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NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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## YUGOSLAVIA

### HARDLINERS VETO DEMOCRACY IN YUGOSLAVIA

WASHINGTON - SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE (R-KS) TODAY MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT ON THE SENATE FLOOR REGARDING THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN YUGOSLAVIA:

IN YUGOSLAVIA, FOR OVER A YEAR NOW, WE HAVE WITNESSED A STRUGGLE BETWEEN COMMUNISM AND DEMOCRACY. DURING THIS TIME, I HAVE CAUTIONED THAT WHILE DEMOCRACY HAS TAKEN ROOT IN EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES LIKE POLAND, CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND HUNGARY, IN YUGOSLAVIA A VICTORY FOR DEMOCRACY WAS MUCH LESS CERTAIN. I HAVE SAID, TIME AND TIME AGAIN THAT IN YUGOSLAVIA, DEMOCRACY HAS NOT SPREAD FAR ENOUGH--THAT TWO REPUBLIC GOVERNMENTS, THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AND THE YUGOSLAV ARMY ARE STILL CONTROLLED BY THE TIGHT FIST OF COMMUNISM. AND, TODAY I AM HERE TO SAY THAT DEMOCRACY HAS SUFFERED A MAJOR SETBACK IN YUGOSLAVIA.

YESTERDAY, THE SCHEDULED TRANSITION OF THE PRESIDENCY IN YUGOSLAVIA DID NOT TAKE PLACE--THE HEAD OF THE YUGOSLAV PRESIDENCY WAS SUPPOSED TO ROTATE FROM THE HARDLINE SERBIAN REPRESENTATIVE TO THE DEMOCRATIC CROATIAN REPRESENTATIVE. ALTHOUGH ALL PREVIOUS ROTATIONS OF THE PRESIDENCY HAVE OCCURRED WITH UNANIMOUS PRO FORMA VOTES -- THIS CRITICAL VOTE FOR DEMOCRACY--WAS BLOCKED BY THE HARDLINER FROM SERBIA, BORISAV JOVIC, AND HIS PUPPETS FROM KOSOVA AND VOJVODINA--WHO ARE APPOINTED BY THE SERBIAN GOVERNMENT.

WHAT HAPPENED IS THAT THE HARDLINERS REFUSED TO GIVE UP POWER AND VETOED DEMOCRACY. AS A RESULT, TODAY, YUGOSLAVIA IS WITHOUT A PRESIDENT, WITHOUT A COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE STAUNCHLY PRO-COMMUNIST YUGOSLAV ARMY.

WHEN I WAS IN BELGRADE LAST SUMMER AND MET WITH THEN PRESIDENT JOVIC TO VOICE MY CONCERNS ABOUT DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS, HE CLAIMED THAT HE SUPPORTED DEMOCRATIC REFORM. WELL JOVIC FAILED THE TEST YESTERDAY AND SHOWED HIS TRUE COMMUNIST COLORS TO THE WORLD. YESTERDAY, WAS A DAY OF RECKONING FOR YUGOSLAVIA -- TRAGICALLY THE FORCES OF FREEDOM WERE NOT VICTORIOUS.

BUT, I AM HOPEFUL THAT THE DEMOCRATIC FORCES IN YUGOSLAVIA WILL ULTIMATELY BE VICTORIOUS IN SPITE OF THE GREAT OBSTACLES THEY FACE. THE COMMUNISTS MUST KNOW THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL NOT SUPPORT A YUGOSLAVIA IN WHICH THE ARMY AND HARDLINERS RULE.

THE ADMINISTRATION HAS BENT OVER BACKWARDS TO GIVE THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT TIME TO LIVE UP TO ITS PROMISES OF REFORM. THEY MADE THE JUDGMENT THAT THE HIGHEST PRIORITY OF OUR POLICY WAS TO AVOID DOING ANYTHING WHICH MIGHT BE SEEN AS UNDERMINING THE UNITY OF YUGOSLAVIA. WHILE I HAVE CRITICIZED ASPECTS OF THIS POLICY PARTICULARLY OUR FAILURE, AT TIMES, TO TAKE CLEAR STEPS TO SHOW OUR SUPPORT FOR THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLICS, I DO UNDERSTAND THE RATIONALE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION'S POSITION. HOWEVER, NOW IS THE TIME TO GET OFF THE SIDELINES AND UNEQUIVOCALLY SUPPORT THE DEMOCRATIC FORCES IN YUGOSLAVIA.

LAST MONTH THE SENATE PASSED UNANIMOUSLY A RESOLUTION I SPONSORED, S. RES. 106, WHICH CALLED ON THE HARDLINERS AND THE ARMY TO REFRAIN FROM THE USE OF COERCION OR FORCE AGAINST THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLICS. IT ALSO URGED THE PRESIDENT TO IMMEDIATELY SUSPEND ALL ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL BENEFITS TO YUGOSLAVIA IN THE EVENT OF A MILITARY CRACKDOWN. S. RES. 106 REFLECTED THE CONSENSUS IN THE SENATE THAT U.S. POLICY TOWARD YUGOSLAVIA SHOULD BE BASED ON SUPPORT FOR DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS.

SO, IF YESTERDAY'S VOTE WAS DESIGNED AS A PRELUDE TO MARTIAL LAW, THE COMMUNISTS KNOW WHERE WE STAND--ON THE SIDE OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLICS--AND THEY OUGHT TO KNOW THAT IF THEY MOVE TO CRUSH DEMOCRACY, THERE WILL BE GRAVE REPERCUSSIONS.

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