



Attn: Vesna Teršelič

January 4, 1993

Dear Vesna

Happy New Year! Sorry that I can't reply before Western Christmas to your Switzerland fax, but at least I'm before the orthodox. As for Rama, maybe we'll give you in England then.

a) Speakers' tour in Britain: There is an absolutely enormous demand for ex-Yugo peace movement speakers in Britain. About 100 groups want to hold meetings!

Now we have no intention of organising 100 meetings, so we're telling groups to band together or suggesting people living in Britain they could invite. But the point is that there is an enormous will here to do something. There is a feeling of shame about Britain's role during its presidency of the EC and about its attitude to refugees (finally our government has decided to be softer with raped women). And among peace groups there is a reluctance to get involved with the main campaign here -- Action for Bosnia -- which right from the beginning has been advocating little other than military intervention. They've really behaved as if "Action" means "military intervention" and nothing else.

I have been instructed by British colleagues to stress the enormous potential for future support coming in a variety of forms. But it's clear that with this demand, a one-week tour by three speakers just isn't enough. I don't know Jasna (please tell me more about her, where is she from?), but we cannot treat you and Zorica like rock stars. I know that I'd travel hundreds of kilometres to be an anonymous individual in some football stadium listening to you, but there aren't really very many people like me. And anyway, that isn't the kind of cooperation we want to build.

All over Britain there are small groups of people who would really work on this situation if they were given something to identify with -- a project, a peace group, etc. They'd raise funds, they'd harbour refugees, they'd send volunteers, they'd share skills, etc.

As you know, earlier we were talking about a three-week tour. You, I know, won't want more than one. Now let's do some serious negotiations about this. Al is not Karadzic: he's quite prepared to say OK, not three weeks, let's call it 21 days! After more moderate influences have been brought to bear on him, he'd be content with 14. If threatened with peace movement sanctions, his absolute minimum would be 10. If we fixed this either just before or just after your 12-14 March Alliance meeting, how long could you give good old Britain? What's your maximum?

You would do some joint meetings, and split up for others. There would be a firm guarantee that there would be no more than seven meetings before lunch.

So, Vesna: please tell me your maximum time around then. Please give me some info on Jasna (including a fax), and then we'll try to proceed.

b) And now to the trainers' meeting. Thanks for the information about Sljeme. It sounds wonderful. The problem is that we thought we'd need three full days of meeting. I shall consult about this. Our next meeting is 28 Jan but I hope to get back before then.

c) WRI council: I don't what Biljana has told you about Thailand but, because the annual Council meeting will be in Verona, 19-24 July, some women were thinking of arranging an extra visit to Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia to discuss about the impact of the war on women. (They also proposed joint actions on International Women's Day, 8 March, with women from conflicting communities demonstrating their common will to peace.)

d) Lib Peck, who with Al is co-coordinator of the National Peace Council, flies out to Ljubljana this Friday (8 Jan). She's staying with Goga and will probably come over to Zagreb. I don't think you've met her - but she's very good to be with.

Have you been to Serbia, Vojvodina, Kosova yet? I very much want to hear about this. We had an e-mail message from Eric Bachman, staying with Slavenka Ljubic in Novi Sad and asking me to contact Bob Geldof or some other of the Live Aid people to organise a concert to inspire youth.

Love
Howard