

ANTIWAR CAMPAIGN CROATIA
CENTER FOR PEACE, NONVIOLENCE
AND HUMAN RIGHTS ZAGREB

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To: Howard Clark, WRI

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Total: 2 pages

Dear Howard,

A) I hope you have a nice new years' holidays. I passed in new year lighting the candles in front of Presidency of Serbia together with people from Center for Antiwar Actions (Zorica Trifunović, Vesna Pešić, Stojan Cerović, Ivana Balen...), Biljana Regodić (Peace Movement Pančevo), Eric Bachman, Roland Brunner, Aida Begić (freshly arrived from study months in Schllaining)... Actually I was crying. In the last months I'm crying on every sight of public demonstrations, candle vigils for all the victims of war... It is not to bad - afterwards I am feeling relief.

Post elections atmosphere is rather dark; all the people involved in opposition initiatives are in big depression. They expected to see Panić winning elections. It is not easy for me to understand why they have been so full of hope. I think you hardly can find somebody out of Serbia who expected fall of Milošević. The very important question on the agenda of several activists is how to leave the country and find working place somewhere in the West. Still I was able to discuss some cooperation. Hopefully the bilateral meeting with group in Pančevo will take place in Hungary in Spring. Vesna Pešić promised to make first steps in order to find refugees from Pakrac (UNPA West Slavonia) now living in Serbia and investigate would they be willing to return in Pakrac. Then probably the first resettlement project in UNPA zone could be started (Antiwar Campaign Croatia and Center for Antiwar Actions would then organize training for conflict resolution).

B) Osijek Center for Peace is doing well. They are actually bit too crowded with organizing humanitarian help. Hopefully they will soon learn that humanitarian aid should be delt mainly by "Red Cross" and other big organizations. The human rights violations report for last four months is in preparation (actually Katarina can not finish it because she is working too much on humanitarian aid issues). When finished report will be presented to Croatian national authorities (Parliamentarian Committee for Human Rights Protection, Ministry of Inner Affairs) and Osijek local authorities. The Center has been following ten families threatened by pushing from the flat through three months. One family have been pushed from the flat and left the country (case described in Adams' report to PBI). All other families are still in their flats what could be listed as succes of Center work. Katarina said that the pressure over citizens have been softened when local authorities and police learned about the work on prevention of violations of human rights. Her feeling is that now the pressure is increasing and some more visible protection actions made by Center would be needed. Or with other words: permanent work of Center on prevention of violations is needed. The violations of human rights will continue what gives a place for involvement of PBI.

Eric Bachman made a long talk with Katarina concerning the involvement of PBI on which I was present only few hours. Please look his report.

C) O.K. let's make speakers tour bit longer. I perfectly understand the need to make discussion in small towns and not in the big cities only. Somehow it's more important to support local activists than ones in megapolis as London. So let's say 14 days would be fine with me. I leave United Kingdom on March 30. Zorica and Jasna would be probably willing to stay longer.

Jasna Bašić is 32, studied philosophy in Sarajevo and Dubrovnik. Till August 1992 has been living in Sarajevo. She was active in International Peace Centre (Ibrahim Spahić). She was working for "Radio 99". Jasna is in the moment in Novi Sad, Vojvodina, where she cooperates with Peace Movement Vojvodina (Slavenka Ljubić). I meet her two days before New Year in Belgrade. Then she explained me about her possible travel in London in January. If she will come she'll give you a call.

I was wondering are you planning to include short jump to the Northern Ireland inside the speakers tour - you know that I have special attachment to the people working in Belfast. It would be good to discuss their possible coming in Croatia. Speakers' tour with good nonviolent woman speaker would be needed to encourage eventual newborn peace initiatives in small Croatian towns, somewhen in Autumn 1993. Since autumn energy will be invested in strenghtening already existing groups and building better linkages between the groups on national level.

Hope to hear from you soon.

Love

Jasna

