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**NEWS
FROM:**

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YUGOSLAVIA

DAY OF RECKONING FOR YUGOSLAVIA

TOMORROW, MAY 15, WILL BE A DAY OF RECKONING IN YUGOSLAVIA -
- AND I HOPE THE WORLD WILL BE WATCHING.

THE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE YUGOSLAV PRESIDENCY FROM THE
REPUBLIC OF CROATIA, STIPE MESIC, IS SCHEDULED TO TAKE OVER THE
POSITION OF PRESIDENT FROM BORISAV JOVIC, THE HARDLINE COMMUNIST
REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA. THIS EVENT
SHOULD SIGNAL TO THE WORLD WHETHER DEMOCRACY IS TRULY ON THE RISE
FOR ALL OF YUGOSLAVIA--TOMORROW WILL BE THE FIRST TIME IN 45
YEARS THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND THE YUGOSLAV ARMY--THE LAST
TRULY COMMUNIST YUGOSLAV INSTITUTIONS--WILL COME UNDER THE
AUTHORITY OF A DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP. UNFORTUNATELY, WHILE THIS
TRANSFER OF AUTHORITY IS ONLY A DAY AWAY, WE CANNOT BE CERTAIN
THAT IT WILL ACTUALLY TAKE PLACE.

YUGOSLAVIA HAS BEEN ON THE BRINK OF CIVIL WAR. IN FACT,
SOME CLAIM IT HAS ALREADY BEGUN. ONLY A YEAR AGO, THE REPUBLICS
OF CROATIA AND SLOVENIA SAID "NO" TO COMMUNISM AND ELECTED
GOVERNMENTS COMMITTED TO DEMOCRACY AND FREE-MARKET ECONOMICS. TO
MY GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT, THE HOPE FELT BY THE PEOPLE OF CROATIA
AND SLOVENIA AFTER SHEDDING THE SHACKLES OF COMMUNISM HAS EVOLVED
INTO FEAR OF A NEW CRACKDOWN BY THE COMMUNIST-DOMINATED FEDERAL
ARMY.

MOST OF THE INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE WE HAVE SEEN IN THE PAST
WEEKS HAVE OCCURRED IN THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA. CITIES AND
VILLAGES HAVE COME UNDER SIEGE BY ROVING BANDS OF ARMED
MILITANTS. MORE THAN TWENTY PEOPLE HAVE DIED AS A RESULT OF THE
VIOLENCE, INCLUDING TWELVE CROATIAN POLICEMEN, SOME OF WHOSE
BODIES WERE FOUND MUTILATED.

THESE MILITANTS CLAIM
TO REPRESENT THE SERBIAN MINORITY IN CROATIA, WHO ACCOUNT FOR
ABOUT ELEVEN PERCENT OF THE POPULATION. BUT, THERE IS INCREASING
EVIDENCE THAT MANY OF THESE MILITANTS ARE NOT DISAFFECTED
CROATIAN RESIDENTS, BUT RATHER ARE FROM THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA--
SENT TO CROATIA BY HARDLINE SERBIAN PRESIDENT MILOSEVIC TO FOMENT
VIOLENCE AND TO CREATE A CLIMATE IN WHICH THE YUGOSLAV ARMY HAS
AN EXCUSE TO MARCH IN AND DECLARE MARTIAL LAW.

UNDER SUCH A TRUMPED-UP SCENARIO, THE AUTHORITY OF THE
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC GOVERNMENTS WOULD BE SUSPENDED AND THE
COMMUNIST ARMY WOULD RULE BY FIAT.

(MORE)

SO FAR, THAT POINT HAS NOT YET BEEN REACHED. HOWEVER, THE YUGOSLAV ARMY, SINCE LAST WEEK, HAS BEEN ON COMBAT ALERT AND IS THREATENING TO TAKE MATTERS INTO ITS OWN HANDS. IT HAS ALSO DEPLOYED ADDITIONAL UNITS INTO CROATIA FROM NEIGHBORING REPUBLICS. WHILE WE DO NOT HAVE COMPLETE REPORTING ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THESE ARMY UNITS, IT APPEARS THAT THEY ARE PUTTING A HIGHER PRIORITY ON PREVENTING THE CROATIAN GOVERNMENT FROM RESTORING ORDER THAN HELPING IT TO DO SO. LAST WEEK THERE WERE ALSO REPORTS OF THE YUGOSLAV ARMY AIRLIFTING ADDITIONAL TROOPS INTO SLOVENIA. ONE CROATIAN OFFICIAL DESCRIBED THE ARMY'S ACTIVITIES AS A "KIND OF CREEPING COUP."

MANY ARE ASKING WHAT HAS LED TO THESE POLITICAL CONVULSIONS? THERE ARE CATCHY PHRASES SUCH AS "ETHNIC HOSTILITIES," BUT THEY DON'T PROVIDE A COMPLETE EXPLANATION. THE EXPLANATION FOR THIS TURN OF EVENTS IS, IN REALITY, THAT THE COMMUNISTS ARE ATTEMPTING TO PROTECT AND RESTORE THEIR POWER UNDER THE GUISE OF "HELPING A REPRESSED MINORITY" AND "PREVENTING THE DISINTEGRATION" OF THE COUNTRY. THE TRUTH IS, IT IS THE COMMUNISTS, AND THE EXTREMISTS WHO ARE CONDUCTING THESE MILITARY AND TERRORIST ACTIVITIES, WHO ARE THE ENEMIES OF DEMOCRACY, AND WHO ARE REALLY FORCING THE BREAK-UP OF YUGOSLAVIA.

INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM, HUMAN RIGHTS, THE RIGHTS OF MINORITIES, CAN ONLY TRULY BE PROMOTED AND PROTECTED IN A DEMOCRACY. I URGE ALL OF THE PEOPLE IN YUGOSLAVIA TO SUPPORT DEMOCRACY AND PEACEFUL MEANS OF RESOLVING DISPUTES, AND TO REJECT VIOLENCE AND THOSE WHO ADVOCATE ITS USE.

I CANNOT PREDICT THE FUTURE OF YUGOSLAVIA, AND I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD ADVOCATE ANY PARTICULAR OPTION FOR THE FUTURE STRUCTURE OF YUGOSLAVIA. I DO, HOWEVER, BELIEVE THAT THE UNITED STATES MUST SUPPORT DEMOCRACY AND THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC GOVERNMENTS--AND, FIRMLY OPPOSE THE USE OF FORCE BY THE YUGOSLAV ARMY OR BY TERRORISTS TO UNDERMINE THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS IN YUGOSLAVIA. IT IS THOSE PEOPLE WHO ARE REALLY DESTROYING YUGOSLAVIA. THE CLOCK IS TICKING -- THE DAY OF RECKONING IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER. I URGE ALL OF US TO WATCH AND TO SPEAK OUT IF THE DAY OF RECKONING TURNS INTO A DAY OF TRAGIC RETREAT FOR THE FORCES OF FREEDOM.

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