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The Honorable Edward F. Reilly, Jr.  
Chairman  
United States Parole Commission  
5550 Friendship Boulevard  
Suite 420  
Chevy Chase, MD 20815-72041

Dear Chairman Reilly,

January 13, 2006

I am writing to you about Mr. Zvonko Basic who is currently serving a prison term. I understand that he will soon have served 30 years. I also understand that he could be eligible for transfer to his home country and /or parole in the near future.

I first of all wish to tell you that I have never met Zvonko Basic. In my research and publications about contemporary affairs, I became acquainted with his wife, Mrs. Julie Basic and have known her for the past nine years.

While I am not acquainted with all of the details of the case, I do believe that after almost three decades primary consideration should be given to the humanitarian aspects and the interests of our country.

All members of his family live in Croatia. He is almost 60 years old and has been separated from them for thirty years. I believe that it would be a magnanimous act of the United States Government to facilitate his return to his family where he could spend his remaining years. This act would be in accordance with our American traditions of giving importance to humane considerations.

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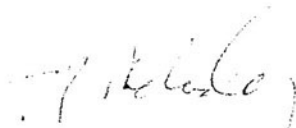
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Whatever justification there was for punishment, I believe has been carried out. There are, I understand possibilities that he would be transferred to his country where the rest of his term would be served. The relations of the United States with Croatia are very good. Such an act, in my opinion, would also be an indication of confidence in the government of Croatia.

But my interest is humanitarian. It would be a gracious act for our government to facilitate either a transfer to a prison in Croatia or for parole. He thus at long last could be together with his family.

I appreciate the consideration that you are giving to my suggestions.

Sincerely yours,



Thomas P. Melady