

Zagreb, September 22, 1999

Her Excellency Madeleine Albright
Secretary of State
United States Of America
Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Madame Secretary,

As you without doubt know, we have previously on several occasions requested Ambassador Robert Gelbard that he facilitate the humanitarian transfer-under the Prisoner Transfer Treaty - of the Croatian citizen Zvonko Bušić, who has been incarcerated for 23 years in a U. S. federal prison.

Mr. Bušić's case has been under consideration for several years, and his transfer request is still pending. We understand that the Department of Justice and other interested agencies do not oppose the transfer, as long as the State Department concurs, and that only your approval is expected, Madame Secretary.

We feel that two cases in point favour Mr. Bušić's transfer: first, the recent clemency offer to 14 Puerto Ricans involved in bombings and killings, and especially the recent transfer under the Prisoner Transfer Treaty of the Italian citizen, Silvia Baraldini, especially as, unlike in the Baraldini case, Mr. Bušić has 1) expressed deep remorse right from the beginning for the unintentional harm to others; and 2) has had strong support from his trial judge, John Bartels, (as well as many other officials and functionaries), who stated he did "not consider Mr. Bušić a terrorist". Mr. Bartels recommended his release on parole after ten years (which would have been in 1986), and considered his treatment by the Parole Board thus far "unnecessarily harsh and cruel".

We further believe that a damaging perception would be created among the Croatian population, both here and in the United States, if Mr. Bušić is not afforded the same privilege as Ms. Baraldini and the others, and therefore, respectfully request that the humanitarian transfer be approved as soon as possible so that Mr. Bušić can be near his family, whom he has not seen for almost thirty years, and finish his sentence in the Republic of Croatia. We would urge you to effect the transfer prior to the upcoming parliamentary elections.

Please accept our sincere assurances of full cooperation.



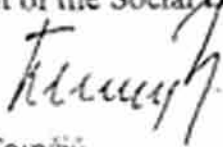
Dražen Budiša
President of the Croatian Social Liberal Party



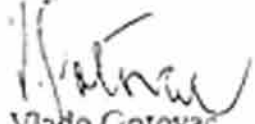
Ivan Jakovčić
President of the Istrian Democratic Diet



Ivica Račan
President of the Social Democratic Party



Zlatko Tomčić
President of the Croatian Peasant Party



Vlado Gotovac
President of the Liberal Party

cc: Ambassador William D. Montgomery