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Front cover: University of Zagreb, established in 1669 - Coat of Arms.
Back cover: Content; Fragment from Kula near Benkovac, 12th century; Museum of Early Croatian History, Split, Croatia

Editor's Note

Cybernetic definition of time in Croatia:
Past: all possibilities are closed before the "Storm"
Present: one possibility can be realized: the "Storm"
Future: all possibilities are open: after the "Storm"

The time of this issue of Gaudeamus is post "Storm" time. That is why we have two articles dedicated to the four day operation of liberation of the Croatian territory which had been occupied for four years by rebel Serbs. Any other topic becomes less important compared to this news, even "The Liberation of Western Slavonia" which we considered the top story "before the Storm".

Where have you been during the "Storm"? On Friday, August 4, 1995, I was in Zagreb. On Thursday evening people were whispering about the mobilization that took place the previous night. On Friday evening I was close to the School of Philosophy building when the general alert siren went off. I joined the people who went into a shelter. Only one bomb exploded somewhere in the fields south of Zagreb. For me going to a shelter was a precious experience which helped me to understand a little bit of what people in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina have been going through for the past four years, if only they had a shelter.

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AMCA Toronto Honours Its Past President

By Valentina Krčmar

On June 30, 1995 AMCA Toronto had a farewell - testimonial dinner for its past president Dr. Ivan Hrvoić, whose term of office was very recently completed. The dinner was held in the "Croateria" restaurant in Mississauga and quite a few AMCA members came to wish their best to our friend and past president Dr. Hrvoić and to thank him for the work he has done. The dinner, as usual, was excellent (thank you "Croateria" restaurant). Dr. Hrvoić's long time friend and AMCA vice president Vlado Benkovic was the master of ceremonies of that enjoyable, but quite contemplative evening. Some of the friends and co-workers of Dr. Hrvoić said a few fond words about him, his life and work in Croatia and here in Canada, all in jest, so we laughed a lot, but still underneath there was a sense of loss. A beautiful present, to remind him of his days as AMCA's president, was given to Dr. Hrvoić - a red and white stylized replica of the Croatian coat of arms - a very fitting gift for a great patriot.

The dinner was a great success: many came to enjoy yet another AMCA get-together, most came to say good-bye to the "old" president and to meet Dr. Bezjak, the new one. However, at the conclusion of this article it would be only fair to say a few more words about Dr. Hrvoić, my friend and mentor.

When this horrible aggression on Croatia started, Dr. Hrvoić was one of the first individuals who began to work feverishly for our homeland Croatia. In the first days of the war, when AMCA was organized, Dr. Hrvoić was the one who said its course - to play a leading role in the life of our community. Normally, he was always present, he encouraged people to work, organized political meetings, wrote letters to many newspapers and official bodies of the world governments, organized work among Croats here in Canada, initiated better coordination between various organizations, and gave his best for our AMCA. Since I was together with him on the Executive Board, I would like to add a little personal observation: AMCA's meetings were, thanks to Dr. Hrvoić, always very organized and productive. We worked hard, but we also laughed a lot. Our meetings were long - almost always more than 4 hours - but, when you work hard and can also laugh a lot, time goes by fast!

There are many people who worked hard during these 5 years here in Toronto, but few of us could come close to Dr. Hrvoić. Nothing was too difficult for him, or too complicated, he always had a solution. After working closely with Dr. Hrvoić for a few years there are no words to emphasize what he meant to all of us here. Many of us came to him for advice, for support, for a shoulder to lean on or cry on", yes, Dr. Hrvoić was and is our friend. We know that once again we have elected a good man to be the president of our AMCA, however he will have "a pair of large shoes" to fill. Dr. Ivan Hrvoić was really a special president who defined AMCA and gave it its special position and place in Toronto and Croatia. We will miss him a lot in this position but we hope that he will find another position in our Croatian community here: he is too valuable to stay inactive.

Dr. Hrvoić, thanks for everything.

Heart in the Middle of the World

Exhibition of Children's Visual Expression of War, North York Public Library, North York, September 1-29, 1995

By Darko Desaty, Ph. D.

AMCA Toronto presented to the Canadian public for the second time an exhibition of drawings and paintings created by Croatian and Bosnian children displaced from their homes by the war in 1991. The works of art produced by refugee children not only reflect the horrors they had to witness but also show the original approach used to neutralize the trauma inflicted on these children. Allowing them to express their fears and frustrations in drawings, a road to their recovery started.

The collection of pictures is the result of the work of Prof. Emil R. Tanay and his team in Zagreb, Croatia, with refugee children from the age of 4 to 14, who became speechless during the war. Prof. Tanay introduced a unique rehabilitation program through verbal and visual expression. (For the history of that program see Zlata Blažina's article "Children's Art in Times of War" in Gaudeamus, no. 11-12, 1994, pp. 8-9)

At the official opening of the exhibition on September 9, representatives of AMCA Toronto and the Croatian Consulate in Toronto were present. Mr. Vladimir Benković greeted all the participants and gave due respect to Mr. Davor Grinwald and Višnja Brčić for their expert mounting of the displayed art and text. Dr. Marica Čunčić gave a short history of the collection and an introduction to the contents of the displayed works with a special emphasis on the message of love Croatian and Bosnian children have conveyed in spite of their affliction and suffering. This message of love and hope is expressed in the title of the exhibition: "Heart in the Middle of the World."

The event was announced in the local libraries, schools, newspapers. CBC TV broadcasted at prime time an interview with Mr. Benković and Dr. Čunčić presenting some of the exhibited artwork.

* About the first exhibition "Children Here and There" in the First Canadian Place, Toronto, November 1994-January 1995, organized by AMCA Toronto and Toronto Board of Education see Marica Čunčić's article "Children Here and There" in Gaudeamus 13-14, 1995, pp. 5-6 (Ed. note)

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Distinguished Croatian Historians Visiting AMCA Quebec

By Zlata Blažina, Montreal

The International Congress of Historical Sciences, with more than 3,000 participants from 80 countries who made 270 presentations, was held for the first time in Canada at the Montreal Palais des Congres from August 27 to September 3, 1995. During the Congress, the Croatian National Committee of Historical Sciences, represented by Prof. Franjo Sanjek, president, Prof. Mirko Valentić, vice-president and Dr. Alexander Buczynsky, secretary general of the Committee, became a regular member of the International Committee of Historical Sciences. This membership represents a significant step forward for Croatian historians, for from now on, they will have the opportunity to present the results of their research through this prestigious organization. The Congress dealt with three major themes: Nations, Peoples and State Forms - Changing forms of Nationalism; Role of Gender and Male-Female Relations; Peoples in Diaspora.

Dr. Ivan Čizmić, of the Institute for the Study of Croatian Diaspora in Zagreb, participated in the round-table discussion under the title Emigrant Nationalism; Role of Gender and Male-Female Relations; Peoples in Diaspora.

Dr. Alexander Buczynsky, a Dutchman from Utrecht, earned his Ph.D. in history at the University of Zagreb, has written more than 50 scientific articles on Ottoman expansion in the Balkans, Croats in the Burgenland (Gradiščanski Hrvati) and the Military Borderland (Vojna Krajina). To the AMCA audience, he spoke about the ethnic origins of Serbs in Croatia and Bosnia-Hercegovina and their migrations. With Dr. Buczynski graciously accepted the invitation of AMCA Quebec and on Aug. 30, 1995 made a presentation in the AMCA Series of lectures on Croatian History, held at the McGill University. Prof. Valentić, who teaches Croatian history at the University of Zagreb, has written more than 50 scientific articles on Ottoman expansion in the Balkans, Croats in the Burgenland (Gradiščanski Hrvati) and the Military Borderland (Vojna Krajina). To the AMCA audience, he spoke about the ethnic origins of Serbs in Croatia and Bosnia-Hercegovina and their migrations. While trying to explain the situation created in the last four years, he harked back to the Ottoman invasions in the 15th and 16th centuries. The most devastating period for Croatia was during the 15th and 16th c. when, due to persistent Ottoman invasions, it was reduced to the so called religiue religiarum of a once significant kingdom. With each new wave of the Vlachs, remnants of the indigenous inhabitants of the Roman Empire migrating from the East, Croatian social structure was subjected to ethnic, cultural and religious changes. At the same time Croats became refugees in the neighbouring countries on a massive scale. Once Hungary was defeated by Turks in 1526, the Croatian Parliament elected a Habsburg, Ferdinand I, to be their king and provide solid military support against the Ottomans. The Habsburgs organized and financed the Military Borderland along the Croatian border. In order to stimulate the colonization of the Military Borderland, the Austrian authorities offered various privileges to the Vlachs migrating from the territories occupied by the Turks. The new colonists were slow to adapt to the way of life of the native Croatian population. This resulted in many conflicts which were exacerbated at the end of the 18th c. when Serbization of the Vlach population occurred, said Prof. Valentić.

Dr. Alexander Buczynsky, a Dutchman from Utrecht, earned his Ph.D. in history at the University of Zagreb with a thesis on the Military Borderland in the 17th and 18th century. He explained that after the liberation of most parts of Croatia from Ottoman occupation, the Military Borderland was not disbanded. The male population was turned into regular soldiers. Since financing the army became a problem, the Austrians began encouraging the development of towns such as Senj, Petrinja, Karlovac and Bjelovar in order to raise taxes. In the 18th c., the Age of Enlightenment brought new ideas, among them freedom of movement for people and merchandise. At first, artisans and traders from other Croatian, Czech and Austrian regions moved to these towns. Afterwards, permission was also granted to traders from Serbia to establish themselves there. Serbian merchants tried to politicize the Borderland Serbs often siding with those political forces which were opposed to Croatian national consolidation and sovereignty. In 1881, the Military Borderland was abolished and the region united with the rest of Croatia. Recent events become more transparent, if we view them from the historical perspective, concluded Dr. Buczynski.

Prof. Franjo Sanjek, dean of the Faculty of Theology at the University of Zagreb, where he teaches historical sciences, is a Dominican father. He is a prolific writer with many monographs under his helm. Since 1977, he is also editor of the periodical "Croatica Christiana Periodica". In his lecture, Prof. Sanjek discussed the loss of more than 400,000 inhabitants or almost half the population of Croatia, due to Ottoman invasions. As proof of the Croatian determination to overcome this calamity, he cited the most prominent Croatian contributions to the European political and cultural scene over several centuries. He mentioned humanists like Ivan Cesnicki, (1434-1472), alias Janus Pannonius, who tried to get diplomatic and military assistance for the defence of Croatia against the mighty Ottoman Empire. Marko Marulić (1450-1524), a Latinist and one of the first literati to write in the Croatian language, also asked the Popes Leon X and Hadrian VI to protect his compatriots from the Ottoman rule. Krsto Frankopan Brinjaki, in his letter to the Pope in 1523, insisted on the fact that Croatia was the antemurale christianitatis, the bulwark of Christianity. He also argued that if Croatia were to be occupied by the Ottomans, there would be no other obstacles to their invasions further into European territory. The Pope, realizing the precariousness of the situation, sent letters to all neighbouring rulers asking for help. From that time on, the Popes supported Croatia in its struggle against the Ottomans. Prof. Sanjek also explored the contributions of Croatian intellectuals to the development of sciences in Western Europe as early as the 12th and 13th c. Herman Dalmatin, a philologist influenced by the tradition of the Salemitan school, translated from Arabic into Latin The Elements by Euclides, and The Planisphere by Ptolemaeus, providing European scholars with the first opportunity to study mathematics as a science. His partial translation of Avicennas Canon helped broaden medical knowledge. As a sign of gratitude and respect, his Benedictine brothers from Cluny named him Petrus Venerabilis. Cont. on the next page.

Prof. Buczynsky, Prof. Valentić and Prof. Šanjek at McGill University

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Award of Merit
To Prof. Tefko Šaračević

By Vesna Blažina, Montreal

On October 11, 1995, Prof. Tefko Šaračević, a member of the Mid-Atlantic AMCA, received the Award of Merit, the highest award given by the American Society for Information Science (ASIS) in recognition of his contributions to the field of information science.

Prof. Šaračević studied electrical engineering at the University of Zagreb, Croatia, and completed his master (1962) and Ph. D. (1970) studies in information science at Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio. He taught and conducted research at Case till 1985, when he moved to Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N. J.

Over the years he conducted research and published widely on test and evaluation of information retrieval systems; notion of relevance in information science; human aspects in human-computer interaction in information retrieval; user and use studies in information science and librarianship, and studies of user-derived value of information and library services. As principal or co-principal investigator he has received research grants from the National Science Foundation, National Institutes for Health, Department of Education, Council for Library Resources, the Rockefeller Foundation, Unesco, and several other national and international organizations.

Active internationally, particularly in relation to information problems in developing countries, Šaračević was for over a decade involved with the Rockefeller Foundation in design, deployment, and evaluation of compact high-quality, low-cost medical information systems in developing countries. As a visiting professor at three universities abroad he worked and consulted with a number of international organizations. He has given seminars, lectures or courses, consultations, and presented papers at international meetings in 31 countries.

Prof. Šaračević was the president of the American Society for Information Science (ASIS) in 1991. He received the ASIS Outstanding Information Science Teacher Award in 1985; the 1989 Best Paper Award in the Journal of the American Society for Information Science; the Rutgers University Board of Trustees Award for Excellence in Research in 1991.

Prof. Šaračević has been a member of a number of editorial boards. Since 1985 he is the Editor-in-Chief of the international journal Information Processing & Management. In 1994 he was a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Zagreb, Croatia.

The name of Tefko Šaračević comes inevitably to mind when considering the emergence of the field of information science. Through more than two decades his research productivity has been prolific. His research has inspired a new generation of information science researchers to push the boundaries of the field.

Professor Šaračević has dedicated his life as a scientist not only to performing significant information science research, but also to its dissemination. His concern for the international aspects of information and his enduring dedication to international cooperation has influenced a whole generation of information scientists on every continent. Throughout his career, he has spread information science and the centrality of research to the field around the world. His commitment, reputation and evident impact on the development of information science and information systems worldwide, especially in less developed countries, is indelible and profound.

The American Society for Information Science recognizes Professor Tefko Šaračević with the 1995 Award of Merit for his tremendous and enduring contributions as a leader, a scholar, a teacher, a consultant, and an ambassador for information science with a unique national and international stature.

You may contact Prof. Tefko Šaračević at School of Communication, Information and Library Studies, Rutgers University, 4 Huntington Street, New Brunswick, NJ, 08903 e-mail: saracevic@zodiac.rutgers.edu

CROATIAN LANGUAGE

HISTORIANS Cont. from the previous page:
Augustin Kažotić, a graduate of the University of Paris in 1287, founded the first academic courses, Artas liberales, at the bishopric of Zagreb. He also showed foresightedness in establishing medicinal gardens within the school compound.

Vinko Paletin's works about his exploration of Mexico and his encounter with the ancient Aztec and Maya people of Yucatan, mark the beginning of the Croatian cultural ties with the American continent. Paletin witnessed the conquests of the Spaniards in Central America and tried to reconcile the conquistadors' motives with the basic human rights of the Aztecs and the Maya. In an effort to shed light on Paletin's 16th c. writings in terms of the contemporary scholarship, prof. Sanjek recently published Paletin's texts in Spanish together with his Croatian translation.

As a way of conclusion, Prof. Sanjek stated that he regards Croatia as a unifying force of the Western ecumene. The lectures were followed by a lively discussion with the guests answering numerous questions from the audience.

Croatian Recognized Among World Languages

Several years ago the International Organization for Standardization - ISO, in Switzerland, again included Croatian in the list of world languages. In their bulletin ISO 146 from 1988 were published the names of 146 languages, including Croatian which was abbreviated as hr. Thus Croatian was once again among the world languages after it was omitted in 1970, by the influence of Belgrade. This is very important for the Croatian linguists because the ISO's names of languages oblige their use in terminology, in lexicography, linguistics, and everywhere where a definition of a language is necessary. Besides Croatian, there is Serbian (sr) and Serbocroatian (sh). In the ISO tables with UDK numbers where languages are arranged according to families, Croatian has its separate number 862. Serbian has 861, Serbocroatian does not have its separate number, it derives from Serbian and Croatian: 861/862.

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A new chapter of Croatian history was opened at the beginning of May this year: in a bold and decisive move, the Croatian police and special units liberated the area of Western Slavonia which was held by Serb forces since 1991. This action has shown the world and the aggressors that, if need be, Croatia can and will take the necessary steps to regain control of the territories still occupied by Serbian rebels and their accomplices. The significance of this action is such that we compiled the highlights from different news sources and recorded them here for our readers.

The Novska-Dragalići section of the Zagreb-Lipovac highway was closed for security reasons on April 29, 1995, after an incident occurred the day before in which three civilians were killed. Five people were taken prisoner by rebel Serbs, in exchange for a Serb from the occupied area, who was allegedly injured in Novska. The Croatian police blocked the highway after UN troops closed the road to all traffic except official UN, European Commission Monitor Mission, International Red Cross and UNHCR vehicles.

The UN Secretary General's special envoy, Yasushi Akashi, expressed the hope that the Zagreb-Lipovac highway, would soon be open. The Defence and National Security Council was informed that the Slavonia highway incidents were being investigated and that the exact number of the killed and wounded had not yet been ascertained, neither was it known how many Croatian citizens had been arrested and taken to the occupied area. The Council was informed of robberies and murders by armed groups that took place Friday (April 28) and Saturday (April 29). Particularly brutal was an armed attack on a van. UNCRU forces did not take adequate steps to prevent attacks on citizens who wanted to travel in peace.

On April 30, 1995, the Defence and National Security Council decided that investigation of the incidents should proceed. Croatia consistently followed its policy of seeking that normal traffic be ensured on the Slavonia highway and that the possibility of further incidents on this communication, which is of significant economic importance to Croatia and the international community, be prevented.

On May 1, 1995, a general alert was sounded in Osijek because Serb terrorists again used their weapons. Baranja County Prefect Branimir Glavaš addressed citizens in a radio broadcast and called on them to show maximum caution, to act appropriately to the newly-arisen situation as during the most difficult times in the Serbian aggression on Croatia.

Croatian police entered the Zagreb-Lipovac highway section in the Serb-occupied Croatian areas in order to secure safe traffic along the road. Croatian police had to take such measures in order to prevent later terrorists from attacking vehicles and passengers driving along the highway section from Novska to Dragalići.

Rebel Serbs from the occupied parts of Western Slavonia shelled Pakrac hospital and the southeastern unoccupied part of the town. Clashes were going on in the temporarily occupied village of Seovica south of Pakrac. Croatian police forces with tanks were at both accesses to the Serb-occupied section of the Zagreb-Lipovac highway, they entered the camp of Jordanian UN battalion near Novska, and the zone of separation at both sides of the highway. Several shells landed at the Jordanian base and three Jordanian soldiers were gravely wounded.

Serbs kidnapped 26 observers of the UN Civilian Police near Okučani and raided the UN storage depots in the occupied villages of Rajići and Cage to grab heavy weapons. UN soldiers held most of their positions but they were not able to move because of the fire. Serbs fired a shell at Lipik and wounded a man who was taken to Kutina hospital. The Croatian police forces have gradually been taking control of the highway's occupied section between Novska, some 90 kms southeast of Zagreb, and Nova Gradiška, some 120 kms southeast of Zagreb advancing toward the occupied town of Okučani moving from Novska at one end and from Nova Gradiška at the other end of the occupied highway's strip. They entered Jasenovac, some 90 kms southeast of Zagreb, near Novska. Serbs kidnapped 15 Nepalese UN soldiers.

In the evening, Croatian television crew reported that Jasenovac was liberated in the same morning by Croatian police forces. Camera showed the Jasenovac Memorial (to World War II victims) which Serb media claimed had been destroyed in action. The local Catholic church had been pulled down, while the Serbian Orthodox church stood unharmed. Serb bunkers near the Jasenovac memorial had been abandoned without struggle, the reporter said. According to this television report, Croatian police and territorial units also liberated the village of Gorice near Nova Gradiška, and Croatian forces were still advancing in other parts of the Nova Gradiška municipality.

Croatian Foreign Minister, Mate Granić, talked by telephone with the EU Commissioner for Foreign Affairs, Hans van den Broek, and German Foreign Minister, Klaus Kinkel, to inform them of a limited Croatian police action in western Slavonia. Mr. Granić also wrote to Mr. Kinkel on behalf of President Tudman, responding to some issues raised by Kinkel in his letter of May 1. Here are some highlights:

"We do appreciate your concern as to the future of the peace process in the region, and Croatia in particular. But at the same time I would like to assure you that a strictly limited, and, in terms of scope and duration, clearly-defined action, such as the one that is being undertaken by the Croatian police and local territorial defence units in Western Slavonia, could significantly speed up and contribute to further enhancement of the peace process itself. The constant harassment, and repeated terrorist acts - including several cases of murder and abduction of Croatian citizens - along the occupied part of the Zagreb-Lipovac highway and the surrounding area have proven to be a great impediment and obstacle to further progress in the process of re-integration. Such outrageous terrorist acts have also caused a great deal of concern and alarm among the Croatian public. In many ways the credibility of the Croatian Government was at stake when it comes to international as well as Croatian public opinion. The limited action in Western Slavonia does not mean that Croatia is giving up on the peace process. Just the contrary, the peaceful re-integration remains the pillar of the Croatian policy. We also sincerely hope that UNCRU will be able to fulfill its mandate" concluded Granić.

The Government of the Republic of Croatia called once again on all Serbs from the occupied territory to accept peaceful reintegration into Croatia's constitutional system. On the basis of already adopted laws, the Croatian state guarantees to all its citizens safety and peaceful life. This also includes the implementation of the Abolition Law. The Croatian government was aware of the fact that the majority of the Croatian citizens of Serb nationality were forced by Serb extremists to fight for the rebels' aims and against their own interests and the interests of their state and homeland. The Croatian government expressed their concern over possible casualties among Croatian citizens and called therefore on all citizens of Serb nationality in the occupied territory not to resist the legitimate action of the Croatian Interior Ministry but to use legal rights to stay in the Republic of Croatia.

Assistant Minister of Interior Affairs, Mladen Lacković, said that Serbs in the occupied areas have been repeatedly warned about possible consequences of their provocations and incidents, in which several people have been killed. "I don't think any country would have tolerated such actions any longer," Lacković said. Croatia had attempted to resolve the situation in cooperation with the international community, but all its efforts were in vain. Another two people were wounded when a civilian

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The Croatian government has again called on all armed Serb citizens in Bosnia and Herzegovina to return home. The government says that those who remain will face the full force of the law.

Croatian forces made a successful breakthrough in the afternoon, advancing toward the village of Okučani. Any advance of Serb armoured units from Bosanska Gradiška was successfully prevented. The enemy suffered great losses and had to concentrate on maintaining control over Okučani and the road to Bosanska Gradiška. The local population in Okučani was being evacuated and there had been clashes between (Serb) civilian and military authorities. Unable to withstand the Croatian forces, the enemy shelled civilian targets in the free territory under the pretext that the Jasenovac memorial had been destroyed.

The Croatian government has again called on all armed Serb citizens in the temporarily occupied areas to lay down their weapons and not to oppose the legitimate action of the Croatian police. "We guarantee to all those who do so that they will enjoy full civil rights granted by the Constitution. The Amnesty Act is also in force and will be implemented," General Tolić said. Serb terrorists from the occupied areas around Pakrac fired on a police patrol near the village of Ožegovci, and injured two persons. According to police, a car with Osijek license plates drove from Pakrac to Ožegovci, under cover of fire, opened by a group of terrorists. One of the wounded persons was admitted to Kutina hospital, whereas the other injured person, who was in the car, was not found at the site of the incident afterwards. The police started the search for him. The person in the hospital suffered wounds to his left upper arm and left upper leg, inflicted by fire arms, and sustained injuries to his head from physical abuse.

On May 2, 1995, Croatian police and territorial defence forces joined at the highway. The town of Okučani was freed, and the purpose of the limited police action was fulfilled. The Government required from the Transport and Communications Minister Mudrnić to create in the next 24 hours prerequisites for normal traffic along the highway, and in the further 48 hours conditions for the reopening of the railway. By the end of the week, normal traffic along the highway and railway was restored from Croatia through Western Slavonia to Eastern Slavonia. A police station was set up in Jasenovac. Establishment of police stations in other liberated towns and villages would guarantee law and order as well as full security to the people who were to return to their homes.

Premier Vladić once again called on all Serbs, particularly those who live in the Pakrac area, about 100 kms east of Zagreb, to lay down their arms and thus to avoid further casualties. "The Croatian State guarantees them security and civil rights, except war criminals on the grounds of international conventions," he stressed and called on the refugees to return to their homes. "Croatia remains committed to the peaceful reintegration of its occupied territories, and will act consistent with the letter and the spirit of the Presidential Message of Support," Nobilo concluded in the letter.

The Croatian government has called on all armed Serb citizens to return home. Those who remain face the full force of the law. The government says that the operation to reopen and secure the highway and railway is complete, and safety and security is being restored to the area.

"In the course of the operation to reopen and secure the highway and the railway, every precaution has been taken to ensure the safety and security of the civilian population in the area of operations. The Government has issued clear statements that relevant authorities have no intention of continuing with their police action once the limited action aimed at restoring the security of the highway and the railway has been completed. Presently, the relevant Government authorities are negotiating a safe disbanding of some 600 Serbian paramilitary troops in a Western Slavonia enclave. To the contrary, the Serbian paramilitary units have deliberately targeted the civilian population of Croatia's capital city, and other population centres. My Government can interpret this action as a sign that the Serbs in the occupied territories want to continue their terrorist actions. The Croatian Government shall not respond to these terrorist attacks, notwithstanding the fact that they caused a total of twelve fatalities. Should, however, these attacks continue, Croatia shall be compelled to respond and disengage the positions of the Serbian paramilitary forces, taking into consideration the continuing safety of the Serbian civilian population in the areas of the attack. Croatia remains committed to its long-standing policy of negotiation and peaceful reintegration of its occupied territories, and will act consistent with the letter and the spirit of the Presidential Message of Support," Nobilo concluded in the letter.

On May 2, 1995, three citizens were killed and four gravely wounded in a Serb artillery attack on Novska and it was in the state of alert. The classes in schools were cancelled and kindergartens closed in Novska and the nearby town of Lipovljani. The same day Croatian police forces took control of Gavrinci, the Serb occupied part of Pakrac. Croatian police also controlled the villages of Donji Čaglic, Bolejanovac, Kovacinec and Bijela Stijena, south and southwest of Lipik, about 100 km east of Zagreb. Croatian officials negotiated with rebel Serb authorities in an effort to find a peaceful solution.

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Liberation of Croatian Territory

Operation "STORM": The Liberation of "KRAJINA"

Compiled and edited from data on Internet by V. Benković

On August 3rd 1995, it was clear that the final decision to liberate the part of Croatia called "krajina", held by the rebel Serbs, had to be made. News from Geneva confirmed earlier estimations that the Serb leaders were not taking seriously the determination of the Croatian state to end their rebellion and secession. Looking back on that Thursday a few significant facts become evident: The international situation was particularly favourable for Croatia; Americans were furious at the Serbs for running over Srebrenica and Zepa and they tacitly considered Croats for the fastest and most efficient aid to Bihać. The Croatian Army had rapidly mobilized its reserve forces. In addition to 80,000 soldiers and officers a further 70,000 were mobilised (the Croatian Home Guard of the 2nd echelon) and 50,000 more in the third echelon. There was not a town or urban area not participating in this major defense operation. 25 fully equipped brigades stood at positions facing the rebel area.

Well-informed analysts believed that it was not going to be a restricted action this time. Croatia would go all the way regardless of the warnings from its allies that the rebel army would be strong or even unbeatable. Germans believed that the Croatian military intervention was unavoidable. American intelligence expected Croats to succeed, provided they were able to wrap up the operation within 7 to 10 days with losses of about 1000 dead and wounded. No one assumed that "Storm '95" was planned to be even faster. Continuous demoralization of rebel Serbs could not be stopped by a professional soldier like General Mile Mrkić. Mrkić received his instructions from Belgrade to reorganize the "krajina" defense and make it more flexible, but he was unable to finalize this task. Tactical and strategic estimations were considered by the Croatian leadership ten days before Operation "Storm" started. The conclusion was unanimous: Serbia won't intervene for reasons of inner instability including the political-ideological conflict between Radovan Karadžić and Milan Martić and also in order to fulfill Milosevic's ambition of getting the economic sanctions of the UN lifted by the beginning of October.

President Tuđman wanted everything to be checked once again. Before signing the order for the Operation "Storm" he raised four important questions concerning the major aims of the attack, the method of achieving them, the situation of the Croatian Army and the update of the situation of the enemy army. The planners of "Storm '95" carefully looked into all scenarios. The Minister of Defense, Gojko Šušak, and top military and intelligence personnel of the Croatian Army knew that the rebel troops represented a mosaic of incoherent military formations and expected them to breakdown within 5 to 7 days. According to the latest available data president Tuđman expected the collapse to come even sooner, especially having in mind the psychological impact on the rebels of the realization that Belgrade had abandoned them.

Croatian preparations could not be hidden because of the army's mass mobilization throughout Croatia. Thus the surprise factor couldn't be counted on as in all the earlier operations, but this was not considered a drawback. On the contrary, the public demonstration of the military build-up was an additional psychological pressure on the rebels, who were constantly using the "might" of their armed formations as a means of dissuading the Croats from making a serious attack. Even before the meeting in Geneva, the insurgents in Knin were somewhat in a panic. Declaring a state of war, the rebel leaders made efforts to strengthen their formations and to gather 50,000 men (5,000 to 10,000 were in the combat age group while 20,000 were younger or older).

The rebel military leadership estimated that the major Croatian strikes would be from Banja, Kordun and Lika, in order to break the siege of Bihać. Because of that their so called 15th, 21st and 39th corps were strengthened with additional reservists and two thirds of the heavy weapons were concentrated in the triangle Petrinja - Karlovac - Glinia. The so called Seventh corps and the not so heavy weapons were left to protect Knin and "Northern Dalmatia", which was obviously insufficient, since the Croats were evidently accumulating their troops around Zadar, Šibenik and Sinj. There were offensive Croatian actions from the Grahovo region as well as the permanent endangering of Strmica in order to open a direct access to Knin.

Although the threatening signals from Zagreb were increasing on the eve of the operation "Storm", rebel leaders decided once again that they could count on the rapid military support of Bosnian Serbs (air force and 10,000 men) Milan Martić was insisted that Belgrade wouldn't remain passive this time. Although the nervous Serbian negotiators from Geneva sent the message that the Croatian attack was imminent, General Mrkić considered it to be his basic force of 37,000 men was sufficient to confront the Croatian offensive and to resist for 10 days. 17,000 men of the so-called "army of the republic of Serb krajina" in eastern Slavonia were to immediately start actions on the front line and, in a strategy of retaliation, put pressure on Osijek and Vinkovci thus forcing the Croats to transfer part of their reserve forces to the eastern front and giving them relief in the defense of the northern parts of "krajina".

It seemed as if nothing was going on along the 700 km front line at 3 a.m. of August 4. But numerous Croatian cannons, howitzers, mortars, rocket launchers and recoilless cannons were ready to fire. An hour later, UN peace forces in Croatia were officially informed that the unavoidable military and police operation would start, with the purpose of reestablishing the constitutional rule, law and order in the so called sectors North and South. In the next 60 minutes nothing happened that would disturb the hot and humid dawn. And then, exactly at 5 a.m. the artillery strike, like no other before it, started. At the same moment all the way from the North to the South the command echoed: "Fire!" The roar of the Croatian artillery broke the morning silence waking up the sleepy Serbian quasi-republic. The Serb rebels did not expect that so much steel would fall over their heads so soon. Although they knew that the Croats were superior, their propaganda claimed that the "krajina" fighters are not afraid of "Croatian slings". But after only ten hours of fighting, the Serbs started to fall apart. Instead of attacking the fortified North, the Croats tightened the noose around Knin trembling from the shell detonations which were destroying military targets. The events started to unfold rapidly, much faster than anyone believed possible. Here is the abbreviated chronology:

4th August
Operation "Storm" begins at sunrise 5 a.m. The "Storm" that swept away "Krajina" in only four days. While electronic media were broadcasting President Tuđman's address to the Croatian citizens of Serbian nationality, guaranteeing them all rights, and calling upon paramilitary troops to surrender their weapons, offering them amnesty, the Croatian Army and police started the liberation of the so-called sectors North and South which had been occupied for four long years.

"Following a decisive and forceful action, Croatian troops penetrated the 700 km long front lines in 30 spots, in the areas of Bjelovar, Zagreb, Karlovac, Gospić and Split", read the statement at a press conference in Zagreb. The same afternoon, Croatian air force launched a rocket attack and disabled the Serbian Radio and TV transmitter Čelavac. The penetration depth of Croatian forces ranged between 5 and 15 km. The first day of action ran according to schedule. The liberation of Sveti Rok was the great success. Knin was already encircled and Croatian troops were close to the town. In response toUnexpected Miller attacks the Ministry of Defense stated that the Croatian Army in its action of liberating its territories did not demolish towns or kill civilians. UNPROFOR was informed about the action before it started. Nevertheless, a few incidents took place and led to the loss of two Czech UN soldiers. Serb rebels tried to strike back by attacking civilians in Sisak, Šibenik, Otočac, Gospić, Ogulin...
Liberation of Croatian Territory

5th August
At noon the news broke: Croatian troops entered the city of Knin. Knin is free! On the Croatian medieval Knin fortress a 20 meter Croatian flag was raised. The surrounding villages and towns of Vrlika, Kijevo, Dmiš, Žimići, Benkovac, Gračac, Lovinac, Ljubovo were liberated as well. By the evening 80% of the plans were carried out. Serbian civilians were fleeing from the area following the orders of their leaders, in spite of repeated calls made by Croatian authorities to remain in their homes. The Croatian Army secured the corridors for their retreat through the towns of Srbi and Dvor. The cities of Petrinja, Glina, Udbina and Slunj were encircled and about to be liberated.

The establishment of the civilian authorities started immediately. The first to become organized were the local police stations. Police station at Vrlika, Lovinac and Gračac had their plaques hung up in the presence of Ivan Jamjak, Minister of Internal Affairs. At the same time the Serbs retaliated in their usual way, shelling civilians in Županja from Bosnia, while Osijek, Vinkovci and Nuštar were shelled from the rebel positions in eastern Slavonia. Karlovac and Dubrovnik were attacked too by enemy artillery fire.

While Croatian troops were advancing in the liberation action, Croatia was celebrating, opening bottles of champagne. People were laughing and crying at the same time. Happy about the victory that was won, President Tudman, escorted by his closest assistants, joined the celebration on the Ban Jelačić square in Zagreb.

6th August
Croatian forces joined with HVO (Croatian Defense Council) and the 5th corps of the Bosnian Army on the border between Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia on the river Korana near Tržaška Raštela. It was clear then that the Bihać enclave was saved and that the strategic Serbian communication Bihać - Knin was cut. Police stations were established in Knin, Dmiš and Kijevo. 24 hours after it was liberated, President Tudman visited the ancient Croatian town of Knin, where he was met by the 4th and the 7th brigade of the Croatian Army. "The liberation of Knin means more than just a liberation of Croatian territory and a Croatian town. It means creating conditions for the stability of the Croatian state for centuries ahead", President Tudman said. Dr. Tudman and his wife Ankica were accompanied by the President of the Parliament, Nikica Valentić, Deputy Prime Ministers Dr. Mate Granić, Borisлав Škogro, Dr. Ivica Kostović, Minister of Defense, Gojko Šušak and many others. They were met by Ivan Jamjak, Minister of Internal Affairs and Ivica Mudrinić, Minister of Maritime Affairs, Traffic and Communications who stated that in no more than two weeks the rail road Zagreb-Knin Split will be fully operational.

The Croatian Army liberated Petrinja. At about 11 PM Gliina changed hands. It was one of the strongholds of Serb rebellion. The so called "krajina" had ceased to exist. Slunj, Kostanjica, Plitvice Lakes, Obrovac were liberated. Major General Ivan Tolj once again called on rebel Serbs to give up their weapons and surrender. Their military forces were shattered: the 21st corps (it surrendered on the 8th of August) was encircled and the 15th and the 39th corps faced a similar situation.

7th August
The towns of Turanj and Tušilović were freed on the last day of Operation "Storm" giving relief to the inhabitants of Karlovac who came out to the streets of the town to celebrate peace after 4 years of bombardments, alerts and sirens. The Serb rebels were forced to leave Vojnić and Topusko, Gomji and Donji Lapac. Faced with a total military defeat in Croatia, Serb planes took off from the Banja Luka airport and launched attacks on several Croatian cities. Two casualties and 11 wounded were reported. Two "Eagle" planes were shot down while attacking Mačkovac and Savska Bok.

At 6 PM Gojko Šušak, the Croatian Minister of Defense, announced the end of operation "Storm" from the military point of view. Police actions remain to be carried out for some time to come. Rebel Serbs surrendered in the Banovina region. The Croatian Army took positions on the internationally recognized borders of Croatia. 118 Croatian soldiers fell in action and 620 were wounded. Their supreme sacrifice for the liberation of the occupied territories and for the freedom of Croatia shall never be forgotten.

In four days of major operations the Croatian armed forces completely surrounded the rebel "krajina" with methodical and continuous pressure of their formations. "Krajina" was like an almond which suddenly found itself in the nut-cracking pincers. Objections that too much force had been used are absurd. In the war for liberation, only exaggerated force is sufficient.

The Freedom Train: On the First Zagreb-Split Ride
By Zdravko Weing, Secretary, AMCA Toronto

What a ride! It is truly impossible to capture with any other words the deep impressions left upon me after traveling on the first train from Zagreb to Split, following the liberation of a major occupied part of Croatia - only approximately 4.5% of Croatia's land mass now remain occupied by Serbian rebel forces. Hopefully, not for long.

I was fortunate enough to be a participant in this historical event. The ride lasted from eight in the morning until six in the afternoon, with several stops, and covered 433 kilometres, of which over 300 were under rebel control. Finally, this economically vital artery between Croatia's interior and the Adriatic coast became unclogged. I gazed with awe at the immense beauty of my homeland. We passed through diverse geographic regions, each one unique in its beauty - from fertile fields and lush forested hills, through rough rocky mountains, until finally we reached the unparalleled azure Adriatic Sea.

Although I have lived most of my adult life abroad, the feeling of belonging to this beautiful country, the feeling of having my roots deeply entrenched in Croatia, was overwhelming. That my sentiments were not superficial was confirmed by a fellow traveler, a third generation Croatian-Canadian, who wrestled with the same hair-raising emotions during and after the trip.
And how to describe all those people lined up along the route, and those assembled in Zagreb, Karlovac, Gospić, Knin and Split? The sight was staggering. The warmest greetings poured from every window, every backyard, every field, every crossroads, every passing car and truck; and all were generously reciprocated by us, the arriving passengers. The streaming of emotions on both sides could not be interrupted either by the train’s speed or by the glass windows separating us. What projected such great hope for the young country was the fact that in each hamlet, village and town along the route, beside old country women and men, there were children of all ages. We all greeted, mostly with a victory sign, the countless soldiers along the route, as they, in reality, made this train ride possible. Several ladies in my coach were admittedly overwhelmed by the fearless and youthful look of these statuesque defenders of our country.

And at every stop, there was dancing and singing by local folklore ensembles, flag-waving and applause from thousands of people, formal military salutes from honour columns of soldiers and sailors, and familiar tunes performed by military bands. Local mayors and county chairmen greeted the passengers. Several ministers and other dignitaries from the train were greeted by the crowd, but by far the biggest thunder of applause was heard during the several speeches delivered at every station by the Croatian President, Mr. Franjo Tudman. Two should be of particular interest for us, the Croats living throughout the world. One addressed the bright future of Croatia, which the President described as a land of wealth and opportunity. The other was the repeated call for all Croats, and their children, now strewn throughout all five continents, to return to Croatia and to share in its riches and in the building of its future. President Tudman didn’t merely invite all of us back home, but he also promised to create an environment conducive for such a return, and he requested all those in power to help us to settle, work, and establish businesses there. We can join the several thousand of our compatriots who have already done so - keeping in mind that, among them, are three ministers in the current government and many more in responsible positions with government agencies and business corporations.

During the long ride, foreign diplomats that I spoke with were impressed by the fact that there were no Serbian Orthodox churches destroyed; that all homes, apartment buildings and factories stood undamaged - all contrary to what they had heard from various foreign sources. The ruined homes spotted along the route were clearly demolished years earlier, obviously by the rebels. These diplomats eagerly waited for the return flight to Zagreb, to be able to cable their governments of the misleading information about massive property destruction by Croatian forces.

The crowning moment was the welcome by some one hundred thousand residents of Split assembled for the occasion at the Riva, the most famous of all Croatian waterfronts. This spontaneous assembly triggered by the sheer patriotism of the local populace, surpassed in number those (some of you may remember) that were forcibly staged by the former communist regime. The scene was unforgettable. The welcome dais was flanked, on one side, by the remnants of the summer palace built by the Roman emperor Diocletian and, on the other side, by the blue sunlit harbour dotted with countless white boats, and the impressive gray-coloured flotilla of the Croatian navy. The Riva was covered wall-to-wall by overjoyed people and thousand flags. Speeches and a rich entertainment program lasted beyond my predetermined late-night departure from Split. Oh, how I wished to stay there longer!

In my family album, the most prominent place will be reserved for a snapshot of me at the Knin railway station, with the city name now written in the for me-readable alphabet. In the background, high above the city, the historical citadel of Croatian kings stood crowned with a Croatian flag measuring no less then twenty meters in length. The most memorable moment, besides a very short chat with the President, was a joyous encounter with two childhood friends spotted among thousands of cheering people assembled in my hometown. The most unforgettable passenger on the train was a Croatian mother, who had lost four sons in Vukovar and four brothers during WW2, and whose two daughters and six grandchildren are still in uniform. Incredible.

After a short flight back to Zagreb, the emotions and sights impressed in my heart and mind during the whole day lasted long into the sleepless night. No doubt, an unforgettable trip. I wish you all could have been there too. While this particular trip cannot ever be repeated, I invite you to another one in the near future, the one to Vukovar and Banja. I have already asked a diplomat from Bosnia-Hercegovina, who sat beside me on the train, to invite me to a similar train trip through her country. I will be writing about it soon, God willing. All in all, the trip of a lifetime.

Canadian Croatian Seminar for Teachers of Croatian Language and Culture

By Marica Ćunčić

Canadian Croatian Congress organized a Seminar for all teachers and coordinators of the Croatian schools in Canada on June 2 and 3, 1995 in Oakville, Ontario, Canada. It was attended by 92 participants.


The round table participants next day in the morning: Zdravka Bušić, Dr. Vinko Grubišić, Fr. Ljubo Krasić, President of the Canadian Croatian Congress, Andelko Mijatović, Ljilja Vokić, Ana Prkačin, Supervisor of International Languages at elementary level at Halton Roman Catholic Separate School Board and main person responsible for organization of the Seminar.


Conclusion took place in the Croatian Roman Catholic church with mass and reception afterwards. The Seminar was a success except for attendance. Let’s hope that next time it will be better attended.

Croatian school in Vancouver

During this Conference mentioned above I had a chance to get the information about the Croatian school in Vancouver. It started in 1972 in the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church Hall. The first teachers were parish priest and nuns. About one hundred children enrolled. The classes were held on Saturday mornings. The next school year number of students increased and space in Britannia High School was rented. Over the years attendance varied. Sometimes it was as many as five hundred. Now the school is on Friday evenings in Notre Dame High School. There are grades from kindergarten to grade eight. Teachers are three nuns, priest and five lay persons. The principal of the school is the priest. They prepared their own text books.

In 1994/95 there were 230 students. Since Croatia is free, people visit their homeland and interest in the Croatian school diminished. Majority attends the Croatian school because of the preparation for the First Holy Communion and Confirmation.
Aggression on Croatia And Bosnia Herzegovina
In Literary Expression of School Children

By Marica Ćunić Ph. D.

After the fall of Vukovar, 350 Croatians, wounded women, children and soldiers were tortured by Serbs. Their throats were slit and their bodies dumped in a massive grave nearby Ovčara. Three survivors have reported this to the International War Crimes Tribunal. This is how Pavao Posilović described horrors in Vukovar:

When the enemies entered Vukovar they set all on fire, including the house of little Kata. They shot her father, they took captive her mother. Kata did not want to go to the shelter, and she describes what she saw: "I saw how they were throwing people into a pit, they set them on fire, they were beating them, went over them with tanks, took off all their clothes so that they were naked, they cut their skin, buried them alive, raped them, pulled children out of their mothers’ wombs. Unfortunately, the world does not condemn them." Pavao Posilović, Grade 6 student, Toronto: True war stories., Osvit No. No. 23, Toronto, March 1994.

What children say about aggression on Croatia is overwhelming not only because of the number of children traumatized in war, but also because of the intensity of the experience of fear and horror. If children are sensitive to fiction or nonfiction tragedies, how much more are they sensitive when tragedy strikes them. Josip Jakulić, grade 6, from Toronto writes:

This is the story of one little boy. "The war came. All are in fear and I run to warn everyone. I shout that they go in the shelter. The bombs were falling down. Brave soldiers are fighting for Croatia. Before night the shooting stopped. Half of the people are dead, many wounded, small children are crying. I too was crying when I saw my father dead on the floor." Osvit No. No. 23, Toronto, March 1994.

When children’s rhyme “Ladybird, ladybird, fly away home, your house is on fire, and your children all gone” becomes reality, the worst scenario is that the “ladybird” is your mother. Then, if their wings did not burn, the “ladybird” is your mother. From the village that flew into heaven” Hallo! Earth cannot hear you. Good bye! From the book: “Vukovar-Croatia”

Transformation of the event into a telephone conversation is an artistic decision. Facts about atrocities are mentioned in a matter-of-fact style. There is a want between the UNICEF did not do it did not stop the aggressor in the first place. The sarcasm is clear through simplicity of details. This work is a piece of literature.

Children created not only shocking reports, prose, poetry, but also letters. Croatian schools in Ontario encouraged students to write letters to their peers in Croatia. They talk about war as if they were in Croatia, they expressed their sorrow because of tragedies, and hope that Croatia will one day be a free and happy country. But a very special letter was written by a grade 8 student from Split, who was the president of the UN Club at the elementary school “Split 3”. He wrote to the Secretary of the UN in November 1991:

Your Excellency,

Tragic exile of Croatians continues. Lines of humiliated people, children and elderly who escaped bullets and executors threats of killing are leaving their homes. The number of refugees from the crisis regions of Croatia will rise up to tragic proportions and endanger Europe. Non humans responsible for this crime, especially against us children, will encounter the worst fate - their own children will be ashamed of them.

You have heard about Zadar, Split, Šibenik and Dubrovnik. You have been to the Adriatic coast, but during some happier times. We cry over destroyed heritage, you would cry too.

You admired our Sea, it was blue, now it is bloody. Dear friends from all over the world stopped coming to us. The same Sea is now covered by war ships that kill the cities with centuries old tradition and good people of these coastal towns. They are destroying Croatian past. They want to annihilate us completely. Why? Because we want to be free and independent on our soil. Be with us! We ask you. Do not wait until they destroy our homes, schools, kindergartens, our childhood, all that is part of our life. We are filled with pain, we yearn for peace, for the recognition of our Croatia. We ask the world organization of United Nations to help.

Your excellency! Children from Split are begging you, from Diocletian town. The whole Croatia is pleading. Save us from this hell. We want to live. Know that the heart of a young Croatian is knocking on the door of Europe. We want to be part of the democratic world. We want happy childhood and future. We have a right to it. The international community has to take a side with the victims, justice and freedom. The bestial attacks of the aggressor have to stop.

Century old Croatian fire-places have to be rekindled. Croatia has to become a happy country. Help us!

In the hope that the United nations will hear the voice of the crying we greet you.

In the same school in Split the students produced a unique book “Gardistima s ljubavlju” (To Croatian Soldiers With Love) which consists of almost 40 letters of encouragement and admiration for what Croatian
The common denominator of all these letters is love, hope and faith in God, in victory of goodness over evil, in Croatian soldiers. In the opening poem of the book To Croatian Soldiers With Love it is expressed very well:

War is evil.
War is sprouting from hatred.
War bears darkness. Chokes man.
Because of that our works are made of love by which we want to shout with joy and reach the SUN
and reach GOD
reach FREEDOM
and this way suppress the pain that poured over
OUR LOVELY HOMELAND
with the desire to annihilate it.
We will carry our little loves through the darkness of this dirty war.
And we will win!

Children meditate about Christian values of love and forgiveness:

This dark side of heart starts slowly as LOVE, slowly it grows into something that destroys, it becomes leaden HATRED. It crushes our hearts, the wall of love is giving in ... we must not allow it to enter ... we must not hate ... we must try to forgive, we must!
Marko Golub, grade 8, Gradistina s ljubavlju, Osnovna škola “Split 3”

Children know the politics. And they have their opinions. A grade ten student of Toronto writes about the first anniversary of the Croatian independence:

We are very happy that we are recognized by many states. We expected diplomatic relationship with Canada sooner. We expected help, but the world is silent. Let it be, God is with us. We will put together all our efforts, we will even give our lives to our homeland for freedom.
Tomica Đivić, OsVit No. 22, Toronto, May 1993.

Moslems and Croats do not have enough arms to defend themselves from the enemies. Many people got killed in the war. The enemies forcefully want to take the territory that was never theirs. Canada and America could stop the war, but they do not want to. And so the tragedy is going on. I hope that the people in Bosnia Herzegovina will be united and that they will come to victory with our help. We all wish that.
Linda Marelić, grade 6L, OsVit No. 22, Toronto, May 1993.

Serbs started to kill Croatsians in order to create Greater Serbia.
Ivan Belas, grade IV, OsVit No. 22, May 1993.

It is difficult before the war is finished and the Croatian army returns our territories. But there is a glorious future before Croatia: inclusion in Europe, possibility of tourism, and industrial development.
Martina Nikolić, grade 10, OsVit No. 22, Toronto, May 1993.

Young Refugees in Canada describes their vivid memories:

Farewell
I had a dog named Miki. He was two years old. The war started in Bosnia. We had to leave the city. We packed our suitcases and left the house. I looked at Miki. At that hour I used to walk him outside. He was very happy. I approached him and, crying, I took off his leash. He did not understand anything. I hugged him and left him forever. People wrote to me that Miki never came back. And I still think that he is waiting for me to take him for a walk. Robert Kapetanović, grade 13, Toronto 1994.

In their prayers children express their most intimate wishes: peace in Croatia is one of them. This is a child’s description of prayer:

Plaques from Biskupija near Knin, 9th century, Museum of Early Croatian History, Split

Aggression on Croatia
Review Through Arts and Literature

The Croatian Academy of America, Toronto branch, organized a Symposium on May 27, 1995, at the University of Toronto. These are the participants and titles of their contributions:

Dr. V. Grubišić: “Selected Bibliography of Croatian literary works”
Dr. V. Bubrić: “Recent Prose and Poetry a selection in English”
read by M. Ćunčić, Loris Buždon, Pero Klećina and Anton Bakalčić
R. Žiger: “Writer to the General” - an open letter of Andelko Vuletić to Velnko Kadijević
Pavao Pavličić: “Lament Over Europe” read by S. Ivanković
Donja Lacković: “Preservation of Croatian Art”
Biserka Butković: “Diaries from Sarajevo”
Dr. M. Ćunčić: “Agression on Croatia as Seen Through Eyes of School Children”

The symposium was held in Claude T. Bissel Building. An exhibition of children’s visual expression of the war was mounted for that occasion. Morning session was better attended than the afternoon. Participants were mostly Croatian, with few Canadian English speaking guests. Everything was conducted in English.

The Croatian Academy of America will organize another annual symposium in May 1996 with the topic: The war in Croatia as reflected in the media. Contact the Editor for more information.

M. Ć.
Red Cross
"The Cross of Shame"
Valentina Krcmar & Biserka Butković, Toronto

The mandate of The Red Cross requires strict neutrality regardless of circumstances. This means that they can never name the aggressor, never name the victim, and that their duty is to count the victims and their sufferings, to feed them (prior to their death) and to watch the horror only. They cannot protect the victims at all, because if they do, they take sides in the conflict, which is against their mandate. So in the end, such charitable organizations help both sides: the aggressors and the victims. Thus the aggressors get rewarded twice: first when they attack and plunder the goods, and secondly, when they receive the humanitarian help from the world, evenly distributed to the victims and the aggressors.

In conversations that we have had about the Red Cross we were told many times that we should be grateful for organizations like that. This is true. However, when you become the victim, you suddenly see the situation differently, with open eyes. You remember 6 million victims in WW2 and you just cannot believe that the Red Cross helped both sides, and you start feeling sick about it.

Since our organization, Bedem Ljubavi (Mothers of Peace), has been extensively involved in the work of the Red Cross, Canada, we would like to draw the attention of the Croats and the Bosnians all over the world to the role of this organization in the killing fields of Croatia and Bosnia and Hercegovina.

In February 1992, our organization informed the Canadian Chapter of the Red Cross of the existence of the Serbian concentration camps and we then naively thought that they would inform someone who would have strength and courage to inform the world and then there would be a general outcry and urgent help for those in need. Although we brought all the pertinent information to Mr. René Degrasse, the Director of International Services for the Red Cross, Canada, there was no reaction. We also sent or delivered the information about Serbian concentration camps to Ms. Sheila Copps, Liberal MP, to the External Affairs of Canada, to the Amnesty International, to Mr. Robert Dole and many others. Among them was Dr. Boutros Ghali, General Secretary of the UN. In addition, Mr. Cyrus Vance received the hand delivered information about the first Serbian concentration camps by Dr. Vesna Bosanac (in January 1992). The silence about the camps was unbelievable, until July 1992, when the pictures of tortured and starving people went all over the world.

We contacted Mr. Degrasse right away, and he assured us that he sent the materials we gave him to Geneva as soon as he could. We, at that time, still thought that someone made an error, and we tried to find out why no one reacted to our extensive files.

We were prompted to question the role of the Red Cross in Croatia and Bosnia, and world wide, when we accidentally stumbled upon a United Nation’s Security Council Report (March 6, 1993 S/25377). In this report the Serbian Red Cross is implicated in the war crimes in Croatia and Bosnia. Here in one incident reported by a refugee who was detained from June 14 to August 1992:

About 20 persons chosen arbitrarily among the prisoners were forced to lay on the floor. A truck from the Serbian Red Cross then drove over their legs. (p. 27) One official of the Serbian Red Cross was taking people to be executed. The food that was supposed to be distributed to the people in the camps was sold for profit.

Somehow we never thought that even the Red Cross could have criminals within its ranks. We contacted the Canadian Red Cross immediately and asked for verification and action. We received the official response from the Red Cross and were shocked by the fact that “neutrality is used to protect The Red Cross criminal deeds. We quote: “As you know, the priority of the ICRC is to maintain its operations in the fields which are linked to the respect of the ICRC’s principles of neutrality and confidentiality. In this respect, the obligation to transmit confidential information or to testify on people or findings made in the exercise of its work is incompatible with the ICRC’s pledge of confidentiality.”

From this response further correspondence proceeded, with no results. We are at an impasse and are quite perplexed with the situation at hand: Who is responsible for the criminal deeds of the officials of the Red Cross? What are the victims to do if they are not informed that those who are supposed to help them are criminals themselves. What is the stand of the Red Cross in the world, if it does not protect the victims from the criminals within its own ranks?

Are we not willingly exposing the victims to the torturers if we do not stop the Red Cross in its criminal action? If the Red Cross has on its conscience even one death caused by its own criminal members, then it is a criminal organization. The Red Cross is aware of the criminals in the ranks of the Serbian Red Cross and by its silence it is a collaborator in the horrors in Croatia and Bosnia and Hercegovina. We need organizations like the Red Cross for the protection of the victims, but if they are unwilling to point the finger at the criminals in their own organization, then someone has to do it. We would like to appeal to all the readership for some action.
New Jesuit School of Philosophy and Library Buildings
Jordanovac 110, Zagreb, Croatia

A Short History
The Jesuits from the Croatian province of the Society of Jesus live and work in Croatia and in other states of the former Yugoslavia. The Jesuits have been active on these territories since the very beginning of the Society of Jesus. Besides pastoral work, their activities were directed toward education in high schools in Dubrovnik, Rijeka, Zagreb, Beograd, Varaždin, Požega and Trnava. In addition to the high school in Zagreb, the School of Philosophy was founded in 1669. That is how the University of Zagreb began.

Soon after the restoration of the Society of Jesus, the Jesuits settled in Bosnia and Herzegovina where they opened a high school in the City of Travnik and founded the School of Theology in Sarajevo in 1882. In 1937, the Jesuits who had been educated abroad, founded the School of Philosophy for their own young Jesuits in Zagreb. In 1953, they founded the School of Theology in Zagreb. Presently, their School of Philosophy in Zagreb is the only such Catholic School in the Balkans.

New Developments
The School of Philosophy developed to such an extent that in 1983 it became affiliated with the School of Philosophy at the Gregorian University in Rome, and in 1989, the Congregation for Catholic Education of the Holy See in Rome erected it to the level of an independent School of Philosophy.

During the communist rule, this School, even though mostly available to the clerics, served as place for reflection and research, thus encouraging means of thinking other than the official Marxist ideology. As such, it was partner in dialogue with state institutions. That very dialogue influenced the movement of a more flexible Marxist group called "Praxis".

Since the fall of communism in ex-Yugoslavia and with the restoration of Democracy, many young men and women have shown great interest for the School of Philosophy. In addition to lay students, there are Jesuit students from the Czech Republic, Ukraine, Yugoslavia (Hungarians and Albanians from Serbia), and Franciscans from Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In the last three years the number of students has reached 140, and is expected to reach 250 in the near future. Since the University of Zagreb recognized the School of Philosophy together with its Institute for Religious Culture, the number of students has increased considerably.

Lack of space for the School and for the Library
Normal activities of the school are limited by the lack of rooms and lecture halls. The school is limited to using the space intended for dormitory at the Jesuit College at Jordanovac, Zagreb. This space is not suitable for lectures, seminars and research activities.

In the same building there is a library that contains 200,000 books not easily accessible to students and even less to the general public because of inadequate facilities. Currently, the library is scattered and located throughout various corridors of the College.

Cooperation with Others
The Croatian Province of the Society of Jesus has been able to form a quality and adequate teaching staff so that the Congregation for Catholic education had no criticism in that regard. Moreover, the Jesuits work with other religious orders (especially with Dominicans), with the Diocesan School of Theology in Zagreb and with lay persons.

The teaching staff numbers 35 professors. Good cooperation exists with other Jesuit institutions, particularly with German-speaking Jesuits through the exchange of professors, symposiums and international meetings.

Aim of the Project
1) To create conditions for normal activities at this top-level scholastic institution.
2) To promote deeper reflection in a society which is still suffering from the consequences of Marxist and communist indoctrination that were compulsive over the last fifty years.
3) To educate intellectually free and democratically oriented people in former communist countries.
4) To give opportunities to lay people and clerics from different East European countries to experience multicultural and multiethnic living.
5) To promote reconciliation and peace.

What has been accomplished until now
1. There is a parish on the site of the Jesuit College. A pastoral centre is being built: infrastructure such as water, electricity, gas and sewage system already exist, thus diminishing the costs of the project.
2. A draft proposal has been worked out and approved by the Father General and the State authorities.
3. A teaching staff and more than sufficient collection of books already exist.

Costs
Library: US$1,569,040 ($880 per one square meter)
School: US$1,336,224 ($898 per one square meter)

The proposal has been sent to "Renovabis" (special recommendation by Cardinal Franjo Kuharić), and also to "Europaische Hilfsfond", "Kirche in Not" and to the Archdiocese of Bamberg, Germany.

Future expenses
Once this project is completed, the Croatian Province of the Society of Jesus will be able to cover the regular costs of maintaining the school. The costs will be covered from student fees, from "Arca seminarii Provinciae Croatiae", and from government grants for the part of the School's program which is affiliated with the University of Zagreb.

If you want to contribute in any way, or want more information about the study of Philosophy, write to: Filozofski fakultet Dunze Issusove, Jordanovac 110, Zagreb, Croatia.

The school is now limited to using the space intended for dormitory at the Jesuit College at Jordanovac, Zagreb. This space is not suitable for lectures, seminars and research activities. The new School and Library buildings sites are seen in the upper left corner of the picture.
Every type of expedition has come through the town of Nome, Alaska at one time or another: Frenchmen bicycling from Whitehorse; Lithuanians skiing to Russia; Australians walking to Mexico. But even normally unflappable Nomeites took notice when the Croatians dropped anchor recently.

The 5-member crew of the Hrvatska Čigra or the Croatian Tern, a group of scientists and mariners from Croatia on a four-year expedition from the Arctic to the Antarctic, stopped in Nome after sailing through the treacherous Northwest Passage in a record-breaking 66 days. The captain Mladen Šutej, Renad Junek, Dragutin Ipia, Miroslav Muhek and Srecko Trjažar thus became the first crew ever to sail the 3,767-mile stretch in such a short time and, the fourth ship to make it in one season, without the help of ice-breakers. The Croatian Tern is a two-mast, 21-meter yacht built to measure in Kraljevica, Croatia by the loving hands of ship builders with a 270-year tradition in the business. The keel, the prop and the propeller of the ship have been reinforced by special steel alloys. The Croatian Tern is the property of the Croatian Offshore Yacht Club. The Arctic-Antarctic expedition is financed by more than 150 Croatian firms and many individuals of good will.

In the past, only three ships managed to sail through the Arctic, a feat normally reserved for ice-breakers and huge tankers. In 1944, the Canadian Henry Larson in the St. Roch first realized the dream of sailing the Northwest Passage in one season, crossing in 82 days. He was followed by the Belgian ship Williaw in 1977, taking 96 days, and the German ship Dagmar Aaen in 1993, crossing in 83 days.

The Croatian Tern left St. Johns, Nfld on June 16, reaching the Polar Circle, considered as the beginning of the Northwest Passage, on July 4. Ice and fog are the main obstacles. "Twice, in the Sea of Melville, off Greenland, we got stuck in ice for more than 16 hours. It took us 9 days to sail through 140 miles of ice. We then crossed Baffin Bay and Lancaster Sound, breaking free through something called North water or polynya, actually patches of water surrounded by ice" says Renad Junek.

The prospect of becoming trapped - very real because the Northwest Passage is navigable just a few weeks every summer with a thirty percent probability of crossing it in one season - led the crew to take enough food for a year, in case they had to spend the winter in the Arctic. They also carried a library of about 500 books, just in case.

After reaching Prince Regent Inlet, the most critical spot - Bellot Strait - and the key to the Northwest Passage, still lay ahead. Bellot Strait, navigable for only 2 to 3 days a year, is a 22-mile long and one-mile wide fjord-like strip of water separating Boothia Peninsula, the northernmost tip of the continent from Somerset Island. The crew used the motorized hang-glider for reconnaissance and the high-tech Global Positioning System for navigation but the most valuable assistance concerning ice conditions was provided by the Canadian Coast Guard which kept in touch by radio at all times. "The Canadian Coast Guard plane actually flew over Bellot Strait and informed us that ice was present in the concentration of nine tenths on a 7.5 km stretch" confides Mladen Šutej. "Our eyes were terribly strained from constantly watching for any change in the ice surface. Abnormal refraction, leading to a mirage effect or looming, the apparent rising of an object over the horizon or white wall, has fooled many explorers of the Arctic. But on August 13, after waiting for nine days at an ominous spot called Hazard Inlet, we successfully sailed through Bellot Strait in several hours. Having reached Peel Sound in the Western Arctic, we opened two bottles of champagne: the first because we got through and, the second because we had reached the point-of-no-return," recounts the captain.

Sailing southward, the Croatian Tern dropped anchor in Gjoa Haven, Prince William Island named after Roald Amundsen ship which spent two winters there at the beginning of the century. Ever since Martin Frobisher in 1576, Europeans were involved in exploring the Arctic route. The Norwegian, Roald Amundsen, was the first to cross the Northwest Passage but it took him three years (1903-1906) to do it.

Staying closer to the rim of the North American continent after Cambridge Bay, Victoria Island, the Croatian Tern advanced rapidly in ice-free water reaching the Canada-U.S. Demarcation Line on Aug. 31, only to encounter deadly growlers over the 320-mile stretch in the Beaufort Sea. "Each ice fragment is big enough to ruin the boat but cannot be detected by radar", explains Renad Junek. West of Point Barrow, Alaska, the conditions improved and, after rounding Cape Prince of Wales, the westernmost point of the Bering Strait on Sept. 8, they crossed the Polar Circle again. "We felt like celebrating the end of our torture but all we had left were handshakes and hugs" admits the exhausted captain.

The Croatian Tern is on its way to Vancouver where the 50,000 strong Croatian community and the Croatian Embassy in Ottawa are preparing a heroes welcome for the intrepid mariners. After being escorted into the harbor by a flotilla of Croatian-Canadian fishing boats, the yacht will overwinter in Vancouver while the crew heads home. Mladen Šutej, the captain, is eager to see Ana, the baby daughter who was born in Zagreb last July while he was battling the ice off the coast of Greenland.

Next year, the Croatian Tern is planning to sail along the Pacific coast of the Americas, all the way to the Antarctic and Cape Horn. The return to the Adriatic is foreseen for 1997 after circumnavigating Africa. The voyage started in 1994, when the yacht crossed the Atlantic after leaving Kraljevica, Croatia. It spent the summer in Greenland preparing for the Arctic Archipelago, admittedly the most demanding phase of the expedition.

As a matter of fact, Croats were involved in the exploration of the Canadian shores from the very beginning: Ivan Malogrudic from Senj and Marino Masalarda from Dubrovnik were members of Jacques Cartier's crew on his third voyage to Canada in 1541.
Canadian Croatian Parliamentary Association

By Štefanka Kirinčić, Ottawa

In April 1994, Canadian Members of Parliament formed a Parliamentary Friendship Group with Croatian MPs. The brainchild of Janko Pogaraić, Liberal MP with constituency in Kitchener, this group has approximately 30 members from the Liberal, Reform and New Democratic Party, as well as a few senators.

Its main objectives include fostering knowledge and understanding regarding Croatia and Bosnia-Hercegovina and the promotion of relations with the two Republics. Unfortunately, the current situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina has made it difficult to meet the latter objective with regards to this Republic. Nevertheless, the group has managed to meet with several representatives from Bosnia, including such notable figures as: Cardinal Vinko Puljić, the Archbishop of Sarajevo; Mr. Krešimir Zubak, President of the Federation of Bosnia-Hercegovina; and Vladislav Pogačarić, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for the Federation.

The Parliamentary group has had more success in promoting relations with Croatia. In June 1994, for example, Canadian Parliamentarians visited Croatia. During their visit, they met with Croatian Parliamentarians, toured refugee camps, and visited many of the destroyed towns and villages. In February 1995, this visit was reciprocated by Croatian Representatives: Dr. Žarko Domljan, Vice-President of the House of Representatives and Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee; Dr. Franjo Gregurić, Former Prime Minister and Chief Economic Advisor to the President; and Mr. Ivica Račan, President of the Social Democratic Party of Croatia, all visited Canada and met with Canadian MPs and Prime Minister Jean Chretien.

The Parliamentary Friendship Group has also coordinated a number of working visits, including the visit of Dr. Mate Granić, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, who was invited to Canada by Foreign Affairs Minister Ouellet to discuss the situation in Croatia. Besides meeting with Ouellet, Dr. Granić also met with Deputy Prime Minister Sheila Copps, International Trade Minister Roy MacLaren, The Parliamentary Friendship Group, foreign affairs officials and Canadian businessmen.

The April 1995 meeting of Mr. Ivica Smiljan, Deputy Minister of Finance, Mr. Mladin Vrdnik, President of Croatian Chamber of Economy; and Canadian businessmen to discuss business and trade opportunities between Croatia and Canada.

Who’s Who On the Kuna

The Kuna, or marten, has a long tradition of use in barter trade as well as pecuniary compensation in Croatia. The first known use of the kuna on Croatian coins goes as far back as 1256, when a local currency displaying the kuna was issued in Slavonia -

In Croatia today, kunas are coins and banknotes and have been the new form of currency since the last year. Historical Croatian personalities are featured on one side of kuna banknote, with famous Croatian landmarks on the reverse. On the following denominations are:-

5 Kn. - Ban (Viceroy) Petar Zrinski and Knez (Duke) Fran Krsto Frankopan - Croatian noblemen of the 17th century; landmark: Varaždin Fortress;
10 Kn. - Juraj Dobrila - noted Croatian bishop who promoted Croatian cultural rights and advanced the Croatian language; landmark: Amphitheatre in Pula.
20 Kn. - Ban (Viceroy) Josip Jelačić - military hero of revolution in 1848; landmark: Eltz Castle in Vukovar, and Vučedol Dove, 2500 B. C.
50 Kn. - Ivan Gundulić - greatest Croatian poet of the 17th Century; landmark: City of Dubrovnik.
100 Kn. - Ivan Mažuranić - first non-aristocrat to be named Ban (Viceroy); landmark: Church of St Vitus in Rijeka.
500 Kn. - Marko Marulić - greatest Croatian poet of the 15th and 16th centuries; landmark: Diocletian Palace in Split and figure of Croatian King.
1,000 Kn. - Ante Starčević - political leader, ideologist and founder of the Croatian Party of the Right; landmark: monument to King Tomislav and Zagreb Cathedral.

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CROATIAN MONEY

GAUDEAMUS No. 15, October 1995, p. 16


The book is astonishingly interesting for it compiles short summaries of over three hundred of the Pope's messages concerning events in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. In a brief overview in the first chapter, we are told that the Vatican recognized Croatia as an independent state on January 13, 1992. Diplomatic relations between Croatia and the Vatican were then established on February 8, 1992. On March 12, 1992 The Holy Father John Paul II nominated the Apostolic Nuncio for the Republic of Croatia. In July 1992, the first Croatian Ambassador was officially confirmed in the Vatican. Diplomatic relations began in August 1992, followed by the nomination of Apostolic Nuncio for Croatia in June 1993.

In April 1993, addressing representatives of the European Community, the Pope defended the sovereignty of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Diplomatic relations started in August, and Apostolic nuncio was nominated in June 1993. Pope John Paul II visited Croatia for a two-day visit on September 10-11, 1994. In the last issue of Gaudeamus we published his speech which he gave in front of one million Croats.

More than three hundred documents in this book clearly show the Vatican's position regarding the aggression on Croatia and Bosnia Herzegovina. John Paul II condemned the aggression and asked world leaders to aid the victims. He expressed this opinion during his general audiences, in his Angelus message at noon every day at St. Peter's Square in Rome as well as in Castel Gandolfo. He addressed pilgrims from all over the world: refugees from Croatia and the wounded from Vukovar, Canadian WW2 veterans, youth groups, and other pilgrims. With Croatian pilgrims he prayed for the return of refugees to their homes and he urged Croatian emigres not to forget their homeland in these difficult times. By the mass media the Pope's message reached millions. Through the diplomats in the Vatican he spoke to all countries of the world.

The Holy Father was always informed with the happenings in the regions affected by war, and of the reaction of the international community. On Christmas 1994, he spoke "Urbi et orbi" to 800,000 pilgrims: "Let there be no war in the dear country of Croatia and in the neighbouring regions where passion and violence stand against sound reasoning. Enough of silence and indifference when people call for understanding and solidarity" In another speech he urged the West to provide Croatia with the means to defend her option of democracy and sovereignty.

The Holy Father has received the Croatian President Franjo Tudman, and the President of Bosnia-Hercegovina, Alija Izetbegović, Croatian women's association, Mothers For Peace, the UN Secretary Perez de Cuellar, Muslim representatives from Bosnia and Croatia and Macedonian officials, among others.

 Everywhere he travelled (i.e. to Portugal, Hungary, U. S. A., Philippines, or Brazil) the Pope spoke on behalf of Christ to stop the war, to respect freedom and the determination of peoples. He has sent letters and telegrams to the bishops and politicians, directly and through his ambassadors. The Pope organized the Synod of European Bishops in which Croatian Bishops were asked to explain the situation in their country to fellow colleagues. The Synod's conclusions were then sent to all European Governments.

The Pope offered his personal prayers for Croatia, its victims of war and its refugees, even when in hospital. He also called others to pray for peace. He asked for solidarity in humanitarian help and urged the respect of human rights and self-determination He clearly stated that the international community stop the aggressor and ethnic cleansing. He was very displeased when he was prevented to visit Sarajevo. His homily in Zagreb was an appeal for reconciliation and forgiveness. Vatican diplomats participated at twenty-eight various meetings, assemblies and conferences in Europe and in the UN dedicated to the Balkan crisis.

The Holy Father seems to have been very busy with the events in Croatia and Bosnia-Hercegovina. Whatever His Holiness was doing and wherever he was, John Paul II has never forgotten the sufferings of the people in Croatia and Bosnia. Croatia has never been loved by a Pope as she is today. The Pope knows of our love to the Queen of Peace, the Queen of Croatia. He has mentioned that title of the Blessed Virgin Mary frequently when speaking about peace in the Balkans. Through the Bishops Conferences the world over He invited all parish priests to pray on Sundays with their congregations for peace in Croatia. The Pope also invited all Catholics in the world to fast for the same intention on Friday, January 21, 1994, and thus prepare themselves for the culmination of the world communal prayer on Sunday January 23, 1994, when His Holiness offered Mass for peace.

One should read the book to experience the power of the Pope's love, the love of Jesus Christ whose Vicar he is, for the Croatian nation and for the victims of war.

Dr. Marica Čunčić
The central chapter gives an account of "ethnic cleansing" from the planning of the whole operation in Belgrade and Pale, through the main stages of carrying it out. It begins with the siege and conquest of a town or a village by the Serb army, in the course of which many civilians are deliberately killed. Then various Einsatzgruppen are brought in to carry on the killing in a more thorough way, and rob and expel any remaining Muslims. Finally, the Serbs get rid of the corpses in some handy way, systematically wipe out all traces of the centuries of Muslim presence and give the place a new, Serbian-sound name. Cigar also describes the less direct methods of "ethnic cleansing" employed in some areas in the later stages of the war: terror against civilians, their nazi-like segregation and systematic humiliation, which invariably succeed in getting them to leave.

The book also deals with the ways of responding to genocide, the role of the international community, and the regional and global implications of the genocide in Bosnia, which are very gloomy indeed. Policy makers have decided that stopping this genocide is too costly for them, and have thus accepted genocide as part of political process. Some of them have even condoned it. In the decades ahead, the likes of Milošević and Karadžić the world over are sure to get the message. For this reason alone, every thinking person should study this thorough, dispassionate, but nevertheless shocking account of the first case of genocide in Europe since the Holocaust.

Israelis* have additional reasons to read this book. Recent public debates have shown (again) that, by and large, Israelis feel that belief in the uniqueness of the Holocaust is best given expression, and reinforced, by disregarding genocide inflicted on other peoples, and that this view is deeply entrenched in our political and cultural establishment. Israeli society (unlike the Jewish Diaspora) still has a lot to learn about the moral and human significance of the suffering of others.

Dr. Igor Prumorac, AMCA Israel
Associate Professor of Philosophy at Hebrew University, Jerusalem.
He taught at the University of Belgrade in the '70s and '80s.

* This book review was published in Jerusalem daily Ha'aretz, July 12, 1995 in Hebrew. The author prepared it in English for Gaudeamus.

CHILDREN'S BOOK

The Sun Left My Room


The title The sun has left my room is very fitting for this thin, little book, which leaves the reader speechless, after just a few pages. The reader is struck with one thought: How will our children be given back their dreams, and their happiness? What is going to happen those who have gone through hell and back, and are now apparently safe? Many little poems give heart-breaking pictures full of pain, death, the children's sorrow, their dashed dreams and the devastation of lives that will never be whole again. The children, refugees from Mostar, Tešanj, Bugojno, Stolac, Jajce - mostly from Bosnia, describe what it means to have a home and lose it; to have father and lose him, to have their own little world destroyed and to never stop dreaming about it. It seems to me that on every page a child dreams of going back to his home for one more look, for one more sweet smell of happiness, if possible.

We adults hardly ever talk to the children as our equal, but we certainly should. Our children from Bosnia are walking just as difficult journey as their parents are, but children's journey is even more difficult - they are also losing their parents, their own bed, their dreams. Their small world is crushing down on them and no one can even explain to them what has happened, since we ourselves do not understand. All of the children - be they 5 or 15 - have grown up much too fast - as Ivan Gavran grade 8 student says in his article Where shall I go now: "I am grown old. Suddenly it seems so foolish to play with the marbles. I met death in my tender years. Where shall I go now?" Perhaps most touching are the dreams of past - of a piece of bread, that was made by a grandmother that might be gone forever, "In my grandmother's bread rain and sun sleep" (M. Duvnjak, 13 years); or "I, a refugee, remember often with sadness my home, and sweet piece of still hot bread" (A. Mihaljević, 13) or when they dream of their home: "Oh my dear home, my sweet home, we were so happy there, whatever we wanted to eat, we did; what we wanted to drink, we did; we lived in heaven." (Z. Nogić, 9); or a dream of future - the end of war: "If the guns were silenced, and bombs stopped falling, all the people would be happy and would celebrate the end of war" and "if they gave me a bag of gold it wouldn't be as valuable as the end of the war." (G. Marošević, 13, Bosanska Posavina).

This is one of the most memorable books that I have read, and I wish I had never read it - it will be difficult to forget so many children that will have such a hard time to go on living. Yet, the children, are very resilient although they feel deeply the pain of losses, and they realize that whatever was will probably never be again, they still see a beam of hope, a ray of sunshine that might turn into happiness. This is a very important book, not just for us, Croatians, but for the world. Perhaps when others read and see the pain of Croatian refugee children they might understand how the world failed Croatia, Bosnia and our children.

Valentina Krčmar

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Membership application / Pristupnica

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