Dear Madame

I take the liberty to write to you as I have the whole time the feeling I have not thanked the person who has done good to my family, my compatriots and me in critical days, so I do it now.

You dear Madame, you where the first person to raise your voice for the protection of refugees and displaced persons more than a year ago. I am also one of those miserable. I thank you very much.

We admired your clear way of looking upon the situation in Europe living so far away. You realized with a stupendous psychology that everybody is not guilty who is displaced. There are in Europe people who did not collaborated with fascists or nazis, in the contrary who fought...
against them, people who are not communists, people who have had the energy, the courage with a sound vitality, to fight against both, but are today displaced. Also for all those people you have your voice.

I fought often to write to you in my great enthusiasm for your art, but I was too nervous, too busy fighting all the calamities of a displaced family and the courage failed me to write.

Now I am 10 months in South America with my husband and daughter living with my godfather and noble sister-in-law brother-in-law. We are exiles from Croatia in Yugoslavia. We left Zagreb (our home) in August 1945, lived in Trieste till December 1946 and sailed then to South America.

Here I see other people in their homes and gardens and we left our home, all our property 3 months after the victory and liberation. I am so sad. Why have I no more
my home? Not the dear family relics, old books, snapshots, from a whole lifetime which are mostly the childhood of my child, pictures of our parents, our garden and fields we cultivated for decades. It is all that what makes the life and is the heirloom of our fathers we kept for our children.

It does not matter how hard the fight for living is in a strange language and conditions after all our treatment of the war here in this beautiful and friendly country, what hurts is the profound sorrow over the injuries we received. What after the Nazi occupation, the communist occupation instead liberty?

We were heaped overnight and we worked hard the whole life. Seeing new camps of concentration, thousand of innocent people in them, seeing plundered from the government itself, our dear old country house, which was already plundered by German troops. It was too much for the people. After 4 years of Nazi and Fascist occupation
made with tons of arms, with raids and guerrilla war. We could not
prevent ourselves from being killed. The fear was everywhere, day and
evening. We were afraid of being killed. We were afraid of being
arrested. We were afraid of being deported. We were afraid of being
sent to concentration camps. Why were we afraid? Why were we
frightened? Why were we sent to concentration camps? Why were we
sent to forced labor? Why were we deported? Why were we
arrested? Why were we killed? Why were we sent to concentration
huts? Why were we sent to concentration camps? Why were we
sent to forced labor? Why were we deported? Why were we
killed? Why were we afraid?

What a month the peace should be once made to judge the crimes and
tortures of innocent people on forced labor, the shooting in masses, the
slaughter of thousands of innocent people at a time! The
tremendous fear and darkness in which we lived until after
the war. Today, how many dead in the camps and forced labor do we
have? How many of them are still alive? How many have escaped?
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and government, the thankfulnes and joy of all croats, I am sure they all feel it, to have given asylum in the United States in Washington to our representative Mr. Matile Harich and his family. The man who in the last elections before the war 1938 received 90% of croatian votes in Croatia in Jugoslawia. A man of highest qualities. He was a prisoner of the commissar during the 4 years of occupation. He is adored and estimated and respected like a Messiah in my country. He is not only the head of the Croatian Party, he is in the eye of my people the conception of freedom, democracy and liberty. He became a savior.

Our bishop of Zagreb Dr. Alojzije Stepinac who rose his voice in the church and acted during the war against the nazi is now judged to 20 years prison and is today a prisoner.

In New York in the Newhattan Museum recently has had a great success Ivan Mejtoric, the greatest croatian sculptor. During the war
and occupation he was in prison in

Agreb, he also prefers now to live out
of the his country, and lives now in

V.S.T.

Thank you very much dear Madame,

once more you have done for us

displaced persons and also thank

you for the patience you have had

reading my letter, which is a

reflection of the great and deep sadness

over the tragedy of my people

Yours very sincerely

Kestutis Pipiet