

**CONTINUING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN YUGOSLAVIA--PRAISE FOR
CONGRESSMAN WILLIAM BROOMFIELD'S EFFORTS TO REDRESS THESE
PROBLEMS -- (BY JACK ANDERSON AND DALE VAN ATTA) (Extension of
Remarks - November 21, 1989)**

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HON. TOM LANTOS

in the House of Representatives

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1989

- Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, in recent weeks we have seen how countries throughout Eastern Europe have initiated unprecedented reforms to safeguard freedoms and protect human rights. There have been only a few exceptions. The Yugoslavian Government has resisted the present wave of change and ensured that human rights violations continue to be perpetrated against its citizens.
- Mr. Speaker, in the past I have spoken before the Congress to denounce the human rights abuses inflicted against ethnic Albanians. Today, I speak to you regarding the violations committed against human rights monitors of many different ethnic groups. Specifically, I cite the case of Dobroslav Paraga, an ethnic Croation, a former Amnesty International prisoner of conscience who has been incarcerated 4 years in five Yugoslav prisons for his activities as a human rights advocate.
- Mr. Speaker, I commend my distinguished colleague, Congressman **William Broomfield**, who has championed the case of Dobroslav Paraga, and bring to the attention of my colleagues a recent Washington Post article by Jack Anderson and Dale Van Atta that echoes the outrage over the treatment of Paraga and other human rights monitors in Yugoslavia. I urge my colleagues in the Congress to give careful attention to this article, and I ask that it be inserted into the Congressional Record.

(BY JACK ANDERSON AND DALE VAN ATTA)

Where is Jimmy Carter when you need him?

He was a novice at managing a nation and put the Democratic Party into a hole that is still digging out of. But at least Carter knew a human rights violation when he saw it.

Dobroslav Paraga, a persecuted Yugoslavian dissident, thought that the U.S. Congress would recognize one too, but times, and presidents, have changed.

Paraga came to the United States last summer to plead the case of Yugoslavians like himself who are persecuted, imprisoned, tortured and some even killed for speaking out against their Communist government.

At 28, Paraga has already been in five Yugoslavian prisons for a total of four years --the first time when he was only 19. In 1980, he and his friend, Ernest Brajder, were thrown in jail for circulating a petition opposing torture in Yugoslavia. Paraga came out alive, but Brajder did not. After three days in jail, he was dead in what the State Department admits were 'mysterious circumstances.'

Paraga made the rounds on Capitol Hill this fall explaining the plight of those who stand up to the Yugoslavian government--a government that poses as a benign Eastern Bloc power in Western clothing. The Senate believed Paraga and passed a resolution with plenty of 'whereas' and 'therefore' language that didn't make the Yugoslavian government look very nice. The Senate asked Yugoslavia to investigate Brajder's death, grant amnesty to political prisoners and stop harassing Paraga.

Congressional resolutions have no binding effect on anyone, but that doesn't mean they are harmless. The repercussions of this one were felt immediately in Yugoslavia where the headlines in the state-controlled press pronounced the resolution to be 'monstrous,' and 'direct damage to Yugoslav and American relations.'

The next thing Paraga knew, he had the U.S. State Department in a lather. In State Department parlance, the Yugoslavian leadership may be brutes, but they're our brutes. Why upset friendly relations over a little human rights issue?

By the time Paraga's resolution passed the Senate and a duplicate had been introduced in the House, the State Department was looking for ways to water it down. Rep. William Broomfield (R-Mich.) introduced the resolution in the House and still hopes that it will pass in the original version. But it is mired in the Europe and Middle East subcommittee, whose leadership got a strong talking to from the State Department and the U.S. Ambassador to Yugoslavia Warren Zimmerman.

The United States and Yugoslavia have peculiar relations--we send ambassadors to the country and they come back converts to the cause. Look at Lawrence Eagleburger, now deputy secretary of state. He was ambassador to Yugoslavia 10 years ago and used his position to sweet-talk American banks into loaning money to Yugoslavia, even though loans to East European countries were not administration policy. When he left the foreign service, Eagleburger became the American representative for Yugo, the mini-cars produced by the Yugoslavian government. And he became a director of the New York branch of a bank owned by the Yugoslavian government.

One congressional aide told our associate Daryl Gibson that when it comes to Yugoslavia, the State Department has a strong case of 'clientitis'--a mother-hen attitude toward the country. An ambassador who lets a resolution like this one

pass gets blamed for it in the country where he is posted, and an ambassador on the outs doesn't accomplish much. Congress couldn't care less if an ambassador is a pariah aboard, but the State Department does care.

Paraga has spent most of 1989 rabble-rousing around Western Europe and the United States about human rights abuses in his country, and he is not eager to go home without the protecting arm of the U.S. Congress around him.

Part of Paraga's problem is timing. He was pressing the House to pass his resolution when the State Department was preparing for the friendly visit last month of Yugoslavian Prime Minister Ante Markovic.

Markovic came to ask for money, but he spent much of his time defending his country against the human rights charges stirred up by Paraga. In a private meeting, Broomfield told Markovic in so many words, 'If you want money, you will have to cooperate.'

It isn't the first time Broomfield has bumped heads with Yugoslavia. A Yugoslavian immigrant living in his district went back to Yugoslavia for a visit and was jailed, tried and sentenced to 15 years at hard labor. His crime was that he had demonstrated in front of the Yugoslavian Embassy in Washington, D.C. Broomfield proposed a bill to deny most favored nation trading status to Yugoslavia, and the man was immediately freed.

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