

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT
319 WEST BLOCK
OTTAWA, ONTARIO K1A 0A6

August 11, 1995

ATTENTION: HONOURABLE MINISTER ANDRE OUELLET

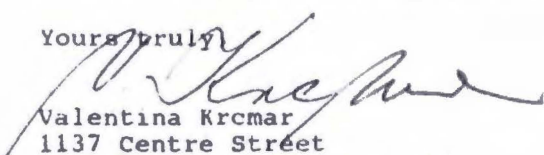
Honourable Minister,

Today in The Toronto Sun the readers were informed about your words that "warring factions could be locked somewhere and forced to come out with a compromise and a peace agreement."

Honourable Minister, we are shocked. You, rather than taking a stand for the victims, something that Canada should have done a long time ago, you even insult the victims by comparing them to children. Croats and Bosnians are old, proud people; our homelands have been here much longer than Canada; the towns where we came from have had universities over 900 hundred years old; our schools and libraries had books when no one even dreamed of Canada. Your words did not insult only us living here in Canada, you also insulted those that died all over Croatia and Bosnia: those from Vukovar's hospital, who were tortured and killed; you insulted people from Sarajevo, who have done their utmost to negotiate, but all their pleas fell on deaf ears; you also insulted those in Bihac who starved to death, hoping that negotiations would bring peace; or those from Srebrenica that were raped, tortured and are in the mass graves that seems to have been found just now.

Honourable Minister, you owe us an apology, but more than anything you owe an apology to Croatia and Bosnia. Not only that you yourself owe us apology, Canada should apologize for such irresponsible, insensitive words at the time when we need all the support we can get. I personally think that this is one of the lowest, if not the lowest, blow to the people that have been attacked, raped, tortured and killed by the Serbs. Today Canada should be ashamed of its Minister of External Affairs.

Yours truly,



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cc Hon. Jean Chretien, Prime Minister
The Toronto Sun
The Toronto Star
The Globe and Mail
Hon. Lucien Bouchard
Hon. Preston Manning
Mr. S. Robinson