

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3704

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RANKING MEMBER, SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

April 26, 2007

Mrs. Julienne Basic
1429 SE 58th Avenue
Portland, OR 97215-2729

Dear Mrs. Basic:

This is in response to your request for assistance with your husband's continued incarceration and transfer to the Communications Management Unit in Terre Haute. Earlier this week, my aide, Maureen Hovenkotter, had extensive discussions with congressional staff at the U.S. Bureau of Prisons, the U.S. Parole Commission, and the Prisoner Transfer Unit of the Bureau of Prisons.

As a result of these conversations, we understand that there have been no new issues that resulted in denial of parole, denial of transfer to Croatia, or reassigning Zvonko to Terre Haute. According to the three individuals she spoke with, these decisions were all based entirely on the seriousness of his original conviction of air piracy and the resulting death of a police officer.

Given the situation with the current war on terror, it appears unlikely that Zvonko's applications and appeals will be viewed in a lenient, charitable light. The appeal of the denial of parole is, of course, still pending. He will be eligible to apply again for transfer to Croatia this December. Unfortunately, the best advice I can give to you and Zvonko, based on these conversations, is to continue to apply for transfer and parole whenever he is eligible to do so until he finally receives either parole or transfer back to Croatia.

While I regret that this report is not favorable, I hope the information provided will help you understand the agency's position. I appreciate you bringing this matter to my attention so I could indicate my interest in a careful review of the situation. If you have any further questions or comments, however, please do not hesitate to let me know. Future contact should be directed to Kellie Lute since Maureen is leaving employment with my office effective Friday, April 27.

Sincerely,



Gordon H. Smith
United States Senator

GHS:mh
Enclosure