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THE WHITE HOUSE DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT AND TRACKING WORKSHEET

DATE RECEIVED:

CASE ID: 645021

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: NENAD VUKICEVIC

HUD1350

SUBJECT: URGE THE PRESIDENT TO SERIOUSLY CONSIDER THE ENCLOSED INFORMATION REGARDING "THE SERBIAN AMERICAN CONSTITUENCY AND THE NOVEMBER ELECTIONS

ROUTE TO: AGENCY/OFFICE	(STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION		
		CODE	DATE	TYPE RESPONSE	CODE	COMPLETED
SCHEDULING		ORG	12/08/2004	MB	A	12/13/04 DJ
ACTION COMMENTS:						
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MEDIA: LETTER

USER CODE:

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ACTION CODES:	DISPOSITION		
A - APPROPRIATE ACTION B - RESEARCH AND REPORT BACK D - DRAFT RESPONSE I - INFO COPY/NO ACT NECESSARY R - DIRECT REPLY W/ COPY	TYPE RESPONSE:	DISPOSITION CODES:	COMPLETED DATE:
	TYPE RESPONSE = INITIALS OF SIGNER NRN = NO RESPONSE NEEDED	A - ANSWERED/ ACKNOWLEDGED C - CLOSED X - INTERIM REPLY	COMPLETED = DATE OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OR CLOSE-OUT DATE (MM/DD/YY)

REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO DOCUMENT TRACKING UNIT (ROOM 84, OEOb) EXT-62590 KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO OFFICE OF RECORDS MANAGEMENT

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON


December 13, 2004

Dear Mr. Vukicevic:

Thank you for your letter inviting President Bush to to discuss Balkan region issues in Washington, DC.

We appreciate your invitation and the valuable opportunity it presents. As the President's schedule continues to develop, your request will be given every consideration. We will contact you once a final decision has been made. If you have any questions regarding your request, you may contact the Office of Appointments and Presidential Scheduling at 202-456-5324.

Sincerely,



Melissa S. Bennett

Deputy Assistant to the President
and Director of Appointments and Scheduling

Mr. Nenad Vukicevic
President
Serbian Unity Congress
231 M Street, N.W.
Suite 402
Washington, D.C. 20037

Schick 1/5

Serbian Unity Congress

КОНГРЕС СРПСКОГ УЈЕДИЊЕЊА

November 4, 2004

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As a leading Serbian American organization, the Serbian Unity Congress (SUC) wishes to congratulate you on your reelection as President of the United States. The Serbian Unity Congress is a major Diaspora organization headquartered in Washington DC and represents a wide cross-section of Serbs worldwide. Our largest membership is in the US, concentrated in the Midwestern states such as Ohio and supported your reelection by an overwhelming majority.

This November, we in the Serbian American community went to the polls to vote for the candidate who best addressed both our domestic and foreign policy concerns. After more than a decade of isolation and alienation, our constituency has become increasingly better organized and more politically active. The actions of Senator George Voinovich in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and quick condemnation of violence against Serbs in Kosovo during the March 2004 pogrom by Albanian extremists gave the community a moral and psychological boost and hope for a more fair and reasonable solution to the Balkans. This was clearly reflected in the outpouring of Serbian American votes for Senator Voinovich. A new generation of Serbian Americans are running for local and state offices, are well aware of the political process and have a strong presence in Washington.

In light of these facts, the SUC would like to take this opportunity to inform your Administration about the Serbian American constituency and the pivotal issues that determined their votes in the 2004 Presidential Elections (enclosure.) We urge you to seriously consider the enclosed information. These are not special-interest issues; rather, they embody core American values about which our membership feels strongly, both because of our own ethnic roots and because we are simply loyal Americans. Without true even-handedness and respect for international agreements, American credibility (and thus effectiveness) gets seriously compromised. Without acknowledging terror as terror regardless of where it strikes – whether in Manhattan, Madrid, Moscow or Mitrovica – our ability to effectively eradicate it is weakened. Stabilization of key volatile regions such as the Balkans is essential if we are to effectively focus our limited resources on our own most serious national problems. Serbia is the linchpin of stability in Southeastern Europe and requires our evenhanded treatment and its traditional and historical alliance with the United States needs to be restored.

Our membership is present throughout the US, feels strongly about the issues outlined in the enclosure and wants to be included in the political process of their country, the USA. Our office represents the Serbian-American voice in Washington. We are intimately acquainted with the key issues affecting stability in the Balkans and we have the double advantage of an American view of our national interest and familiarity with the perspectives of the peoples of Serbia and Montenegro. We look forward to meeting with your staff to review the possibilities for a constructive role in our nation's search to find the most equitable solutions for stability in the region. Mr. Andy Verich, SUC Washington Office Director, will contact YOUR STAFF within a week as a follow up to this letter to try and schedule a meeting. We look forward to meeting with you.

I have the honor to remain,
Most respectfully yours,

Nenad Vukicevic

EXEC. OFC. PRESIDENT
WHITE HOUSE

2004 DEC -9 PM 1:57

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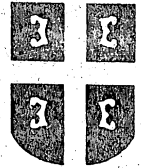


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Serbian Unity Congress

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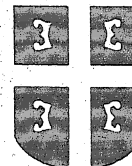
Handwritten signature of Nenad Vukicevic in black ink.
Nenad Vukicevic

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Serbian Unity Congress

58/11/04

КОНГРЕС СРПСКОГ УЈЕДИЊЕЊА



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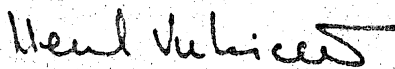
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Nenad Vukicevic

THE SERBIAN AMERICAN CONSTITUENCY AND THE NOVEMBER ELECTIONS

Who They Are

People of Serbian descent are the largest ethnic group from former Yugoslavia, both there and in the US. The estimated numbers of Serbian-Americans is over 1.2 million.

They represent several waves of immigration going back to the 19th century and the Gold Rush, with the oldest Serbian Orthodox church in Jackson, California, dating back to that period. Later immigration included blue collar labor within the turn-of-century great European wave, the political immigration fleeing communist Yugoslavia following World War II, the influx of top academics, scientists, etc. in the 70s and 80s, the exodus related to the 90's wars comprising the displaced and disenfranchised, and most recently the "brain drain" of the intellectual elite – the best and the brightest, seeking a better life, now an asset to our country.

Throughout this period there have been notable and prominent citizens of this country and contributors to this society in the arts, science, business, academia, etc: from notable Texas pioneering statesman George Fisher, to scientific giants Nikola Tesla and Michael Pupin, to acclaimed Pulitzer and Oscar prize winners and celebrated military veterans.

Where They Are

Large numbers are in the "rust belt" states -- Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan. New immigration patterns have resulted in new flourishing settlements in North Carolina, Florida and Nevada. On the West Coast, Serbian-Americans are most numerous in California and Arizona.

What They Voted For:

Strong position on the following issues:

1. **Human rights** - Promote and protect human rights uniformly in the Balkans, particularly those of Serbs which remain severely violated – in Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and most notably, UN-administered Kosovo-Metohija
2. **International agreements** – Enforce strict adherence to terms and conditions governing the resolution of previous conflicts, and block any attempted revisions:
 - *The Dayton Accords* in Bosnia & Herzegovina,
 - *The Erdut Agreement* in Croatia
 - *UN SC Resolution 1244* regarding the Serbian province of Kosovo-Metohija
3. **War crimes and accountability** -- Impose an even-handed treatment of all parties to the former conflicts – Croatians, Bosnian Muslims and Croats, and Kosovo Albanians, as well as Serbs. Prosecute those contributing to the ongoing persecution and human rights violation of Serbs in Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo – perpetrators as well as instigators; particular focus on Kosovo, where a lack of accountability under UN administration breeds terrorism and has undermined all Western civilized values.
4. **Depoliticization** – Remove political obstacles to US efforts to assist sustainable economic progress (including environmental and other war-related cleanup) of Serbia & Montenegro, uphold its territorial integrity, and restore it to a position of US partner providing regional stability and anti-terrorist cooperation.
5. **Refugees** -- Promote a real solution to the problem of ethnic Serb refugees and IDPs, who remain the most displaced of all ethnic groups of the former Yugoslavia:
 - Reconstruction/return of destroyed/usurped properties
 - Safeguard of returns and continuous security of the returned refugees
 - Implementation of the rule of law, eliminate ethnic discrimination
 - Economic programs that allow for permanent, sustainable returns