

THE WHITE HOUSE,  
Washington, May 4, 1998.

Hon. LEE H. HAMILTON,  
House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR LEE: Thanks for your ideas regarding our policy on Kosovo. Your thoughts broadly reflect our own approach.

As you suggested, we are working to maintain Contact Group unity and thereby sustain effective pressure on Milosevic. In two meetings in March, Contact Group Ministers outlined the specific steps needed to resolve the situation and agreed on a set of measures, including a UN arms embargo, to apply pressure on Milosevic. We demanded an urgent start to authoritative talks between Belgrade and Kosovar Albanians, and pledged to consider further measures, if needed.

We can only avert continued deterioration in Kosovo and serious risk to regional stability through unified, focused, sustained pressure on the parties, especially Belgrade. Strobe Talbott recently visited key European capitals to build support for further Contact Group action at the April 29 meeting in Rome, and beyond. Our proposed approach includes a balanced mix of incentives and disincentives that deserves the support of all Contact Group nations.

As you also advocate, we have been firm with both parties that the difficulties in Kosovo cannot be solved through the use of force. We have made clear that we do not support secession or independence for Kosovo, and that Kosovar Albanians must pursue their legitimate human rights grievances peacefully. We also have made clear to Milosevic that further acts of repression or disproportionate violence by Serbian security forces will only deepen Belgrade's isolation and strengthen international resolve to take further measures.

I appreciate your thoughts on this important issue, and will count on your advice and assistance on this difficult problem in the weeks ahead.

Sincerely,

SAMUEL R. BERGER,  
Assistant to the President  
for National Security Affairs.

MARCH 31, 1998.

Hon. SAMUEL R. BERGER,

Assistant to the President for National Security  
Affairs, The White House, Washington, DC.

DEAR SANDY: At a recent breakfast Secretary Cohen had with several Members, the subject of Kosovo came up. Following the meeting, I did some thinking on the issue, and I wanted to share with you some policy suggestions concerning the U.S. approach to the crisis in the Kosovo province of Serbia.

The basic policy problem for the United States, working with the Contact Group, has been getting Yugoslav President Milosevic to compromise on Kosovo. We want him to remove his special police units and initiate a serious negotiating process, without preconditions, with leaders of the ethnic Albanian majority in Kosovo to find a mutually acceptable compromise on the future status of the province.

I understand and support the basic goals of the Administration's policy in Kosovo—a peaceful resolution of the crisis through negotiation resulting in a return of full autonomy for the province. However, it is my impression that the Administration's tactics in support of this policy—pushing for sustained pressure on Milosevic by advocating renewed economic and diplomatic sanctions, and making implied or even direct public threats of possible military action if the Serb crack-down in the province gets harsher—is not a policy that our NATO allies in the Contact Group support. They are urging a cautious and more even-handed approach as the best way to get Milosevic to compromise.

I would suggest that U.S. policy on Kosovo be adjusted to give Milosevic both the incentive and the confidence to compromise:

First, the Administration should not make implied or direct public threats of military action in Kosovo. The use of military force against Serbia has no support among our allies. We are already committed in Bosnia with 8,000 troops on the ground. We need Serbia's cooperation to make Dayton work. Threats to use force lack credibility, and air strikes alone are unlikely to change Serbia's policies on an issue as crucial to it as Kosovo.

U.S. threats to use force will also encourage the Kosovo Liberation Army and others to provoke Serbia, thereby enlisting the U.S. on the side of their separatist agenda.

Second, the Administration should stop comparing the situation in Kosovo to wartime Bosnia. Kosovo, unlike Bosnia, is an integral part of Serbia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. We could cite international responsibility to help the independent state of Bosnia, but Kosovo is not an independent state, and has no recognition as such. Continued comparisons of Kosovo to Bosnia will only harden Mikosevic's resolve to defy the international community and circle the wagons in his country.

Third, the Administration must state unequivocally and often that we do not support independence for Kosovo, and that a solution for Kosovo must be found consistent with the territorial integrity of Serbia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The future of Kosovo must be decided between the Serbian government and representatives of the ethnic Albanian residents of Kosovo, and the international community should do what it can to facilitate those negotiations.

Fourth, we can threaten Milosevic with sanctions, as the Contact Group has done very recently, if he does not start negotiations without preconditions with the ethnic Albanians within the next month. But threats of sanctions must have the support of the Contact Group if they are to be effective—otherwise Milosevic will play off governments against each other. To be consistent and even-handed, we should also tell ethnic Albanian leaders that they must also come to the table without preconditions on independence of the presence of a third-party mediator.

Fifth, the Administration should not blame Milosevic alone for the current crisis in Kosovo. Clearly, he bears heavy responsibility. But to be an effective intermediary, we must also highlight the unacceptable use of violence by armed ethnic-Albanian separatist groups, which is part of the reason for Serbia's recent crack-down in the first place. We must make clear to both sides that we will not accept violence as a means of resolving the conflict.

If we want to get Milosevic to demonstrate compromise on Kosovo, I do not believe the current U.S. policy of threatening sanctions—beyond what the Contact Group supports—and threatening unilateral U.S. military force will achieve such compromise.

Such a policy antagonizes our allies and Russia, and will not result in a lasting political settlement. Such a policy could very well embroil us in a military conflict in Kosovo at a time when the U.S. public and the Congress grudgingly tolerate our continuing involvement in Bosnia, and could harm U.S. interests throughout former Yugoslavia.

I appreciate the opportunity to give you some of my thinking on the Kosovo problem. I intend to follow up with you on the phone on this matter as well, and I am available if you have any questions.

With best regards,  
Sincerely,

LEE H. HAMILTON,  
Ranking Democratic Member.

SPECIAL TRIBUTE HONORING  
KATIE ROCCHIO, LEGRAND  
SMITH SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

**HON. NICK SMITH**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 1998*

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect for the outstanding record of excellence she has compiled in academics, leadership and community service, that I am proud to salute Katie Rocchio, winner of the 1998 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This award is made to young adults who have demonstrated that they are truly committed to playing important roles in our Nation's future.

As a winner of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship, Katie is being honored for demonstrating that same generosity of spirit, intelligence, responsible citizenship, and capacity for human service that distinguished the late LeGrand Smith of Somerset, Michigan.

Katie Rocchio is an exceptional student at Coldwater High School and possesses an impressive high school record. President of the Student Council, Katie is also a member of the National Honor Society, and is the photo editor for her school newspaper. Outside of school, Katie is involved with the Community theater and various other community activities.

In special tribute, therefore, I am proud to join with her many admirers in extending my highest praise and congratulations to Katie Rocchio for her selection as a winner of a LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This honor is also a testament to the parents, teachers, and others whose personal interest, strong support and active participation contributed to her success. To this remarkable young woman, I extend my most heartfelt good wishes for all her future endeavors.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOROUGH OF HOPATCONG, SUSSEX COUNTY, NJ

**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 1998*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Borough of Hopatcong, Sussex County, NJ.

The Borough of Hopatcong, known originally as the Borough of Brooklyn, was founded on April 2, 1898 off the western shore of Lake Hopatcong, the largest public recreational lake in New Jersey. Although the land surrounding the lake was originally settled by the Leni Lenape Indians, by 1715, English colonists attracted by the growing fur trade had purchased over 1,000 acres of the lake area.

The discovery of iron ore in the middle 1700's led to the development of a thriving mining industry in the Hopatcong area. The inhabitants of Hopatcong at that time, which numbered no greater than 20 families, stayed in small communities that were close to the local iron forges. The Brookland Forge, one of the most productive in the area, comprised four hearths which produced 300 tons of iron per year. While most iron was transported east, to be used by various companies in creating metal products, high shipping costs

eventually led to a decline in the industry by the early 19th century.

As the iron industry in the area waned, a decision in the last 1800's, to dam and merge the two lakes constituting Lake Hopatcong led to a rapid increase in tourism within the vicinity of Hopatcong. Due to the pleasant climate and proximity to New York City, the lake area soon became a major northeastern resort and began to experience high levels of prosperity. By the late 1800's Hopatcong was still part of Byram Township, one of three municipalities bordering the lake at that time. As many summer cottages were built in the surrounding towns, Hopatcong residents became increasingly dissatisfied with the pace of development in their own community.

After some debate, Hopatcong residents decided that officially separating from Byram would allow them to build new roads and make other necessary improvements near the Lake to attract tourists. In 1898, Hopatcong residents were finally granted the right to incorporate as an independent municipality, and the Borough soon developed into a popular resort community. Today, Hopatcong remains a vibrant residential area with a growing business community and a population of over 15,000 persons.

Mr. Speaker, for the past 100 years, the Borough of Hopatcong has prospered as a community and continues to flourish today. By all accounts, it will continue to prosper in the future, and I ask you, Mr. Speaker, and my colleagues to congratulate all residents of Hopatcong on this special anniversary year.

THE PASSING OF A DISTINGUISHED LEADER, PHILIP ROTELLA

**HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 1998*

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of regret that I inform our colleagues of the passing of one of the most remarkable public servants my 20th Congressional District of New York has ever produced, Philip Rotella of Haverstraw, N.Y.

Phil Rotella first sought public office in 1946, being elected that year to the Board of Trustees of the Village of West Haverstraw. Two years later, in 1948, he sought election to the position of Town Justice of the Peace, and the then-President of the United States, Harry Truman, came to Haverstraw to campaign for Phil. He was successful in that 1948 contest and went on to serve as Justice of the Peace for 15 years.

On election day 1963, when John F. Kennedy was President, Phil Rotella was promoted by his voters to the office of Town Supervisor of the Town of Haverstraw. Phil was re-elected by the voters every two years continually until he voluntarily retired in 1997. During his tenure of 34 years as Town Supervisor, Phil Rotella was known for his skill in saving the taxpayer's dollars while providing superb town services.

Instead of issuing bonds which had to be repaid by future taxpayers, Phil Rotella squirreled money away, financing a new police and courthouse building in 1974, a new Town Hall and public library in 1981, and a new

highway garage in 1992 by his frugal fiscal policy.

Supervisor Rotella, throughout his 34 year tenure, earned a reputation for preserving parkland for future generations. He convinced our local utility company to donate a park to the townspeople in exchange for allowing them to construct a second power plant. He spearheaded the construction of one of the superb marinas on the entire Hudson River, and his town makes about \$250,000 a year from marina concession fees. In 1981, Phil successfully negotiated the purchase of Cheesecote Mountain Park from the State of New York for one dollar.

During most of his tenure as Town Supervisor, Phil Rotella also served in the additional capacity as a Rockland County Legislator, as is permissible in that county. In that position, he also fought to make certain that his Town received its due from the county government.

The closest Phil came to facing political defeat during his entire elective career of over 50 years was when, in 1983, the opposition was successful in removing Phil's entire political party from the November ballot due to a legal technicality. It is a remarkable tribute to Phil Rotella's incredible popularity that he was re-elected that year by receiving over 5,000 valid write in votes which in New York State are extremely difficult to validly cast.

Our region has truly lost a giant public servant in the passing of Phil Rotella. To his widow Marilyn, to his daughters Carolyn and Diane, to his sons John and Philip Jr., his three stepsons Jack, Edward and Arthur, his stepdaughter Esther, his 13 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren we extend our sincere condolences. Although mere words cannot assuage the grief of losing this remarkable man, it is hoped that his many loved ones will have the consolation that he was an outstanding public servant who will long be missed by so many of us.

IN HONOR OF HAROLD "BUD" LOVELL

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 1998*

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Harold Lovell of Stratford, Connecticut on the occasion of tonight's testimonial dinner being held in his honor. As Harold, or "Bud" as he is affectionately known to his friends, is honored this evening, I would like to join his many well-wishers in paying tribute to a man who has spent his life enriching his community and serving others. Bud was born in 1910, raised in Stratford, and educated in Stratford schools. He then continued his studies at DePauw University and graduated in 1934. Bud began his career at the Bridgeport Post Publishing Company soon after graduating from DePauw. It was there that he honed his skills in writing and editing—skills he has used with great success ever since.

Bud left the Post Publishing Company and began his distinguished tenure as editor of the Stratford News. After a prestigious career with the News, Bud left journalism to run his family's business, the H.C. Lovell Hardware and Equipment Company—a Stratford institution since 1783.

Throughout his life, Bud has never strayed from his commitment to his community. He has dedicated countless hours to organizations such as the Stratford YMCA and the American Shakespeare Festival Theater, but his greatest pastime has been his membership in the Lions Club of Stratford. The most senior member of the club, Bud epitomizes the selfless commitment that is the very basis for the Lions. A member since 1956, Bud has served as President and Zone Chairman. He has won several awards in recognition of his good works, including the Melvin Jones Fellow award for his exceptional service to the blind.

A dedicated family man, Bud has been married to his wife Lulu Klein for almost half a century. It has been said that "the good that men do, lives after them," and the many good works of Bud Lovell will echo for generations in his home of Stratford, and beyond.

SPECIAL TRIBUTE HONORING KIMBERLY SECKINGER, LEGRAND SMITH SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

**HON. NICK SMITH**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 1998*

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect for the outstanding record of excellence she has compiled in academics, leadership and community service, that I am proud to salute Kimberly Seckinger, winner of the 1998 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This award is made to young adults who have demonstrated that they are truly committed to playing important roles in our Nation's future.

As a winner of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship, Kimberly is being honored for demonstrating that same generosity of spirit, intelligence, responsible citizenship, and capacity for human service that distinguished the late LeGrand Smith of Somerset, Michigan.

Kimberly is an exceptional student at Hillsdale High School and possesses an impressive high school record. Kimberly is a board member of the National Honor Society and Senior Class Secretary. Kimberly is also a member of the Varsity Golf Team. Outside of school Kimberly is involved with the PAC Camp as a Counselor and various other community activities.

In special tribute, therefore, I am proud to join with her many admirers in extending my highest praise and congratulations to Kimberly Seckinger for her selection as a winner of a LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This honor is also a testament to the parents, teachers, and others whose personal interest, strong support and active participation contributed to her success. To this remarkable young woman, I extend my most heartfelt good wishes for all her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO AMBASSADOR FENG SHAN HO

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 1998*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to