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Secretariat**

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Department for Conference Services

At the request of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, the attached letter to Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Croatia, dated 23 August 1996, and the letter of reply, dated 10 October 1996, is being distributed to all OSCE delegations.

**OSCE
High Commissioner
on National Minorities**

His Excellency
Mr. Mate Granic
Deputy Prime Minister and
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Croatia
ZAGREB
Croatia

Reference:
936/96/L

The Hague
23 August 1996

Dear Mr. Minister,

May I first of all thank you for the assistance your Ministry provided once again during my visit to Croatia on 9-13 June 1996. This greatly facilitated my task.

In your answer dated 19 March 1996 to my letter of 22 February 1996 you informed me that my suggestions and recommendations contained in that letter would be given due consideration in the future activities of your Government regarding minority-related issue. Against this background, please permit me to recall the concerns I expressed regarding the difficulties that refugees who left the former Sectors West,

North and South in 1995 and who now want to return must overcome regarding documentation, accommodation, property and security.

Regarding documentation, refugees wanting to return have to face the difficulty that identity documents issued in previous years by local authorities or by the former SFRY have lost their validity, while the procedure of applying in writing to the local authorities for a valid document providing proof of residence in Croatia scarcely works. I therefore wonder whether your Government would be willing to accept my suggestion that identity cards issued by the former SFRY, while of course no longer valid, would be accepted as proof that the person concerned did reside in a formerly Serb occupied area of Croatia and is therefore entitled to Croatian citizenship. Your remark in your letter of 13 June to the Chairman of the Committee of Minister of the Council of Europe that your Government is encouraging a simplified administrative procedure gives me hope that this will be the case.

During my last visit to Croatia I discussed with the Minister of Interior, Mr. I. Jarnak, the question of the safety of the nearly 10,000 mostly elderly Serbs who have remained in the Krajina. When I made known my concern about the continuous stream of reports from various international organisations about the harassment of these people, and expressed the hope that further measures would be taken to ensure their safety, his reply was that criminality in the Krajina was not higher than in many other parts in the world, and that therefore such steps would not be necessary. However, reports continue to indicate that the harassment of these elderly people continues, especially in the Knin area. Also considering your commitment to the Council of Europe to take all necessary measures, including police protection, to guarantee the safety and human rights of the Serb population in Croatia, I would recommend that steps be taken without delay to provide this population with more adequate protection. I also welcome the decision taken by the office for refugees and displaced persons to give priority in future to persons who want to be reunited with their elderly relatives, and I would hope this decision will be implemented to the full.

To my regret, your Government has not accepted my suggestion to annul the article of the Law on the Temporary Take-Over and Administration of Specified Territory which makes the return of property dependent upon the coming into being of an agreement on the normalisation of relations between Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. On the other hand, I have noted the intention of the two governments to sign an agreement on the normalisation of relations in the near future, and their readiness, as expressed in the Joint Communiqué issued after the meeting of President Franjo Tujman and President Slobodan Milosovic, to enable the return of the possessions of all the refugees and displaced persons or payment of just compensation. Much as I welcome this approach in principle, its significance in terms of facilitating the return of refugees will in my view be severely curtailed as a consequence of article 11 paragraph 4 of the Law quoted above, which makes it clear that the owner can only take possession of his property after an appropriate alternative property has been given to the person to whom the reclaimed property has originally been allocated by the Commission on the Temporarily Take-Over and Usage of Property. In this respect it has also to be taken into account that these allocations take place on a large scale because article 5 of the Law allows the granting of the use of abandoned property to several categories of people: "exiles and refugees, returnees whose property was destroyed or damaged during the civil war, invalids of the civil

war, family of killed or missing Croat defenders from the civil war, and the citizens who carry out activities necessary for the security, reconstruction and development of the formerly occupied territories". In practice, this means that especially in the Krajina a very high percentage of the abandoned houses of Serbs which are still habitable have been allocated to returning refugees from Croatia and to refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina. In this regard I note that in a letter of 10 July 1996 to the Secretary General of the UN, Mr. Boutros Ghali, the Permanent Representative of Croatia, Mr. Nobile, states that the number of non-Serb returnees in the formerly Serb-occupied areas is estimated to be around 38,000 while according to other information provided by your Government 14,000 refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina have been accommodated in abandoned homes in the former Sectors. Your Government has committed itself to the Council of Europe to allow people who left the formerly UN protected areas, through a specific procedure established by law, effectively to exercise their rights to recover their property or receive compensation. I express the hope that such legislation will be adopted soon. Under the present legislation, it becomes virtually impossible for Serbs who had left the former Sectors, with the exception of those returning in the framework of family reunification, to go back to their places of origin because they will be unable to find accommodation. This raises the question whether more favourable conditions for their return will be established in the years to come.

In your letter of 13 June 1996 to the Chairman of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe you point out that "The problems of displaced persons and refugees are given top priority in the Croatian Government's programmes for reconstruction and development which are systematically creating conditions for the voluntary, safe, dignified and speedy return of all displaced persons and refugees, regardless of their nationality and ethnic origin" (Document A, page 4). However, you indicate that your Government envisages this return in three stages. It is my impression that in the first stage it is mainly a process of family reunification that is taking place. The number involved so far constitutes only a small percentage of those who left. In the second stage people are allowed to return in the framework of pilot projects. Even though I do recognise the importance of these projects (also in terms of confidence-building), it is at the same time evident that only a fairly limited number of potential returnees will be involved in the projects. This leads to the conclusion that, quite apart from all the obstacles complicating their return, most of the Croat citizens of Serb ethnicity will have to wait until the third stage has begun.

To my knowledge, your Government has as yet not indicated when the third stage is due to begin. It has, however, made several reservations regarding its timing. In your letter of 13 June 1996 to the Council of Europe (Document A, page 5) it is stated that the final stage will commence "after all the displaced Croats have returned to their place of origin." This raises several questions. The first is whether such a policy can be considered to be compatible with article 15 of the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia which states i.a. that "Members of all nations and minorities shall have equal rights in the Republic of Croatia". The second question is whether this policy applies to each of the former Sectors individually or whether it means that all Serbs refugees will have to wait until the return of the Croats has been completed in all former Sectors. Finally the question has to be raised whether the formula "after all the displaced Croats have returned to their place of origin" has to be interpreted as

meaning "after all the Croats who have expressed the wish to return to their place of origin have been provided with the opportunity to do so".

Another reservation expressed in your letter is: "The return of ethnic Serbs who fled from Croatia but who now wish to return, would otherwise be moving at a much faster rate, if it were not for numerous high security concerns associated with their return" (Document B, page 10). This again raises the question to what extent this consideration will lead to further delays in the return of refugees of Serbs origin. Permit me also to ask for a further clarification of these concerns. As far as the huge problem of demining is concerned, this risk exists for both Croat and Serb refugees, and can therefore not be considered to be a reason for reducing the flow of returnees of Serb ethnicity only. Concerns have also been expressed about arms caches which have been found in the former Sectors. I wonder, however, whether more than one year after Croat troops established control over the former Sectors West, North and South, this problem still constitutes a serious security concern. As far as the returning Serbs themselves are concerned, I have understanding for the bitter feelings of the Croats about the fact that many of them sympathized with the enemy. On the other hand, for this reason to delay the return of Serbs who are not being indicted for war crimes would in my view be contrary to the letter and the spirit of the Joint Communiqué issued after the meeting of President Tujman and President Milosovic in Athens on 7 August 1996, which states i.a.: "The two sides expressed their readiness to create the necessary conditions for the free and safe return of all refugees and displaced persons to their places of residing or to other places which they might freely choose".

Permit me, Mr. Minister, to conclude my remarks regarding the Serbs who left the former Sectors West, North and South in 1995 with the recommendation that everything possible be done to remove the obstacles which presently stand in the way of their return, and with the expression of the hope that the various reservations regarding the third and final stage of the return process formulated in your letter to the Council of Europe on 13 June 1996 will not signify that new delays are to be expected or that new steps will be taken to reduce the flow of returnees. In this connection I would also recommend that your Government will announce a specific period during which it will allow the return of all refugees of Serbs ethnicity who have expressed the will to do so and who cannot be considered to belong to the category of war criminals.

Needless to say, my interest in the return of refugees does not restrict itself to those residents of Croatia who are of Serb ethnicity but equally to the tens of thousands of Croats who had to flee during the war. In this connection I should like to stress again, however, that the return of Croats to the area presently still under UNTAES administration would be greatly facilitated if there would be more opportunities to return to their places of origin for the Serbs who fled to this area from other parts of Croatia in 1995.

Referring to the indispensable conditions for a free and safe return of all refugees, President Tujman and President Milosovic have agreed in the Joint Communiqué issued after their meeting in Athens on 7 August that "safe return implies general amnesty". Much as I welcome this statement, it has in my view to be kept in mind that the amnesty legislation presently in force in Croatia shows a number of deficiencies. I

have noted that the Amnesty Law which was promulgated in June for those residing at the moment in the part of Croatia which is temporarily under UNTAES administration applies to criminal acts committed in the period between 17 August 1990 and 1 June 1996, while the general amnesty law as amended in 1995 mentions the period from 17 August 1990 to 10 May 1995. Moreover, article 2 of this Law states in general terms, and without any further specification, that there will be no amnesty for perpetrators of criminal acts which international law obliges the Republic of Croatia to prosecute. This leads to a great deal of uncertainty about the way this Law has to be applied. The special amnesty law for the residents of the UNTAES area, on the other hand, does mention a number of war crimes as defined in international law, but also contains elements which seem to go beyond what is required under international law. For instance persons who have committed crimes mentioned in the Law on Subversive and Terroristic Acts against the Sovereignty and Territorial integrity of the Republic of Croatia or who have committed crimes against the security of the state as defined in the Penal Code will be exempted from the amnesty. If they committed acts which fall in the category recognized in international law as war crimes, prosecution is justified and desirable. But what about persons who fought, or were forced to fight, against Croatia in the war, or who served, voluntarily or by coercion in the civil administration set up by local Serb authorities in the former Sectors North, South, West and East? The text of the June 1996 Amnesty law seems to suggest that such persons, even if they would not have committed acts defined as war crimes under international law, would be considered to be guilty of subversive acts or acts against the security of the state. This would inevitably considerably curtail the relevance of the amnesty granted under the 1996 Law to the residents of the present UNTAES area. Already now the uncertainty about the way the Law is to be interpreted has led to doubts amongst the refugees of Serb ethnicity about the possibilities of a safe return as promised in the Athens Communiqué of 7 August 1996. A Security Council statement, dated 15 August 1996, urges Croatia to adopt a comprehensive amnesty law concerning all persons who, voluntarily or by coercion, served in the civil administration, military or police forces of the local Serb authorities in the former UN Protected Areas, with the exception of those who committed war crimes as defined in international law. I express the hope that Croatia will fulfil the promise of a general amnesty in the Athens Communiqué of 7 August 1996 by accepting the formula suggested by the Security Council.

There is in my view even more reason to take this step because, contrary to original expectations, the publishing of a list of some 800 war criminals has not removed the feeling of uncertainty I alluded to above. This is due partly to inaccuracies which occur in this list, but mainly because, as the Minister of Justice Mr. Separovic confirmed to me, this list is not exhaustive but might have to be extended in the light of ongoing investigations.

May I finally, Mr. Minister, make one more recommendation. Alarming reports have reached me that persons of Serb ethnicity presently residing in the UNTAES area are sometimes the recipients of threatening telephone calls. I would hope that your Government publicly dissociates itself from such practices. Such a step would have a beneficial psychological effect and could be seen as a confidence-building measure. In this respect I also mention the Framework Convention of the Council of Europe to which your Government has committed itself to become a party within a year after its accession to the Council of Europe. Article 6, paragraph 2, of the Convention obliges

parties i.a. to take appropriate measures to protect persons who may be subject to threats, or acts of discrimination, hostility or violence as a result of their ethnic identity. Indeed, irrespective of the motivation for the threats, Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 9 (1) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights oblige your Government to ensure security of person including with horizontal effects between all persons within your jurisdiction (see the views of the UN Human Rights Committee in *Delgado Paés v. Colombia*, case no. 195/1985 at paras. 5.5, 5.6 and 6).

The second point I wanted to raise was the assurance you gave me when we met in Zagreb in June that Croatia would be prepared to accept a comprehensive international monitoring system in Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium after UNTAES has left. I welcome this because I am convinced that such a monitoring system could constitute an important contribution to confidence-building in the area.

These were the comments and recommendations I wanted to submit to you, Mr. Minister, I am looking forward with great interest to your reply.

Yours sincerely,

[signature]
Max van der Stoep
OSCE High Commissioner
on National Minorities

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Zagreb, 10 October 1996

Dear Mr High Commissioner,

Thank you for your letter of 23 August 1996 in which you have raised several questions and comments related to the situation and status of minorities and the enjoyment of minority rights on the territory of the Republic of Croatia. Your comments and suggestions have been carefully considered by the Government of the Republic of Croatia, and I am taking this opportunity to clarify certain issues raised in your letter and inform you about the recent developments in the field.

In your letter you have raised your concern in respect of the security situation in the areas of Croatia liberated in August 1995, mostly in respect of the alleged harassment of the elderly population remaining in the area. In this respect I would like to point out that the Croatian Government has taken significant measures to improve the security and humanitarian situation of the remaining population in the liberated areas. Additional number of 3.500 members of police units from other areas of

Croatia were deployed immediately after the military operations in order to facilitate improvement of security of the area. Despite relatively strong police presence certain cases of criminal behaviour including some serious human rights violations have occurred, but in respect of such cases police authorities have undertaken all measures available in order to bring the perpetrators to justice. Since August 1995 Croatian police authorities have solved 58,8% of reported overall criminal cases (2.968 criminal cases out of 5.041 reported ones), including 19 out of 40 reported cases of murder, 1.934 out of 2.933 cases of robbery and theft, and 40 out of 68 registered cases of armed robbery. Moreover, I would like to inform you that, according to the data received by the Croatian Ministry of Interior, in the last six months cases of serious criminal behaviour have seldom been regretted, witnessing the general trend of decrease of criminality in the areas in question.

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Moreover, the Government of the Republic of Croatia has started the project "Save Lives" in cooperation with the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the Croatian Red Cross Society. The main purpose of the project, which has already entered its second phase, is to improve the overall humanitarian situation of the remaining elderly and disabled persons remaining in the area, as well as to assure medical, social and humanitarian care for such persons and households.

The results of the first phase of the programme were significant and the second phase, that has started recently, is mainly focused on setting measures to ensure the satisfactory level of medical and social care for the persons in question during the winter period. The information on the implementation of the project by the ministry of Labour and Social Welfare is enclosed to this letter.

Concerning the question of the procedure for obtaining citizenship certificates in respect of refugees who have expressed their wish to return I would like to inform you that certain obstacles as to the speeding up of the procedures have been detected and effectively removed by the competent Ministries.

Moreover, as the result of the conclusion of the *Agreement on Normalization of Relations between the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia of 23 August 1996*, applications of refugees currently residing in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia could easily be submitted through the Croatian Embassy in Belgrade. Up

to present date 7.622 requests for the obtaining of Croatian citizenship by such refugees have been received by the Ministry of Interior, and subsequently 5.193 persons were granted the citizenship. In addition, out of 23.887 requests 21.756 identity cards have been issued. In regard of your suggestion to accept the identity cards issued by former SFRY as the proof of residence in the territory of the Republic of Croatia I would like to inform you that such documents, although with no legal value, play a significant role in the process of examination of citizenship requirements. However, such and similar documents, could not for the purposes of the said procedure be treated as the exclusive proof of the residence, but mainly as an indication of the former, which could be of decisive value solely in the context of other information available to the relevant authorities.

In respect of the expressed concern regarding the application of the Law on the Temporary Take-over and Administration of Specific Property I would like to draw your attention to the basic purpose of this legal act which enables the state only to govern the property which has been desolated by its owners without impairing the ownership title over the said property. Article 11 (1) of the Law stipulates that the questions pertaining to the returning of the specific property in the possession of the owners shall be regulated by the Agreement on the Normalisation of Relations between the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. As you may know, such Agreement is providing inter alia for the safe and voluntary return of refugees to their places of origin or other places of their choice as well as the return of the possessions or just and adequate compensation for the property (Art.7).

Furthermore, I could not agree with your opinion about the discriminatory nature of the Law on the Temporary Take-over and Administration of Specific Property particularly when Article 5 of the said Law is in question. This Article expressly provides for the possibility of granting the temporary possession and usage of such property to certain vulnerable categories of population, notably to "internally displaced persons, refugees, returnees whose property has been destroyed or damaged during the war of liberation, war invalids, members of the families of killed or missing members of Croatian defence forces, and the citizens who are carrying out the activities indispensable for the security, reconstruction and development of the formerly occupied territories". Having in mind the specific needs of liberated areas and the express reference to certain vulnerable groups of population, the provisions of Article 5 could hardly be deemed discriminatory towards any group of population, especially having in mind the possibility of those whose rights or interests have been violated to lodge a complaint against the decision of the Commission to the Ministry of Justice, as well as the possibility of recourse to the court.

In addition, let me draw your attention to somewhat inappropriate translation of the provisions of Article 5 of the above mentioned Law as quoted in your letter which is referring to "civil war" instead of the "war of liberation", that could cause some misinterpretations of the international nature of the armed conflict occurred on the territory of former Yugoslavia.

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As regard your question concerning the return of refugees of Serbian ethnic origin to the Republic of Croatia I would like to point out that pursuant to the already mentioned Article 7 of the Agreement on Normalisation of Relations between the

Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia both states have undertaken the obligation to facilitate the free and safe return of refugees and internally displaced persons to their places of origin or other places of their choice. In view of the Croatian Government this far-reaching provision will significantly contribute to the process of return of the Croatian refugees of Serbian origin mainly by reducing the scope of limitations to such return.

Additionally, allow me, Mr High Commissioner, to inform you that the Croatian Parliament has recently adopted the General Amnesty Law providing for the general amnesty from prosecution and criminal procedure in respect of the persons accused or sentenced for all of the crimes committed in connection to the aggression, armed rebellion, or armed conflict in the period from 17 August 1990 to 23 August 1996, with the exception of "the gravest violations of humanitarian law characterised as war crimes" as stipulated in the Article 3 of the said Law. However, it should be noted that the provisions of the General Amnesty Law do not alter the legal position of about 800 persons from the list issued by the Croatian Ministry of Justice hence this list refers solely to those accused and held suspect for war crimes. Nevertheless, it is our conviction that the passing of this important Law, as part of the obligations undertaken by the Agreement on Normalisation of Relations between the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, has significantly contributed not only to the overall development of conditions for free and safe return of all persons to their places of previous residence, but as well to the development of the conditions for the strengthening of peace in the region.

In respect of some cases of threatening telephone calls addressed to the persons of Serb ethnicity residing in the area presently controlled by UNTAES that you have pointed out in your letter, I would like to inform that I have drawn the attention of the competent government bodies to this issue in order to investigate such practices and take necessary legal steps.

Furthermore, I would like to take this opportunity to inform you about some recent initiatives of the Croatian Government related to the commitments undertaken in respect of the admission of Croatia in the membership of the Council of Europe. On 12 September 1996 the Croatian Government has established the Working Group on the Examination of Compatibility of Croatian Legislation with the European Commission on Human Rights and Protocols composed of both government representatives and independent experts, that has already held its initial meeting on 8 October 1996. I am strongly convinced that such initiatives together with the forthcoming adherence to the European Convention on Human Rights and two instruments concerning minority rights, namely the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages, will result of further improvement of the standards of the protection of national minorities as implemented on the national level.

Finally, Mr High Commissioner, allow me to reiterate the commitment of the Government of the Republic of Croatia for the overall development of the respect for human rights and freedoms in the whole of the Croatian territory

Yours sincerely,

Dr Mate Granic
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs

[signature]

APPENDIX I

In compliance with its responsibilities defined in Article 18 of the Law on the Responsibilities of Ministries and Government Authorities (Official Gazette 72/94), the ministry of Labour and Welfare oversees the respect for, promotion and protection of basic human rights and freedoms in the area of labour and employment, social welfare, pension and disability insurance.

The principles embodied in the Croatian Constitution and its provisions concerning the fundamental human rights and freedoms, national equality, including economic and social rights, have set new and demanding tasks before the Ministry with respect to the need to create legislative and institutional preconditions for proper policy-making in the area of labour and employment, social welfare, pension and disability insurance. Thus laws have been passed on labour, employment, job inspection, safety at work; in the pipeline are laws for passage in the last quarter of this year covering pension insurance, children's allowance, family relations and social welfare.

The basic constitutional provision on national equality is being implemented by the Ministry of Labour and Welfare, inter alia, within the "Save Life" Project for the care of abandoned persons in the liberated areas of Croatia.

This project is pursued by several means:

- individual care for endangered persons,
- listing and filing of such persons across the whole population,
- care for civil security (health insurance, pension schemes, family reunions, provision of food and clothes),
- fact-finding missions aimed at establishing the status of settlements, traffic and supply routes,
- setting up and coordination of welfare amenities (old persons' homes, welfare centres, Red Cross centres and international humanitarian organizations).

In its letter of 29 March 1996 this Ministry informed the UN Rapporteur for Human Rights Ms. Elisabeth Rehn in more detail on measures taken by the Ministry within the said project, its co-operation with domestic and international humanitarian organizations as well as actions taken in the area of employment and pension insurance

As of 3 June 1996 the Ministry, in conjunction with the EQUILIBRE humanitarian organization, is implementing a joint project of assistance in providing

personal documents to old and helpless persons who have stayed in the liberated area of the former sector North. The action included a tour of the localities of Hrvatska Kostajnica, Dvor, Sisak, Karlovac, Ogulin, Topusko, Petrinja, Glina and Slunj; 224 persons were visited on the occasion and a procedure initiated for them to receive personal documents.

The procedure is more difficult and takes more time in those areas (Dvor and Hrvatska Kostajnica) where vital statistics and other records were burnt or in cases of persons who, due to their poor mental condition, are unable to give any required information, so that further procedure must be entrusted to a special guardian appointed by the local welfare centre in charge.

With the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Organizations and the Croatian Government Office for Displaced Persons and Refugees the Ministry of Labour and Welfare has signed the Humanitarian Co-operation Agreement (4 October 1996) covering reconstruction works in Donji Zemunik (former psychiatric hospital), Dubrovnik (thermal therapy), Udbina (former rehabilitation centre) and Pula (a Kamenjak"). The renewed buildings will have 700 new beds for accommodation of and care for old and helpless displaced persons and refugees as well as the most vulnerable sections of local population.

This project will be jointly financed: the Federation will provide 1,056,000 Swiss Francs from the donation of the Italian Embassy's Humanitarian Section, whereas the rest of funds required for the reconstruction of the mentioned buildings will be made available by the Ministry.

In addition to it, the Ministry, in co-operation with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Organizations, UNHCR and the Croatian Red Cross, continues to provide social and humanitarian aid, including arrangements being currently made for distribution of fuel wood among households in the areas covered by the 'Save the Life' action.

National Welfare Fund

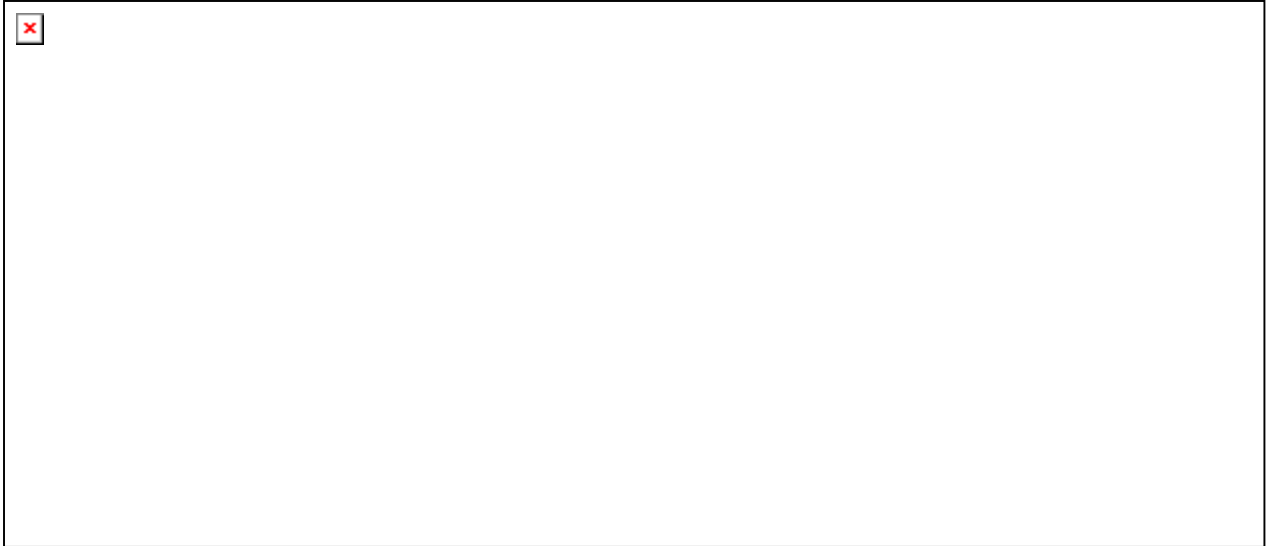
One-time cash allowances in the amount of 200 Kunas per household were paid on three occasion to persons living in the liberated area of the former sectors West, North and South. After the third payment (in December 1996), the beneficiaries have been included in the regular welfare system within which they can receive appropriate benefits, provided that they meet the relevant legal requirements. By 26 September 1996, 411 persons from the newly liberated areas have found shelter in welfare institutions.

National Pension and Disability Insurance Fund

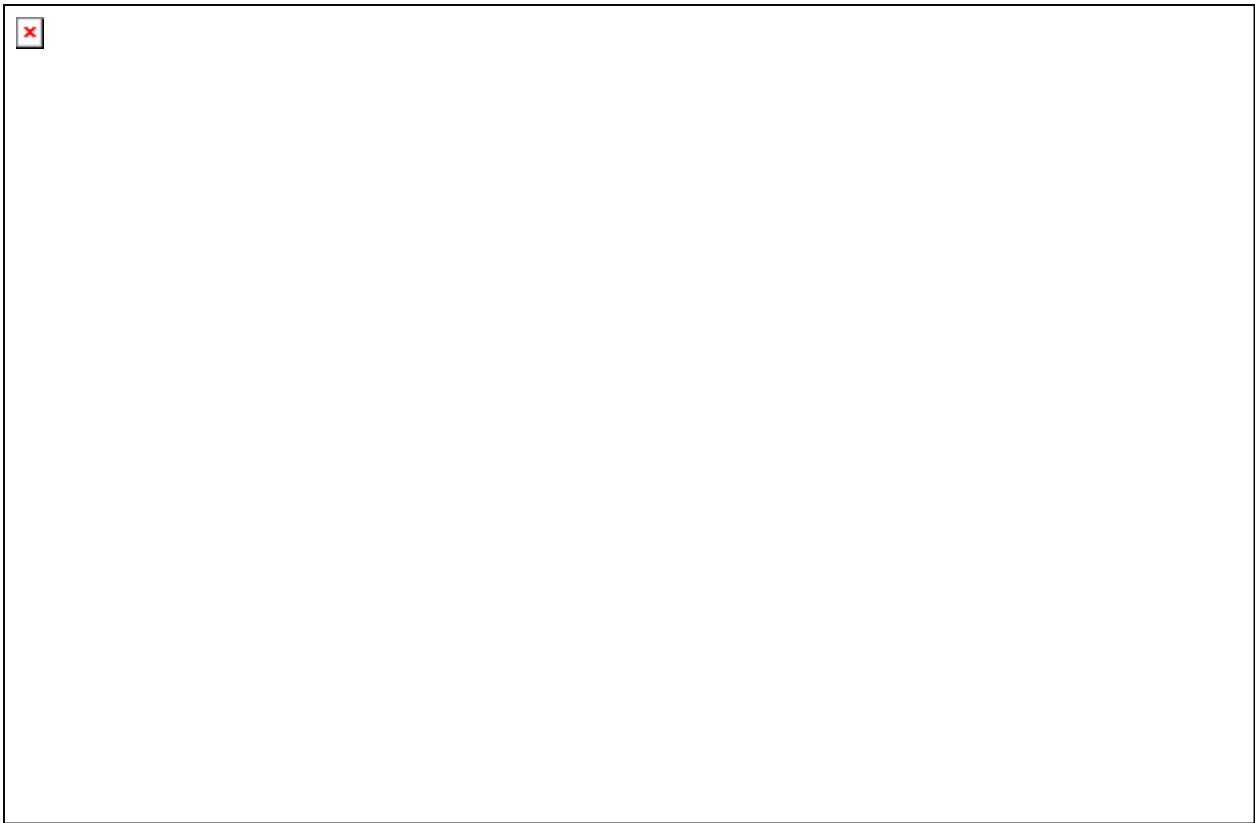
The National Pension and Disability Insurance Fund has been participating in welfare activities in the liberated areas through their newly set up local services and branches and by dealing with applications for continued pension and disability benefits.

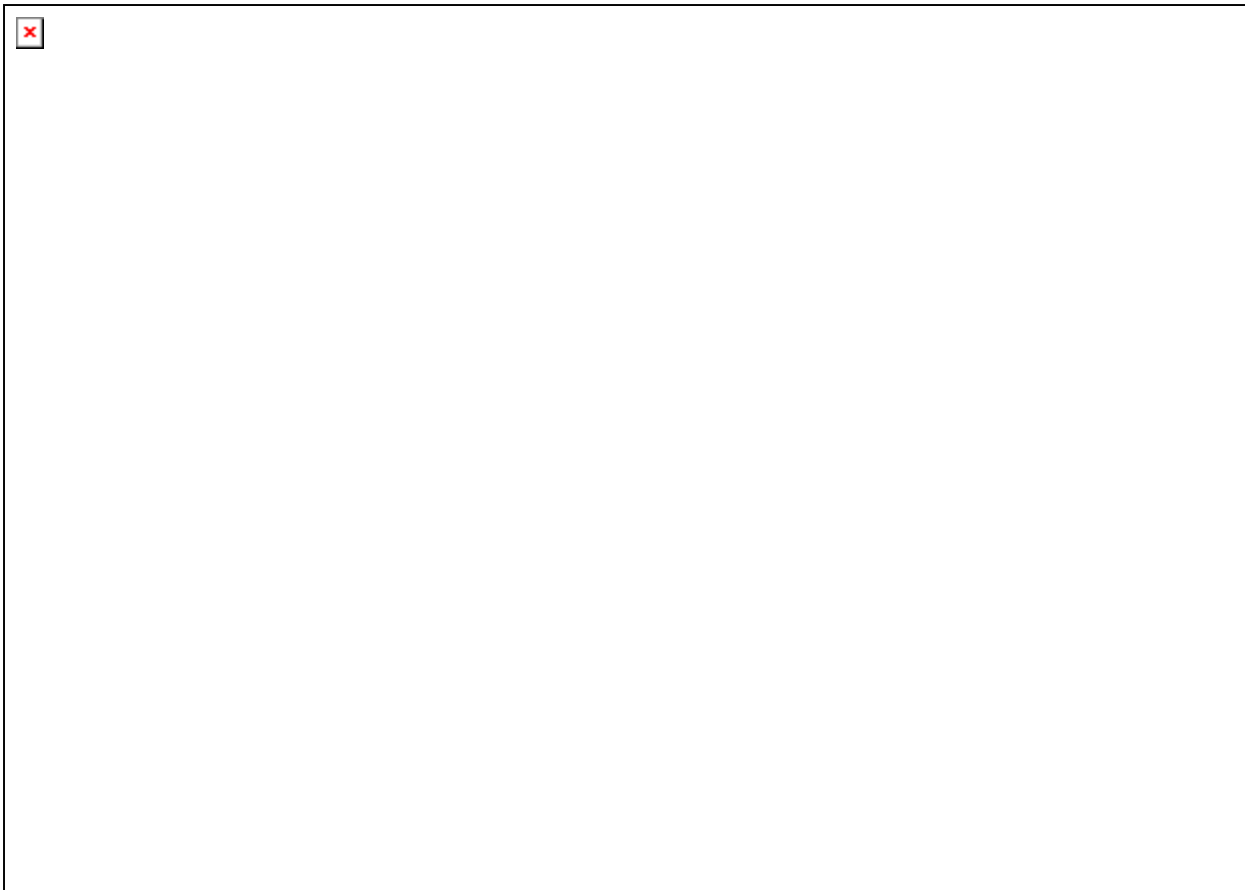
In the liberated areas of the former sectors West, North and South a total of 5,069 applications have been filed by 2 October 1996. Of this number 4,745 or 93 .6 per cent have been solved.

In the liberated area of West Slavonia applications for continued social benefits have been submitted to the Fund's branches as follows:



In the liberated areas of Banovina, Lika and Northern Dalmatia applications for continued social benefits have been submitted to the Fund's branches as follows:





In the Croatian Danubian Area the Darda Pilot Project covers 177 applicants for continued pension benefits. 149 pensions have been paid (one woman beneficiary has not collected her pension), whereas for other applicants it has been found that they were not beneficiaries of the National Pension and Disability Insurance Scheme; consequently, no pensions have been paid to them.

Croatian Labour Office

The Croatian Labour Office has set up new branches and services in the liberated areas and listed the unemployed persons there. By 3 October 1996, based on individual registrations, a total of 7,912 unemployed persons have been filed who under current regulations have the same rights and duties as other unemployed Croatian citizens.



Unemployed records in the liberated area of Banovina, Krdun, Like and Northern Dalmatia, based on individual registrations, have been compiled as follows:



With both liberated areas taken together, a total of registered unemployed persons is 7,912.