

**MAY 20, 1999**

**REPRESENTATIVE SCHAKOWSKY TO JOIN HOUSE DELEGATION ON A TRIP TO THE BALKANS HEADED BY REPRESENTATIVE HOBSON AND DEMOCRATIC WHIP BONIOR**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL), a freshman Whip, will join a bipartisan House delegation for a fact-finding mission to the Balkans headed by Representative David Hobson (R-OH), Chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction, and House Democratic Whip David Bonior (D-MI).

The Congressional delegation is expected to tour refugee camps in Macedonia and Albania, meet with U.S. service men and women stationed in Germany and Italy, and meet with Albanian officials, including the President and Prime Minister. Members will also be briefed by General Wesley K. Clark, the commander of Operation Allied Force, on the status of the NATO airstrikes campaign.

The delegation will depart on Thursday, May 20 and will return on Monday, May 24.

Schakowsky said, "I have heard from many of my constituents who are concerned about the human tragedy and the immeasurable suffering of the hundreds of thousands of Kosovar Albanian refugees. I have also been contacted by those who have expressed reservations about Operation Allied Force. This trip will afford me the opportunity to visit refugee camps in Macedonia and Albania, meet with our brave service men and women, hear from NATO officials about the progress of our current military strategy, and report back to my constituents."

"I want to thank Representative Bonior for inviting me to join him and other members of Congress on this trip," Schakowsky added.