



Croatian American Association

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Dear Sirs:

I am writing about the "Imali smo nekad i uspjesne diplomate" article by Jadranka Juresko-Kero in the OBZOR section of the July 2, 2005 edition of Vecernji list.

While rightly praising the tenure of Ambassador Petar Sarcevic, who recently passed away at a relatively young age, the article incorrectly suggests that Ambassador Jurica does not have a working relationship with influential emigres and that he does not engage in high level meetings with U.S. government officials.

Today, unlike the past, the U.S. does not need Croatia to end a war. Instead, the main issue clouding U.S. - Croatia relations is not Gotovina, as mentioned in the article, but the signing of Article 98. Now is a great opportunity for Croatia to sign the agreement since the European Union is rudderless. Recently, CAA has supported, free of any cost, high level contacts between Ambassador Jurica and the U.S. government which seeks our input on bilateral U.S. - Croatia relations.

The article was not based on conversations with any emigre organization to our knowledge which questions the identity of the sources used. As a result, Ambassador Jurica should think twice about working with those who profited from the Enron fiasco and who falsely propose the selling of crown jewels for political influence with the United States as was mentioned in a prior article by the same author. Instead, what Croatia needs is a business climate that is conducive to foreign investments - particularly from the emigre community - through necessary reforms of labor, tax and property laws that are leftovers from the discredited communist system.

Sincerely,

George Rudman
President, Croatian American Association