



## **37 Days: Countdown to World War One**

### **23 July: The impossible ultimatum**

Voiceover:

The confessions of the criminal perpetrators of the outrage of the 28th of June show that the Serajevo assassinations were planned in Belgrade; that the arms and explosives with which the murderers were provided had been given to them by Serbian officers and functionaries; and that the passage into Bosnia of the criminals and their arms was organized and effected by the chiefs of the Serbian frontier service.

Margaret Macmillan:

The 23rd July. The day of Austria-Hungary's ultimatum to Serbia is finally here.

The results of this investigation impose on the Austria Hungarian government the duty of putting an end to the intrigues which form a perpetual menace to the tranquillity of the Monarchy.

Over the last weeks the Austrian foreign office has tirelessly honed its demands to seem reasonable but at the same time impossible for a sovereign nation to accept.

If it means war. So be it.