

Fourth Issue, December 1, 1995

SANE News

Return to Milici

Diary of Kiyoshi Igusa

In Eastern Bosnia just west of Nova Kasaba lies the town of Milici. In the hills just south of Milici there are two houses belonging to the Djukanovic family. In these hills between Srebrenica and Zepa I arrived on Petrovdan, July 12, the day after Srebrenica fell into the hands of Republika Srpska. In my eagerness to visit this beautiful land I hadn't thought about the danger, I did not know that I would find myself at the front line in a war that I still don't quite understand.

I saw some Muslims, some living and some dead. I talked to Serb soldiers and civilians and I walked in the moonlight through woods and a corn field. I had my videocam and papers that identified me as a "reporter from SANE."

The story starts in Novi Sad. There are four of us going by car: Ljubinko, Marija, Matija and I. The car is a white Yugo which

I borrowed from Marko Vujakovic's uncle Dule. Matija will drive. Matija is Marija's brother from Becej. Marija is Ljubinko's wife, and Ljubinko, well, he is just my friend Ljubinko.

It is July 12, a beautiful sunny day. We travel to relative peace in this area. On this day the family and relatives took the day off from fighting in the war to celebrate. There is no Milici without incident in time to celebrate Slava at the house of Marija and Matija's sister Mica Djukanovic. This is the second time we four have gone to Milici. The first time was in August 1993, a time of no priests, so the oldest men turned the traditional round bread and said the prayers. Then we have a traditional supper with plenty of rakija.

After supper folks are talking and

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Letter from SANE President

Dear members and friends of SANE.

It is less than half a year since our last Newsletter came out. Sadly there have been many tragic events that have happened during that time, hence the actions of SANE were often influenced by the development of those events.

May and June were filled with several pleasant events like our Spring Picnic which was organized by the Velickovic family, and a SANE fundraiser given by Branka Milosevic at her Beacon Hill rooftop.

In July Kiyoshi Igusa visited Milici, Republika Srpska, on the day after the fall of Srebrenica. In the same month Mimi Gregory and Kiyoshi Igusa visited Vukovar.

The fall of Krajina and the arrival of more than 150,000 refugees were among the first tragic events. While SANE members who were in Yugoslavia tried to help the refugees directly by giving them, first, necessary aid at the moment when they were arriving, the other SANE members who were in the USA were spending many hours dealing with the media in order to get at least decent coverage of the sufferings of the Serbian people from Krajina. Many phone calls were made by Stevan Radojev and others to the BBC and CNN pointing out discrepancies in their reporting. Mike Pravica had several letters published in national and international newspapers. Mike also appeared on Channel 5 in a rebuttal to their editorial. Phone calls to the Christopher Lydon Show were made by Steva, Mike, Gordana and some other well informed people.

After the NATO bombing of the Serbs several of our members joined the Washington Rally. Inspired by it, SANE organized a peace rally at the Government

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Editor: Branislav Andjelich

Graphics Editor: Dusan Koljensic

Contributors:

Kiyoshi Igusa	Gordana Todorov
Olga Mucic	Rose Kurtigian
Michael Pravica	Milica Manoogian
Mimi Gregory	Rada Galetin Smith

SANE, Inc.

831 Beacon Street, Suite 9100-233

Newton Center, MA 02159

phone (617)928-1235, fax (617)965-1463

E-mail todorov@neu.edu

Демонстрације за мир у Вашингтону

Пише Рада Галетин-Смит

У недељу, 9. септембра 1995, испред Беле куће у Вашингтону, одржале су се Демонстрације за мир америчких Срба и њихових пријатеља. Међу учесницима су били и чланови САНЕ, Саша Величковић, Мајкл Правица, Милдред Просер, Радојка Галетин-Смит, Марија и Ђорђе Јеринић, Стојан Којић, као и Ђина и Ли Грегорис.

Тачно у подне велика група наших људи се сакупила испред Холокаст музеја, али су били спречени да уђу. Баш тада (можда случајно?) запишале су сирене за пожарну узбуну, тако да су и они који су били у музеју морали да изађу. И поред тога, мала церемонија и говори су се одржали, али испред музеја уместо унутра. Ђорђе Богданић је говорио о најновијој

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Letter from the President

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Center plaza, which also had very good coverage on the Channel 5 Evening News.

Our humanitarian efforts with individual cases are continuing. While Rajko Simeunovic and Marko Vujakovic were already recovering in Yugoslavia, Stojan Kojic arrived in Boston and with the help of Dr.Olga Mucic and Rose Kurtigian he had successful eye surgery.

In September we sent \$400 worth of medicine to the Kolo Srpskih Sestara in Novi Sad who distributed this to the refugees from the Krajina and the sick from Sarajevo.

With the news of another 100,000+ Serbian refugees who were all going to Banja Luka, we had concentrated mostly on sending humanitarian aid. In order to simplify procedures, we had decided to send all our contributions through our St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church of Boston. SANE has contributed \$1,500.00 and over 500 boxes of clothing and food. The food and clothing drive is still going on. So far we have collected over 15,000 clothing items. Thank you Barbara, Steva J., Stojan, Bane, Rada, Mira and Greg, Milica, Gordana N., Dragana, Steva, Sasa and Maja, Danijela, Bojan, Gina and Lee, Tanja, Srdjan, Mike, Mirjana, Alek, Father Aleksandar, Radica, John, Marko, Vera i Pera, Branka M., Dragica and all others who helped us picking up, sorting and packing clothes or taking the boxes to the church.

In tragedy we must give all the help that we can.

Gordana Todorov

Note On Language

After numerous discussions with our members about the language to be used in our SANE Newsletter, and realizing that it is impossible to satisfy all of the wishes, we have decided to have our articles published mostly in English and some in Serbian. Sometimes the same event will be covered in both English and Serbian, which will not necessarily be translations of each other, but articles written by two different people. Mostly, however, articles will be written in one of the languages only.

Сусрет с првим избеглицама из Крајине

пише Гордана Тодоров

За пад Гламоча и Грахова смо чули на радију и ТВ у Новом Саду, где смо провели лето 1995. Тада нисам схватала да је то уствари почетак велике трагедије - чишћења Срба са огромних територија.

Пад Книна, 4-ог Августа је још увек звучао нестварно. Прве слике на ТВ огромних колона кола, камиона, аутобуса и трактора су почеле да се појављују после неколико дана. Кијоши и ја смо се спремали да идемо у Сремску Митровицу где је био један од прихватних центара. Око подне, 8-ог Августа, Др.Губас из Кола Српских Сестара из Новог Сада нам је јавила да је јако тужна слика на булевару у Новом Саду. Одмах смо отишли тамо. Деца су плакала. Била су преплашена. Чак су са страхом узимали и чоколаде. Жене су покушавале да их смире а и њихове очи су биле пуне суза. Дечак од 13 година је спавао на трави поред својих пластичних кеса. То је све што му је остало, старијег брата је изгубио у путу и од онда само ћути. Пазили су људи да га не пробуде. На столицу, позајмљеној из оближњег кафеа, седео је право и скоро поносно старац у оделу са шеширом на глави (вероватно је то било све што је понео са собом). Ни са ким није разговарао.

Коначно, око 2 сата смо сазнали да ће сви ови људи бити смештени у СПЕНС-у, спортском центру у Новом Саду.

Кијоши и ја смо редовно одлазили на СПЕНС, пре подне, по подне, увече. Долазили су камиони, аутобуси, трактори, аутомобили: Книн, Кореница, Бенковац, Глина, Петриња... Жена која је дошла у Гавриловићевом камиону из Петриње нам је рекла да је троје деце умрло у путу. Једна старија жена је умрла кад је стигла у Нови Сад. Једна жена се породила. Сликали смо болесно дете у малом аутомобилу, заједно са свим стварима које је његова породица понела. Врло пријатан човек из Коренице нам је поносно показао свој камион и ћебад и јастуке које је понео тако да је могао много деце да



спасе (од својих ствари није много понео). Људи су излазили да дочекају нове камионе у нади да ће наћи своје чланове породице које су изгубили у путу. Велика је радост била за једног тату кад је чуо да је неко видео његове две девојчице у Бања Луци.

Старија жена у црном се шетала сама, рекла је да нема више нигде никог, само јој је жао што је оставила своју кравицу везану у стаји, па кравица не може да побегне.

Први дан је увек био лакши, људи су били задовољни да имају кров над главом после 6-7 дана пута. Следеће јутро је увек било теже - сазнање да су стварно заувек отишли, да се никад неће вратити својим кућама и да нико не зна где ће сутра бити. Учитељица из Книна нам је рекла да јој је ово већ друго бежање - веровала је да ће бити сигурна кад је први пут побегла у Книн. Прво вече кад смо је упознали, седела је на клупи, јела крофну и покушавала да се шали са својом мамом која је била љута на њу јер је сматрала да су требале да остану у Книну. Сутрадан је учитељица само седела и плакала.

Две спортске хале на СПЕНС-у су биле пуне пољских кревета. Деца су се играла, наизглед безбрижно, али маме нису знале како да одговоре на питање: Мама, кад ћемо ићи кући? или Мама, где су моје оловке и моја свеска? Једна бака ме је молила да донесем неке патике њеном унучићу - тужан је дечкић - тата му је погинуо.

Јако много тужне деце, тужних мама, тужних тата и бака смо видели у Новом Саду. Нажалост, они су вероватно још увек тужни.

Face To Face With Krajina Refugees

by Kyoshi Igusa

Tuesday, August 8, 1995. Novi Sad. Dr. Gubas of Kolo Srpskih Sestara calls to say that refugees have arrived in Novi Sad. We find about 25 at the restaurant on "the boulevard", across the Dunav Park. They are women, men and children. They have no place to go. Some refugees don't want to be videotaped but others are so upset they talk and cry and yell. Around 3pm two fancy red cross vans come to take the refugees with their bags of belongings to Spens, the sports center. Later around 5 we also go to Spens but the director of Spens tells us we can't enter. He thinks we are journalists. So we just talk to people outside. We meet the woman from Benkovac (originally from Sibenik) who didn't want to be taped earlier.

Later at home, just before dessert, Dr. Gubas calls again to tell us that a bus full of orphans have arrived at Kamenica and another is on the way. We immediately go back to Spens. We get past the first check point just by mentioning Dr. Gubas. Then we wait for the director. As we are waiting a truck labelled UNHCR comes in full of mattresses. Gordana asks if this is really from UNHCR and they say no, they just use their trucks. The aid comes from various Serbian organizations and, we find out later, some Italian and Greek people. TV Novi Sad goes in with their crew and then the director, much friendlier this time, leads us into the sports arena. There are more than a hundred refugees inside. Red Cross officials are getting their personal data and sorting them by place of origin. There are free telephones so that people can try to find their relatives. One man announces: will everyone from Knin please go to the restaurant to eat dinner.



Gordana asks people what do they need. Shoes, slippers. That is what they need the most. Their feet hurt so much they say. And some are barefoot. They also don't have clothes, only what they are wearing. So we come home to collect shoes and clothes.

I tell Sonja a bedtime story. NATO has bombed the enchanted forest but that's OK because it rains and forms an enchanted pond. While I am putting Sonja to sleep Gordana collects clothes and shoes in seven bags. She will buy me more clothes at yard sales when we get back to America, she tells me.

At 11pm we return to Spens for the third time. Another busload of refugees has just arrived. And several more are on the way. Inside Gordana is mobbed by people mostly women who need shoes and clothes. A little boy, Zoran, wants to see my videocamera. I play with him and some other children until his mother chases them away and says "let the man do his work!"

There are several hundred refugees now. (375 at this time according to the Red Cross.) Many of them are sleeping. We decide to leave around 1am. When we get back to our car we notice that there are two refugees in the truck parked next to our car. When Grahovo fell they had packed the truck and had it ready to go. But they didn't leave on the first day. We talk to the woman for a long time but she doesn't want her personal tragedies to be told to the world. Then we talk to the man. He talks about the military situation, how his commander was killed. "Croatian Military com-

mands were being given in English and German," the man said.

On Saturday, the second day of the offensive, NATO bombed all the Serbian command centers so that by 9am all communications were cut. The command center where they lived was 200 meters away from where the UN was stationed. They needed NATO to do the precision bombing. I toss and turn all night, unable to sleep from anger and despair.

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SANE on the Radio

On September 12, 1995 Christopher Lydon's radio program on National Public Radio (90.9 WBUR Boston) had the New York Times columnist Anthony Lewis as a guest for a full hour. Steva Radojev, Gordana Todorov, and Michael Pravica got through the phone lines and asked Anthony Lewis a number of good questions.

There were approximately 8 callers total and not one of them was anti-Serb. In fact, 6 of the callers (three Americans besides ourselves) were strongly pro-Serb. It was pretty much a washout. Anthony Lewis was on the defensive for most of the time and answered the questions poorly.

Also in September, Bane Andjelich was interviewed by the Voice of America for their program in English. The topic was discrimination against the Serbs in America as a result of anti-Serb media war. An eight minute segment was broadcast worldwide several times in September.

SANE on the World Wide Web

In order to increase public awareness of the plight of Serb refugees expelled from Croatia, SANE has recently started working on an WWW exhibition which will include some of the photographs taken by Gordana Todorov during her stay in Novi Sad this summer.

The exhibition is being prepared by Marko Kocic at Northeastern University and will be linked to other Serbian resources on the Web. If you have a WWW browser, check out the initial effort at http://www.cdsp.neu.edu/home/marko/public_html/photo.html.

Marko has been working on another set of documents since May 1995. These can be reached at <http://www.cdsp.neu.edu/info/students/marko/resources.html>.

We plan to start work on the SANE homepage in the near future. Any comments and offers of help (both time and storage space) would be appreciated. You can email Marko at marko@cdsp.neu.edu or give him a call at 373-5127 (12p.m. to 6p.m. weekdays).

SANE in Print

Worcester Telegram & Gazette

On July 24, 1995 Worcester Telegram & Gazette ran a front page article "Balkans war draws differing viewpoints" in which SANE member Rose Kurtigian was interviewed. The background information Rose gave to the reporter dominated the article, and Rose successfully got across all the major points: illegal disintegration of Yugoslavia; historical grounds for Serbian fears; the fact that Bosnia will become an Islamic state and the fact that all sides are brutal but only the Serbs are singled out. Rose was compassionate and well reasoned and she also managed to put in nice praise for SANE.

Boston Globe

On July 29, 1995 the Boston Globe ran a front page article "Many Serbs in America besieged by Bosnia war" by Randolph Ryan, featuring Branka Milosevic. "Because I am a Jew from a multinational country, I can speak as a neutral. Many Serbs don't want to identify themselves. They feel people are hostile. They feel besieged," Branka said. And Branka did speak. She told of constant shelling of Serb areas of Sarajevo by Muslims that are never reported, and of Croat offensive on Western Slavonia with "columns of refrigerator trucks moving out. . . filled with the corpses of dead Serbs."

Combination of her non-Serbian origin and her pro-Serbian stance disturbed local Muslims so much that several of them called Branka and threatened her life. She had to notify the police and change her telephone number. But, she said, she is not sorry she spoke out.

The article had a huge picture of Branka in a foreground, wearing her SANE T-shirt, with her famous flower beds and wives of Boston in the background. Way to go Branka, and thank you.

Dnevnik, Novi Sad

During their visit to Yugoslavia, Gordana Todorov and Kiyosi Igusa were interviewed for Dnevnik, the major daily newspaper in Novi Sad. Gordana and Kiyoshi talked about SANE activities, about their extensive library of news articles, audio tapes and TV footage. They pointed out the importance of the "first strike" in the information war and how ill equipped the Serbs were in that regard. But, they said, with good information and hard work successes are possible even without a lot of money.

They also talked about SANE humanitarian efforts, in particular about the fund raiser Branka Milosevic organized, in which over \$1,000.00 was collected.

The article was published on September 21, 1995. A copy is available from Gordana and Kiyoshi.

TV Editorial by Michael Pravica

Sometime in early August, I happened to see an editorial broadcast by Marjorie Arons-Barron of Channel 5 on the necessity of lifting the arms embargo against the Bosnian Muslims. Given that Serbian Krajina was falling, I wanted to rebut the editorial but was cautioned against it by local Serbs, thinking that I might be putting myself at risk. About three weeks later, an editorial rebuttal broadcast by the same TV station featured some Muslim woman not from Bosnia decrying the "holocaust of the Bosnian Muslims."

Seeing this, I decided that any problems that I might encounter by doing a rebuttal would be nothing compared to what innocent Bosnian Serbian civilians were then experiencing, so I called Channel 5 that Thursday, Sept. 1. Marjorie faxed me all the relevant ground rules and I was soon afterward invited to the WCVB-TV studios for a taping the following Thursday.

The editorial rebuttal was broadcast the following Thursday (9/14) at 6:55am and at 12:28pm. To date, I have not received one menacing/threatening phone call or letter from any strangers as a result of this broadcast. This should hopefully prove to all Serbs and Serb-sympathizers that most Americans just don't care about the Yugoslav civil wars, and that Serbs should not be afraid to express their points of view.

Published Letters to the Editor

Most SANE members seem to have lost steam in their efforts to publish opinions in major newspapers. Except one. Michael Pravica is constantly being published, all over the country and all over the world. We hope his letters will encourage others to write and also give them an idea what kind of letters actually get published. Here are a few:

The International Herald Tribune, 8/29/95 **"Ethnic cleansing"**

[Regarding "When Serbs are 'cleansed,' moralists stay silent" (Opinion, Aug.12) by Charles Krauthammer:]

As a Serbian-American who has lost relatives in this civil war and seen other relatives ethnically cleansed, it is comforting to know that there are a few journalists who can transcend the racist stereotype of Serbs as evil do-no-gooders and comprehend the horrible tragedy that has befallen all the peoples of the former Yugoslavia.

The tragedy of the vanquished Krajina Serbs is that most of them had no desire for a "Greater Serbia" and could easily have lived in Croatia if the Croatian government had been more sensitive to their concerns and treated them as equal citizens.

The proof of these desires lies in the fact that they had lived in the Yugoslav republic of Croatia quite peacefully for 50 years, even after the genocide of 750,000 of them by the Croatian Ustashe during World War II.

The Boston Herald, 9/30/1995 **"U.S. foreign policy inept in Balkans"**

Bill Clinton's inept and immature foreign policy in the Balkans has supported the greatest humanitarian catastrophe in Europe since the end of World War II by encouraging the ethnic cleansing of almost 1 million Serbians from territories where they had been a majority since before the Pilgrims came to America.

Our recent bombing of the Serbs in Krajina and Bosnia has forced 250,000 of them from Croatia and 150,000 from Western Bosnia ("Serbs on the defensive", Sept. 14). Contrary to the opinions of many racist American journalists, most of these Serbs were innocent civilians -not warriors. On top of all this, America, a multi-ethnic democracy, has supported the resurrection of a fascist Croatia which through ethnic cleansing, genocide and forcible conversion to Catholicism of hundreds of thousands of Serbian Orthodox Christians (all begun 50 years ago), now stands as the ethnically and religiously "purest" state in Europe.

By choosing sides in the Yugoslav civil wars, we will never achieve a lasting peace in the Balkans.

The Washington Times, 10/31/95 **"We can't be peacekeepers in Bosnia because we've already taken sides"**

I fully agree with George Kenney's Oct. 11 Op-Ed article, "U.S. troops in Bosnia couldn't be impartial," and I strongly advise President Clinton not to send any American troops to Bosnia.

After the U.S.-led bombing of the Croatian Serbs in August and of the Bosnian Serbs (including the shameful use of Tomahawk missiles) in September, all of which sparked the ethnic cleansing of more than 450,000 Serbs from territories that they had inhabited in the majority since before the Pilgrims came to America, I don't think U.S. troops would be welcomed as "peacekeepers."

In addition, the United Nations has on a number of occasions determined that various parties to the conflict - primarily the Bosnian Muslims - cleverly attack U.N. personnel with the aim of getting the other side blamed. Thus, outtroops would become yet another target and pawn in this horrible fratricidal civil war.

At this stage, the Serbs are extremely wary of any U.S.-led "peace" plans because, in their view, American-style "peace" will only be achieved when the Serbs are cleansed from not only Bosnia and Croatia, but Vojvodina, Sandzak and Kosovo. These objectives - the further dismantling of the formerly peaceful and multiethnic former Yugoslavia at the expense of its majority ethnic group, the Serbs - are subtly but consistently mentioned in Congress and in the American media.

The Bosnian Muslim leaders still covet all of Bosnia and have even stated that the Bosnian Serbs should get less than the allotted 49 percent of Bosnia because they estimate only 400,000 Bosnian Serbs are still left in Bosnia (despite the fact that the Bosnian Serbs owned 63 percent of Bosnia before the civil war started).

President Franjo Tudjman of Croatia has made it clear in his speeches that he is the president of all Croats (including the Bosnian Croats) and has successfully - with America's open encouragement - made Croatia Europe's most ethnically and religiously "pure" state. So, the question that all people who abhor ethnic cleansing and inter-ethnic violence will want to ask President Clinton and his State Department is: How many Serbs will need to be ethnically cleansed and slaughtered before the traditional enemies of the Serbs are satisfied?

The Clinton administration's support for the creation of ethnically pure states for the sake of political expediency and political points does not set a good precedent for America's own multiethnic future and demonstrates poor, inconsistent and amoral leadership for the rest of the world.

SANE Youngest Member Leads By Example

One does not have to be strong or experienced or rich to speak their mind and do something for the community. One just has to be honest and compassionate and courageous. And Natasa Velickovic is all of that, and more. She is the youngest member of SANE and one of the most active ones.

When SANE was formed in 1992 Natasa was only in the 8th grade. But she boldly approached her school authorities and with their consent organized a lecture to present the Serbian point of view to her fellow students. She invited two experienced SANE members, Steva Radojev and Michael Pravica, who spoke to her class about the history and the current conflict. The lecture was an astounding success which opened the door for Natasa's other activities at her school.

That same year she organized several fund raising drives in her school. She collected money among students, parents, faculty and staff at her Buckingham, Browne and Nichols School to enable Marija Pajevic, a blind child from Yugoslavia, to continue her medical treatment in Boston. She also organized a clothes drive and collected a whole truckload that was later flown to Serbian refugees from Bosnia.

In 9th grade, Natasa showed off her debating skills by successfully taking on her fellow students in a debate on the media and the power it has to manipulate people and communities.

In 10th grade Natasa applied to the prestigious Mountain School and in her application essay wrote about how much she hated Americans because of their discrimination against the Serbs and how she dealt with her emotions in everyday contacts with the Americans. Once again she proved that honesty and courage always pay off. The essay got her in.

This year, in 11th grade Natasa gave a speech to her English class about an inner conflict which has been bothering her for a while. The conflict was whether to constantly argue with everyone who claims the Serbs are the aggressors or to sometimes just tough it out. She concluded that her reasoning must keep her emotions in check, and that she should engage in argument only when she knew she had enough evidence to show her right, and when this would make a difference. She got an A for that speech.

Throughout this time Natasa participated in all other events and activities of SANE, selflessly helping at every opportunity. We hope her example will inspire others, not only youth, but also those much older than her, to get out there and do something, anything, for their people.

Activity Update

Fund Raising

On June 24, 1995, our friend Branka Milosevic sponsored a wonderful fundraising event - sunset dinner at her elegant Beacon Hill rooftop. The entire \$1,050.00 was put in SANE's Humanitarian Aid Fund with the purpose of helping suffering people of Republika Srpska. We would like to thank Branka for the enormous effort that she put in organizing the event. We would also like to thank all of you who came as well as those who sent their contributions but were unable to come.

Medicine Delivered

In September Dr. Klasnja was going back to Yugoslavia and several of our members had collected \$400.00 in order to buy and send medicine (mostly antibiotics) to Kolo Srpskih Sestara in Novi Sad. We just received a letter from Dr. Ljubica Gubas and Savka Gojkovic from KSS saying:

“Колегиница Класња је донела лекове који су стигли у најбољем реду и већ се дистрибуирају. Између осталих били су нам у посети рањеници из разних делова Републике Српске који су из Сарајева упућени на рехабилитацију па су при повратку свратили до нас и ми смо им при повратку дали осим других и ваше лекове јер ми ћемо се некако снаћи а њима су сада неопходнији.”

Picnic

While our Spring picnic was organized as a purely social event, thanks to a large number of people who came and many food contributions from the members of

SANE, we made a profit of \$300.00, which was donated to the Refugee Fund which is being sent through our St.Sava Serbian Orthodox Church of Boston.

Even though we had planned to have another picnic this fall the tragic events in Republika Srpska have shifted our focus onto the humanitarian efforts of collecting food, medicine and clothes, as well as organizing our rally as a response to the NATO bombings of Serbs.

We hope that in the future we will have more time and energy to organize pleasant social events again.

Marko Vujakovic

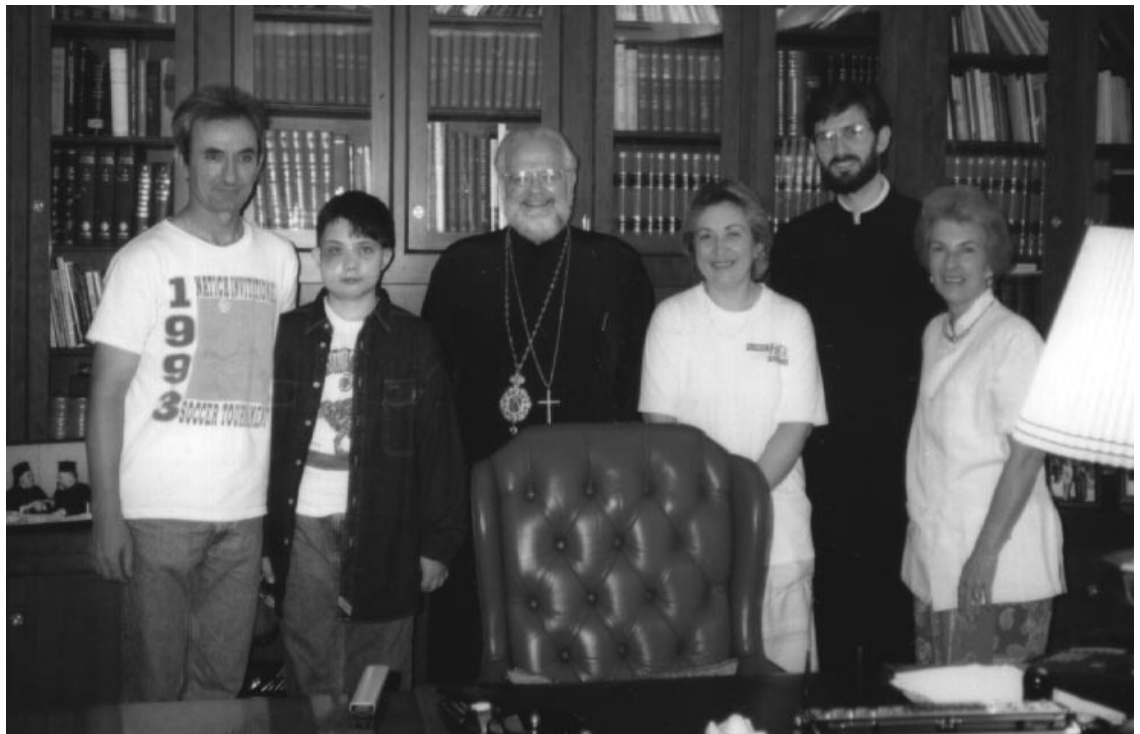
Marko Vujakovic is recovering very nicely after his surgeries, he is going to school and his eyesight is improving. He and his family send their regards and would like to

thank the many people who had helped them during the very difficult times of Marko's medical treatments.

Rajko Simeunovic

In late June 1995 Rajko left rehabilitation center in Novi Sad to spend some time with his parents. In September he called Rose Kurtigian to tell her he was back in Novi Sad for some follow-up therapy. Rajko asked Rose to convey his love and gratitude to all those who helped make his medical stay in Boston easier. He said he will always remember with fondness all of the people who befriended him here.

SANE wishes to take this opportunity to thank all the Cleveland area Serbs who took over Rajko's care after he left Boston, especially Alex Djuric who organized very the successful fund raising which enabled Rajko to return with substantial medicine and supplies.



Krstan Vujakovic, Marko Vujakovic, Bishop Methodios, Dragana Vujakovic, Father Aleksandar, Mimi Gregory.

Clothes Collection

In a superb effort led by Gordana Todorov and Barbara Gruber SANE members and other Serbs and their friends from Boston area collected an unbelievable amount of clothes which were sent through our church to the Serbian refugees from Bosnia and Krajina. Considering that there are only about 200 Serbian families in all six states of New England, collecting 15,000 pieces of clothing (almost 500 large boxes, or two full large U-Haul trucks) is an astonishing achievement. And the collection still goes on!



Watertown Sun Coverage of Zlata's Diary on the Summer Reading List

I went to the Watertown public library at the end of the school year 1994-95. I glanced over the summer reading lists for various age groups: there was "Zlata's Diary" for middle school students. Immediately I was thinking that was inappropriate, and I wrote letters to the school officials. I read the book, and included quotes and paragraphs from the book, which seemed fabricated and self-serving in my opinion. Both the Superintendent and the English Department Chairwomen wrote back to me - they respected my right to differ, but they saw nothing wrong with placing the book on the summer reading list.

I sent copies of the letters to the local newspaper, the Watertown Sun. It was received by one of the educational reporters, who wanted to do a story about this. He got in touch with me by sending me a note through the mail, because my telephone number was not listed. I called him the next day, just in time to have the story for the next issue of the Watertown Sun. I answered questions about my background, my ethnic origin, my political opinions. When I finished talking, I had mixed feelings about what I just did, because if he wanted to, he could make a nasty sounding story where I would be pictured as some "Serb lover", and I was very nervous about it. When the story came out, I was relieved, because the story was fair, and respectful, and non-sensationalistic. In the next issue, my original letter was published, and that was the end of it. Here is that letter:

June 14, 1995

High School - English Department
50 Columbia Street, Watertown

I wish to thank you for taking the time to consider my opinion regarding the summer reading list, when I stated that "Zlata's Diary" is a poor choice.

Overall I find this "diary" badly written and superficial, and worse yet, propagandistic and non-authentic. One such part which does not sound like an 11-year old wrote it is on page 6: "There is a real war going on Dubrovnik. It's being badly shelled. People are in shelters, they have no water, no electricity, the phones aren't working. We see horrible pictures on TV~ Mammy and Daddy are worried. Is it possible such a beautiful town is being destroyed?"

Another non-authentic part is the description of the events of March 5, 1992, on page 26. If you read it carefully, you will notice the difference in style. I would bet money that this entry was not written by this girl, or any other girl, but by a grown-up.

In various places there are mentions of the Vance-Owen plan, Security Council, Radovan Karadzic, Zdravko Grebo, and similar, which are hardly the names one would expect to find in a diary of an 11-year old girl. Could you imagine Anne Frank writing something like "Those cruel gentlemen with swastikas have dropped bombs on London, while we in the attic are sitting with no gas, no electricity and no television There was an important meeting in Yalta, but the people of the Alliance will not be happy with the piece plan" (By the way -why not put "Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl" on the reading list instead - at least it we know it is the real thing.)

On March 30, page 29, Zlata realizes that there is some similarity between herself and Anne Frank. Considering that shelling of Sarajevo had not yet begun at that time, this idea is pretty clairvoyant. Or, did she get this idea from her publisher, perhaps, after her diary was already accepted for publishing, in the process of adding and changing her original entries to better serve the intended propaganda purposes? And the chosen name "Mimmy" itself is so common, so catchy, so image promoting, and above all, it rhymes with "Kitty", so unlike any of the other names she was considering: Shefka, Shevala, Pidlzamta, to name a few (see page 29). Could it be that it was not Zlata who chose this name, but the publisher?

On page 84 Zlata mentions the Bosnian language dictionary. It is a known fact that a language by that name does not exist. The language spoken in Bosnia-Herzegovina is called Serbo-Croatian, and the "Bosnian language" is a made-up name to justify the political goals of the Muslim government.

Overall, it is a shame to have our young readers waste their time on this ill conceived, disappointing, shallow creation of the modern times. Have them read "The Bridge Over the Drina" by Ivo Andrich to really learn what life used to be in this once beautiful country, Bosnia-Herzegovina.

SANE Peace Rally at the Government Center

On Thursday, September 21, the Serbian-American Alliance of New England hosted a rally on the Government Center Plaza in Boston (right in front of City Hall) from 6pm to 8pm. Approximately 100 people showed up - mainly Serbs from the Boston area, but some Greeks, Russians, Armenians, and most importantly, Americans.

The rally was a tremendous success. We were filmed by local Channel 5 TV and a lengthy report was broadcast on their prime time news at 11 p.m. the same night. They showed the Orthodox service conducted by our priest Aleksandar, as well as some of about 40 posters/banners that we had made the night before. They lingered in particular on a poster saying "Stop the rape and slaughter of Serbs."

Michael Pravica gave a fiery opening speech and a number of Serbs, Serbian-Americans, and Americans spoke about their own personal experiences in Yugoslavia and their thoughts on the conflict.

Most onlookers were sympathetic, though one person exclaimed at the top of his lungs that America was doing the right thing. Many people took time to view our posters and expressed extreme curiosity - not animosity.

The Voice of America made interviews for their Serbian program. They aired a segment with Michael Pravica. Since Mike's Serbian is not that great, specially when he is excited, they were obviously impressed with what he had to say. This broadcast was taken over by some English radio stations, so our rally got publicity as far as London.

Демонстрације за мир у Вашингтону

Са стране 1

историји Југославије и неправди која се наноси српском народу. Прочитана је и порука Јевреја Југославије Јеврејима Америке.

Демонстрације су настављене у 3 сата поподне испред Беле куће. Колона са транспарентима је ходала цео сат око Беле куће, и поред велике врућине, а онда је започео митинг преко пута, у Лафајет парку. Већина транспарената је тражила престанак бомбардовања Срба од стране НАТО.

Митинг је започео молитвом за мир, а онда је учеснике поздравила Ана Павићевић-Харкинс која је предводила организацију целог догађаја. Затим су говорили Раде Стоун, Роналд Хечет, Ник Лалић, Алекс Драгнић, Џон Ранц, Џон Питер Махер и отац Иринеј Добријевић. Сви су допуњавали слику немилых догађаја који су се дешавали на тлу бивше Југославије у последњих неколико година. Истичана је неправда која се чини према Србима. Професор Хечет је говорио о необавештености Американаца због једностране и половичне слике у медијима. Отац Иринеј је рекао да противно општем мишљењу Срби нису сами, да имају пријатеље у другим православним и Словенским народима и међу израелским Јеврејима. Нагласио је да је нарочито важно да избеглице знају за то.

Порука митинга је да треба стално помагати, и речима и делом. Надамо се да ће у будуће више чланова САНЕ и много више Срба из целе Америке присуствовати оваквим догађајима.

Видео трака са овог догађаја се може изнајмити или купити од САНЕ.

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To Serbia, 1995

by Mimi Gregory

I sat in the Vienna Airport awaiting my flight to Belgrade. The plane would hold perhaps fifty of us, and I reflected on the journey that we would make from this destination. U.S. sanctions enforced a need for crafty planning, no tickets are issued on U.S. soil - are we, thus, restrained? (forbidden even) to see our families? Around me, my fellow passengers are a sorrowful lot, the pain of these past years a tattoo upon their faces; weary, hushed, clutching worn bags - their return to Serbia a renewal of that pain.

As if to illustrate the divide, the next gate held those passengers bound for Zagreb; the contrast was startling! Freshly pressed, natty, European, their posture breathing smooth assurance. How can it be so? I feel the bile rise, I rail inwardly at this reflection of realism... we, the Serbs, are truly the losers. This visual example exacerbates my hidden concerns, Western aid has driven the cleft deeper, can we ever overcome this abandonment by our former allies? My journey slides into reality on the acid of bitter feelings.

Arrival in Belgrade erases, briefly, those feelings as families reunite, and that warmth overcomes the day's reflection. Novi Sad, too, cheers me as I observe a vitality in the people, the shops are full once more, and the parks and cafes suggest

better times. A frozen moment in time as summer's end would prove.

I wanted to journey once more to Vukovar to evaluate what I felt certain would be improvement. Kiyoshi joined my cousin, Nikola, our friend from Vukovar, Djordje Prokic, and me as we set off to cross into Eastern Slavonija. Border crossings had increased patrols as locals now refused foreigners the right to enter. We explained that we were bound for Vukovar Press, which unleashed a fury of disrespect for "foreign journalism" and forced us to obtain permits (thirty dinars each) from the local constabulary. Thus, armed with an one day passport we continued our journey. At first glimpse, the countryside appeared lush, but further inspection proved that false; overgrown instead, weeds and vines, hiding the fissures and blemishes of war. Desertion, abandonment, charred fingers of once tiled roof tops standing now behind even taller vegetation. "Djordje, where is the new water tower?" "Nema ga." My heart sinks, it is all so forlorn. Kiyoshi is silent, recording our dismal journey.

The reunion with friends at Vukovar Press is long, we question them at length: "What of Western Slavonija? will they be next? have they reports of the

slaughter, the refugees, do WE know that the Croats are still poisoning the water. Some answers are straightforward, others guarded, some avoided. The pace is frenetic, they are the voice of news for South Serbia with daily broadcasts by phone.

Djordje wants to show Kiyoshi the surrounding neighborhood and finally the hospital. The heat is overwhelming and even the laboratories are only slightly cooler. We are met by the director who shows us around, lamenting the condition of equipment everywhere. No machine is working, the most simple procedures cannot be accomplished, vital equipment has been sent to Knin, they are decimated. I am deeply depressed by the hospital's obvious deterioration, Kiyoshi agrees.

We rally, briefly, at lunch. The hotel, at river's edge, wears her badge of courage: bullet holes everywhere. But - there is good soup - and fish, bread and wine, and most of all, strength in these people of Vukovar who say they will stand to the finish.

Our journey back to Novi Sad is a sad one; we try to think in the present tense. We passed the village where our friend Stevan Radojev lived, and we feel the tug of home and America. We are so privileged; can we not make it so for our Serbs?

Исцељење Стојана Којића

писе др.Олга Муцић

Од када је почела апокалипса и голгота у нашој домовини сви ми у дијаспори смо се питали, безброј пута, шта да урадимо, како да помогнемо.

И баш у то време Стојан Којић из Обудовца код Брчког дошао је да му помогнемо, а и он нама. За све нас који смо били око њега, који смо били укључени у његово лечење и опоравак, то је било и исцељење наше душе и наше савести.

Млад момак од 24 године, страдао је у рову. Граната му је разнела десну ногу и десно око. Бранио је своје село и своју Босну.

Дугачак је био пут од тог дана до доласка овде. Дуга лечења и рехабилитације у преоптерећеним болницама и заводима су места где је Стојан провео следеће две године. Институције које су се формирале у овом периоду и оне које су постојале тешко су се бориле да многобројнима помогну. Али за коначно лечење Стојан је морао доћи овде..

Стојан је сада добро. Уграђено му је ново око и надограђен очни капак. Урађено је оно што је било потребно, и што је за њега од приоритета. Остала је још једна фаза, која долази касније, после извесниг временског периода адаптације.

САНЕ и његови чланови су поносни и задовољни да су имали прилику да помогну Стојану, а кроз њега и нашем народу који и даље страда. Много нам је значило Стојаново присуство овде.

YOU CAN OWN THIS SPACE

To offset the cost of typesetting and printing the Newsletter, SANE is making available advertizing space.

Members enjoy special discount.

Let the other Serbs know of your business or service. Help SANE and make a buck in the process.

For pricing and schedule of publishing contact our Treasurer Kiyoshi Igusa at 617-928-1235.

Return To Milici

From page 1

singing and some of the boys fire their guns in the air. The sound is incredibly loud. In the distance we can also hear the rumbling of guns, big and small. But there are no NATO planes above us.

At 8:30 we all watch the news. We see Ratko Mladic at Srebrenica. He is giving a returning refugee the keys to her house. And there is today's edition of "What the World thinks about us." We go to bed with the windows open, listening to the distant thunder of war.

The next morning we get up early and prepare to leave. Mica's sons Ratko and Goran and their cousin Radenko across the street have their uniforms on and are ready to go to their positions. As we say our good-byes I notice that there are other soldiers, some on foot, some by car going down the hill towards town. We follow them.

In Milici there is a roadblock. The bus from Pale is stopped. Soldiers tell us it is not safe to cross. But Ljubinko convinces the guard to let us through because we are only going to Nova Kasaba to visit his mother. We are all a little nervous about entering an unsafe area but there are people walking about and we pass two men roasting "prase" on a stick. Then we arrive in Nova Kasaba.

Just a hundred meters from Ljubinko's mother's house there is a road block. There are three young soldiers there. They motion for us to stop but Matija doesn't see and he drives past the roadblock without stopping! His sister yells at him to stop or they will shoot us! The soldiers come and take my video camera away from me. It is still on.

One guard takes my papers to their commander and soon he returns with another older and more authoritative figure who orders us to head back to Milici. Marija and Matija are very upset because they will not get back in time for work. Ljubinko is upset because he didn't get to see his mother. But for me it is another adventure.

Back in Milici we wait together with the bus passengers who are also on their way to Serbia. In the space of about two hours we watch as one howitzer and 25 bus and truck loads of Muslim refugees from Srebrenica pass by. UNPROFOR-ci also go back and forth in their Jeep waving three fingers.

Then I notice that there is some commo-

tion on the bus which is right in front of us. It is a bus full of wounded Muslim men and a young Serbian woman is hitting them on the head. She is extremely upset and the Serbian soldiers are afraid of her. Finally they get her off the bus. She says she lost her son and her husband. There are other people around the bus saying "These men are killers. They should be lined up and shot!" I hear someone else saying "Why are these men being protected?" It is a very tense moment. I am really afraid that someone will get hurt. Then the man from the Vlasenica Red Cross asked me to get on the bus and videotape him as he was interviewing the Muslims so they will realize that they are not going to be killed.

At 12:30 we decide to leave. We stop at the bus station to get some coffee, we go to the police to try (unsuccessfully) to call Gordana, we stop at the market for some tomatoes and cabbage for dinner and then we head back to Mica's house.

Mica is happy to see us as are Goran and Ratko who have returned from their positions. The afternoon is not without incident. One of the cows gives birth to a calf. But for the most part we just sit on the hillside and talk, gazing out over the woody hills where only two or three houses are visible.

Later that afternoon a soldier comes and asks for volunteers. Ten more men are needed to hold the Serbian positions around Zepa tomorrow. Ratko volunteers and in the evening we walk to Kum's house to tell Kum's son that he and Ratko should go to Zepa tomorrow. (Kum means Godfather.)

There are no lights on the road and four of us (Matija, Ljubinko, Goran and I) walk unarmed in the moonlight along the granite road and through the woods to get to the next house where Kum lives. This house is on the top of the hill and there is a magnificent view of the hills all around. They are all dark except for one or two lights. After leaving our message we take a shortcut through the corn field to get back home.

Later, Matija begins to worry about our security and he convinces Goran to sleep with his AK47.

The next day is July 14. After breakfast we take our leave again and we drive down into town. There is no roadblock. There are no busses waiting. Then a truck full of soldiers pulls out in front of us and heads towards Zvornik. We follow, feeling safe with our own armed escort. The truck stops often to let out soldiers. Perhaps the battle is over. Then we arrive in Nova Kasaba. There we meet one of the Vlasenica Red Cross men again. His van is full of wounded soldiers. They had run into some Muslims. One Serb had been killed. There is a roadblock and the guards tell us it is not safe to continue but Matija convinces them to let us through.

We then enter the war zone.

Nova Kasaba has become the front line in the Serbian defense against Muslims from Srebrenica. There are Serbian soldiers all along the left side of the road facing the direction of Srebrenica on our right. Most of the houses, including Ljubinko's mother's house, are also on the left. Empty bullet cartridges litter the road and I see two dead men, presumably Muslims lying in the grass. This is a moment that I will never forget. We leave. I do not intend to risk my life like this again.

Back in Novi Sad Gordana is happy to see us. She was prepared to go to Bosnia to look for me. It is a good thing I got back. And my friends are also glad to be home. Marija said over and over "Imali smo vise sreće nego pameti." (We had more luck than brains.)

Later we learned that Nova Kasaba was evacuated. Ljubinko's mother was sent to Milici. She cried when she learned that Ljubinko had been there but could not stop to see her. Still later Goran Djukanovic was wounded at Drvar and he is now in the hospital in Milici.

When I arrived in the US I found that Serbs were accused of massacring Muslim "civilians" in Srebrenica and placing them in mass graves in Nova Kasaba. But the scene that I witnessed was different. On July 14 the Serbs at Nova Kasaba were not executioners, they were defenders. And the Muslim men in the woods were not unarmed civilians. They were armed and dangerous.

Литерарни Кутак

David Manoogian

High Tech Genocide American Media Style (1995)

Hey you Serbia!
Swept to me on an electro media wave
You are an asteroid to my American heart.
The Western machine has given you horns
And you blaze through the atmosphere I breathe,
Bomb soaked, media bled onto my living room screen,
My 9 to 5 American ears,
And cheers without tears for entertainment.
I'll visit you like dinosaur bones
Museum proud on display
By our American Indian teepee, Holocaust memorial.
Oh, brave Serbia, I fear good night,
But then, so many Americans have just begun.

Јован Дучић

Сапутници (1929)

Све за својим путем, ја сам жудно хтео
Све за својим путем! Али заман муке;
На раскршћу сваком увек сам се срео
С кажипрстом кобним невидљиве руке.
Хтедох у свом срцу да глас себе чујем,
А ја чух у слуху глас ко зна од куда...
Хтедох да се отмам, да сневам, да снујем;
Друштво невидљивих пратило ме свуда...
Ја где сам? заваних. Моје дело где је?
Кога следим вечно, несвесно и страшно?
И у мени самом колико је мене?
Колико?.. Све ћути. Ах! то је ужасно.

Ђура Јакшић

Падајте браћо! (1862)

Падајте, браћо Плине у крви
Оставте села, нек гори плам
Бацајте сами у огањ децу
Стресте са себе ропство и срам
Гините, браћо, јунаци, људи
За пропаст вашу свет ће да зна.
Небо ће плакат дуго и горко,
Јер неће бити Србина.
Ми несмо браћа, ми Срби несмо
Или ви несте Немањин сој?
Та да смо Срби, та да смо људи -
Та да смо браћа - ох, боже мој.
Та зар би тако с Авале плаве
Гледали ледно у огњен час?
Та зар би тако - ох, браћо драга
Та зар би тако презрели вас?
Презрите братства, покор и клетву
Што небо даде, погазте ви
Та није'л' грешно, није ли грозно -
Крв деце ваше гледамо ми.
А где је помоћ, ил' суза братска?
Ил' „Јуриш, роде, за брата свог“?
У вељој беди, смрти и крви
Данас вас, саме, оставља бог.
Ал' опет, грешан, грешно сам пево -
Рањено срце народа мог
Та Србин киши - киши и чека -
Ал' не да ђаво... ил' не да бог.

DO YOU HAVE YOUR SANE ÒTÓ SHIRT ?

Two great designs:
RED LETTERS ON WHITE and WHITE LETTERS ON BLACK.

DO YOU HAVE YOUR COPY OF SANE RALLY?

One and half hour long video tape, documenting
the September Rally held on City Hall Plaza - Boston,
organized successfully by SANE, Inc., Featuring :
**A Liturgy by Father Aleksandar Vljakovic and Speeches
by concerned Serbian Americans**

** Please note that this was an exceptional success in
reaching out to the American people and focusing media atten-
tion on the suffering of Serbian people. Part of this rally was
broadcasted on Channel 5 -Boston TV and Michael Pravica was
interviewed by Voice of America.*

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1. by phone (617) 928-1235
2. by mail:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

ÒTÓ SHIRT:

- Red letters on white White letters on black
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QUANTITY TOTAL: ____ x \$10.00 = \$ _____

VIDEO TAPE:

QUANTITY TOTAL: ____ x \$10.00 = \$ _____

Please add \$ 2.50 for shipping

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Make Check payable to: SANE, Inc. and mail to: SANE, Inc.,

Face To Face With Krajina Refugees

From page 3

August 09, Wednesday. Will there be civil war in Vojvodina? If there is, will the Serbs just run away? I finally met a man who was in the column bombed by air at four places (Korenica licence plate, KE). The refugees were in two rooms (arenas) at Spens. There were several soldiers and one talked on camera for a long time. Because of the swarm of refugees the army at Benkovci couldn't turn on their tanks. He said it was complete chaos there was no line of defense. He said if they had stayed to fight they could have held off the Croats for a week or two but with no sign of reinforcements there was no point.

One man who worked for the Red Cross said they needed baby bottles and pacifiers so we immediately went to buy some. It is raining and dark and Gordana has a car where the blinkers and windshield wipers don't work. We go from one pharmacy to another. We go home and try to call, the phones don't work. We finally call the government's emergency pharmacy. "Are you crazy," they ask her "you call an emergency pharmacy for a baby bottle?" We finally went to the private emergency pharmacy and got 5 baby bottles for 23 dinars each. (and some pacifiers.)

Back at Spens the lights were out. People were sleeping. We went to each baby and asked if they needed a bottle.

On the way out we saw the man who had been searching for his wife and children. (They had been separated during the

exodus.) He had located them, I don't remember where. The phones are always busy and people are always looking for relatives.

August 10, Thursday. Gordana calls Dr. Gubas to ask where can we buy a large quantity of underwear at factory prices. Dr. Gubas says don't worry about underpants, Kolo Srpski Sestara will take care of that. We should just go and take pictures to tell the World what is happening here.

We go to Spens with 3 bags of clothes. We first talk to the new refugees outside. One man showed us how he rode on his tractor all the way from Knin. His mother was in the tractor. Another man shows me his one year old baby who is in their car with a 102 fever. A third man tells me that the Croats had used pictures of him and one of his relatives for their propaganda. "I can prove that I am Serbian" he says. We also interview a woman who had been in the refugee column when it was bombed.

August 11, Friday. We didn't go to Spens last night. But this morning we are going. Gordana drives Desa and me to Spens at about 11am. Desa is coming to protect me. A lot of people are angry with me because they think I am a journalist. Many think I will say these are Croats who are suffering. Desa explains to everyone that I want to get their story so I can tell people in America. "Don't do

that," one woman says, "They will rejoice when they see Serbs suffering."

The refugees, especially women, are very angry at Croats. They threaten to kick Croats out of their homes in Serbia. One woman from Raducic, a village near Knin says that the Croats came, massacred 7 and took away all the men. There is a Serbian-American, Zdravko Dobric looking for his mother.

We went back to Spens in the late afternoon. There were busses ready to take refugees to Zrenjenin. This morning there were busses headed for Subotica. The refugees tell the same story. We interview several who witnessed their refugee column being bombed. Almost none of the refugees realized that they would end up in Serbia. They thought they were going a short distance and that they would return after the fighting was over. But they kept being told "go a little further." A 76 year old woman said "I didn't forget to lock the house."

The Serbs from Krajina are armed. The police are trying to disarm them at the border but hand grenades are very easy to hide and I keep wondering what are these blasts that we hear once or twice a day. Desa said they were not sonic booms. She knows all the sounds of small and large arms being fired and it is none of these she said. According to the news, soldiers are no longer being allowed to enter Yugoslavia and those already here are being sent back.

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