

**DOBROSLAV PARAGA -- HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR. (Extension of
Remarks - February 11, 1992)**

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HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

in the House of Representatives

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1992

- Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following statement by Dobroslav Paraga, president of the Croatian Party of Rights, into the **Congressional Record** for consideration by the U.S. Congress.

Zagreb, February 10, 1992.

- To the U.S. Congress,

Washington, DC.

- I am obliged to report to you that a month ago in Croatia, we established the opposition's Committee for the Defense of Human Rights, due to the fact that the existing committee in Parliament, established by the ruling party in Croatia absolutely does not function (most likely for that reason). This newly-established committee which consists of representatives of all opposition parties, has its hands full, because complete lawlessness prevails in Croatia, spearheaded precisely by the leading party--the Croatian Democratic Union.
- The violation of human rights by Croatian authorities and the conforming of laws and the Constitution to their daily needs began shortly after they came to power, such that today, the same has flourished in all respects. As you are already aware, the opposition in Croatia has come under particular attack, especially my party, which is a severe critic of the government. For example, on September 21, 1991, without any warning, the Croatian police killed my deputy, the Vice President of the Croatian Party of Rights, Ante Paradzik, and seriously wounded another member of the party, Branko Perkovic, having sprayed their automobile with over 50 bullets. To date, no one has yet been sentenced. As you also already know, Croatian police arrested me on November 22, 1991 in a gang-style, armed attack of over 30 policemen on orders of the parastate organ, the so-called Supreme State Council of Croatia. First, I was accused of armed rebellion, then of embezzling funds allegedly acquired in an arms sale deal, all of this eventually winding down to

an accusation of illegal bearing of arms and my release on December 18, 1991.

- The President of Croatia, Tudjman, personally and publicly accused me of these slanderous lies, prejudicing me prior to any judicial organ deciding whether or not to even open a criminal inquiry! He publicly sentenced me almost immediately upon my arrest.
- Numerous defenders of the Croatian city Vukovar were also accused. Some were beaten and otherwise mistreated, such as Mile Dedakovic-Jastreb, about whom official medical documentation exists. There is also the case of Lillian Toth, who for 31 days was held captive as a civilian in a military prison without any type of warrant or judicial hearing. Marina Nuic, a member of the opposition Croatian Democratic Party, was killed in Zagreb in early November. No one has been charged or arrested for this murder, nor have the police made any information public. In Gospic, at least 64 citizens are now missing about whom Croatian authorities remain silent, and yet reports of others listed as missing continue to surface. Lawlessness is spreading, such that explosives have been planted around about 200 homes in the city of Osijek.
- Last week, I stated that we must not keep silent about these incidents, otherwise we ourselves will become part of the missing. The weekly political magazine `Danas' declared this statement of mine, the quote of the week. After that, on Thursday, February 6, the Croatian police intercepted me and my personal security guards, on our way to the frontline at Vinkovci, disarmed my guards at gunpoint and confiscated four automobiles and all of their weapons, all of which belong to the Croatian Party of Rights. Four of my personal security guards, members of the Croatian Army, still remain illegally imprisoned. I attach herein a separate open letter about this incident and trust in your appeal to the Croatian authorities that they begin to respect elementary human rights, the Croatian Constitution and laws which they themselves have passed.

DOBROSLAV PARAGA,

PRESIDENT OF THE CROATIAN PARTY OF RIGHTS AND CHAIRMAN OF THE
OPPOSITION'S COMMITTEE FOR THE DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN CROATIA.

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