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**SUPREME COMMAND HEADQUARTERS COMMUNICATIONS CENTRE -  
Department of Cryptographic Protection****SARAJEVO****Date and time:****19 April 1993, Monday, 1413 hours****Source file: FAAAJ40D****Document received and processed by:****/signed/****/hand-written:/ NŠVK /Chief of the Supreme Military Command/****REPUBLIC OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA  
COMMAND OF THE 3rd CORPS****Number:****Zenica, 19 April 1993****STATE DEFENCE  
MILITARY SECRET  
CONFIDENTIAL****To Monsignor Vinko PULJIĆ  
Archbishop of Bosnia**

We are witnessing these days in Central Bosnia and in Herzegovina further armed conflicts with tragic consequences between HVO and BH Army units. We turn to you as a leader of the Croatian people and someone in whom we believe, whose many previous comments about Bosnia and Herzegovina as our only homeland and the possibility of living here together we fully support. We call upon you to use all your authority to prevent the rupturing of the centuries-old ties between Muslims and Croats.

The HVO leaders in Central Bosnia and proponents of an extremist policy, KORDIĆ, BLAŠKIĆ, KOŠTROMAN, VALENTA, SLIŠKOVIĆ and ŠAKIĆ, all want to leave the impression at home and abroad of being civilised people who are prepared to compromise while secretly preparing and encouraging their units to instigate terror, conflict and civil war with unpredictable consequences for the Croatian and Muslim peoples. They want to declare these territories, which have been Bosnian for centuries, as Croatian territories, because they believe that the time has come to realise this idea, which so far they have been skilfully hidden behind a smokescreen of verbal support for a united, independent and sovereign Bosnia and Herzegovina.

While the HVO leaders are declaring their support for an agreement and a peaceful solution of all problems between the BH Army and the HVO, on the ground the HVO is actually pursuing a policy of force, constantly attacking and harassing the Muslim population.

All previous efforts to overcome the misunderstandings have failed due to this kind of conduct by the HVO leaders. The BH Army units have always been tricked. Their members have a very difficult time explaining why they negotiate at all when obligations agreed to in writing are usually never complied with in practice, which is entirely the fault of the HVO and their leaders.

The open aggression of the HVO against parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina has been continued these days with the most brutal and heinous means, whose application is most clearly seen in Vitez and the surrounding villages.

In the village of Ahmići on 16 April 1993, HVO soldiers committed an unprecedented massacre. They killed all human beings who were in the houses, including even children in their cradles. According to statements of eyewitnesses who managed to escape by running away, about 200 people, including women and children, were killed. We would mention that this behaviour of the HVO soldiers was unnecessary as there were no military formations in the village and no resistance was offered.

Many Muslims from Vitez, Busovača and Novi Travnik have had similar experiences, but so have Croats who disagreed with this policy of genocide committed against people solely because they are of a different ethnic and religious background.

In this situation and in order to push the Croatian people into committing new crimes, the HVO leaders /illegible/ the BH Army and the Muslim people in Central Bosnia.

No one from the Croatian people has given the HVO leaders authority for such destructive conduct, the goal of which is to spread distrust and stir up hatred between the two peoples, for which they will be held responsible before history and above all before their own Croatian people.

Deeply convinced that this is not a policy of the Croatian people, but rather of extremist leaders, we once again appeal to you on behalf of the Croatian and Muslim peoples to use your authority as soon as possible to try to prevent the widening of the artificially created gap between them.

Not doubting for a moment that you will as soon as possible prevent the catastrophe which has clouded relations between Muslims and Croats, we gratefully invite you on this occasion to visit the Command of the 3rd Corps, where you will always be more than welcome.

COMMANDER  
Enver HADŽIHASANOVIĆ