

American Committee
for Yugoslav Relief
1946-48

*Comin. Comin.
for your belief.*

October 8, 1946

My dear Mr. Nisselson:

I am willing to wait
before announcing my resignation
until Mr. Balakovic returns to this
country and we have talked the matter
over.

In any event, I shall
be glad to have you call on me for
advice or help whenever you find it
necessary.

With best wishes,

Very sincerely yours,

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how much they ask
of you

125 Rue Quatre Septembre
Paris - 8ème
October 1st 1946

Mr. Roosevelt.
Mr. Eindhoven has just written me
of your resignation as honorary
Chairman of the American Committee
for Yugoslav Relief.

I can not tell you how this
news has distressed me and
my wife. Your presence on our
Committee as Honorary Chairman
was a much treasured bond
between the people of America
and the people of Yugoslavia,
who have always had feelings
of deep affection and admiration
for the American people.

Your resignation, coming as
it does, at a moment, when
great forces are trying to destroy

these bonds would inevitably be felt as another severe blow to this traditional friendship.

I sincerely wish that you would reconsider - or at least wait for our return - before taking any formal action.

We are leaving Paris for Belgrade on October 9th - expect to spend nearly two months in the Balkans and hope to be back home in time for Christmas. We are looking forward to see for ourselves the conditions affecting all aspects of national life in Yugoslavia and other Balkan countries.

You may be sure that we will give you the fullest possible account of our personal experiences and observations while in Yugoslavia.

My wife loves me in sending you warmest greetings.
Sincerely yours
Nato Palokovic

AMERICAN COMMITTEE FOR YUGOSLAV RELIEF, Inc.

235 EAST 11th STREET, NEW YORK 3, N. Y. * ALGONQUIN 4-8001

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September 25, 1946

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

This will acknowledge your letter of September 20.

We deeply regret your decision, coming as it does at a time when our Committee has been the victim of so many unfair attacks. Our work in behalf of the people has been made doubly difficult as a result of such attacks.

We do want you to know that our activities have been confined to the collection of relief funds and supplies, to the effort to have UNRRA relief material shipped to Yugoslavia, and to the work of encouraging an atmosphere of friendship between our own people and those of Yugoslavia in place of the bitterness and hatred which quite understandably followed the deplorable and tragic deaths of our American fliers. In that connection we are enclosing for your information two statements adopted by us - one by our Administrative Committee on September 10 and another by our Board of Directors on September 23.

We know how busy you are but we do hope that you will nevertheless graciously permit us to call upon you for advice and help from time to time in the future.

Sincerely,

Yes
I am going to get the letter sent for you as planned
Department of State
all of them have been
Michael M. Nisselson
Acting President

"... it is our ardent desire to assist the people of Yugoslavia to recover from the ravages of war. ..." — PRESIDENT HARRY S. TRUMAN

STATEMENT ADOPTED AT THE MEETING OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE -
SEPTEMBER 10, 1946

All Americans deplore the shooting down in Yugoslavia of five American flyers. It is to be regretted that a section of the American press has seized upon the tragedy for the purpose of stopping the shipment of UNRRA and other relief materials to a devastated nation which sacrificed 1,700,000 lives - one in ten - during four years of unflinching war on our fascist enemies.

The current attack on relief shipments to a people beset by tuberculosis, typhus, a rising infant mortality rate, malnutrition and the manifold difficulties of reconstruction is a spectacle of unreasoning vengefulness. It is contrary to every vestige of American humanitarianism. Diplomatic differences may now exist and may continue to exist between our Government and that of Yugoslavia but we believe that the American people must by this time be shamed by the excesses of a campaign which would deny relief supplies to the sick and hungry citizens of an allied nation.

We call upon President Truman to enunciate once more the spirit of American generosity exemplified in a statement he made some time ago. He said: "It is our ardent desire to assist the people of Yugoslavia to recover from the ravages of war."

We believe that the path of peace and understanding better typifies the people of the United States than the virulence of those who would halt the shipment of food, clothing and reconstruction materials to the people of a nation which gave so much for our common victory. Despite the cries of those who call for revenge, we believe that Americans want the people of Yugoslavia to know that their heroism as an ally has not been forgotten. The American Committee for Yugoslav Relief will therefore continue its efforts to raise \$5,000,000 for Yugoslav hospitals, children's homes and clinics.

It is our hope that understanding Americans will help us in this work for peace. Contributions toward our Committee's health projects will be gratefully accepted at its headquarters, 235 East 11th Street, New York 3, New York.

NEWS

from: AMERICAN COMMITTEE FOR YUGOSLAV RELIEF
Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, Honorary Chairman • Zlatko Balokovic, President
235 E. 11th St., N. Y. 3, N. Y.
ALgonquin 4-8001

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Board of Directors of the American Committee for Yugoslav Relief, 235 East 11 Street, New York City, adopted a resolution at a meeting on September 23 which pledged to continue the health campaign for the people of Yugoslavia, to work for continued UNRRA assistance to the devastated nations of Europe and Asia and asserted that the relief committee is "not now and never has been a political organization", it was announced today by Michael M. Nisselson, acting president of the relief committee.

The full text of the resolution follows:

"The American Committee for Yugoslav Relief, recognizing the need for continued assistance to the people of an allied nation, Yugoslavia, restates its policy and aims:

1. It will carry through its health program to equip hospitals, clinics and children's homes for the sick and needy of Yugoslavia and it will do all in its power to collect and forward other relief supplies to that country.

2. It will do everything possible to persuade Americans that UNRRA, or a successor to UNRRA, should continue as a means of rebuilding the devastated nations of Europe and Asia. In that connection the Committee is deeply appreciative of the unequivocal manner in which the State Department insisted upon the continuance of UNRRA relief shipments to Yugoslavia in a critical situation.

3. The American Committee for Yugoslav Relief is not now and never has been a political organization nor does it engage in politics. The Committee itself is independent and is not affiliated with any political organization.

(Yugoslav Relief resolution)

4. Relief work is not political. The American Committee for Yugoslav Relief will continue to exist and to work as long as the need for American generosity exists among the people of Yugoslavia."

The Board of Directors of the American Committee for Yugoslav Relief includes Zlatko Balokovic, president; Mrs. Lionel C. Perera, Jr. and George Buban, vice-presidents; Michael M. Nisselson, treasurer; Anne S. Traven, associate treasurer; Walter P. Lewisohn, secretary; Harry M. Justiz, associate secretary; Louis Adamic, Dr. Zhivko Angelusheff, Leo Bacich, Joyce Borden Balokovic, Samuel L.M. Barlow, Milton J. Bluestein, Frank Borich, Zarko M. Buncick, Jo Davidson, Melvyn Douglas, Michael W. Evanoff, Talbot O. Freeman, Milena Gaciovich, William S. Gailmor, William Green, Fannie Hurst, Stanley M. Isaacs, Dr. John A. Kingsbury, John Kovach, Mirko G. Kuhel, Fiorello H. LaGuardia, W.W. Lancaster, Edward Lazansky, Anthony Lucas, Michael Marinkovich, Dr. Peter B. Marinkovich, Joseph M. Martino, Mary Mrnjec, Philip Murray, Ludwig Mutz, George Pirinsky, Rose Poldrugach, Blagoy Popov, Jacob Potosky, Charles Recht, Janko Rogelj, Steve M. Sekul, Dr. DeWitt Stetten, Peter Todoroff, Fred A. Vider, Charles Vuich, Joseph Zavertnik.

(END)