

**COMMISSION ON
SECURITY AND COOPERATION
IN EUROPE**

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July 21, 2004

His Excellency Boris Tadic
President of the Republic of Serbia
Belgrade
Serbia and Montenegro

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you again for the meeting we had in my office earlier today. Your commitment to reform is clear, as is your resolve particularly to improve cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and to combat trafficking in persons.

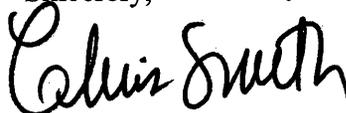
I am also concerned about recent incidents in Vojvodina and wish there would have been more time in the meeting to discuss this matter. You are certainly aware of the physical assaults on Hungarian and other non-Serb inhabitants of that multi-ethnic region, especially youths, as well as the desecration of cemeteries and vandalism of property which has occurred. You undoubtedly also share my abhorrence of such hate-based criminal activity.

Such criminal activity can be challenging to confront by political leaders, but strong, public condemnation of these acts must be part of any response. Otherwise, society might perceive there to be a toleration of such acts or even some sympathy for the hate on which they are based, and more crimes will occur. I would encourage you and other Serbian officials to express your outrage over the incidents in Vojvodina as strongly as possible, to demonstrate solidarity with the victims. I also urge that local police receive clear instructions to do their utmost to prosecute those responsible and to deter future incidents from occurring.

Such an approach would be in line with your desire to improve communication between senior government officials and the people. The targets of these acts are, in fact, citizens of Serbia. Your determination to protect these citizens and their rights would send a powerful message that Serbia has abandoned the era of ethnic discrimination and hatred which was developed by the Milosevic regime.

Again, it was a pleasure to have met you. I wish you much success as Serbia's President and remain committed to assisting your reform measures in any way I can.

Sincerely,



CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
Chairman