



March 13, 2005

Lord Paddy Ashdown
High Representative and EU Special Representative
OHR SARAJEVO
Emerika Bluma 1
71 000 Sarajevo
Via FAX: 387-33-283-501

Dear Lord Ashdown:

In the matter of Dragan Covic your office appears to be using every imaginable device, with the exception of the democratic principles of law and justice, to create a political climate in Bosnia and Herzegovina that would cause the Croatian member of the Presidency to resign. At the same time your public relations machine churns out pronouncements of the OHR promotion of democracy, you persist in using the Stalinist tactic of a politicized prosecutor's office in an attempt to invalidate the Croatian votes overwhelmingly cast for President Covic (despite your efforts) in the fair elections of 2002.

In America, everyone is innocent until proven guilty by a court of law, and that fact is at the very heart of the Covic matter. It is our view that you, acting as the high representative of both the United Nations and the European Union, have selected Covic for reprisal due to his leadership in Bosnia and Herzegovina on behalf of the United States rejection of the U.N. sponsored International Criminal Court. In 2003, President Covic, at the request of the highest levels of the U.S. State Department, persuaded the BiH Government to adopt the Article 98 agreement exempting American troops on BiH soil from prosecution under the Rome Statute. Covic and the other members of the BiH presidency entered into the Article 98 Agreement with the United States, despite direct threats from the European Union to block BiH candidacy in the EU.

The political use of prosecutorial authority, along with the testimony of secret witnesses and the use of fourth person heresy as evidence, as well as the traditional European assumption of being guilty until proven innocent, are the very reasons that the U.S. Congress included the Article 98 exemption when it adopted the Armed Forces Protection Act.

If, as you say, it is the UN and EU's policy for "persons holding executive positions" to resign in the face of criminal allegations for the "sake of the trust of citizens at home and abroad", why didn't Silvio Berlusconi's resign and why is Kofi Annan still in office?

*Croatian American Association
2000 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Box 287
Washington, DC 20006
Telephone: 202-429-5543*

I want you to know that we intend to press the U.S. administration for clarification in this matter during upcoming hearings on Bosnia and Herzegovina being held by the House International Relations Committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George Rudman".

George Rudman
President
Croatian American Association

***Croatian American Association
2000 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Box 287
Washington, DC 20006
Telephone: 202-429-5543***