

/handwritten: PH-DH-26
 /initials/
 8 Apr. 02/

To the Boka VPS /Naval Sector/ - General Pavle STRUGAR
 From: Davorin RUDOLF, Minister in the Government of the Republic of Croatia

Comrade General, I am much too old to try and convince you of something that I haven't personally seen or experienced. As a humble university professor I have remained sincerely devoted to the truth.

I would, therefore, like to invite you to come to Dubrovnik and see for yourself the terrible ordeal that this city of universal values has been going through. On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Croatia I will personally vouch for your safety. As a high-ranking military professional, you will soon grasp the direction from which destruction befell this city and how it happened.

I have come to Dubrovnik and Cavtat with two members of the Government of the Republic of Croatia as I received guarantees from the Supreme Command of the SFRY /Socialist Federative Republic of Yugoslavia/ Armed Forces and the Split VPO /Naval District/ Command for a safe and unhindered trip to the negotiations with representatives of the JA /Yugoslav Army/ in Cavtat.

I know, and it has been confirmed ever since the first written records of the history of mankind, that armed conflicts always came to a halt while negotiations are in progress, and that negotiators' personal safety is guaranteed. Today, however, shells have been falling without interruption on the hotel where the European Community observers, representatives of the United Nations Agency UNHCR, and I are accommodated. The ship *Parlamentar*, that brought us yesterday to Cavtat for the negotiations was hit by shells and caught fire. I watched a poor marksman persistently firing shells from Žarkovica hill until he finally hit the ships *Argosy I* and *Argosy II* and set them on fire.

Comrade General, I am writing this in response to your radiogram in which you claim that the Croatian armed forces have set fire to the old town of Dubrovnik. I certainly have no intention of persuading you with words alone. Therefore, I suggest once again that you come to Dubrovnik and personally witness the tragedy of a city.

Let me inform you of the following: General KADIJEVIĆ, Federal Secretary of National Defence, has ordered an uncompromising investigation in order to establish the responsibility of members of the JA for today's suffering inflicted on Dubrovnik. I am sure that the investigation will be fair and you will undoubtedly be informed of its results.

This war is going to end, as have all the wars waged in the past. You and I bear special responsibilities in these sad times and, very soon, we shall be confronted with the question of how we acted and whether we acted in accordance with these responsibilities.

Dubrovnik, 6 December 1991

/handwritten in English: This is a letter (fax) for general Strugar from minister Rudolf. For your information and to keep our excellent interpreters in Split busy. Best regards from the /?nasty/ /illegible/ /a signature/