

**To Croatian citizens of Serbian nationality from the occupied territories of Knin, Gracac, Lapac, Korenica, Slinj, Glina, Davor and Petrinja**

Since all attempts for a peaceful reintegration have failed, from both the Croatian authorities and the international community including yesterday's talks in Geneva;

Since the instigators of the rebellion in Croatia, Martić and others, instead of accepting the call for peaceful reintegration, continue the war against the Croatian state and together with the leaders of the rebellion in Bosnia, Karadžić and others, make new plans of conquering the protected zone of Bihać, that Croatia cannot allow;

Since Croatian and Bosnian Serbs not only prevent the return of refugees, but continue with the persecution of non-serbian population;

Since the Serbian extremists, from the early beginnings of the rebellion till now, call for support the remnants of fascism, offering the division of Croatian territory between the Italian and Serbian imperialism;

Since the units of Serbian paramilitary continue to carry out terrorist attacks on the civilian population from Slavonia to Dalmatia, continue the shelling of Croatian territory and towns of Otocac, Gospić, Karlovac, even while attending political talks on the peaceful reintegration with the Croatian delegation in Geneva, they again bombard the area of Dubrovnik where new victims fell.

And since all attempts by the Croatian state and the international community, to peacefully return Croatian territory taken in the rebellion under Croatian sovereignty, have been refused, Croatian state is forced to undertake military-police steps for the re-inclusion of said occupied territory to its constitutional order.

We are forced into this decision to put an end to tricking the Croatian and international public, after four years of futile negotiations, and to insure the start of the return of refugees to their homes.

Therefore, in the name of democratic authority of Croatia:

I invite the members of Serbian paramilitary forces, who are voluntary or forcibly mobilized in the Serbian paramilitary forces, to surrender their weapons to Croatian authority, with the guarantee they will be given amnesty according to valid Croatian laws.

I invite the instigators of the rebellion to understand the futility of their undertaking and its damage to the Serbian community in Croatia if they persist in this rebellion, to surrender to Croatian authorities and accept the pardon or legal trial for their offences.

I invite the Croatian citizens of Serbian nationality, which have not actively partaken in the rebellion, to stay at their homes and without fear for their life or property, welcome the Croatian authorities with assurances that they will be given all civil rights and will be enabled elections for local administration according to the Croatian Constitution and Constitutional Law, with the presence of international observers.

I invite the representatives of Serbia and Montenegro (and their SR Yugoslavia) to stop supporting extremists in the occupied territories, which was reflected at yesterdays negotiations in Geneva, in which the Yugoslav charge d'affaires took part when the Croatian Serbs refused to accept the agreement on peaceful reintegration of the occupied territory. That would be the first step towards the general solution of croatian-serbian affairs in the entire area of interest for these neighboring nations, and respectively the normalization of relations on the basis of mutual recognition.

We are determined to end the sufferings and uncertainty of Croatian refugees from the occupied territories, with the guarantee of human and ethnic rights to Croatian Serbs in the constitutional order of democratic Croatia.

President of the Republic of Croatia  
Dr. Franjo Tudjman  
/signature/

Zagreb, August 4<sup>th</sup>, 1995