

**THE POSITION OF THE CROATIAN PEOPLE ON THE PERSIAN GULF CRISIS  
-- HON.JAMESA.TRAFICANT,JR. (Extension of Remarks - January 18,  
1991)**

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**HON.JAMESA.TRAFICANT,JR.**  
**in the House of Representatives**

*FRIDAY, JANUARY 18, 1991*

- Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, please insert the following letter from Dobroslav Paraga, president of the Croatian Party of Rights, into the **Congressional Record**. It outlines the position of the Croatian people on the Persian Gulf crisis.

Croatian Party of Rights,  
*Zagreb, Croatia, January 15, 1991.*

Mr. President,  
*Members of Congress.*

**Dear Honorable Representatives of the People of the United States of America:** While dramatic changes are still occurring daily in Eastern Europe and an unavoidable confrontation has developed in the Middle East I wish to personally thank you on behalf of the people of Croatia on your courageous assumption of world leadership to ensure that fundamental human rights and liberties are available to all.

As President Havel stated to me when I met with him in Prague on October 29, 1990--`if there are human rights violations going on anywhere, then human rights are threatened everywhere.'

Your support of the freedom seeking peoples of the world, from Lithuania to Kuwait and beyond, is instrumental in the achievement of this goal and nowhere do we understand this more than in Croatia.

While we Croatians have not yet completed our transition to democracy and independence I can personally testify that had it not been for the U.S. Senate passing S. Res. 169 on August 4, 1989 supporting my efforts to bring about increased respect for human rights in Yugoslavia that I would now not be writing to you as the President of the Croatian Party of Rights from our offices in Zagreb but rather from one of the jail or prison cells where I had previously been incarcerated and tortured for circulating a petition asking for amnesty for all political prisoners in Yugoslavia in 1980.

Although we in Croatia now have democratic political parties we do not yet have 'government of the people, by the people, for the people.' While we are patiently changing this we will not allow ourselves to be identified by the actions of those who still rule us but do not represent us.

On September 28, 1990 Associated Press ran a report on Iraqi jets being serviced by Yugoslavia in Croatia which Senator Dole noted with a request for an investigation in the Congressional Record of October 24, 1990 entitled 'What are Iraqi Military Aircraft Doing in Yugoslavia?' And then on January 11, 1991 Reuters reported that Iraqi agents or terrorists may already be in place in Europe having infiltrated through Yugoslavia.

We have all watched these terrifying experiences unfold into dramatic statements of man's inhumanity to man and we've all wondered why and when will it end. The people of Croatia know how difficult it is, if not impossible, to end armed aggression and oppression without help and we feel that it is our duty to express ourselves to the people of the United States and the world community by volunteering our services to actively participate with the following declaration:

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'We, the people of Croatia, join in this opportunity to stand, and side, with our friends, the United States of America and other governments of the world, who in this time of world crises have courageously assumed the burden of leadership in full implementation of the United Nations Resolutions; and whereas the Federal Government of Yugoslavia, and it's offspring Governments in the Republics of Yugoslavia, have chosen a position of non-commitment; we feel that this international effort to stop the brutal aggression of Saddam Hussein demands the active support of all who care about preserving freedom and the rights of human beings to live peacefully within their own country.

'We, the undersigned, in our desire to actively participate, shoulder to shoulder, with other nations of the world, hereby, volunteer our services to the multinational forces united in resolve to secure the justice which will alone result in lasting peace, as well as extending our commitment to a multinational peace keeping force to preserve this new world order.'

Presently the people of Croatia are expressing themselves by individually signing this declaration just as over 500,000 Croations have signed a petition for independence from Yugoslavia over the course of the last six months. Maybe someday soon the nation of Croatia will once again be able to express itself as a country in such an honorable commitment as is this participation in achieving the unalienable rights of all people--life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Dobroslav Paraga,  
*President.*