITIALS	*
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5
L. Kojelko

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•Directors
*USAF Retired
†Rescued Canadian Airman
Honorary Member



National Committee of American Airmen Rescued by General Mihailovich, Inc.

P.O. BOX 17478, TUCSON, ARIZONA 85731 (602) 885-7005

July 22nd, 1985

The Honorable Ronald Reagan
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Our 560 former MIAs absolutely refuse to believe that the President of the United States, in whom we and the American people have such great trust and warm affection, would "turn his back" on the wartime ally who saved our lives during World War II (see attached "Deserted Hero" by Jack Anderson, July 8, 1985.)

At your June 18th, 1985 nationally televised news conference you told the American people that you knew nothing about our efforts to thank General Mihailovich (HR 77) but "when I leave here tonight (will) find out about it".

As regards to the allegation in Jack Anderson's column, we prefer to think that a protective staff has kept you shielded from what they consider a relatively unimportant matter and have spoken out in your name contrary to your true sentiments as expressed previously (see attached Ronald Reagan letter, September 8, 1979).

Please tell us where the truth lies!

You have our heartfelt prayers for a full and speedy recovery.

Respectfully,

Richard L. Felman
Major USAF (Ret)

President

Encls. (2)

A partial list of those who have supported General Orazo Mihailovich over the last 40 years includes: Presidents Harry S. Truman, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Richard M. Nixon & Ronald Reagan, The United States Senate, hundreds of U.S. Congressmen, Secretary of the Air Force Thomas C. Reed, the Department of the Interior, The National Capital Memorial Advisory Committee, U.S. Ambassador to Yugoslavia Laurence Silberman, House Committee Chairman on Foreign Affairs Clement J. Zablocki, U.S. Commission of Inquiry, The Arizona State Senate, Alaska Governor Ernest Gruening, Kansas Governor Alf M. Landon, Kentucky Governor Simeon Willis, Indiana Governor Robert D. Orr, Massachusetts Governor Edward J. King, Nebraska Governor Dwight Griswold, Texas Governor Coke Stevenson, Bishops Fermilian, Irmay & Manning, Alice Roosevelt Longworth, Gene Tunney, John Wayne, The American Legion, Polish War Veterans, Countless Local Veterans Organizations, The Heritage Foundation, Coalition for American, The New York Times, Washington Post, The Toronto Sun, Washington Times, Christian Science Monitor, etc. Special Mention: The Honorable Edward J. Derivinski and Historian David Martin.

MONDAY, July 8, 1985

JACK ANDERSON AND JOSEPH SPEAR

WEEKLY SPECIAL

Banks want to keep their public 'loans'

By Jack Anderson
and Joseph Spear

WASHINGTON — These days the holdup men are on the other side of the counter at your friendly neighborhood bank. And if the banking industry has its way, Americans will keep getting robbed each time they deposit a check in their accounts.

For years, bankers have insisted that "clearing" a check — making sure there are funds to cover it in the account on which it was drawn — takes many days, a claim that doesn't wash in this age of computers and high-tech communications.

But it's certainly no mystery why the bankers have perpetuated this myth — and why they're gearing up a massive lobbying effort to shoot down a proposed law that would let customers use the money they deposit right away, rather than waiting a week or two. When they can clear a deposited check in a matter of hours (while making the customer wait as long as two weeks to write checks against those funds), they get free use of the idle money.

Multiplied by millions of checks each day, that gives bankers interest-free loans from their customers worth billions of dollars a year.

Bankers call the time between when a customer deposits the check, and when they can use it the "float." If any other industry were to try the same trick, they would be accused of check "kiting." In fact, that is exactly what officials of the brokerage firm of E.F. Hutton pleaded guilty to: floating checks on a systematic basis to get interest-free loans, at the expense of the banks with which they were deal-

ing.

Now even such diverse politicians as Sen. Alfonse D'Amato, R-N.Y., and Rep. Fernand St Germain, D-R.I., agree that it may be time to put an anchor on the bankers' float. St Germain cited these typical abuses:

— A Pennsylvania man — a retired banker, no less — deposited a federal tax-refund check for more than \$1,000, waited nine days for it to clear and then wrote a check against it. The bank bounced his check and charged him a \$30 overdraft fee.

— In a small California town, a customer deposited in his checking account a check for \$1,295 drawn from his savings account in a bank just down the street. He had to wait seven days for the check to clear.

— A New York City man got a \$1,000 check from his credit union, deposited it in his checking account at a bank a few miles away, and waited six days before writing an \$800 check to pay a credit-card bill. The check still bounced, and not only was he stuck with the overdraft charge, the credit-card company charged him a month's interest on his bill.

DESERTED HERO: President Reagan has turned his bank on a World War II hero he praised effusively only six years ago: Draza Mihailovich, the Yugoslav army general who fought Nazis but was executed as a traitor by Marshal Tito's victorious communists.

In a 1979 letter to a group that wants to erect a statue to honor Mihailovich's rescue of hundreds of American airmen shot down over Yugoslavia, Reagan called him a "faithful Allied commander and the

first anti-Nazi leader in Europe."

But more recently, through a spokesman, Reagan backtracked. He called Mihailovich's role "controversial" and said he opposes a monument because it would mean taking sides in a "bitter historical dispute."

DANGEROUS AIRPORTS: The Federal Aviation Administration has kept track of hijackings and attempted hijackings at airports around the world since 1970 — and the results are surprising. By far the most incidents — 64 — have occurred at U.S. airstrips, more than the number recorded in Lebanon, India, Colombia, West Germany, the Philippines, Japan, Iran, Venezuela and France combined.

Two cities are tied for first place in this dubious contest: New York's LaGuardia and Kennedy airports have totaled 19 incidents since 1970, as has Miami's International Airport. Until the TWA hijacking three weeks ago, Athens airport had only two in the same period.

POLITICAL POTPOURRI: The Democrats, far from surrendering the national arena to the Republicans, have just begun to fight. As usual, they're fighting themselves.

The latest occasion for inter-cine bickering is the \$1,000-a-plate gala in Washington, D.C., in October. Sentimentalists want to give proper respect to ex-President Jimmy Carter and his vice president, Walter Mondale. Hard-eyed realists want to ignore the 1980 and 1984 losers and concentrate instead on potential 1988 presidential candidates.

Interestingly, no one seems to care one way or the other about the party's 1972 candidate, former Sen. George McGovern.

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United Feature Syndicate, Inc.

RONALD REAGAN

September 8, 1979

Mr. Michael Radenkovich
Vice President
California Citizens' Committee to
Commemorate General Draja Mihailovich
P. O. Box 1617
Santa Monica, California 90406

Dear Mr. Radenkovich:

Please convey to the California Citizen's Committee to Commemorate General Draja Mihailovich my sincere appreciation for their kind invitation to attend tonight's dinner to commemorate General Mihailovich. Unfortunately, prior commitments prevent me from being with you.

I believe that the spirit in which you have gathered here to honor the memory of General Mihailovich, the faithful allied commander and the first anti-Nazi leader in Europe, is shared by the great majority of Americans.

The ultimate tragedy of Draja Mihailovich cannot erase the memory of his heroic and often lonely struggle against the twin tyrannies that afflicted his people, Nazism and Communism. He knew that totalitarianism, whatever name it might take, is the death of freedom. He thus became a symbol of resistance to all those across the world who have had to fight a similar heroic and lonely struggle against totalitarianism. Mihailovich belonged to Yugoslavia; his spirit now belongs to all those who are willing to fight for freedom.

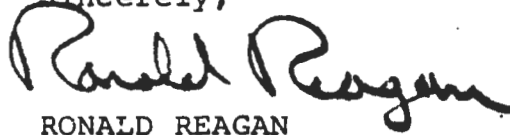
I wish it could be said that this great hero was the last victim of confused and senseless policies of western governments in dealing with Communism. The fact is that others have suffered a fate similar to his by being embraced and then abandoned by western governments in the hope that such abandonment will purchase peace or security.

Thus, the fate of General Mihailovich is not simply of historic significance--it teaches us something today, as well. No western nation, including the United States, can hope to win its own battle for freedom and survival by sacrificing brave comrades to the politics of international expediency.

Mr. Michael Radenkovich
September 8, 1979
Page Two

Your dinner therefore commemorates something more than the legacy of patriotism and heroism that Michailovich left us. You commemorate the principles for which he fought and died. And you remind our nation that abandonment of allies can never buy security or freedom. In the mountains of Yugoslavia, in the jungles of Vietnam, wherever men and women have fought totalitarian brutality, it has been demonstrated beyond doubt that both freedom and honor suffer when firm commitments become sacrificed to false hopes of appeasing aggressors by abandoning friends.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ronald Reagan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ronald" and last name "Reagan" clearly distinguishable.

RONALD REAGAN

Friday
afternoon

Tucson Citizen

City
edition

A Gannett Newspaper

Established 1870

Tucson, Arizona/Friday, June 25, 1982

76 Pages 25 Cents

On the Other Hand . . .

U.S. vets stymied in attempts to honor Yugoslav savior

By RICHARD L. FELMAN

Nine months ago, the city of Tucson's Veterans' Affairs Committee (representing all 12 veterans' organizations in Tucson) wrote President Reagan requesting his help on a bill before Congress providing for a monument in Washington to the Yugoslav general Draza Mihailovich for saving over 500 American lives during World War II. No answer or acknowledgement has ever been received.

This utter disregard of Tucson's vox populi is typical of our government's ostrich-like attitude toward Mihailovich for the past 38 years. Other local supporters of this legislation include Arizona's congressional delegation, the Arizona State Senate, the Arizona Department of the American Legion and some newspapers.

Ever since 1944, I and over 500 of my fellow American flyers who were shot down over Yugoslavia during World War II have been trying to repay our debt to this Yugoslav general who saved our lives. The story of the greatest rescue of American lives in our nation's history has never been released by our government for fear that honoring the anti-Communist Mihailovich would offend the Communist government of Yugoslavia.

Although our petition to Congress to erect the Mihailovich monument (through publicly subscribed funds and at no cost to the taxpayer) has twice been approved by the U.S. Senate, the bill has sat in House committee due to the angry personal objections of Tito and the Yugoslav government, supported by pressure from an appeasing State Department. It is sheer folly to continue to believe that the State Department will remove its objection to the Mihailovich monument and change its postwar, self-admitted policy of "Regardless of right or wrong, we dare not offend an independent, non-aligned Yugoslavia."

The State Department knows as well as we do the

Richard L. Felman is a retired Air Force major who flew combat missions in World War II and the Korean Conflict. He is president of the National Committee of American Airmen Rescued by General Mihailovich, Inc., and he was personally decorated by King Peter II of Yugoslavia. A Tucson resident since 1950, Felman is a graduate of the University of Arizona in business administration, a former employee of KVOA Radio and an amateur thespian with Playbox and Gridiron Show credits.



truth about Gen. Mihailovich and the political motive behind Yugoslavia's demand to suppress the truth. Our lives and President Truman's posthumous award (classified secret) of the Legion of Merit to Mihailovich are all the evidence that is needed. While I can honestly accept a diplomatic desire to pacify a friendly nation, assisting it in overruling formal legislation that has twice been passed by the U.S. Senate and preventing an expression of truth within our own country, and by our own citizens, is too horrifying a price to pay.

At this point, the issue of erecting a Mihailovich monument takes a back seat to the "reason" it has not been approved all these years. As a private

citizen, I feel we have been "suckered" by a government that proclaims itself to be "of, by and for the people," standing for truth, justice and honor, and then in the name of political expediency sacrifices these principles in dealing with nations to whom these values mean absolutely nothing.

In the name of these God-given inalienable rights, the members of our national committee have risked their lives, seen their buddies' arms, legs and heads blown off, paid their taxes and faithfully abided by our laws. In the final analysis, they did all that so some foreign nation could dictate what they could or could not do within the confines of their own country!

Pardon my naivete, but I always thought that was the very thing the American people wanted to prevent when our politicians asked us to elect them to office, spend billions of our tax dollars on defense and fight our wars!

Outside of a presidential election, the outstanding list of support we have amassed for the Mihailovich monument is as true a representation of the "will of the American people" as our founding fathers could have hoped for:

The U.S. Senate, hundreds of members of the House of Representatives, the chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, the secretary of the Air Force, the Department of Interior, the National Capital Memorial Advisory Committee, the Arizona State Senate, the American Legion (national), the AFL-CIO (national), newspapers and countless other organizations throughout the country.

The reality of knowing that this expression of the people's will is being denied by a totalitarian government that is diametrically opposed to our way of life is totally repugnant to every concept I hold of our democratic form of government!

Were the truth ever to be nationally known, there would not be a single American who would object to expressing, at no expense to the taxpayer, a nation's gratitude for saving the lives of over 500 of its fighting men. There is absolutely no rhyme, reason or rhetoric that should prevent the American airmen from repaying their personal debt of honor. For 38 years we have fought for this right and been denied. In all good conscience, I cannot sit idly by and watch a 38-year effort go down the drain while the threats of another nation make our proud American eagle look like a plucked chicken.

You may ask why I so stubbornly persist after all these years of frustration. If you saw what I did — 200 innocent women and children slaughtered in cold blood by the Germans because Mihailovich would not surrender me and my crew to them — I am sure you would persist too. It was the most compelling demonstration of what "human events" and governments are all about and a lesson I never forgot of what it means to be an American.

After the war, Mihailovich was shot by a Communist firing squad, his heart cut out and his body thrown into an unmarked grave. Our government did nothing to prevent it!

If you feel as strongly as I do, then open your patio windows, Tucson, and shout along with me: "I'm madder than hell and I'm not going to take it any more!" Cut out this column and mail it to me, P.O. Box 17478, Tucson 85731, along with your name and address and I will forward all replies to the White House. Hopefully, this grass-roots, "We, the people" expression will be the ultimate voice this administration will listen to in an election year.

"On the Other Hand" columns are written at the invitation of the Tucson Citizen and are printed on the Perspective page on Fridays.

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: JULY 19, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MR. BRANISLAV M. STANISIC

SUBJECT: WRITES CONCERNING A MONUMENT TO HONOR THE
MEMORY OF GENERAL DRAZA MIHAILOVIC

		ACTION		DISPOSITION	
ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
LINAS KOJELIS		ORG	85/07/19		
REFERRAL NOTE:					
REFERRAL NOTE:					
REFERRAL NOTE:					
REFERRAL NOTE:					
REFERRAL NOTE:					

COMMENTS:

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: _____

PL MAIL USER CODES: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

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*ACTION CODES:      *DISPOSITION      *OUTGOING      *
*                  *                  *CORRESPONDENCE: *
*A-APPROPRIATE ACTION *A-ANSWERED      *TYPE RESP=INITIALS *
*C-COMMENT/RECOM      *B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL *
*D-DRAFT RESPONSE      *C-COMPLETED      *      CODE = A      *
*F-FURNISH FACT SHEET *S-SUSPENDED      *COMPLETED = DATE OF *
*I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC*                  *      OUTGOING      *
*R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY *                  *                  *
*S-FOR-SIGNATURE      *                  *                  *
*X-INTERIM REPLY      *                  *                  *
*****

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REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE
(ROOM 75, OEOB) EXT-2590
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING
LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS
MANAGEMENT.

5
L. Kojich
SERBIAN MOVEMENT FOR DEMOCRACY

5511 North Artesian Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60625

July 10, 1985

Hon. Mr. Ronald Reagan
President of the United States of America
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Mr. President:

All the Serbian people, both in Yugoslavia and in the emigration, view with deep concern and admiration your persistent and honorable efforts to stem the tide of international terrorism, which is aided and abetted by the Soviet regime in Moscow. Your political and diplomatic resistance serves to thwart communist provocation to military adventures, and your firm but peace loving policy is applauded by the Free World.

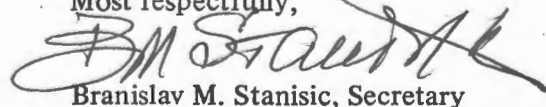
In this period of severe international tension we are, however, disheartened that the State Department hesitates to permit a few square yards of Federal land to be used to raise a monument to honor the memory of General Draza Mihailovic, the first great resistance leader in World War II, who was condemned and murdered by the Yugoslav communist regime on July 17, 1946. One of the great virtues of the American people is gratitude. In this spirit the more than five hundred American pilots who were saved by General Mihailovic and his Army have petitioned to raise the monument to his memory in the vicinity of Washington, D.C. Let us remind you that during your last press conference a courageous newsman raised the issue of the monument with you.

Mr. President, the example made by General Mihailovic is especially timely to revive in a world in which communist inspired terrorist groups seek continually to blackmail the United States. As a freedom fighter he never resorted to blackmail, even when the United States Government, under British instigation, transferred its support from him to the communist guerilla Tito. Blackmail has never been the way of the Serbian people and never will be. We proudly underscore the fact that Draza Mihailovic and the Serbian peasants, who saved the heroic American pilots and gave them food and clothing while they themselves went without these basic necessities of life, were at each moment ready to sacrifice their lives for those they protected, to shield them with their bodies from German bullets. An honest history cannot erase this brave example, so important to remember today. Why, Mr. President, is the pilots' petition not granted? Why is their gratitude not allowed to be expressed appropriately?

With deep acknowledgment of the extreme difficulties that you face in the present international situation and in hope for the future of our peoples we appeal to you to respond positively to the request for a monument to honor General Draza Mihailovic. Truth, justice, and the interest of the Free World demand a positive approach on this question.

With our best wishes for your continued good health and for success in your statesmanship, we beg you, Mr. President, to accept our highest esteem for you. In the name of the Serbian Movement for Democracy, we remain

Most respectfully,



Branislav M. Stanic, Secretary

cc to:
The Vice President - George Bush
The Secretary of State - George Shultz

39
37
Linas Kojalis
6/24/85

President Ronald Reagan
The White House
Washington, D.C 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing pursuant to a matter that came up at your press conference two weeks ago. You were asked by a reporter why it has been so difficult to establish a memorial to General Draza Mihailovich, the Yugoslav resistance leader who rescued and safely evacuated more than 500 U.S. airmen from enemy-occupied Yugoslavia during World War II.

You replied that you were unfamiliar with the issue, but would look into it and get back to the reporter later.

As I'm certain you've been briefed by now, Mihailovich was the first resistance leader in Europe during the war. His courageous "Chetnik" guerillas fought in the hills against the Germans from 1941 until the end of the war, and from 1942 were forced to simultaneously fight a civil war against a rival resistance group, the Communist-led Partisans under Tito who were vying for control of the country. The Chetniks lost the civil war, and Mihailovich was captured and tried on phony charges of collaboration with the Germans. He was convicted in a mock trial and executed by a Communist firing squad in Belgrade on July 17, 1946.

During 1944, Mihailovich rescued more than 500 U.S. fliers who were shot down over Yugoslavia on their way to, or returning from, bombing missions over the Ploesti oil fields in Rumania. One of them is my father, Captain Robert English, USAF-Ret., of Northville, Michigan. For his heroic work in this most dramatic of rescue efforts, General Mihailovich was posthumously awarded the Legion of Merit by President Harry Truman in 1948.

My father, like all of the other U.S. fliers and OSS personnel who were with the Chetniks in Yugoslavia, states flatly that Draza was the victim of a Communist disinformation campaign and that he was a loyal ally of the United States throughout the war.

A bill is pending in Congress, H.R. 77, that would authorize the erection of a monument on public land in Washington, D.C., or its environs to General Mihailovich recognizing his unparalleled rescue of American fighting men in enemy-held territory. Sponsor

of the bill is Rep. Crane of Illinois. In earlier forms, this bill has passed the Senate twice but has failed to make it out of the House Administration committee primarily due to objections by the State Dept., which fears the erection of a monument to Mihailovich would offend the government of Yugoslavia.

Supporters of the bill, primarily the National Committee of American Airmen Rescued by General Mihailovich based in Falls Church, Virginia, feel that setting the record straight for history through the establishment of a memorial supercedes in importance any "offense" that might be taken by the regime that railroaded the General to his death nearly forty years ago.

I would like to take this opportunity, Mr. President, to ask you to direct the State Dept. to drop its objection to the proposed memorial so that my father and 500 other Americans can pay their debt of honor to this great man. At a time when our values and interests seem under seige in so many parts of the world, it would only be appropriate to recognize a man who did something positive for our country in the cause of freedom.

Thank you very much for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,


David A. English
325 N. Fourth Ave. West #3
Duluth, MN 55806

Budanan

July 17, 1985

Kinsolving

Lester - ~~Crossed out~~ Kinsolving

- asked Pres on Mikhailovic. (703) 759-5704
- Commentary,
- call him. (301) 229-1790
- on Mikhailovic.
- get his commentary.
- have memo pt. to clear out conclusion
- from 1979.
- memo to President in reading file.
- State + NSC - don't want to do.

\$ Talk to O.P.

- drop note to ~~Pat~~ Frank S. from Pat B.

* Globe Syndicate = (301) 229-1790
(~~crossed out~~)

PHILIP M. CRANE

MEMBER OF CONGRESS
12TH DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

WAYS AND MEANS
COMMITTEE

SUBCOMMITTEES:

TRADE

SOCIAL SECURITY

REPUBLICAN STUDY COMMITTEE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

OFFICES:
SUITE 1035
LONGWORTH BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
202/225-3711

SUITE 101
1450 SOUTH NEW WILKE ROAD
ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, IL 6000
312/394-0790

58 NORTH WILLIAMS STREET
CRYSTAL LAKE, IL 60014
815/459-3399

ROBERT C. COLEMAN
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

June 19, 1985

Honorable Ronald W. Reagan
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Reagan:

In your press conference last night, a question was raised in regards to why you were allowing the State Department to oppose the construction of a memorial to honor General Draza Mihailovich of Yugoslavia for orchestrating the rescue of over 500 American airmen downed over Axis-controlled Yugoslavia during World War II. Before you base your opinion on the State Department's information, I would like to make a few points with respect to H.R. 77, my bill to authorize the construction of a Mihailovich memorial.

To begin with, I have taken the liberty of enclosing a letter signed by you in 1979 in response to an invitation to attend a dinner to commemorate General Mihailovich. In that response you refer to General Mihailovich as "a symbol of resistance to all those across the world who have had to fight a similar heroic and lonely struggle against totalitarianism."

Although you answered last night that you had not heard of the State Department's efforts to oppose my legislation, they have taken the liberty of stating that in fact you already oppose adoption of legislation that would allow the rescued airmen to construct a memorial in honor of General Mihailovich for saving their lives. The State Department's message on your behalf would appear at odds to your earlier stated support of the heroic role played by General Mihailovich.

Based on your patriotism and your commitment to stand behind your previously stated positions, I feel secure in the knowledge that you will take the necessary steps to align the view of the State Department with the views of

Honorable Ronald W. Reagan
June 19, 1985
Page Two

your Administration. I certainly would appreciate any support you could give in correcting this historical injustice.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Phil", enclosed within a faint circular outline.

Philip M. Crane, M.C.

PMC/jc

P.S. You were here long before most on this issue, and you were always right as current declassified information has revealed.

37
Linas Kojala

4-048889S169 06/18/85

ICS IPMBNGZ CSP

4128826426 POM TDBN PITTSBURGH PA 46 06-18 0943P EST

PMS PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

WHITE HOUSE DC 20500

DEAR MR PRESIDENT, I AM A YOUNG SERVIAN AMERICAN EXTREMELY PROUD OF
MY ETHNIC BACKGROUND. I AM URGING YOU TO SUPPORT THE AMERICAN AIRMEN
IN THEIR DESIRE TO ERECT A MONUMENT TO THE LATE SERVIAN GENERAL
DRAZHA MIHAILOVICH. GOD BLESS

DANE G TOPICH

5207 SHERWOOD DR

PITTSBURGH PA 15236

2142 EST

27

Linas Kojelis

erector of memorial

1-025201A169 06/18/85

ICS IPMWGWD WSH

00431 06-18 0933P EDT

PMS WHITE HOUSE DC 20500

1-205222G169 06/18/85

ICS IPMIIHA IISS

IISS F M CNT 18 2015

PMS WASHINGTON DC

CNB0378 TG568 50 FR

UQWA

TDTN WINDSOR ON 18 2112

PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

THE WHITE HOUSE

1600 PENNSYLVANIA AVE

WASHINGTON DC

JUN 18 PG: 41

BT

MR PRESIDENT

PLEASE ENCOURAGE THE ERECTION OF THE MONUMENT TO GENERAL DRAGOLUB
DRAZA MIHAILOVICH, THE GREATEST FREEDOM FIGHTER OF WWII, A MAN WHO
RESCUED 500 U.S SERVICEMEN, THEMSELVES FREEDOM FIGHTERS, SHOT DOWN
OVER YUGOSLAVIA.

IVAN OBRKNEZ 915 ALBERT ROAD WINDSOR ONTARIO CANADA NBY 3P1

NNN

2016 EST

2036 EST

59
37
Linas Kijelis
3
4-010847S171 06/20/85

ICS IPMTZZ CSP

4122337850 POM TDMT CLAIRTON PA 78 06-20 1040A EST JUN 20 P12:58

PMS PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

WHITE HOUSE DC 20500

DEAR MR PRESIDENT

I RESPECTFULLY URGE YOU TO USE YOUR POWER AS PRESIDENT OF OUR GREAT COUNTRY TO SEE TO IT THAT OUR COUNTRY HONORS GENERAL DRAZA MIHAILOVICH AND HIS YUGOSLAV ARMY BY PERMITTING A MONUMENT OF HIM TO BE ERECTED IN OUR NATION'S CAPITAL. GENERAL MIHAILOVICH AND HIS MEN FOUGHT VALIANTLY ON OUR SIDE DURING WORLD WAR II AND SAVED LIVES OF HUNDREDS OF AMERICAN SERVICEMEN. I PRAY THAT GOD CONTINUES TO BLESS YOU AND OUR NATION

DESANKA MAMULA

1539 GILMORE DR

CLAIRTON PA 15025

1039 EST

37
Linas Kojalis

4-010395S171 06/20/85

ICS IPMMTZZ CSP

4122337850 POM TDMT CLAIRTON PA 70 06-20 1034A EST 5 JUN 20 PI2: 56

PMS PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

WHITE HOUSE DC 20500

DEAR MR PRESIDENT

WITH GREAT RESPECT I URGE YOU TO USE YOUR INFLUENCE AS PRESIDENT OF OUR NATION TO PERMIT THE ERECTION OF A MONUMENT OF GENERAL DRAZA MIHAIOVICH IN OUR CAPITAL. GENERAL MIHAIOVICH AND HIS YUGOSLAV ARMY FOUGHT BRAVELY WITH THE ALLIES DURING WORLD WAR II AND SAVED MANY HUNDRED AMERICAN SOLDIERS FOR WHICH MIHAIOVICH WAS AWARDED THE LEGION OF MERIT BY PRESIDENT TRUMAN GOD BLESS YOU AND OUR COUNTRY

CHARLES AND NEDRA DROBAC

1531 GILMORE DR

CLAIRTON PA 15025

37
Linas Kojalis

4-010571S171 06/20/85

ICS IPMMTZZ CSP

4122337850 POM TDMT CLAIRTON PA 51 06-20 1036A EST 5 JUN 20 PI2: 57

PMS PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

WHITE HOUSE DC 20500

DEAR MR PRESIDENT

BEING CONCERNED ABOUT HONORING WORTHY PERSONS WHO'VE HELPED OUR CAUSE FOR FREEDOM I RESPECTFULLY ASK THAT YOU USE YOUR INFLUENCE TO PERMIT THE ERECTION OF A MONUMENT IN OUR NATION'S CAPITAL FOR GENERAL DRAZA MIHAIOVICH AND HIS YUGOSLAV ARMY WHO FOUGHT ON OUR SIDE IN WORLD WAR II

ZORKA CHECK

722 WADDELLA AVE

CLAIRTON PA 15025

REV D MALICH
2110 HAYMAKER RD
MONROEVILLE PA 15146 18PM

Western Union Mailgram



37
1-0475198169 06/18/85 ICS IPMMTZZ CSP WHSB
4123724454 MGMB TDMT MONROEVILLE PA 109 06-18 0846P EST

PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN
WHITEHOUSE
WASHINGTON DC 20500

Lina Kojic's
DEAR MR PRESIDENT,

THE MEMBERS OF THE ST NICHOLAS MEN'S CLUB OF MONROEVILLE PA
CONGRATULATE YOU ON YOUR ANSWER TO THE QUESTION ON H.R.77 ON
TONIGHT'S NATIONAL TELECAST.

WE URGE YOU, THE LEADER OF OUR FREE WORLD, TO EXERT YOUR FULL
PRESIDENTIAL POWER SO THAT GENERAL DRAZA MIHAILOVICH, AND HIS ALLIED
YUGOSLAV ARMY, MAY FINALLY BE HONORED BY OUR NATION, ON WHOSE SIDE HE
SO GALLANTLY FOUGHT AND FOR WHICH HIS SERBIAN NATION SUFFERED SO
GREATLY. MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS AND GUIDE YOU, ALONG WITH OUR
JUSTICE LOVING NATION.

SINCERELY YOURS,

ST NICHOLAS MEN'S CLUB OFFICERS AND MEMBERS ALEX MALICH SECRETARY

20:45 EST

MGMCOMP

STEVE KLIPA
2156 GRANDVIEW DR
MONROEVILLE PA 15146 18PM

Western Union Mailgram



31
1-0485069169 06/18/85 ICS IPMMTZZ CSP WH3B
4123722890 MGMB TDMT MONROEVILLE PA 71 06-18 0930P EST

PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN
WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON DC 20500

Lina Kojic
SIRV

PLEASE SUPPORT THE US AIRMEN SAVED BY GENERAL MIHAILOVICH OF YUGOSLAVIA. MIHAILOVICH SAVED OVER 500 US AIRMEN IN YUGOSLAVIA DURING WORLD WAR II. PRESIDENT HARRY S TRUMAN DECORATED MIHAILOVICH FOR HIS EFFORTS WITH THE LEGION OF MERIT AWARD. PLEASE ALLOW THE US AIRMEN TO HONOR MIHAILOVICH WITH A MONUMENT IN WASHINGTON DC.

THANK YOU
NICHOLAS KLIPA
2156 GRANDVIEW DR
MONROEVILLE PA 15146

21129 EST

MGMCOMP

22
L. Kojich

William R. Davis

6705 Galaxie Road
Richmond, Virginia 23228

June 19, 1985

Mr. Ronald Reagan,
President, the United States,
White House, Washington, D.C. 20500.

Dear President Reagan:

I enjoyed your TV news conference last night. You stood tall and strong on the hostage situation - no deal!

A reporter asked why your State Department opposed a statue of Dragha Mikhailovich, the World War II Yugoslav Chetnik who saved more American flyers than Tito and his communist Partisans?

I would like to know why too?

At the summer and fall of 1944, I was a bombardier with 515th Squadron, 376th Heavy Bomb Group, 15th Air Force in Italy. The Ploesti oil installations in Romania were a prime target.

The crew of #23 B-24 bomber, 512th Squadron were all Chetniks - the conservative refugees from Yugoslavia. They were, I believe, the only Chetniks in the 15th Air Force. And if any group ever hated the Nazis and loved Mikhailovich, it was these five Chetniks!

I hope you will use your influence in seeing that this statue of Dragha Mikhailovich is erected. He was always a real friend of the Americans, even though we shamefully abandoned him in his hour of need!

Sincerely,
William R. Davis

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: JULY 01, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MR. JAMES S. PETERS

SUBJECT: WRITES IN SUPPORT OF CONSTRUCTING A MONUMENT
IN WASHINGTON TO GENERAL MIHAILOVICH, THE
LEADER OF THE YUGOSLAV DEMOCRATIC RESISTANCE
MOVEMENT DURING WWII

		ACTION		DISPOSITION	
ROUTE TO:		ACT	DATE	TYPE	C COMPLETED
OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	CODE	YY/MM/DD	RESP	D YY/MM/DD
LINAS KOJELIS		ORG	85/07/01		
	REFERRAL NOTE:				
	REFERRAL NOTE:				
	REFERRAL NOTE:				
	REFERRAL NOTE:				
	REFERRAL NOTE:				

COMMENTS:

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: _____

PL MAIL USER CODES: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

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*ACTION CODES:          *DISPOSITION          *OUTGOING          *
*                      *                      *CORRESPONDENCE:   *
*A-A-APPROPRIATE ACTION *A-ANSWERED          *TYPE RESP=INITIALS *
*C-COMMENT/RECOM        *B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL      *      OF SIGNER    *
*D-DRAFT RESPONSE       *C-COMPLETED          *      CODE = A      *
*F-FURNISH FACT SHEET   *S-SUSPENDED          *COMPLETED = DATE OF *
*I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC *                      *      OUTGOING      *
*R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY  *                      *                      *
*S-FOR-SIGNATURE        *                      *                      *
*X-INTERIM REPLY        *                      *                      *
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LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS
MANAGEMENT.

317611

L. Icojekis

James S. Peters
Senior Vice President
International



Samsonite Corporation
11200 East Forty-Fifth Avenue
Denver, Colorado 80239
Phone (303) 373-6634

Telex 45689
A Beatrice Company

June 26, 1985

The Honorable Ronald Reagan
President of the United States of America
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Reagan:

I was listening with great interest to your press conference Tuesday evening, June 18, and admired you for your handling of the most delicate questions in respect to the hostages in Beirut.

I was, however, most pleasantly surprised when one of the newspapermen raised the question of constructing a monument in Washington to General Mihailovich, the leader of the Yugoslav democratic resistance movement during WWII, whose guerilla units saved more than 500 U.S. airmen shot down over Yugoslavia in 1944.

(Since you did not have an opportunity to hear about this event, I should like to brief you on this matter.

In 1944, I was a young freedom fighter in one of General Mihailovich's units. One spring day, we saw a flaming American bomber over our heads and three white parachutes coming slowly down. Our unit was in the vicinity of a small town in Northern Serbia, Ub, where an enemy unit was stationed. The race started for the three American pilots. We were able to reach two pilots, Fred Barrett and Donald Parkerson, while the third pilot was taken prisoner.

Fred and Donald remained with our unit for several months and were greeted by our villagers as the great promise of freedom and the hope that Yugoslavia would not be given to the Soviets and their Yugoslav collaborators.

Fred and Donald joined other American pilots at the improvised airfield in the village of Pranjani from where they were flown back to Southern Italy by American transports landing behind the German lines. Most of them were personally greeted by General Mihailovich before boarding their transports.

The Honorable Ronald Reagan
Page 2
June 26, 1985

As the red tide engulfed Yugoslavia and the communist regime of Tito was installed by Soviet troops in Belgrade, the American liaison officer to General Michailovich, Colonel McDowell, offered the general the opportunity to leave Yugoslavia with the last American transport taking out American pilots in the early spring of 1945. Mihailovich preferred to remain with his people and share their fate. He was finally caught by communist troops in the spring of 1946 and executed and buried without a trace after a Soviet style mock trial in Belgrade. American pilots saved by Mihailovich's men, then already safely back in the United States, offered to fly to Belgrade and be witnesses at the Mihailovich trial. They were refused admittance to Yugoslavia, but made their depositions at a parallel trial held in New York by top American jurists. Mihailovich was declared by the American court not only not guilty of collaboration with the enemy, but also as the hero of the European resistance who was the first to raise the flag of freedom in Nazi occupied Europe while the Soviets and their Yugoslav agents were still in alliance with Nazi Germany.

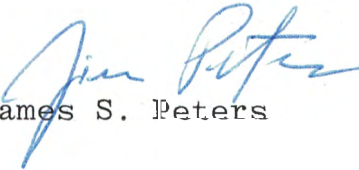
Fred and Donald have repaid their debt of gratitude to me personally by sponsoring my immigration to the United States where I was able to establish a family and join the American mainstream in making a good living. It would be a nice gesture if the American authorities would also allow the former American pilots rescued by General Mihailovich and his freedom fighters to erect a monument in Washington to this first armed resistant in occupied Europe, who selflessly gave his life for the cause of freedom of his own people and their American allies.

Arguments that erecting such a monument forty years after the end of WWII could only offend the Yugoslav communist government, whom the Western allies are trying to keep away from the Soviets, are not valid anymore. Yugoslavia today is heavily indebted to the West and their declining standard of living would be put fully in jeopardy if they were to break their economic ties with the West. The Yugoslav government simply could not afford to do that and survive. Franco's Spain was able to make a transition forty years after the bloody Spanish civil war and become a democratic society. The Yugoslav people who were in their great majority allies of the West during WWII should be given finally the opportunity to choose a democratic type of government.

The Honorable Ronald Reagan
Page 3
June 26, 1985

Certainly the American pilots who are citizens of this great country ought to be given the freedom to pay respect to their great friend to whom they owe their personal freedom in these troubled war years. A memorial to General Mihailovich in Washington to be erected with private contributions is the least that can be done for the First Armed Resistant in WWII in occupied Europe.

Respectfully yours,



James S. Peters

/mp

147525
8427358
SERBIAN MOVEMENT FOR DEMOCRACY

P.O. Box 87461
Chicago, Illinois 60680

XN- 8426104

Mr. Ronald Reagan
The President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C.

CC Copies to:
Vice President Mr. George Bush,
Secretary of State Mr. George Schultz

Mr. President:

September 8, 1984, Chicago, IL

The Serbian Movement for Democracy, an organization in the Serbian political emigration from Yugoslavia, which uses all legal methods in fighting against communistic tyranny in Yugoslavia, gathered today for an annual meeting. We take on this occasion the opportunity to greet you, not only as the President of the richest and strongest nation in the world, but also as a unique world leader, who possesses the moral courage to tell the communistic leaders that communism is a false, empty, and deceitful ideological system. We the Serbian people from Yugoslavia, in the political emigration as well as almost 15 million Serbs living now under communistic tyranny, warmly congratulate you for your attitude with respect to communistic systems in the world.

However, it is well known today that the United States of America, with its enormous material help to Yugoslavia, in fact does not help the people at all, but rather aids a small ruling communistical group. In such a way the United States continues the tyranny over the Serbian people who fought in World Wars I and II, together with United States, for freedom and democracy. We are begging and asking you Mr. President that in giving material help to Yugoslavia that you impose the following condition:

Under the Yalta agreement, the regime is obligated to permit legally organized political opposition parties. In turn this means that all political prisoners should be released. And then, under free elections, Yugoslavia should return once again to the democratic family of states. Hence, in giving any material help to Yugoslavia, the "conditio sine qua non" is to require from the Yugoslavian government the permission for legal opposition parties to act and work politically in the country, leading to free elections. These are necessary and sufficient conditions for any freedom; otherwise you will continue tyranny further and further, but not forever.

Finally, Mr. President, on behalf of all the Serbian people in the political emigration and of those living under communist tyranny in Yugoslavia, we appeal to you personally and to your Administration to permit to raise up in Washington, D.C. the monument for general Draza Mihailovic, the first guerrilla leader against fascisms, racisms, and later, communisms in World War II and truly the best ally of the United States.

With the most respect Mr. President, we beg you to accept our highest estimate and consideration.

In the name of the Serbian Movement for Democracy, we remain:

Very truly yours,


(Branislav M. Stanisic) Secretary



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

September 27, 1984 *in 42020*~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~MEMORANDUM FOR MR. ROBERT C. MCFARLANE
THE WHITE HOUSE

SUBJECT: Appeals to the Administration to Raise
up in Washington, D.C., the Monument for
General Draza Mihailovic

Attached is a draft reply to a letter to the President from Mr. Branislav M. Stanisic, Secretary of the Chicago-based Serbian Movement for Democracy.

The Department recommends that the subject of a monument to General Draza Mihailovic in Washington, D.C. not be referred to in the reply to Mr. Stanisic. The issue involved is not approval for the monument, which requires no approval from the U.S. Government, but the longstanding interest of Serbian emigre groups in the United States in obtaining approval for the monument to be built on Federal land. The Executive Branch has opposed this proposal for many years on the grounds that such approval would give precedence to Gen. Mihailovic's wartime role in rescuing U.S. airmen over the even more significant role of Marshal Tito and the Partisans in this respect. Such an act also would damage our bilateral relations with Yugoslavia.

Bruckley
Charles Hill
Executive Secretary

Attachment: as stated.

~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~ *in 42020*

37
Lester Kinsolving

JOINT AMERICAN CROATIAN ORGANIZATIONS OF CLEVELAND

280 East 270th Street, Euclid, Ohio 44132
1-216-261-4622

President Ronald Reagan
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Reagan:

In regard to the request made by Mr. Lester Kinsolving, a reporter for Globe Enterprise, on behalf of securing permission from the U.S. Government for a plot of federal property on which to erect a monument honoring the late Serbian, Chetnik General - Draza Mihailovich - for his role in saving American airmen during the war, Americans of Croatian descent have previously registered their opposition to this on the several occasions that this has been tried by Mihailovich supporters in the past. Once and for all Americans of Croatian descent wish that it be known that General Mihailovich is unworthy of honor in this country or in any other country, for that matter.

Saving American airmen does not exonerate General Mihailovich from the horrendous war crimes that his Chetnik forces committed against the Croatian Catholic and Moslem civilian population on the territory of the Croatian state during World War II. Instead of fighting the so-called "fascist" enemy on Serbian soil, which objective historians now claim as being the safest place during the war years for the German army, General Mihailovich chose instead to do his fighting inside the frontiers of the Croatian state. The reason was obvious. In true byzantine fashion, and with the propaganda support of the Serbian royalist government in exile, he therefore was able to conduct his war in the ways that would benefit Serbian population numbers on coveted Croatian lands.

Thus in order to lay postwar claim to Bosnia and other coveted parts of Croatia, including the southern Dalmatian coast, it was the aim of the Chetniks to kill as many Croatians as possible with the least possible loss to themselves, even if it meant cooperating with the so-called enemy occupiers whenever advantageous to them. This kind of cooperation was carried out with great relish in conjunction with Italian occupation forces along the coast, since Italy's coveting of the Croatian territory did not know any bounds either, and the two wound up as understanding bed partners. Also it was with even greater calculation that such killings took place against the defenseless civilian population in the Croatian hinterland, notably in Bosnia, where the Croatian Moslems were the chief victims of

roving Chetnik bands and the Drina river turned red with the blood of many thousands of slain villagers, mostly the aged, women and children.

It is no secret that in addition to the two occupying forces, Germans and Italians, on the Croatian state territory, the two domestic forces, Chetniks and Partisans, also were vying for postwar power; and in the process, it was the Croatian people who wound up as everybody's victims. What victims the Serbo-Chetniks missed during the war, the Serbian-led partisans more than made up for in the infamous massacres and death marches, euphemistically dubbed the Bleiburg Tragedy, which they perpetrated against the Croatian population after the war.

The point, Mr. President, is not whether Americans will be honoring a man whose military forces had saved American pilots (so did the Croatian state authorities for that matter), but that we would wind up honoring a man whose forces were without any real honor or national scruples, openly slaughtering so many innocent defenseless Croatian victims. These victims of the Chetniks are the very same ones which an agency of the U.S. Government, namely the OSI, has been ascribing to the state of Croatia during the war and more specifically, Dr. Andrija Artukovic, who ironically had a reputation within Croatia for saving lives.

The bitter truth we face is that if a monument were to be erected for General Mihailovic, it would be tantamount to the White House bestowing a blessing on the war crimes of the Serbian Chetniks. It would also serve to exonerate former Chetnik lieutenants living in this country such as Momcilo Djuc, who committed some of the most beastly atrocities against Croatian civilians that could be imagined. Such people who are already laughing at the unbelievable gullibility of Americans will continue to laugh even harder if the monument being proposed by certain misled political and media leaders is ever erected.

Sincerely,


Theodore B. Abjanic


Ivan Coric

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: AUGUST 19, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MAJOR RICHARD L. FELMAN RET.

SUBJECT: ENLCOSSES YUGOSLAV PUBLICATION REFERS TO
H.R. 77, THE MIHAILOVICH MEMORIAL

ROUTE TO:		ACTION		DISPOSITION	
OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
LINAS KOJELIS		ORG	85/08/19		
REFERRAL NOTE:					
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COMMENTS:

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: _____

PL MAIL USER CODES: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

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*                  *                  *CORRESPONDENCE: *
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*R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY *                  *                  *
*S-FOR-SIGNATURE      *                  *                  *
*X-INTERIM REPLY      *                  *                  *
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Tucson, Arizona

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ROBERT L. WILSON
Peoria, Illinois
NORMAN L. REID (RCAF)
Calgary, Canada
THOMAS R. BRADSHAW (RCAF)
Edmonton, Canada

Personnel involved in air
crew rescue operation

COL. ROBERT H. McDOWELL*
Clearwater, Florida
MIKE DEVJAK
Gary, Indiana
ARTHUR JIBILIAN
Tiffin, Ohio
CAPT. NICK LALICH*
Baltimore, Maryland
LT. ELLSWORTH R. KRAMER*
Arlington, Virginia
CAPT. JOHN MILODRAGOVICH*
Missoula, Montana
• LT. COL. GEORGE MUSULIN*
McLean, Virginia
CAPT. GEORGE VUJNOVICH*
Queens, New York

•Directors
•USAF Retired
†Rescued Canadian Airmen
Honorary Member

14th August, 1985



National Committee of American Airmen Rescued by General Mihailovich, Inc.

P.O. BOX 17478, TUCSON, ARIZONA 85731 (602) 885-7005

The Honorable Ronald Reagan
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The attached Yugoslav publication refers to H.R.77 - The Mihailovich Memorial; and is being forwarded to you for your information.

This news story invokes the name of "President Reagan" in gloating over how the communist government of Yugoslavia teamed up with the US Department of State to defeat the patriotic desires of the National American Legion and over 500 of its rescued MIAs. To my knowledge, this propaganda victory over American combat veterans is being heralded in news media in this country and abroad.

Permit me a most relevant quote:

"I WISH IT COULD BE SAID THAT THIS GREAT HERO WAS THE LAST VICTIM OF CONFUSED AND SENSELESS POLICIES OF WESTERN GOVERNMENTS IN DEALING WITH COMMUNISM....THUS THE FATE OF GENERAL MIHAILOVICH IS NOT SIMPLY OF HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE--IT TEACHES US SOMETHING TODAY, AS WELL. NO WESTERN NATION, INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES, CAN HOPE TO WIN ITS OWN BATTLE FOR FREEDOM AND SURVIVAL BY SACRIFICING BRAVE COMRADES TO THE POLITICS OF INTERNATIONAL EXPEDIENCY..."
.....Ronald Reagan, September 8, 1979.

This is indeed a very sad day for those of us who proudly served in the uniform of our country.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard L. Felman
Major USAF, (Ret.)
President

Attachments:

- H.R. 77
- "Illustrated Politics", Yugoslavia, July 2, 1985
- Ronald Reagan Letter, September 8, 1979
- Resolution, American Legion, October 4, 1978

Information Copies:

The Honorable George P. Shultz, Department of State
National Legislative Commission, The American Legion

A partial list of those who have supported General Drazo Mihailovich over the last 40 years includes: Presidents Harry S. Truman, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Richard M. Nixon & Ronald Reagan; The United States Senate, hundreds of U.S. Congressmen, Secretary of the Air Force Thomas C. Reed, the Department of the Interior, The National Capital Memorial Advisory Committee, U.S. Ambassador to Yugoslavia Laurence Silberman, House Committee Chairman on Foreign Affairs Clement J. Zablocki, U.S. Commission of Inquiry, The Arizona State Senate, Alaska Governor Ernest Gruening, Kansas Governor Alf M. Landon, Kentucky Governor Simeon Willis, Indiana Governor Robert D. Orr, Massachusetts Governor Edward J. King, Nebraska Governor Dwight Griswold, Texas Governor Coke Stevenson, Bishops Fermilian, Irmay & Manning, Alice Roosevelt Longworth, Gene Tunney, John Wayne, The American Legion, Polish War Veterans, Countless Local Veterans Organizations, The Heritage Foundation, Coalition for American, The New York Times, Washington Post, The Toronto Sun, Washington Times, Christian Science Monitor, etc. Special Mention: The Honorable Edward J. Derivinski and Historian David Martin.

H. R. 77

To authorize the National Committee of American Airmen Rescued by General Mihailovich to establish a monument to General Draza Mihailovich in Washington, District of Columbia, or its environs, in recognition of the role he played in saving the lives of more than five hundred United States airmen in Yugoslavia during World War II.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 3, 1985

Mr. CRANE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

A BILL

To authorize the National Committee of American Airmen Rescued by General Mihailovich to establish a monument to General Draza Mihailovich in Washington, District of Columbia, or its environs, in recognition of the role he played in saving the lives of more than five hundred United States airmen in Yugoslavia during World War II.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

That the National Committee of American Airmen Rescued by General Mihailovich is authorized to establish a monument on public grounds in the District of Columbia or its environs to honor and recognize General Draza Mihailovich for the role he played in saving the lives of more than five hundred United States airmen in Yugoslavia during World War II.

SEC. 2. (a) The Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the National Committee of American Airmen Rescued by General Mihailovich, shall select with the approval of the Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Planning Commission a suitable site on grounds owned by the Federal

Government in the District of Columbia or its environs for establishment of the monument referred to in the first section of this Act.

(b) The National Committee of American Airmen Rescued by General Mihailovich shall be responsible for the development of such monument's design and plans, which shall be subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Interior, the Commission of Fine Arts, and the National Capital Planning Commission. If the Secretary of the Interior, the Commission of Fine Arts, or the National Capital Planning Commission fails to approve or make specific objection to such design and plans within ninety days of submission, his or its approval shall be deemed to be given.

(c) Neither the United States nor the District of Columbia shall bear any expense in the establishment of the monument other than expenses incurred in the process of site selection and approval of design and plans.

SEC. 3. The Secretary of the Interior shall permit ground breaking for construction of the monument only after he determines that sufficient funds are available to complete the monument in accordance with the approved design and plans.

SEC. 4. The authority conferred by this Act shall lapse unless the construction of the monument begins within two years after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 5. The maintenance and care of the monument established under this Act shall be the responsibility of the National Committee of American Airmen Rescued by General Mihailovich.



Дража Михаиловић после хапшења

Америчка влада се противи предлогу нених својих пилота да се на тлу САД постави спомен-обележје злочинцу који је све време другог светског рата био на страни нациста. Последњих месеци, међутим, поново се распламсава кампања за ову акцију

КО У САД ПОДИЖЕ СПОМЕНИК ДРАЖИ МИ

ИЗДАЈНИК У СТР

Из Вашингтона је недавно стигла кратка агенцијска вест: „На ноћашњој конференцији за штампу, новинар непознате и периодичне публикације „Вашингтон гејд“ поставио је председнику Роналду Регану питање о подизању споменика Дражи Михаиловићу у главном граду Сједињених Америчких Држава.“

Из вести сазнајемо да је председник Реган избегао одговор:

— О томе ништа не знам, али ћу се распитати — рекао је новинару „Вашингтон гејд“.

Неколико дана пре тога, на конференцији за штампу у Стејт департменту, новинар „Вашингтон тајмса“ је поставио слично питање. Представник за штампу Бернард Келб је рекао да „о томе у Стејт департменту постоји формулисан став и да се новинар може са њим упознати“.

Иначе, тај став гласи: „Америчка влада разуме жеље авијатичара који хоће да подигну споменик Дражи Михаиловићу јер их је он спасао у другом светском рату. Међутим, као што је био случај и у неколико претходних администрација, обавестили смо Конгрес да смо против подизања таквог обележја на тлу федералне територије. Нисмо против одговарајућег признавања улоге југословенског покрета отпора (мисли се на покрет отпора у прошлом рату), али не можемо подржати такав облик признавања који подразумева давање наше подршке једној, а искључивање друге стране...“

„Вашингтон тајмс“ је одмах реаговао уводником „Истина о Дражи Михаиловићу“. Ово гласило америчких конзервативних снага се у том напису залаже за подизање споменика.

У протеклим месецима поједини конзервативци, неки чак и из реда конгресмена, оживели су захтев да се Дражи Михаиловићу подигне споменик „у знак захвалности“ што је за време другог светског рата, наводно, спасао групу америчких пилота.

„Вашингтон тајмс“ у свом уводнику, поред осталог, истиче да „са закашњењем од четрдесет година истина о Дражи Михаиловићу, југословенском патриоти и хероју другог светског рата, излази на површину. Његова биста може чак бити подигнута и у Вашингтону, што може узнемирити Стејт департмент, који опет више воли да остане приклоњен клеветам које фабрикују совјетски агенти и оном на чему и даље инсистира југословенска влада“.

Лист још додаје да „Стејт департмент не брине о томе шта је

то историјска истина и да ли треба одати почаст људима који то заслужују. Зато ће Министарство, ако процени да ће биста Драже Михаиловића наљутити југословенску владу, саветовати да се она не подиже“.

Уводничар се залаже да „коначно треба признати наш дуг према човеку који је, за време другог светског рата, спасао од нациста ништа мање него 518 припадника америчких ваздухопловних снага“. О другим Дражиним „заслугама“ ни речи. Са стране „Вашингтон тајмса“ читаоци сазнају како је Михаиловића „продао“ заменик британске обавештајне службе у Каиру Џејмс Клугмен, који је, иначе, био „совјетски агент и близак сарадник шпијунског мајстора Филбија“. Они су, наводно, спречили да савезничко оружје дође до Драже, па је отишло Титу „који је убио Михаиловића под оптужбом за колаборацију“.

Идеја да се у САД подигне спомен-обележје Дражи Михаиловићу није нова. Званично је обелодањена јануара ове године.

Шта пише Милош Человић?

Познати десничарски конгресмен Филип М. Крејн, из 12. изборног округа државе Илиноис, упутио је америчком Конгресу нацрт закона

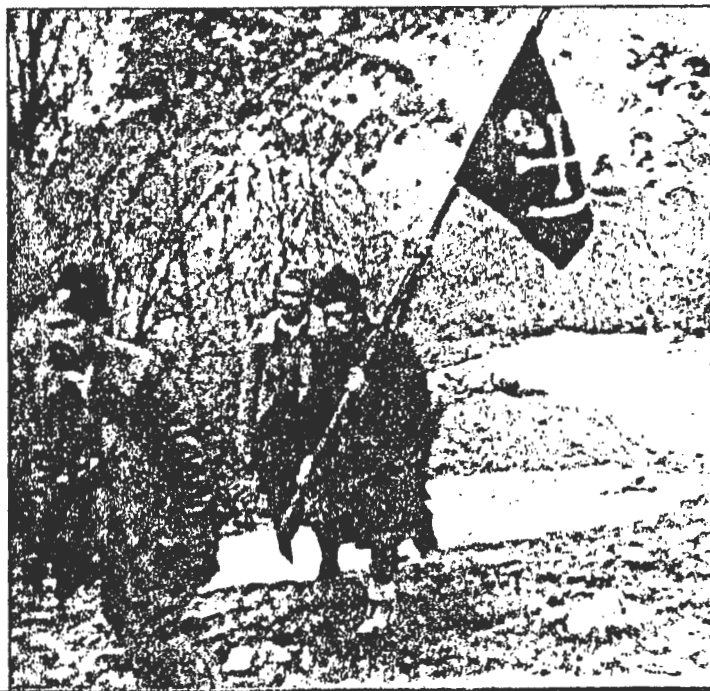
Х. Р. 77 у којем тражи дозволу да се Михаиловићу подигне споменик у Вашингтону и захтева да се за то овласти Главни одбор америчких авијатичара које спасава генерал Михаиловић.

Посебно је занимљиво Крејново писмо које је упутио својим истомишљеницима у Конгресу. „Ја сам предложио Х. Р. 77, закон којим се тражи допуњење, барем делимично, једне од највећих историјских неправди другог светског рата — за коју америчка и британска влада сноси једнаку одговорност. Као један од истакнутих југословенских бораца за слободу, генерал Дража Михаиловић је играо видну улогу у пођењу слог народа у отпору против немачке окупације која је почела априла 1941. Иако је Михаиловић готово две године био сматран великим херојем читавог европског покрета отпора, Черчил га је изненада напустио упркос оградама САД.“

Овај конгресмен још додаје како су Дражини четници спасавали америчке пилоте из оборених авиона и отуда њихова жеља да му се одуже.

С времена на време у САД се распламса кампања за ову акцију коју су одавно покренули чланови „Националног одбора америчких авијатичара“. Удружење, иначе, има веома мали број чланова.

Добри познаваоци прилика међу



ОЈУ ХЕРОЈА

Југословенима у САД знају да је деја о подизању споменика има пуну подршку прочетничког „Српског народног савеза“ на чијем се челу налази Боб Стоун — рођени Раде Стојановић.

На Стојановићеву адресу је недавно стигло писмо Милоша Чедовића, обућара, пореклом из бачког села Надаља, иначе више од 60 година члана „Српског народног савеза“.

Чедовић замера свом председнику у Питсбургу што мије ништа предузео да се осујети идеја о подизању споменика јер „Српски народни савез“ представља најмањинију организацију Срба у Америци.

„Наша организација се искоришћује за недостојне и срамне сврхе“ — пише Чедовић Стоуну — „које наш народ није заслужио пред културним народом...“

Овај есекадшиш Бачевини сматра да би Стоун (Стојановић) морао нешто да предузме како се не би срамотио пред личним пријатељима.

— Наша организација није својина неколицине чланова, већ организација свих нас чланова у СНС — подсећа Чедовић. — Пре неколико месеци си организовао излет за чланове СНС када су посетили места злочиначких и зверских дела усташа. Дела која су срамотила цео хрватски народ, не само у Хрватској, већ у целом

свету. Ми у Америци смо били срећни и сложни сарађивали са свим Словенима у САД у борби против неправде која је за време другог светског рата чинена Југославији. Пошто си водио групу да виде гробове усташких злодела у Јасеновцу, сада би требало да поведеш људе да виде шта је учинио и твој пријатељ поп Момчило Ђурић — у села Гате и Омиш у Далмацији. Тај га народ тамо тражи не да га да Титу, већ да му он суди за злочине које је тамо починио...

Чедовић писмо завршава поруком: „Ето, брате Стоуне, буди ми јунак, Србин, и допринеси нешто добро својем народу, да те се дуго сећамо...“

Не знамо да ли је Стојановић одговорио Чедовићу, али је сигурно да га његово писмо није много узбуђило — и не мисли да се супротстави идеји о подизању споменика. Иза „Српског народног савеза“, то се добро зна, стоји поп Момчило Ђурић, заповедник озлоглашене четничке Динерске дивизије, чији су „војници“ остали запамћени у Далмацији и око Книна.

Реаговања „Заједничара“

Неколико недеља после подношења предлога закона Х. Р. 77, реаговао је „Заједничар“ — лист Хрватске братске заједнице у Америци, која постоји већ 91 годину, а од око 100.000 чланова има — 20.000 Срба и више хиљада других народа и народности из Југославије. То је она организација која је 10. јула 1941. осуђила такозвану Независну Државу Хрватску као „вештачку, ненародну творевину“ и од председника Рузвелта тражила да никако не призна Павелића.

У првом реаговању „Заједничар“ објављује отворено писмо свим сенаторима у америчком Конгресу, позивајући их да осујете Крејнов план.

„Ово није први пут“ — пише лист — „да америчка влада настоји да подигне споменик овом озлоглашеном нацистичком сараднику који је одговарао за смрт неколико хиљада Хрвата, Срба, Муслимана у другом светском рату. Ми постављамо питање зашто би Конгрес САД одао признање човеку који се раме уз раме борио са нацистичком војском против Америке и њених савезника. Зашто се, опет, настоји да се након четрдесет година прогласи херојем. Зашто увеличавати човека кога је његов народ осудио на смрт?“

Лист Хрватске братске заједнице упозорава да већ сама чињеница да се о споменику говори у

»OUR PRESIDENT RESPONDS«



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

February 19, 1985

Mr. Bernard M. Luketich
National President
Croatian Fraternal Union
of America
100 Delaney Drive
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15235

Dear Mr. Luketich:

President Reagan has asked me to reply to your letter of February 5, 1985, which concerns legislation introduced in the U.S. Congress to authorize construction of Federal Government property of a monument to General Draza Mihailovich. We understand that this legislation, H.R. 77, has been introduced in the House of Representatives and referred to the Committee on House Administration.

The Administration has informed the Congress that, as in the past, it opposes adoption of this legislation. We understand the desire of American servicemen to recognize rescue operations carried out in Yugoslavia during the Second World War and recognize their right to build a monument in recognition of those events. It is clear, however, that the wartime role of General Mihailovich and his followers remains a subject of great historical controversy, and that the number of airmen they rescued represented only a small part of the total saved by the Yugoslav resistance as a whole. As a result, we oppose erection of a monument on Federal land to General Mihailovich or any other resistance leader.

Sincerely,
Richard E. Coombs, Jr.
Richard E. Coombs, Jr.
Director
Office of East European
and Yugoslav Affairs

Писмо у којем се каже да се влада САД противи подизању споменика.

Конгресу представља „велику уреду сваком америчком војнику који је био у другом светском рату, скрнавима имена оних који су положили свој живот бранећи ову земљу“.

Закључак је „Заједничара“ да „нема места за ратног злочинца и „услужног“ савезника Вашингтону, у главном граду ове наше велике земље... Сједињене Америчке Државе и Дража Михаиловић немају ништа заједничког. Био би то не само жалостан дан за Америку, већ и велика увреда“.

Истовремено, Бернард Лукетич, председник Хрватске братске заједнице упутио је и писмо председнику Роналду Регану.

У име председника САД, Лукетичу је одговорио Ричард Комбс, директор Одељења за источноевропске земље и Југославију. Он га обавештава да је „Одељење администрације обавестило Конгрес да се и овога пута као и досад, одбија дозвола за издавање одобрења за подизање споменика Дражи Михаиловићу“.

Комбс још додаје како је „савијем јасно да је улога генерала Михаиловића и његових следбеника у другом светском рату историјски још недовољно јасна и контроверзна, те да је број pilota које су они спасили само мали део у поређењу са бројем оних које су

спасили чланови покрета отпора у Југославији. Због тога одбијемо и не прихватамо подизање споменика...“

Истине ради мора се рећи да је поред свих 518 pilota што су се, како се тврди у америчким конзервативним изврсима, принудно спустили на територију коју су држали четници у току другог светског рата, пало још 2.350 Американаца. Њих су спасли партизани или припадници и симпатизери народнослободилачког покрета. О томе се у америчкој штампи готово и не говори. А управо то је податак из америчких извора, који је и те како био доступан новинарима у САД.

После реаговања „Заједничара“ и Хрватске братске заједнице, крајем ове године, чинило се да ће идеја о подизању споменика спласнути. На жалост, непосредно након посете председнице СИВ Милке Планинци Америци страсти су се поново покренуле — конзерватори у поређењу са бројем оних које су ватинне снаге, уз помоћ четничке емиграције, желе пошто-пото да Михаиловића сврстају у строј са америчким херојима који су се у другом светском рату борили против фашизма — коме је, иначе, Дража верно служио.

Радивој Ковачевић



RONALD REAGAN

September 8, 1979

Mr. Michael Radenkovich
Vice President
California Citizens' Committee to
Commemorate General Draja Mihailovich
P. O. Box 1617
Santa Monica, California 90406

Dear Mr. Radenkovich:

Please convey to the California Citizen's Committee to Commemorate General Draja Mihailovich my sincere appreciation for their kind invitation to attend tonight's dinner to commemorate General Mihailovich. Unfortunately, prior commitments prevent me from being with you.

I believe that the spirit in which you have gathered here to honor the memory of General Mihailovich, the faithful allied commander and the first anti-Nazi leader in Europe, is shared by the great majority of Americans.

The ultimate tragedy of Draja Mihailovich cannot erase the memory of his heroic and often lonely struggle against the twin tyrannies that afflicted his people, Nazism and Communism. He knew that totalitarianism, whatever name it might take, is the death of freedom. He thus became a symbol of resistance to all those across the world who have had to fight a similar heroic and lonely struggle against totalitarianism. Mihailovich belonged to Yugoslavia; his spirit now belongs to all those who are willing to fight for freedom.

I wish it could be said that this great hero was the last victim of confused and senseless policies of western governments in dealing with Communism. The fact is that others have suffered a fate similar to his by being embraced and then abandoned by western governments in the hope that such abandonment will purchase peace or security.

Thus, the fate of General Mihailovich is not simply of historic significance--it teaches us something today, as well. No western nation, including the United States, can hope to win its own battle for freedom and survival by sacrificing brave comrades to the politics of international expediency.

Mr. Michael Radenkovich
September 8, 1979
Page Two

Your dinner therefore commemorates something more than the legacy of patriotism and heroism that Michailovich left us. You commemorate the principles for which he fought and died. And you remind our nation that abandonment of allies can never buy security or freedom. In the mountains of Yugoslavia, in the jungles of Vietnam, wherever men and women have fought totalitarian brutality, it has been demonstrated beyond doubt that both freedom and honor suffer when firm commitments become sacrificed to false hopes of appeasing aggressors by abandoning friends.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ronald Reagan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

RONALD REAGAN



ATTACH = 1
Page 1

Statement of
The American Legion

1608 K STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006
(202) 393-4811

BY
E. PHILIP RIGGIN, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION
to the
SUBCOMMITTEE ON LIBRARIES AND MEMORIALS
HOUSE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE
U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

October 4, 1978

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee:

I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to present to you the views of The American Legion in support of erecting the Mihailovich monument. We believe the monument to be a modest, but fitting tribute to a man whose actions during World War II epitomized the entire Allied effort to save Europe from Nazism.

The contributions of General Mihailovich to the Allied cause were significant. His treatment of American airmen shot down behind enemy lines is particularly inspirational to the millions of veterans in this country who can still recall with vivid detail their participation in the struggle against the Axis powers.

It is indeed tragic that his actions have never received the recognition they deserved, that the post-war political scene in Eastern Europe has made it more diplomatically expedient to ignore the man than to honor him. Now is the time for you and your colleagues in the House to voice your dissatisfaction with the political entanglements that have delayed this simple act of gratitude for so many years. Approval of a monument to General Mihailovich for saving 500 American lives is not an endorsement of his political philosophy or a condemnation of Marshal Tito's. There is absolutely no reason why an action of this sort should have any legitimate impact on U. S. efforts to continue to improve diplomatic communications with the Yugoslavian regime. Surely, Marshal Tito cannot feel threatened by posthumous recognition of a political foe who has been dead for 30 years.

The American Legion's appreciation for General Mihailovich dates back to before his death in 1946. At that time our organization insisted upon U. S. intervention to insure that General Mihailovich received a fair hearing while being tried for "treason" by the Tito government. Our official position

*

on the matter was embodied in the following Resolution:

"Whereas, General Draza Mihailovich was personally responsible for saving the lives of approximately 600 American airmen forced down during the war over territory in which men under his command were operating, and,

"Whereas, General Mihailovich's aid and assistance to such American airmen, at considerable risk to himself and members of his command, is prima facie evidence that he was not a collaborationist, and,

"Whereas, it is apparent that the Communist government of Marshal Tito is intent upon giving General Mihailovich a summary and unfair trial of the kind which characterizes Soviet justice,

"Therefore, be it resolved that the American Legion petition the United States government to exert its influence by every possible means to insure a fair and impartial trial for General Mihailovich in return for the generous aid and assistance accorded American airmen, and

"Be it further resolved, that the American Legion further petition the United States government to withhold all financial aid, UNRRA supplies and other assistance from Tito's government and all persons and territories within Marshal Tito's command and/or control until such time as a fair and impartial trial by an inter-allied tribunal is guaranteed General Mihailovich."

The American Legion has maintained an interest in the Mihailovich matter throughout the past 30 years and has been particularly supportive of actions to honor him posthumously. Our current position derives from Resolution No. 312 adopted in August 1977, a copy of which is attached to this statement. You will note in reading the resolution that we perceive the monument to Mihailovich to be simply an expression of gratitude by 500 American airmen.

These 500 airmen, represented by the National Committee of American Airmen Rescued by General Mihailovich, have agreed to fund the construction and maintenance of the monument. There is absolutely no commitment of federal appropriations. The Airmen Committee is merely seeking Congressional permission to erect the monument on federal property in the District of Columbia.

It appears to us that a visible memorial located here in Washington, D. C. where millions of Americans visit every year will provide the maximum benefit to the greatest possible number of our citizens by exposing them to the Mihailovich story; yet, those same people will not be burdened by its cost.

The American Legion has examined the Mihailovich issue very closely over the past several years, assisted by the decided advantage of 30 years of hindsight. We believe our position in 1946 to have been a valid one and no international political development during the intervening years is seen as a sufficient reason to prohibit 500 soldiers from publicly thanking a man for saving their lives.

Mr. Chairman, I again extend my appreciation for the opportunity to present the views of The American Legion.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Date: 9/3

TO:

Linas Kojelis

FROM:

PAT BUCHANAN

- ☐ Action
- ☐ Comment
- ☐ Let's Discuss
- ☒ FYI

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REAGAN'S (?) STATE DEPARTMENT'S BELGRADE KNEE-BENDING

Even as this nation's heart is deeply concerned with American hostages -- 39 released, one tortured and murdered, and seven still kidnapped -- another group of Americans who were rescued, met in Washington.

They are the surviving remnant of a national organization of the more than 500 American fliers who were rescued forty years ago from the Nazis. Ever since, they have been desperately trying to pay appropriate tribute to the Serbian general whose National forces rescued them, when they were shot down over Yugoslavia.

What they believe is appropriate, (and are willing to provide at no cost to the taxpayers) is a simple pylon, to be erected on federal property in our nation's capital. At the base of this pylon, there would be a bronze tablet with the following wording in a citation which -- for the only time in American history -- was censored by the Department of State.

The citation was issued by order of President Harry Truman, upon recommendation of General Dwight Eisenhower:

The Legion of Merit, in the degree of Chief Commander, is awarded for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service during the period indicated, is awarded, posthumously, to the following officer:

GENERAL DRAGOLJUB MIHAILOVICH
Yugoslavian Army, December 1941 to December 1944

Incredibly, and without parallel in U.S. history, this high ranking decoration, for rescuing more than 500 U.S. fliers, was kept classified -- by request of the State Department. Then, in 1967, Illinois Republican Congressman Ed Derwinski learned of this award-censoring and made this decoration of Gen. Mihailovich known to the public. The communist government of Yugoslavia was furious, since they have for generations been circulating the disinformation that Mihailovich was a Nazi collaborator, who therefore justified being tried and executed, by the Tito government, in 1945. (A Moscow show trial following months of Mihailovich being subjected to horrendous tortures.)

Former Congressman Derwinski is now the legal counselor for the State Department. So, being under the authority of Secretary George Shultz, he is unable to continue his work on behalf of this Mihailovitch Memorial.

Yugoslavia's government is incensed by the idea of Gen. Mihailovich's Legion of Merit not only being made known, but erected in a monument on federal property -- because no such decoration was made by President Truman to Tito.

The reason that Tito was not similarly decorated -- despite his Partisans having rescue many American airmen, too -- is seen in OSS records which were only recently declassified. For in August of 1944, the Director of the OSS, Gen. William Donovan, sent into Yugoslavia one of his most competent agents, a Lt. Col in the Army Rangers and longtime professor of Balkan History at the University of Michigan, Robert H. McDowell. His assignment was to investigate reports that Mihailovich was collaborating with Nazis -- which had been claimed by one James Klugman, ranking officer of British Intelligence in Cairo.

In a 29-page report dated November 29, 1944, Col. McDowell disclosed that there was no evidence whatever of any such collaboration by Mihailovich. Quite to the contrary, however, Col. McDowell reported that Tito's forces had attacked Mihailovich's Nationalist forces from the rear while they were attacking the Nazis.

This, and the later exposure of Klugman as a communist spy (and associate of master KGB mole Kim Philby) should have served to exonerate Mihailovich. So should the historic fact that from March 1941, when the Nazis invaded Yugoslavia, until they invaded the Soviet Union, Tito's Partisans assisted the Nazis, even to the extent of turning in their countrymen who resisted the invaders.

At a July 12th hearing on the Mihailovich Memorial Bill, Maryland's Republican Representative Helen Bentley declared: "It is reprehensible that we still hear Klugman's material -- and that the State Department still swallows that Communist line."

Bentley, a former reporter, was followed by Georgia Republican Newt Gingrich, who declared: "We have a State Department in contradiction with the President."

Gingrich's contention was evident in a letter written by Ronald Reagan in September of 1979, which spoke of "General Mihailovitch, the faithful Allied commander and the first anti-Nazi leader in Europe...I wish that it could be said that this great hero was the last victim of confused and senseless policies of western governments in dealing with Communists. The fact is that others have suffered a fate similar to his, by being embraced and then abandoned by western governments, in the hope that such abandonment will purchase peace or security."

As if on cue, the State Department's Deputy Assistant Secretary For European Affairs, Mark Palmer, told this Congressional hearing that the Government of Yugoslavia has said that this erection of such a memorial would be "a deliberate and unfriendly act." Therefore, said Palmer, "The Administration" opposes any such monument, "on public ground".

This insufferable knee-bending to Belgrade -- this allowing of a Communist government to tell the United States what monuments we can erect in our nation's capital -- moved one of the American fliers, Lt. Col. Charles Davis of Falls Church, Va. to quote President Reagan again: "It is not the business of other nations to make U.S. foreign policy." As for Congressman Gingrich, he asked this State Department official to step out of the jammed hearing room and into an adjoining room. Even with the doors shut, Gingrich's voice could be heard, in full-throated Georgia oratory concerning what he thinks of this kind of sickening appeasement.

Palmer did not say that President Reagan had actually, himself, converted his convictions. But Palmer mentioned that Reagan had met with Yugoslavia's Prime Minister (as if mere meeting means capitulation). For the idea that Ronald Reagan has flip-flopped on this issue in ~~11 days~~ ^{one week} ~~more than~~ seems preposterous. ~~For~~ Only eleven days previous to Palmer's statement about "The Administration," the supposed head of that Administration, when asked by me at a televised news conference, quite honestly told the world that the State Department had been opposing this Mihailovich Memorial Bill without his consent -- or even his knowledge. And he added that he would be asking about this immediately after the conclusion of the news conference.

This bill's author, Illinois Republican Phil Crane, charged that the State Department's Richard Coombs is guilty of "a clear misrepresentation of the President's position" in writing to Crane's co-sponsors of the Bill: "President Reagan has asked me to reply to your letter" -- when President Reagan, as revealed on TV, knew nothing about what State was up to. And when Crane sent a letter of complaint to Secretary Shultz about this outrage, the reply came not from Shultz, but from the outrageous one.

It is sad that President Reagan could not have been present to meet these rescued fliers, OSS officers, and Serbian-Americans from all over the nation. They are a wonderfully warm, grateful and dedicated people; a gathering which ~~helps make~~ ^{helps make} this the home of the brave ~~and~~ who deserve far better support from their President.