

**SERIOUS DEVELOPMENTS IN THE PROVINCE OF KOSOVA, YUGOSLAVIA --  
HON. WM. S. BROOMFIELD (Extension of Remarks - July 17, 1990)**

[Page: E2353]

---

**HON. WM. S. BROOMFIELD**  
**in the House of Representatives**

*TUESDAY, JULY 17, 1990*

- Mr. BROOMFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I am alarmed about the recent dissolution of the Kosova Provincial Assembly and believe that the current policies of the President of the Republic of Serbia will lead to further ethnic strife in that tense Province and could trigger the breakup of Yugoslavia. Today, I introduced legislation concerning the ongoing tragedy of Kosova. Should the situation in Kosova further deteriorate, I will consider stronger legislation that will have a serious economic impact on that country.
- The seamy side of Yugoslavia's policies toward its ethnic groups was brought to my attention by Ekrem Bardha, my good friend and a leader in the United States-Albanian community, in 1986. A young Michigan resident, Pjeter Ivezaj, visited his family in Kosova and was arrested, abused and put on trial for having demonstrated in front of the Yugoslav Embassy in Washington in 1981. After he was given a long prison sentence, I introduced legislation that would have denied Yugoslavia most-favored-nation trading status with the United States. Fortunately, Mr. Ivezaj was released.
- Last year, the sad story of Dobroslav Paraga, a young Croatian human rights activist, came to my attention. He was imprisoned, along with another Croatian, for having called for the release of political prisoners in Yugoslav jails. While in prison, he was beaten, and his colleague died in prison under mysterious circumstances. After learning of the flagrant violation of the basic human liberties of Mr. Paraga, I introduced legislation in the House last September condemning the brutal treatment of that decent man and highlighting the tragic human rights record of that country. An identical bill passed the Senate in August and received strong support from our colleagues who share our concerns about Yugoslavia and human rights. The Department of State's 'Country Reports On Human Rights Practices for 1989' and Amnesty International's report for 1990 clearly document the ongoing human rights abuses in that country.
- In April, Congressman **Lantos** held a hearing in his Human Rights Caucus on the human rights situation in Yugoslavia and invited me to testify about Mr. Paraga. A few hours prior to that hearing, the state of emergency was lifted in the Province of Kosova and several political prisoners were released. Many

Members of Congress were led to believe at that time that a period of healing was beginning in Kosova.

- 
- Unfortunately, the situation in that troubled Province has worsened. This month, the Government of the Socialist Republic of Serbia dissolved the 188-member Kosova Provincial Assembly, took over the organs of the provincial government and closed Albanian language news media. The virtual ending of Kosova's status as a province began in 1989 when the nationalist-inspired President of the Republic of Serbia amended the Serbian constitution and severely limited Kosova's autonomy. His recent actions were designed to inflame ethnic tensions by denying the ethnic Albanian people, who constitute 90 percent of the population of Kosova, the right to have a province of their own.
- In response to the unwarranted actions of Mr. Milosevic in 1989, ethnic Albanians peacefully protested. Over 50 of them were gunned down, scores more were wounded, and others were imprisoned. It is important to remember that all of these unfortunate events are happening in Kosova when respect for justice, democracy, and minority rights is growing in Eastern Europe.
- The unfortunate policies of Mr. Milosevic have curtailed the possibility for the Albanian community to express opinions freely and defend its interests through a peaceful process. The policies of the leadership of the Serbian Republic have undermined prospects for a peaceful democratic solution in Kosova that would respect the rights of all of the citizens in that Province.
- The democratic movements in Kosova have attracted nearly 1 million supporters despite the severe restrictions upon human rights and the democratic process in that Province. Mr. Milosevic remains clearly enamored with the Communist Party and is doing everything possible to contain the rising tide of democracy and the need for free elections in Kosova.
- The house that former Yugoslav President Tito so carefully built was designed to contain Serbian nationalism. Mr. Milosevic is attempting to rebuild the former Serbian Kingdom at the expense of ethnic Albanians and others who may stand in his way. Many in today's Yugoslavia fear a rampant Serbia. Is there any wonder that many Europeans are calling the Serbian President the most dangerous man in Europe and a real threat to peace in the Balkan region?
- My sense of the Congress resolution commends the ethnic Albanians for showing restraint during these difficult times and encourages a peaceful solution to the problems of Kosova. The bill also urges the Government of Yugoslavia and the Government of the Republic of Serbia to restore the

autonomous status of Kosova and abandon its nationalistic policies which can only serve to undermine the unity of Yugoslavia.

- I urge my colleagues to support this timely resolution.

END

Stay Connected with the Library [All ways to connect »](#)

Find us on



Subscribe & Comment

[RSS & E-Mail](#)   [Blogs](#)

Download & Play

[Podcasts](#)   [Webcasts](#)   [iTunes U](#)

[About](#) | [Press](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Contact](#) | [Accessibility](#) | [Legal](#) | [External Link Disclaimer](#) | [USA.gov](#)

[Speech](#)

Enabled