

Genesis of the First Jasenovac Conference

At the Third Conference in Jerusalem, Dr. Klein and Dr. Bulajić talked about the genesis of the First International Conference on Jasenovac.



Dr. Bernard Klein: This conference is a continuation of what we started in 1996 when I first met Dr. Bulajić, who came to one of our conferences in Jerusalem and delivered a paper on Jasenovac, on which I was not very much familiar. At that time, and after the conference, we discussed the possibility of organizing a conference on Jasenovac, and Bulajić explained to me the problems he had encountered—that nobody wanted to do it in Los Angeles or Washington. People were afraid. And I said, ‘Look, if this will help, I’m prepared to do it.’

So, I started organizing the conference, and despite the threats and warnings not to do it and the opposition from various sources, we did it, and it was one of the best conferences we ever had. The conference lasted 3 days, was attended by 200 people, and some of the most prominent individuals from the United States and out of the United States spoke, and subsequently, we did another conference in Banja Luka, and now this is the third conference, which, surprisingly enough, was well attended.

Dr. Milan Bulajić: I asked Dr. Klein for help at the 1996 Holocaust conference in Israel, and he very bravely said he would organize a conference. He kept his word. Many other very distinguished people did not.