

1. AGONY OF THE PLITVICE LAKES

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When more than a hundred years ago a man had "discovered" the beauty, uniqueness and harmony of 16 Plitvice Lakes, the idea of their existence has unstoppably spread throughout Europe and the rest of the world. This "pearl of nature" is located on the cascades built on hundreds of travertine barriers of different width, height and thickness over which the magnificent waterfalls brake into million of water drops.

For quite some time generations of scientists have been investigating the biodynamics of the Lakes formation and their waterfalls with travertine barriers as well as everything else that, in vegetational and zoological uniqueness, separates this region from other karst regions of our homeland.

The Plitvice Lakes, in the first place, owe their existence to specific and very complex geological structure of Mesozoic sediments: Upper Triassic dolomites, Jurassic and Upper Cretaceous limestones. Secondly, they are due to certain hydrogeological characteristics and system of underground waters which feed this water system. Thirdly, their existence can be attributed to certain climatic conditions, in the past and today. These are the reasons why Plitvice are what they are, and what determines them as exceptional natural phenomenon.

It is beyond dispute that the same time of 600 to 250.000 years was needed for the formation of visible and existing travertine barriers on the waterfalls as for the growth of travertine plants, whereas only a couple

of minutes was enough to completely destroy them. Thus the act of crime was committed...

After long-lasting attempts to save this natural phenomenon, in 1949 the Lakes of Plitvice were protected by the Croatian Parliament and proclaimed as a National Park, and since 1979 the Lakes have been under the auspices of UNESCO and were recognized as WORLD MONUMENT OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE. The present insanity of the Federal Army and their occupation of our country is just a warning that all these unnatural destructive actions are contradictory to the accepted Convention, and according to which the Plitvice Lakes represent A PART OF MOST PRECIOUS AND IRREPLACEABLE NATURAL TREASURES - NOT ONLY OF ONE NATION BUT OF THE WHOLE HUMANITY. The loss of any such object would mean the impoverishment of inheritance of all nations in the world... for our generations as well as for the future ones.

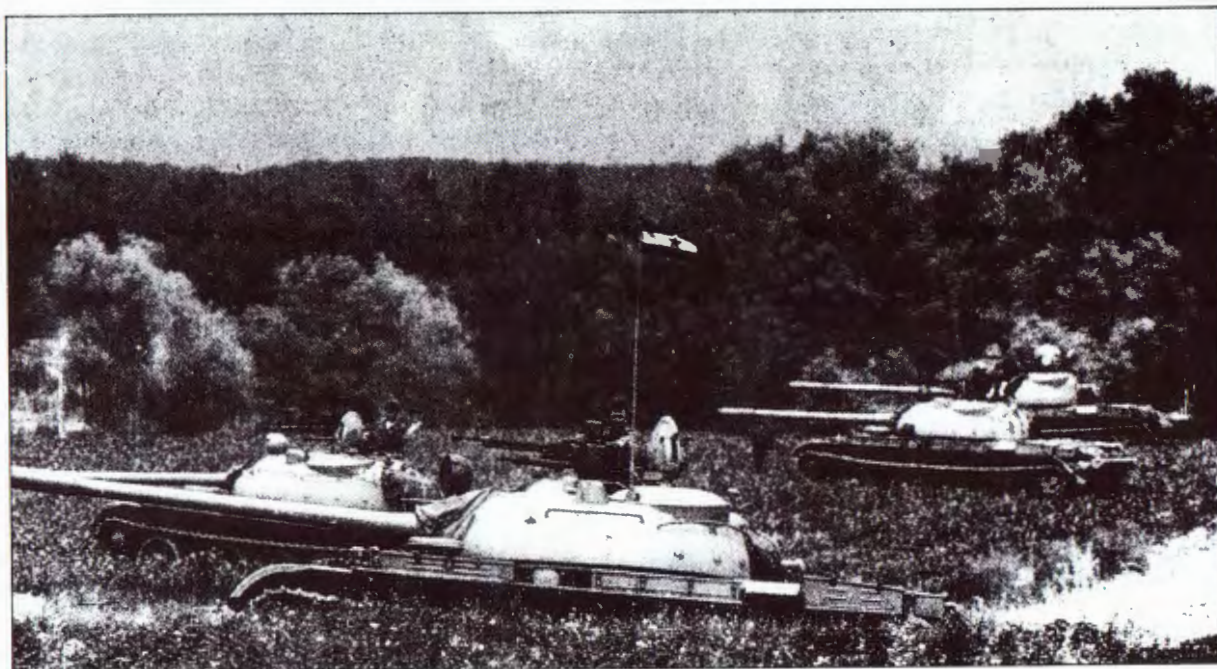
Let us save the Plitvice Lakes, not only for ourselves but also for the whole world because they have been in the hands of Serbo-chetnik's army since April 1st, 1991.

After merciless and complete destruction of all material and economic goods on the Lakes and their surrounding country, the decision to destroy this basic phenomenon of the worldwide know heritage - travertine barriers - would surprise noone...

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Tanks wreck Croatian national parks



J. Langevin/Sigma



Panoramic drawing of the Plitvice Lakes - view from Medvedjak (Archives of advertising agency of the National park Plitvice).
Panoramski crtež Plitvičkih jezera - pogled s Medveđaka (Arhiva propagandne službe Nacionalnog parka Plitvice).



1. Sastavci- Donja jezera: part of travertine barrier. 2. Kozijak barrier. 3. Detail from travertine barrier. 4. Incrustation of dead tree sunk into the lake. 5. Waterfall Galovac. 6. Travertine barrier Batinovac between the lakes Okrugljak and Galovac.

1. Sastavci-Danja jezera: dio sedrene barijere. 2. Kozjačka barijera. 3. Detalj s jedne travertinske barijere u gornjim jezerima. 4. Inkrustacija urušenog stabla. 5. Slap Galovac. 6. Barijera Batinovac između jezera Okrugljak i Galovac.