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NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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RECOGNIZE CROATIA & SLOVENIA

TODAY I AM INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION URGING U.S. RECOGNITION OF CROATIA AND SLOVENIA. I AM JOINED BY AT LEAST 27 OF MY COLLEAGUES, INCLUDING THE RANKING REPUBLICAN ON THE EUROPEAN SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, SENATOR PRESSLER, THE RANKING REPUBLICAN ON THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, SENATOR HELMS, AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, SENATOR PELL.

RECOGNIZING THESE TWO NATIONS IS RECOGNIZING REALITY. YUGOSLAVIA IS LIKE HUMPTY DUMPTY -- ALL THE KINGS HORSES, AND ALL THE KINGS MEN ARE JUST NOT GOING TO PUT IT TOGETHER AGAIN.

RECOGNIZING THESE TWO NATIONS IS DOING THE RIGHT THING -- CONSISTENT WITH AMERICA'S FUNDAMENTAL COMMITMENT TO FREEDOM AND SELF-DETERMINATION FOR ALL PEOPLE; CONSISTENT WITH OUR FUNDAMENTAL INTEREST IN FOSTERING LONG-TERM STABILITY IN CENTRAL EUROPE.

MERELY APPLAUDING THE COLLAPSE OF COMMUNIST STATES SUCH AS THE SOVIET UNION, OR PASSIVELY OBSERVING THE DISSOLUTION OF COMMUNIST STATES SUCH AS YUGOSLAVIA, DOES NOT REPRESENT AN EFFECTIVE AMERICAN POLICY. WE HAVE LEARNED THAT IN DEALING WITH THE NEW REPUBLICS OF THE FORMER SOVIET UNION. WE MUST RE-LEARN IT IN FORGING A SENSIBLE, REALISTIC POLICY TOWARD CROATIA AND SLOVENIA.

39 COUNTRIES HAVE ALREADY EXTENDED RECOGNITION

THIRTY-NINE COUNTRIES UNDERSTAND THIS LESSON AND RECOGNIZE THIS REALITY. THIRTY-NINE HAVE ALREADY EXTENDED DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION TO CROATIA AND SLOVENIA. THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, THE FORMER WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES, THE BALTIC STATES, OUR NEIGHBOR CANADA -- ALL HAVE RECOGNIZED CROATIA AND SLOVENIA. WE LIKE TO CALL OURSELVES THE LEADER OF THE FREE WORLD. IT IS HIGH TIME WE SHOW THAT LEADERSHIP BY JOINING OUR FELLOW FREE WORLD NATIONS IN THIS ACT.

THIS RESOLUTION URGES THE PRESIDENT TO IMMEDIATELY EXTEND DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION TO SLOVENIA AND CROATIA, AND TO BEGIN THE PROCESS OF ESTABLISHING AND IMPLEMENTING MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL RELATIONS WITH BOTH STATES.

COMMITTED TO DEMOCRACY, FREEDOM

THE PEOPLE OF CROATIA AND SLOVENIA HAVE COMMITTED THEMSELVES, OVER THE LAST YEAR AND A HALF, TO DEMOCRACY AND FREEDOM.

THE SLOVENIANS VOTED FOR A DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT IN THE SPRING OF 1990. IN DECEMBER OF 1990, THEY VOTED OVERWHELMINGLY FOR INDEPENDENCE. ONLY A DAY AFTER THE SLOVENIAN GOVERNMENT DECLARED INDEPENDENCE, THE SLOVENIANS FOUGHT TO DEFEND THEIR RIGHT TO FREEDOM. TRAGICALLY, DOZENS OF SLOVENIANS LOST THEIR LIVES FIGHTING AGAINST THE YUGOSLAV ARMY. ONCE ENTRUSTED WITH THE DEFENSE OF SLOVENIANS AND THE OTHER PEOPLE OF YUGOSLAVIA, THIS ARMY HAD BECOME THE LAST BASTION OF COMMUNISM, WITH TOTAL ALLEGIANCE TO HARDLINE SERBIAN PRESIDENT MILOSEVIC.

IT WASN'T EASY TO STOMACH SOME OF THE SCENES WE SAW ON CNN: ILL-EQUIPPED BUT BRAVE SLOVENIANS TRYING TO DEFEND THEIR COUNTRY AGAINST THE HEAVILY-ARMED YUGOSLAV ARMY.

AND, LITTLE DID WE KNOW AT THE TIME, SLOVENIA WAS ONLY AN APPETIZER. THE YUGOSLAV ARMY WAS REALLY HUNGERING FOR A BIG CHUNK OF CROATIA.

THE PEOPLE OF CROATIA, LIKE THOSE OF SLOVENIA, ALSO VOTED FOR DEMOCRACY IN APRIL OF 1990, AND FOR INDEPENDENCE IN MAY OF 1991. HOWEVER, AFTER THE YUGOSLAV ARMY WAS REBUFFED IN SLOVENIA, CROATIA BECAME THE TARGET OF MILOSEVIC'S PLAN TO CARVE OUT A "GREATER SERBIA." THE YUGOSLAV ARMY, TOGETHER WITH SERBIAN GUERRILLAS, LAUNCHED AN ALL-OUT WAR AGAINST CROATIA -- ITS PEOPLE, ITS CULTURE AND ITS ECONOMY.

THIS WAR HAS RESULTED IN OVER 10,000 DEATHS, MOSTLY CIVILIANS -- WOMEN AND CHILDREN. HOSPITALS, CHURCHES, SCHOOLS AND HOMES HAVE BEEN DESTROYED. YET, THE CITIZENS OF CROATIA HAVE NOT WAVERED IN THEIR DETERMINATION TO WIN FREEDOM.

THE PEOPLE OF SLOVENIA AND CROATIA HAVE PAID AND ARE PAYING A HIGH PRICE FOR FREEDOM. WE CAN'T TURN AWAY FROM THEM NOW.

TRADITIONAL SUPPORT FOR SELF-DETERMINATION

THE UNITED STATES HAS HISTORICALLY SUPPORTED THE RIGHTS OF NATIONS TO SELF-DETERMINATION. THE REAGAN-BUSH POLICIES HAVE BEEN VINDICATED -- THE UNITED STATES WON THE COLD WAR. HAVING SUPPORTED THESE PRINCIPLES UNSWERVINGLY FOR DECADES, WE MUST NOW SUPPORT THOSE NATIONS WHICH HAVE TURNED THESE PRINCIPLES INTO REALITY FOR THEIR PEOPLE. WE MUST EMBRACE NEW DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES LIKE SLOVENIA AND CROATIA. DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION IS THE FIRST CRUCIAL STEP.

I WOULD LIKE TO QUOTE FROM A LETTER SENT BY FORMER PRESIDENT REAGAN TO CROATIAN PRESIDENT FRANJO TUDJMAN ON JANUARY 15, THE DAY THE EC COUNTRIES RECOGNIZED CROATIA AND SLOVENIA. PRESIDENT REAGAN SAYS: "THIS IS A PROUD DAY FOR FREEDOM LOVING PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD." ON THE SAME DAY, FORMER BRITISH PRIME MINISTER MARGARET THATCHER ALSO WROTE TO PRESIDENT TUDJMAN: "AT THIS TIME, YOUR FRIENDS ALSO REMEMBER THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES AND THOSE WHO SUFFERED GRIEVOUSLY IN THIS TERRIBLE WAR. THE INJURED AND THOSE WHO HAVE LOST THEIR HOMES WILL NEED PRACTICAL HELP TO REBUILD THEIR SHATTERED LIVES. FOR THEM AND FOR ALL CROATIANS TODAY OFFERS A NEW BEGINNING AND BRINGS NEW HOPE."

SLOVENIANS AND CROATIANS HAVE DIED FOR THEIR FREEDOM, AS MANY AMERICANS DID FIGHTING FOR INDEPENDENCE OVER TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

IT IS TIME FOR US TO LIVE UP TO OUR HISTORY, AND DO WHAT IS REALISTIC AND RIGHT.

I URGE MY COLLEAGUES TO COSPONSOR THIS RESOLUTION.

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