



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

26 June 1981

Dear Michael,

Courtesy call by the Yugoslav Ambassador:

Wednesday, 1 July 1981 at 0915

I enclose a brief for Mr Berisavljević's call on the Prime Minister as well as personality notes on the Ambassador and his successor Mr Stamenković. The brief includes a passage on the recent visit of Mr Vrhovec, to which Mr Berisavljević will no doubt refer.

Yours ever,

Francis Richards
(F N Richards)
Private Secretary

M O'D B Alexander Esq
10 Downing St

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COURTESY CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER BY MR ZIVAN BERISAVLJEVIC,
DEPARTING YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR:
WEDNESDAY, 1 JULY 1981 AT 0915

POINTS TO MAKE

1. Sorry to see you go after 5 fruitful years in London. Great contribution to smooth conduct of Anglo-Yugoslav relations. Wish you every success in your new position. Do you know what it is?
2. Look forward to welcoming your successor.

Visit of Mr Vrhovec

3. Very successful visit. Helped to keep up momentum of our relations after my visit to Yugoslavia in 1980.
4. Interesting to hear Yugoslav views on various aspects of international affairs, especially on Poland and the non-aligned movement.

Bilateral Relations

5. Relations in very good order. We must now work to maintain this momentum.
6. Respect Yugoslavia's determined independence and unique position as leading non-aligned country enjoying excellent relations with East and West.

Emigrés [If raised]

7. Recognise your concern but must distinguish between political and criminal activities. Cannot act against former whatever we may think of the views of those concerned. But as I made clear during my visit we will not tolerate terrorism, and will not condone or abet any attempt to undermine Yugoslav unity.

EC/Yugoslavia Relations [If raised]

8. As you know Britain has supported Yugoslav requests for a fair deal over baby beef, and will continue to do so.

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ESSENTIAL FACTS

General

1. Mr Berisavljević, who has been here since 1976, has been an effective and popular Ambassador. He is a politician, not a career diplomat, and is likely to return to a post of some importance in Yugoslav domestic affairs, though as yet we do not know what it is. His successor, Mr Stamenković, is a significant figure in Yugoslavia and his appointment reflects the importance which the Yugoslavs evidently continue to attach to relations with Britain.

Visit of Mr Vrhovec

2. This was a useful visit with which the Yugoslavs seem to have been well satisfied. The talks with the Prime Minister touched upon the Yugoslav economy, the NAM, Poland and the Middle East, particularly the Israeli raid on Iraq's nuclear reactor. A copy of a savingram reporting the visit is attached.

Bilateral Relations

3. Relations with Yugoslavia are good; there are no serious bilateral problems. The only difficulties are Yugoslavia's chronic trade deficit with Britain (and the whole EC), the activities in Britain of dissident Croatian emigrés, about which the Yugoslavs regularly complain, and Yugoslav hyper-sensitivity to occasional adverse comment on Yugoslavia in the British press.

EC/Yugoslav Relations

4. It has not so far proved possible to agree on a mandate for negotiations with Yugoslavia for a protocol to adapt the 1980 EC/Yugoslavia Agreement to take account of Greek accession. The difficulty is entirely over the increase in the quota for Yugoslav exports of baby beef which the Community should offer to allow for the accession of Greece. Yugoslavia has traditionally exported as much baby beef to Greece as to the rest of the EC. The French and Irish have pressed variously for no increase or for a derisory increase. They want to supplant Yugoslavia as main suppliers of baby beef to Greece.

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ZIVAN BERISAVLJEVIC

- 1935 Born in Sremska Mitrovica, Serbia
- 1967-71 Secretary for Education, Sciences and Culture of the Republic of Serbia
- 1971-72 An official in the Serbian Assembly
- 1972 Entered the diplomatic service
- 1972-74 Advisor to the Federal Secretary for Foreign Affairs
- 1974-76 Assistant Federal Secretary for Foreign Affairs in charge of press, information and cultural affairs
- 1976 Appointed to his present post as Ambassador in London

He is a member of the Council of the Museum of Contemporary Art in Belgrade and of the editorial board of the journal Socialist Thought and Practice.

Married with one child he speaks pretty good English and has some knowledge of Russian.

He will be leaving London in early July. He has been an effective and likeable ambassador.

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DRAGI STAMENKOVIC

Born in 1920 at Leskovac. University-level education.

Bearer of the 1941 Partizan Memorial Medal. Member of the Supreme Headquarters of the National Liberation Army for Serbia.

After the war he held the following posts: Chairman of the National Liberation Committee for the Belgrade District, Minister in the Government of Serbia - Chairman of the Council for Energy and Extractive Industry, President of the Federation of Trade Unions of Serbia, Vice-President of the Federation of Trade Unions of Yugoslavia, Chairman of the Republican Economic Chamber, President of the Executive Council of Serbia, President of the Republican Conference of the Socialist Alliance of the Working People of Serbia, Member of the Presidency of the SFRY 1971-74, Yugoslav Ambassador to Brazil.

Deputy of the Federal Assembly in three convocations, Deputy of the Republican Assembly in four convocations and Member of the Presidency of the Federal Conference of the Socialist Alliance of the Working People of Yugoslavia.

Head or Member of Yugoslav Delegations abroad on many occasions, inter alia, Member of the Parliamentary Delegation of Yugoslavia and Head of a Delegation of the Federation of Trade Unions which visited the United Kingdom.

Decorated with the Order of the National Hero and bearer of various Yugoslav and foreign decorations.

Speaks English.

Married, with three children.

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